73rd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

New Orleans, Louisiana

SLC 2019
Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to New Orleans, our host city for the 73rd Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments, and to Louisiana, known worldwide for its rich history as a place where different communities come together and thrive.

Indeed, our Constitution enshrines "the right of the people to preserve, foster, and promote their respective historic, linguistic, and cultural origins."

Participation in the SLC is the most effective mechanism I know for sharing information and finding opportunities and solutions to challenges facing policymakers across the South. Our sessions cover a diverse and stimulating slate of topics and presenters and, whenever possible, shine a spotlight on a number of successful programs and initiatives unique to Louisiana.

Our dedicated members and coordinators have arranged a multitude of outstanding events for you during your stay with us. And, as everyone knows, our youth program and Conference-wide host events are unparalleled.

During Conference week, please don’t hesitate to call on us, our members or our wonderful volunteers if we can be of assistance to you.

Thank you for your continued support of the SLC and, especially, for gathering here in New Orleans for the premier public policy forum for Southern state legislatures.

Sincerely,

Speaker Taylor F. Barras, Louisiana
SLC Chair 2018–2019

CHAIR ELECT
Speaker Tim Moore, North Carolina

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR
former Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, Missouri

DIRECTOR
Ms. Colleen Cousineau
General Information

LOCATIONS

All substantive policy sessions, workshops and events are held at the Sheraton New Orleans.

Annual Meeting registration is located in the Grand Ballroom Foyer on the fifth floor.

The SLC/Taylor Barras Campaign Against Hunger Food Packaging Event will start at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday in the Armstrong Ballroom on the eighth floor.

COMMITTEE SITE VISITS

Sign-up for committee site visits is available in the SLC Policy Office—Gallier Room on the fourth floor. As space is limited, priority will be given to committee appointees.

Buses will begin boarding in front of the hotel entrance on Canal Street at 11:15 a.m. on Tuesday and will depart promptly at 11:30 a.m.

ETHICS

The ethics laws in some states prohibit or limit the value of gifts to legislators and legislative staff. If it is a violation of your state’s ethics laws to accept or use any of these gifts, you may return them or pass them along.

ATTIRE

Attire for committee meetings is business casual. Attire for family and guest activities is casual unless otherwise indicated. Attire for the State Dinner—intended for guests age 18 and older—is business formal.
CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE)

Attending substantive committee sessions may qualify for Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits for state government officials in SLC member states. Substantive committee sessions are identified with a superscript \textsuperscript{CLE} following the session title. Complete instructions for requesting credits are available by the CLE sign at Annual Meeting registration. For additional details, contact Mikko Lindberg in the SLC Executive Office—Southdown Room on the fourth floor—or at mlindberg@csg.org.

ALCOHOL

The Council of State Governments advocates responsible consumption of alcohol and use of designated drivers by all participants at CSG functions.

OPEN MEETINGS

All publicized SLC sessions and events are open to all registrants regardless of formal committee appointments or affiliations.
### Annual Meeting Overview

#### SATURDAY  
**JULY 13**

- **7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.** Registration
- **11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.** Staff Workshop
- **3:00 – 4:30 p.m.** Executive Committee Session
- **5:00 – 6:00 p.m.** Legislative, Executive and Judicial Staff Networking Event
- **7:00 – 9:00 p.m.** Opening Reception

#### SUNDAY  
**JULY 14**

- **7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** Registration
- **8:00 – 9:30 a.m.** Committee Sessions
  - Agriculture & Rural Development
  - Economic Development, Transportation & Cultural Affairs
  - Education
- **10:00 – 11:30 a.m.** SLC/Taylor Barras Campaign Against Hunger
- **noon – 1:30 p.m.** Women in Leadership Forum
- **2:30 – 4:30 p.m.** Committee Sessions
  - Energy & Environment
  - Fiscal Affairs & Government Operations
  - Human Services & Public Safety
- **5:00 – 6:00 p.m.** Center for the Advancement of Leadership Skills (CALS) Reception
- **6:30 – 9:30 p.m.** Family Night

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

- Departure day. No programmatic events are scheduled.
**MONDAY**  
**JULY 15**

- **7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** Registration
- **8:00 – 9:30 a.m.** Committee Sessions  
  - Agriculture & Rural Development 
  - Economic Development, Transportation & Cultural Affairs 
  - Education
- **10:00 – 11:30 a.m.** Opening Plenary Session
- **noon – 1:30 p.m.** Comparative Data Reports
- **2:30 – 4:30 p.m.** Committee Sessions  
  - Agriculture & Rural Development 
  - Economic Development, Transportation & Cultural Affairs 
  - Education
- **6:00 – 9:00 p.m.** Program Interval
- **9:00 – 11:30 p.m.** 2020 Host State Reception: North Carolina

---

**TUESDAY**  
**JULY 16**

- **7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** Registration
- **8:00 – 9:30 a.m.** Closing Plenary & Business Breakfast Session  
  - Executive Committee  
  - Meets upon conclusion of the Closing Plenary
- **10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) Award Judges Panel
- **11:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** Committee Site Visits
- **noon – 5:00 p.m.** CSG Occupational Licensure Learning Seminar
- **6:00 – 10:00 p.m.** Closing Reception & State Dinner

---

Departure day. No programmatic events are scheduled.
Saturday, July 13

7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
REGISTRATION
Grand Ballroom Foyer, Fifth Floor

11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
STAFF WORKSHOP CLE
Rhythms Ballroom, Second Floor

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Marcia Goff Johnson, Research Director,
House of Representatives, Oklahoma;
Legislative Service Agency Directors Chair

Supreme Court Update
Lisa Soronen, Executive Director,
State and Local Legal Center, Washington, D.C.

Ethics in State Governments
Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, Senior Legislative Analyst,
Committee on House and Governmental Affairs,
House of Representatives, Louisiana

Demographic Changes in State Governments
Shannon Templet, Director, Office of Human Resources,
House of Representatives, Louisiana

Legislative Writing: Equipping a Court to Interpret a Law
Anastasia Campbell, Director, Office of Legal Services,
General Assembly, Tennessee
William Campbell Jr., U.S. District Judge,
Middle District, Tennessee

ANNUAL MEETING APP
Search for SLC Annual Meeting in the Apple App Store and Google Play or visit slcatlanta.org/LA2019app for easy access to information on policy sessions, presenters, host state guest programs and more!
Saturday, July 13

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Waterbury Ballroom, Second Floor

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Speaker Taylor F. Barras, Louisiana; SLC Chair

Anthony Avery “Tony” Simmons
President and CEO, McIlhenny Company

Anthony “Tony” Simmons is the president and CEO of McIlhenny Company, the manufacturer of TABASCO® Red Pepper Sauce, based on Avery Island, Louisiana. The McIlhenny Company has been family owned and operated since its inception, and Simmons is the seventh member of the McIlhenny family to lead the company. He joined McIlhenny Company in 2000 as executive vice president, was promoted to president in 2012 and, in 2013, became its chief executive officer. Simmons also is president and director of Avery Island, Inc., a land management company formed by the Avery and McIlhenny families.

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE, EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL STAFF NETWORKING EVENT

Rampart Room, Fifth Floor

Come participate in a unique opportunity to network with your staff colleagues across all branches of state government.

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

OPENING RECEPTION at

THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM

Shuttle buses will run loops between the hotel entrance on Canal Street and the museum from 6:45 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

Name badge required for entry.
Sunday, July 14

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
REGISTRATION
Grand Ballroom Foyer, Fifth Floor

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
(breakfast available at 7:30 a.m.)
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION CLE
Grand Ballroom A, Fifth Floor
PRESIDING OFFICER: Representative Manly Barton, Mississippi; Committee Chair

The Intersection of Cyber Security and Economic Development
As the cyber security industry continues to grow, and the threat of cyber attacks on governments and companies becomes increasingly sophisticated, state and local leaders are seeking opportunities to expand their cyber security sector. By leveraging the private sector, law enforcement and higher education institutions, states can ensure they have the capacity and resources to strengthen cyber defense programs. This session explores policies that state and local leaders can consider to encourage growth in the cyber industry.

Michael Shaffer, Executive Vice President, Strategic Partnerships and Economic Development, Augusta University, Georgia

Legislative Roundtable
The Legislative Roundtable highlights important economic development, transportation and cultural affairs issues taken up in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.
The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

Sunday, July 14

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.
(breakfast available at 7:30 a.m.)

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SESSION CLE

Grand Ballroom D, Fifth Floor

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Senator Daniel B. Verdin III, South Carolina; Committee Chair

Breaking the Grass Ceiling: Hemp and the 2018 Farm Bill
The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, also known as the 2018 Farm Bill, defined hemp as an agricultural commodity, removing it from the list of federally controlled substances and making hemp farmers eligible for crop insurance. Furthermore, it directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to issue regulations and guidance for the commercial production of hemp. This session reviews the hemp provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill and what states may expect in forthcoming USDA regulations.

Holly Bell, Director of Cannabis, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Expanding Broadband Access in Southern States
Access to reliable, high-speed internet is vital to almost every aspect of the nation’s economy. Communities with broadband access enjoy a wide array of economic, educational, public health and social advantages. However, a recent Microsoft study found that of 34 million Americans who lack broadband access, 22.4 million live in rural areas. Often compared to the electrification of rural America, the push to expand broadband access has gained momentum across the South. This session explores recent broadband expansion initiatives in SLC states.

Marty Newell, Chief Operating Officer, Center for Rural Strategies, Kentucky

Legislative Roundtable
The Legislative Roundtable highlights important agricultural and rural development issues taken up in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.
Sunday, July 14

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
(breakfast available at 7:30 a.m.)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE SESSION CLE

Waterbury Ballroom, Second Floor

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Representative Rick Jasperse, Georgia; Presiding Member

An End to Dead Ends:
The Benefits of Complementary Postsecondary Pathways

In the United States, traditional universities, community and technical colleges and vocational training frequently are viewed as competing interests. However, evolving postsecondary education models more often view them as complementary partners. In this changing and competitive economy, opportunities for students to transition from vocational or technical training to applied or traditional degree programs—and vice versa—are an imperative. This session examines how structuring complementary postsecondary systems can open multiple pathways for students, allowing for both academic and career success.

Peter Zimmerli, Consul General,
Consulate General of Switzerland in Atlanta, Georgia

Legislative Roundtable

The Legislative Roundtable highlights important education issues taken up in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.
The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

Sunday, July 14

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

**SLC/TAYLOR BARRAS CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER**

*Armstrong Ballroom, Eighth Floor*

A tradition since 2011, this service event gives attendees an opportunity to support local food-insecure families through packaging 50,000 meals for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans!

noon – 1:30 p.m.

**WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP FORUM**

*Rhythms Ballroom, Second Floor*

This event highlights outstanding female leaders in the South. Join women in high-ranking Louisiana state government positions and SLC leadership roles for an address by our keynote presenter. *(As this forum is intended to bring women in government positions together, we ask that other attendees allow women in government to find their seats first.)*

---

**Gloria Moncada**

*Plant Manager*

*Baton Rouge Refinery*

*ExxonMobil Fuels & Lubricants*

Gloria Moncada is the first female manager of ExxonMobil’s Baton Rouge Refinery, the nation’s fourth-largest, with more than 3,700 employees and contractors. A native of Philadelphia, she began her career with ExxonMobil in 1992. In 2000, after several assignments in Baton Rouge, Moncada moved to Fairfax, Virginia, where she held roles in products optimization and global planning. In 2010, Moncada was named investor relations advisor and transferred to the company’s corporate headquarters in Dallas, Texas. During the next 18 years, Moncada held assignments of increasing responsibility in Texas, California and Singapore. In 2018, Moncada returned to Baton Rouge for her current assignment as plant manager.
Sunday, July 14

2:30–4:30 p.m.
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE SESSION CLE

Grand Ballroom D, Fifth Floor

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Senator Ed Emery, Missouri; Committee Chair

Grid Modernization in Southern States
Modernizing the nation’s electric grid is a strategic imperative. As states advance their clean energy policies, a number also are investigating how business models may be adapted for emerging resources and improving the reliability, resiliency and efficiency of the electric grid. In 2018, 11 of the 15 SLC member states took regulatory or legislative action on broad grid modernization or utility business model reform, including issues of advanced metering infrastructure, storage deployment, data access and revenue reforms. This session explores policies to encourage utility investments necessary to modernize the electric grid.

Sara Mullen-Trento, Strategic Issues Lead, Technology Innovation, Electric Power Research Institute, Tennessee
Warren Wood, Vice President, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Ameren Missouri

The Economic Impact of LNG Exports in Southern States
Investments in liquified natural gas (LNG) facilities have taken off in recent years, driven by a glut of cheap domestic natural gas and increasing global demand for a cleaner burning alternative to coal. The value of U.S. LNG exports is expected to reach $12 billion in 2019 as the European Union reduces its dependence on Russian gas. By 2025, the United States is expected to be the largest LNG exporter in the world. This session explores the LNG export landscape and economic impact in the Southern region.

David Dismukes, Ph.D., Executive Director, Center for Energy Studies, Louisiana State University
Jason French, Vice President of Government and Public Affairs, Tellurian Inc., Texas
Matt Barr, Director of State Government and Public Affairs, Cheniere Energy, Louisiana
New and Expanded Revenue Streams
As advances in technology both create new and remake existing markets—digital streaming services, electronic goods, ridesharing services and short-term rentals, among others—states are looking to regulate and tax these sectors. With consumers shifting to embrace this new economy and the market for digital goods and services growing exponentially, these emerging markets are replacing prior, and broadening existing sources of state revenue. This session explores state efforts to tax these new revenue sources and the economic impact these emerging markets could have on the Southern region.

John Hicks, Executive Director, National Association of State Budget Officers, Washington, D.C.
Richard Cram, Director, National Nexus Program, Multistate Tax Commission, Washington, D.C.

Job Tax Credits and Revitalization of Disadvantaged Areas
Despite steady post-recession economic recovery, many rural and disadvantaged areas have not benefited from proportional growth, especially in the South, where several states have yet to reach pre-recession levels of fiscal health. In addition to exploring new revenue streams, states are refining their fiscal policies to encourage investment and development in these areas. Job tax credits are one such measure under consideration, as states weigh both the economic benefits and costs of this fiscal policy. Since 2011, 14 of the 15 SLC member states have implemented job tax credits. This session discusses the implementation of this fiscal policy to revitalize disadvantaged and rural areas.

Sunday, July 14

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE SESSION CLE
Grand Ballroom A, Fifth Floor

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Senator Katrina Shealy, South Carolina; Committee Chair

Family First Prevention Services Act: An Overview
The Family First Prevention Services Act was signed into law as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act on February 9, 2018. The act aims to prevent children from entering foster care by allowing federal reimbursement to families for mental health services, substance abuse treatment and in-home parenting skills training, thus improving the well-being of children by ensuring appropriate foster care placements and reducing the number of children placed in congregate care. This session provides a comprehensive overview of the new federal law and how it will impact states moving forward.

Susan Robison, Director, State Relations, Casey Family Programs, Washington, D.C.
Eric Clark, Commissioner, Department for Community Based Services, Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Kentucky
Representative David Meade, Speaker Pro Tempore, Kentucky

Human Trafficking and Exploitation
Human trafficking and exploitation is prevalent throughout the United States, part of a worldwide industry involving billions of dollars and millions of victims. Due to underreporting and the difficulty of identifying victims, there is no official estimate of the number of people trafficked nationally. However, tens of thousands of cases have been reported involving both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals. This session highlights approaches to connecting services and treatment for victims of trafficking and exploitation and identifies actions taken in Southern states.

Kathryn Moorehead, Director, Violence Against Women Act and Human Trafficking Programs, Office of the Attorney General, South Carolina
Sunday, July 14

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
**NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE**
*Rampart Room, Fifth Floor*
(Nominating committees for SLC standing committee officers meet separately.)

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
**CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEADERSHIP SKILLS RECEPTION**
*Lagniappe, Second Floor*

**SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE**

Governmental Leadership Program of the Southern Office of The Council of State Governments

**OCTOBER 5-9, 2019 | LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

We invite CALS alumni to reconnect with classmates and those interested in the program to come by and learn more!

CALS is an annual four-day leadership program designed for new and mid-career Southern state officials. Full scholarships are provided to those selected. Visit *slcatlanta.org/CALS* for more information and the online application, due July 31!

6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
**FAMILY NIGHT at the AUDUBON AQUARIUM**

Shuttle buses will run loops between the hotel entrance on Canal Street and the aquarium from 6:15 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. *Name badge required for entry.*
Monday, July 15

7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
REGISTRATION
Grand Ballroom Foyer, Fifth Floor

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
(breakfast available at 7:30 a.m.)
FISCAL AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE SESSION CLE
Waterbury Ballroom, Second Floor
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Representative Penny Houston, Georgia; Committee Chair

Governmental Efficiency and Occupational Licensing Reform
In recent years, state and federal governments have pushed for more efficient and comprehensive review processes for occupational licensing. Balancing concerns for necessary oversight and public protections, along with licensure transferability, are key factors for policymakers. This session examines states’ efforts to increase government efficiency through regulatory reform and highlights recent licensing reform efforts in the South.
Representative Julie Emerson, Louisiana
Allison Clarke, Deputy Secretary for geauxBIZ, Secretary of State, Louisiana

Legislative Roundtable
The Legislative Roundtable highlights important fiscal and governance issues taken up in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.
Monday, July 15

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.  
(breakfast available at 7:30 a.m.)

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE SESSION  
Grand Ballroom D, Fifth Floor  
PRESIDING OFFICER:  
Senator Ed Emery, Missouri; Committee Chair

Power Portfolio Planning

Low natural gas prices and the increasing availability of renewable energy is transforming the energy generation landscape. As utilities plan future investments, they are tasked with developing a resource mix that meets customer demand while minimizing the total cost, environmental impacts and enterprise risk. This session explores the long-term resource planning strategies, perspectives and trends in the utility industry.

Paul Chodak III, Executive Vice President of Generation, American Electric Power, Ohio

Legislative Roundtable

The Legislative Roundtable highlights important energy and environment issues taken up in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.
Monday, July 15

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.
(breakfast available at 7:30 a.m.)

HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE SESSION CLE

Grand Ballroom A, Fifth Floor

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Senator Katrina Shealy, South Carolina; Committee Chair

Proliferation of Drones in Prisons

As drones become more accessible and affordable, inmates are utilizing the technology for nefarious purposes, such as arranging prison breaks and smuggling contraband into and out of facilities. Many states have enacted legislation banning the use of drone technology near corrections facilities and increasing penalties for those caught using drones to assist prisoners. Some states also have deployed sophisticated technology to detect and intercept drones around prisons. This session reviews the various concerns that drones pose for corrections officials and highlights recent initiatives taken by Southern states.

Bryan P. Stirling, Director,
Department of Corrections, South Carolina

Legislative Roundtable

The Legislative Roundtable highlights important human services and public safety issues taken up in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.
Monday, July 15

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
OPENING PLENARY SESSION
Grand Ballroom, Fifth Floor
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Speaker Taylor F. Barras, Louisiana; SLC Chair

Gordon H. “Nick” Mueller
President and CEO Emeritus
The National WWII Museum

Gordon H. “Nick” Mueller, former historian and vice chancellor of the University of New Orleans (UNO), served as founding president and CEO of The National WWII Museum. During a distinguished career at UNO, Mueller made his mark as a popular teacher, dean and administrator, leading the creation of the Metropolitan College, developing new extension and distance learning programs, and founding the UNO Research and Technology Park.

noon - 1:30 p.m.
(lunch available at 11:30 a.m.)
COMPARATIVE DATA REPORTS CLE
Rodrigue Gallery, First Floor
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Representative Penny Houston, Georgia; Committee Chair

Prepared annually by legislative staff in Kentucky, Louisiana and West Virginia, comparative data reports track a multitude of revenue sources, performance measures, program variances and appropriations levels in SLC member states.

Adult Corrections
Monique Appeaning, Legislative Fiscal Office, Louisiana
Medicaid
Zachary M. Rau, Legislative Fiscal Office, Louisiana
Transportation
Tammy Branham, Legislative Research Commission, Kentucky
Monday, July 15

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
**AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SESSION**

**CLE**

**Grand Ballroom D, Fifth Floor**

**PRESIDING OFFICER:**
Senator Casey Murdock, Oklahoma; Committee Vice Chair

---

**Controlling the Feral Swine Population in Southern States**

The feral swine population in America has surpassed 5 million and spread to 39 states, including every SLC state. Sometimes called wild boars, feral hogs, wild pigs or the “rototillers” of nature, they cause approximately $2.5 billion in damages annually. As feral swine spread, they devastate the lands they inhabit, destroying fences, uprooting crops and contaminating water supplies. This session assesses the impact of feral hogs in the region and initiatives for controlling the population.

*Scott Alls, State Director, Oklahoma Wildlife Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture*

---

**Where’s the Beef? The Changing Landscape of Meat Labeling Laws**

From the Impossible Burger to lab-grown meat, engineered and plant-based products are growing in popularity across the country. In 2018, sales of plant-based meat substitutes increased to $1.5 billion, up 22 percent from the previous year. With this trend comes a host of labeling issues. In recent years, several SLC states have introduced legislation to prohibit the labeling of animal cultures, plants and insects as meat. This session explores future trends in meat production and regulation.

*Robert Hibbert, Partner, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, Washington, D.C.*

*Representative John Stefanski, Louisiana*
Monday, July 15

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION**

**CLE**

*Grand Ballroom A, Fifth Floor*

**PRESIDING OFFICER:**

Representative Manly Barton, Mississippi; Committee Chair

**Update on Transportation and Infrastructure Funding**

In recent years, states across the South have sought to expand funding for long-needed repairs on roads, bridges and mass transit systems. Since 2016, the majority of SLC state legislatures have agreed on transportation and infrastructure funding using a combination of higher fuel taxes, bond sales, tolls and additional fees for hybrid and electric vehicles to increase revenue by hundreds of millions of dollars. This session reviews the measures SLC states have taken to boost transportation and infrastructure funding.

*Norma Jean Mattei, Former President, American Society of Civil Engineers, Louisiana*

**Distracted Driving Laws in Southern States**

Distracted driving resulted in more than 3,400 deaths and 391,000 injuries in 2016. While there are many activities that cause distractions, there has been a particular focus in recent years on mitigating distractions caused by phones and other handheld electronic devices. Fourteen of the 15 SLC states prohibit all drivers from texting while driving. However, only two have enacted statewide hand-held device bans for all drivers. This session explores the impact of distracted driving on transportation safety and examines how SLC states can standardize their laws to ensure maximum safety in the future.

*Jonathan Adkins, Executive Director, Governors Highway Safety Association, Washington, D.C.*

*Senator Greg Boso, West Virginia*
Monday, July 15

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE SESSION CLE**

*Waterbury Ballroom, Second Floor*

**PRESIDING OFFICER:**
Representative Rick Jasperse, Georgia; Presiding Member

**The Importance of School Climate Monitoring**

School climate monitoring involves a comprehensive assessment of student engagement levels, school safety and the learning environment, providing educators with the necessary data to identify school needs, set goals and track progress toward improvement. A positive school climate improves students’ mental and behavioral health; reduces disciplinary actions and chronic absenteeism; and plays a critical role in school safety response and violence prevention. This session discusses how states are implementing school climate monitoring programs and its importance.

*Cheryl Benefield, Program Manager, Safe and Drug-Free Schools, Department of Education, Georgia*

**Lessons from the National Commission on Social, Emotional and Academic Development**

In 2016, the nonpartisan Aspen Institute established the National Commission on Social, Emotional and Academic Development to research how educators and policymakers can prepare students—socially, emotionally and academically—to navigate the complex, competitive and globally connected world. This session examines the commission’s findings and explores how legislators can implement these recommendations in their states.

*General Craig McKinley, Commissioner, National Commission on Social, Emotional, and Academic Development, The Aspen Institute, Florida*

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**PROGRAM INTERVAL**

Free time for attendees and individual state activities.
Monday, July 15

9:00 - 11:30 p.m.

2020 HOST STATE RECEPTION: NORTH CAROLINA

Lagniappe and Waterbury Ballroom, Second Floor

74TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Winston-Salem
August 1-5, 2020

The North Carolina Host State Committee cordially invites you to the 74th Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference in Winston-Salem next August, where you will have an “Outlandish” experience from our mountains to our coast.

In the state’s official tartan, the weaving of landscapes, along with European, African and indigenous American cultural influences, create the tapestry of the Carolinas. Within the plaid, the panoramic views of the region are embodied by the white, yellow and red of the dogwood, poplar and maple, while the shades and tones portray the green, rolling Piedmont hills, Smoky Mountain ridges and the crowning blue of a coastal Carolina summer sky.

A Southern host promises good food, good drinks and good friends! We will have it all in 2020 - fresh seafood, eastern and western BBQ, peanuts, sweet potatoes, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, and Moravian cookies. North Carolina is famous for its vineyards and craft beer; and do not forget our homegrown soft-drinks Cheerwine, Sundrop and Pepsi-Cola! Everyone will have a good time dancing to beach music and experiencing Scottish, Cherokee, Moravian, Coastal and Farm cultures. We also will showcase our HBCU university talent and salute our military service men and women. You do not want to miss it!
Tuesday, July 16

7:30 – 10:00 a.m.
REGISTRATION
Grand Ballroom Foyer, Fifth Floor

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.
CLOSING PLENARY SESSION AND BUSINESS BREAKFAST
Grand Ballroom, Fifth Floor
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Speaker Taylor F. Barras, Louisiana; SLC Chair

Mrs. Gayle Benson
Owner, New Orleans Saints and New Orleans Pelicans
Mrs. Gayle Benson provides leadership for the New Orleans Saints and New Orleans Pelicans as Owner, succeeding her husband, Tom Benson, who passed away on March 15, 2018, after serving as the Owner of the Pelicans franchise since 2012 and the Saints since 1985. The New Orleans native is an accomplished business professional and philanthropist with strong ties to the local community and dedication to contributing to the growth and enhancement of the Gulf South region.

(A Upon conclusion of the Closing Plenary Session)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS SESSION
Waterbury Ballroom, Second Floor
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Speaker Tim Moore, North Carolina; SLC Chair Elect
The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

Tuesday, July 16

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

STAR AWARD JUDGES PANEL CLE
Rhythms Ballroom, Second Floor
PRESIDING:
Jay Hartz, Director, Legislative Research Commission, Kentucky

Through the State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) award, the Southern Office of The Council of State Governments recognizes creative, impactful, transferable and effective state government solutions. This recognition is sought by a wide array of state agencies, departments, and institutions operating within the executive, legislative and judicial governmental branches. Each year, two exceptional programs are selected by a panel of experienced policy professionals as models of innovation and effectiveness in state government in the Southern region.

11:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SITE VISIT

Bus will depart promptly at 11:30 a.m. from the hotel entrance on Canal Street; casual attire; lunch is provided.

USDA’s Southern Regional Research Center

Please note: A government-issued ID is required for entry

The Southern Regional Research Center (SRRC) is one of four regional research facilities in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service. Completed in 1941 on a 39.9-acre site, SRRC employs approximately 150 scientists and technical support staff. Research products developed by the SRRC have a significant national and global economic impact, with an estimated return on investment of 34 percent. Many modern conveniences, such as wrinkle-resistant and flame-retardant cotton clothing, are based on SRRC research. Committee members will participate in a tour of the facility and receive briefings on its key research projects.
Tuesday, July 16

11:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SITE VISIT**

Bus will depart promptly at **11:30 a.m.** from the hotel entrance on Canal Street; casual attire; lunch is provided.

**Port of New Orleans**

*Please note: Closed-toe shoes are required*

The Port of New Orleans is a multimodal gateway, uniquely situated on the Mississippi River near the Gulf of Mexico, allowing easy access to more than 30 major inland hubs via 14,000 miles of waterways, six Class I railroads and interstate roadways. The port generates approximately $100 million in annual revenue through four lines of business—cargo, rail, cruises and industrial real estate. Committee members will receive briefings from officials about the port’s significance to Louisiana and the wider region, as well as participate in both land and water tours to see the port’s many facilities.

11:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE SITE VISIT**

Bus will depart promptly at **11:30 a.m.** from the hotel entrance on Canal Street; casual attire; lunch is provided.

**Shell Oil’s Deepwater Operations Training Center**

*Note: Comfortable clothing and walking shoes are recommended*

Shell Oil’s Offshore Training facility in Robert, Louisiana, simulates conditions found in deepwater oil and gas exploration and training facilities world-wide. At the facility, employees of Shell and other companies receive instruction on drilling and completion operations, production operations, instrumentation, electronics and electrical components, as well as health, safety and environmental concerns. Committee members will receive a briefing on the assets and operations involved in bringing deepwater oil and gas resources to consumers, followed by a tour of the center’s labs and instructional facilities.
Tuesday, July 16

noon - 5:00 p.m.

**CSG OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE LEARNING SEMINAR CLE**

*Waterbury Ballroom, Second Floor*

When implemented properly, occupational licensing can help protect the health and safety of consumers by requiring practitioners to undergo a designated amount of training and education in their field. However, disparities in occupational licensing laws across states can create barriers for those looking to enter the labor market or relocate across state lines. This session explores best state practices for occupational licensing reform and reviews recent legislative and regulatory state actions, policies that aid disproportionately affected populations, effective uses of sunrise and sunset provisions, and mechanisms to improve licensure reciprocity, such as interstate compacts.

6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

**CLOSING RECEPTION**

*Grand Ballroom Foyer, Fifth Floor*

7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

**STATE DINNER**

*Grand Ballroom, Fifth Floor*

*(Please note, this event is intended for guests age 18 and older.)*

Wednesday, July 17

**DEPARTURE DAY**

*Check the Annual Meeting App for Uber and Lyft discount codes!*
2018-19 SLC Executive Committee

**Chair**
Speaker Taylor F. Barras, Louisiana

**Chair Elect**
Speaker Tim Moore, North Carolina

**Immediate Past Chair**
former Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, Missouri

---

**Alabama**
Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh
Senator Clay Scofield
Senator Cam Ward
Speaker Mac McCutcheon
Representative Laura Hall
Representative Howard Sanderford

**Arkansas**
Senate President Pro Tem
Jim Hendren
Senator Cecile Bledsoe
Senator Keith M. Ingram* 
Senator Mark Johnson
Speaker Matthew Shepherd
Representative Robin Lundstrum
Representative David Whitaker

**Florida**
Senate President Bill Galvano
Speaker Jose R. Oliva

**Georgia**
Lieutenant Governor Geoff Duncan
Senate President Pro Tem
Butch Miller
Senator Steve Gooch
Senator Jeff Mullis
Speaker David Ralston*
Representative Jon G. Burns
Representative Terry England

**Kentucky**
Senate President Robert Stivers*
Senate President Pro Tem
David P. Givens
Senator Mike Wilson
Speaker David Osborne
Speaker Pro Tem David Meade

**Louisiana**
Senate President
John A. Alario Jr.
Senate President Pro Tem
Gerald Long
Speaker Taylor F. Barras
Speaker Pro Tem
Walt Leger III

**Mississippi**
Lieutenant Governor
Tate Reeves
Senator Josh Harkins
Senator John Polk
Speaker Philip Gunn*
Speaker Pro Tem
Greg Snowden

**Missouri**
Lieutenant Governor
Mike Kehoe
Senate President Pro Tem
Dave Schatz
Senator Caleb Rowden
Senator Gina Walsh
Speaker Elijah Haahr
Representative Dan Houx

**North Carolina**
Senate President Pro Tem
Philip E. Berger
Senator Harry Brown
Senator William Peter Rabon
Speaker Tim Moore
Representative John R. Bell IV
Representative
Julia C. Howard*
Representative
Darren G. Jackson
Oklahoma
Senate President Pro Tem
Greg Treat
Senator Kim David
Senator Roger Thompson
Speaker Charles McCall
Speaker Pro Tem Harold Wright

South Carolina
Senate President Harvey S. Peeler Jr.
Senator Shane A. Massey
Speaker James H. “Jay” Lucas
Speaker Pro Tem Tommy Pope
Representative David J. Mack III
Representative Dennis Moss

Tennessee
Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Senate Randy McNally
Senator Ken Yager
Speaker Glen Casada

Texas
Lieutenant Governor
Dan Patrick
Speaker Dennis H. Bonnen

Virginia
Lieutenant Governor
Justin E. Fairfax
Senate President Pro Tem
Stephen D. Newman
Senator Ryan T. McDougle
Speaker M. Kirkland Cox

West Virginia
Senate President and Lieutenant Governor
Mitch Carmichael
Senator Craig Blair
Senator Tom Takubo
Speaker Roger Hanshaw
Delegate Amy Summers

Ex-Officio Members
Senator Daniel B. Verdin III, South Carolina
Chair, Agriculture & Rural Development Committee
Representative Manly Barton, Mississippi
Chair, Economic Development,
Transportation & Cultural Affairs Committee
Senator Joyce Elliott, Arkansas
Chair, Education Committee
Senator Ed Emery, Missouri
Chair, Energy & Environment Committee
Representative Penny Houston, Georgia
Chair, Fiscal Affairs & Government Operations Committee
Senator Katrina Shealy, South Carolina
Chair, Human Services & Public Safety Committee

Past Officers of the SLC Serving in the Legislature
Senator Keith M. Ingram, Arkansas (2013-2014)
Speaker David Ralston, Georgia (2014-2015)
Senate President Robert Stivers, Kentucky (2015-2016)
Speaker Philip Gunn, Mississippi (2016-2017)
Louisiana Host State Staff Steering Committee

Cindy Mancuso | Executive Counsel to the Speaker
Stephanie D. Robin | Special Assistant to the Speaker
June Peay | Senior Caucus Administrator, House of Representatives
Jerry Guillot | Chief of Staff, Senate
Gay Smith | Executive Assistant to the Senate President
Linda Nugent | Director, Business Affairs Division, Senate
J.W. Wiley | Senate Counsel

Staff of the Southern Legislative Conference

Colleen Cousineau | Director
Mikko Lindberg | Senior Communications and Research Specialist
Lily Schieber | Programs and Marketing Manager
Anne Roberts Brody | Policy and Program Manager
Roger Moore | Policy Analyst
Cody Allen | Policy Analyst
Nick Bowman | Research and Publications Associate
Neil Johnson | Operations Coordinator
Susan Lanter | Finance and Events Coordinator
Gia Ashley Fore | Administrative and Meeting Coordinator

Adjunct Staff

Beulah Sexton | Consultant
Kevin Wallace | Director of Information Technology, The Council of State Governments
Carl Sims | Policy Analyst, The Council of State Governments
Maxwell Morley | Policy Analyst, The Council of State Governments
ANNUAL MEETING APP
Search for SLC Annual Meeting in the Apple App Store and Google Play or visit slcatlanta.org/LA2019app for easy access to information on policy sessions, presenters, host state guest programs and more!

The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Southern Office of The Council of State Governments
P.O. Box 98129 | Atlanta, Georgia 30359
p: (404) 633-1866 | f: (404) 633-4896
slcatlanta.org