

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LEGISLATORS FROM GAMING STATES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO
JUNE 6, 2004
DRAFT MINUTES

The Executive Committee of the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States (NCLGS) met at the Santa Fe Hilton, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on June 6, 2004, at 8:30 a.m.

Sen. Steve Geller of Florida, NCLGS President, presided over the meeting.

Other members of the Committee present were:

Rep. James Buskey, AL
Rep. Kevin Ryan, CT
Rep. Bill Oberle, DE
Sen. Lana Oleen, KS

Other legislators present were:

Sen. Nancy Rodriguez, NM
Sen. John Arthur Smith, NM
Rep. Tim Solobay, PA

Others present were:

Bob Mackin, Mackin & Company, NCLGS Executive Director
Susan Nolan, Mackin & Company, NCLGS Deputy Executive Director
Ann Henstrand, MultiState Associates, Inc.
Charlie Vickery, Charlie Vickery Consulting

MINUTES

The Committee voted unanimously to accept, as submitted, the minutes of its June 9, 2004 meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Senator Geller introduced the new nominees for Executive Committee membership, according to the rules, including Representatives Solobay, Dean, Pickett, and Rodriguez. Legislators from dues-paying states are eligible for membership after attending two NCLGS meetings. The committee had a general discussion on the executive committee membership rules. The motion to have the nominees join the committee was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP, MEETING DUES AND FUTURE SITES

There was general discussion on the current status of planning and selection for future meeting sites and dates. Senator Geller introduced the topic of the problem of conflicts with other gaming-related conferences, and with meetings of other legislative groups. He said it is difficult to pick a week which is perfectly suited. He said the difficulty is increased by the need to obtain favorable hotel rates. Nonetheless, it would be better for NCLGS if the meeting sites and dates could be selected further in advance, in order to draw more participation, he said. Senator Geller said that another complicating factor is that as states are invited to join the organization, it is useful to be able to offer to hold a future NCLGS meeting at a suitable site in their state. He said that election cycles are also difficult to work around, as Gaming Committee Chairs and members are sometimes not known until after an election. Senator Geller stated that all difficulties notwithstanding, it is his desire to have meetings set at least two meetings in advance.

There was a general discussion on plans for the Winter Meeting for January 2005. The committee described a "Gaming 101" style presentation to help new gaming committee members learn about all the intricacies of various gaming-related issues. The group discussed the problem in offering a session aimed at new legislators in early January, when legislators may not yet be ready to attend such a conference, or have beginning of legislative year obligations in their state capitals. Sen. Geller said some new members may not be able to apply for travel monies until after they are sworn in. He said that other states with short legislative calendars may be working too hard in January to leave town.

Ms. Ann Henstrand reported on the activity levels at the new NCLGS website. She said that there had been a steep increase on the number of unique visitors to the site in the several weeks leading up to the New Mexico meeting. She also noted that it is possible to track what pages website visitors view, and so interest in future meeting sites could be roughly measured.

Senator Geller concluded the meeting by ascertaining that there was a general consensus that the winter meeting should typically be held on the second or third weekend of January, and the summer meeting should typically be held in June. It was the hope of the committee that having a more consistent schedule from year to year might aid in building up more participation.

There was a general further discussion on the pros and cons of various potential future sites.

There was a general discussion on states that ought to be approached to become NCLGS members. North Carolina, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Arizona, South Dakota, Vermont, and others were mentioned.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Bob Mackin reported that the finances were in generally good shape, thanks to the establishment of the NCLGS Foundation to support the speakers who cannot pay their own way, allowing the regular budget monies to support the administrative, marketing and planning work done by Mackin and Company. There was a general discussion on the work to raise money for the Foundation.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a general discussion about the possibility of establishing an associate membership to professional organizations that are in the gaming business and believe in the NCLGS mission and purpose. Senator Geller described the work of the Industry Education Council (IEC) at National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) as a possible paradigm for participation in supporting NCLGS. Mr. Mackin described the manner in which the IEC was established as an independent organization that is not affiliated directly with the NCOIL planning process.

Senator Rodriquez and Senator Lopez and Representative Ryan discussed their charge to establish a subcommittee on internet regulations.

Senator Geller announced that as of October 1, Mackin and Company will no longer be staffing NCLGS. He expressed his, and the organization's, tremendous appreciation for Mr. Mackin's work. It is the current plan that Nolan & Company to take over the staff work, although the details had not yet been worked out, based on future budget issues. There was a general discussion about related budgeting and marketing issues.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT TO THE JUNE 6 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Committee discussed the vacancy on the Officers roster caused by the departure of Connecticut Representative Michael Caron. They received a motion to substitute Connecticut Representative Kevin Ryan to the position of Treasurer. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.