



SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Southern Office of The Council of State Governments

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COLLEEN COUSINEAU
SUJIT CANAGARETNA
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**SPEAKER PHILIP GUNN NAMED CHAIR ELECT OF THE
SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE**

Senate President Robert Stivers

Kentucky
Chair

Speaker Phillip Gunn

Mississippi
Chair Elect

Speaker Chuck Kleckley

Louisiana
Vice Chair

Speaker David Ralston

Georgia
Immediate Past Chair

Representative Tom McKee

Kentucky
Chair, Agriculture & Rural
Development Committee

Senator Jeff Mullis

Georgia
Chair, Economic Development,
Transportation & Cultural Affairs
Committee

Senator Dolores Gresham

Tennessee
Chair, Education Committee

**Representative William E. "Bill"
Sandifer III**

South Carolina
Chair, Energy & Environment
Committee

Senator Roman Prezioso

West Virginia
Chair, Fiscal Affairs & Government
Operations Committee

Representative Joni Jenkins

Kentucky
Chair, Human Services & Public
Safety Committee

Marty Garrity

Arkansas
Chair, Legislative Service Agency
Directors Group

Colleen Cousineau

Director, SLC
Deputy Executive Director, CSG

Savannah, Georgia – Delegates to the 69th Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC), the Southern Office of The Council of State Governments, on July 22, named **Speaker Philip Gunn** of Mississippi chair elect of the Conference. Delegates from SLC’s 15 member states unanimously elected Speaker Gunn to succeed **Senate President Robert Stivers** of Kentucky, who was elected SLC chair. **Speaker Charles E. "Chuck" Kleckley** of Louisiana was elected vice chair of the Conference.

Programmatic highlights of the 69th Annual Meeting included an opening plenary session featuring **former U.S. Senator and Congressman Saxby Chambliss** of Georgia and chairman of Atlanta Equity **A.D. "Pete" Correll**. The Annual Meeting closing plenary included remarks by the legendary Vince Dooley, former head football coach and director of athletics at the University of Georgia. Each Annual Meeting focuses, in part, on the innovative programs of the host state, and Georgia’s continued successes in workforce training, nuclear energy generation, specialty courts of justice, attracting the motion picture industry, and agricultural food chain logistics were discussed at substantive committee sessions. Also, a fiscal legislative plenary focused on Georgia’s and Tennessee’s strategies toward promoting a 21st century workforce, featuring **Jackie Rohosky**, assistant commissioner, Quick Start, Georgia; **John "Jay" Neely III**, vice president, Law and Public Affairs, Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, Georgia; and **J. Edward "Ted" Townsend III**, chief of staff, Department of Economic and Community Development, Tennessee.

The **SLC/Mark Norris Campaign Against Hunger** brought together SLC participants to assemble 50,000 meals, to be distributed to families through America’s Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia. Outreach, Inc., SLC’s project partner, is a recipient of the prestigious Daily Point of Light Award by President Barack Obama and President George H. W. Bush for their long-standing commitment to provide food, water, medical care and education to millions of children in the United States and in East Africa.

In addition to the substantive programs, technical tours offered legislators a chance to see first-hand innovative approaches to common challenges. These site visits give attendees an opportunity to grasp a specific understanding of a program that could potentially be replicated within their home state. This year’s technical tours visited the **Port of Savannah, Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, Hunter Cattle Company, and International Paper.**

As chair elect of the SLC, **Speaker Gunn** will assist the chair in executing the activities of the Conference, guide the Conference in policy deliberations, and serve as liaison to the House and Senate leaders of the member states. As an officer of the SLC, he also plans to host the Conference in Georgia in the year 2017.

Founded in 1947, the Southern Legislative Conference is one of four regional legislative offices operating under The Council of State Governments. The mission of the Southern Office is to foster and encourage intergovernmental cooperation among its 15 member states, the largest regional coalition with common interests and goals served by the offices of the Council. By working together within the SLC and participating on its committees, Southern state legislative leaders are able to speak in a distinctive, unified voice to address the issues that affect their states and the greater region.



Alabama • Arkansas • Florida • Georgia • Kentucky • Louisiana • Mississippi • Missouri • North Carolina • Oklahoma • South Carolina • Tennessee • Texas • Virginia • West Virginia