



GAVEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS FOUNDATION

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SLLF on the Potomac

DC Office Inaugural Gala to be held in U.S. Senate on SLLF's 40th Anniversary

The State Legislative Leaders Foundation is opening its new Washington DC office on September 20, 2011.

To celebrate, we are holding a gala reception on September 20 in the Mansfield Room of the United States Senate. Attending will be over 250 guests including Members of Congress, state legislative leaders from across the country, Advisory Council members, and our many friends in academia, government and politics.



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One of our primary objectives in opening this office is building new lines of communication and cooperation between Congress and state legislative leaders. SLLF has many alumni in Congress who we plan to enlist in organizing programs that bring Members of Congress together with state legislative leaders to examine issues of common concern.

In establishing a presence in our capitol, we hope to encourage a renewed spirit of cooperation and communication between the states and our national government, we intend to continue to promote public/private partnerships that have been the great strength of SLLF, and, as always, we will do this in a spirit of bipartisanship and professionalism.

The SLLF office will also serve as a meeting place for state legislative leaders who come to Washington on business. Our office will be available to them should they need a desk, secretarial support, or a place to hold meetings. All of us here at SLLF are very excited about this opportunity to expand our presence in Washington and perhaps shake things up a bit!

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SLLF Partners with Johns Hopkins University for Summit on Health Care and Technology



October 27 - 29, 2011

The delivery and management of health care has enormous budgetary and societal implications. The issue is complex and the playing field is forever changing. It goes straight to the question of the role of government in private lives and takes a disproportionate amount of legislative time and resources. SLLF President Steve Lakis describes the costs and delivery of health care as “like death and taxes” - an issue that will never go away and never be completely settled. As with all SLLF programs, our overriding goal is to give legislative leaders relevant, objective information that will enable them to make better decisions for their states. The program will examine policies that have been implemented and consider what has and has not worked.

Hosted by Maryland Speaker of the House Mike Busch and Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, this first program - *Unusual Suspects: Using Technology to Build Partnerships that Will Improve Health Care in America* - will focus on the intersection of health care and information technology. Topics addressed will include digitizing patient records and other medical information and using this information efficiently, with the appropriate security measures to ensure patient privacy. We will also explore how state of the art information technology can and will save money and provide efficiencies in the delivery and management of care, as well as improve the training of health care professionals for underserved populations.

To underscore the importance of health care reform, we will end the summit with a special personal development program for all program participants. The session will focus on wellness and what we can all do to enhance the quality of our lives. Again, the faculty will be world class and all of us will benefit from their sound advice.

Of SLLF’s affiliation with Johns Hopkins, President Lakis says “this new partnership with one of the world’s leading medical universities fits perfectly with the Foundation’s mission of educating and inspiring leaders to achieve excellence in all they do.”

This October’s program will be the first of three annual programs all focused on health care. The specific issues to be addressed in each future program will be based on developments across the nation in the preceding year.



October 27 - 29, 2011

Health Care Summit



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY



SLLF and Alliance for US India Business (AUSIB) Holding Groundbreaking US/India Leadership Summit

**Pune and Mumbai, India
December 2 - 9, 2011**

This extraordinary program - SLLF's first in India - will feature discussions with prominent members of the Indian government, academia, and business. We will focus on the unique India/USA partnership and opportunities to further expand cultural, economic and political ties between the two largest democracies in the world. Our itinerary will include two of the most interesting locations in this magnificent country - Pune, the cultural and academic capital of the state of Maharashtra, and Mumbai, the commercial and entertainment capital of India.

A key component of this program will be a discussion of the opportunity for American universities to expand their presence across India, a country that sends more students to the USA than any other country in the world.

SLLF on the Mediterranean

13th Annual Transatlantic Leadership Forum in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

This summer, sixteen US Legislative Leaders, thirteen of their European, Canadian, and Asian counterparts, representatives of the US business community, and special guests convened in Barcelona for SLLF's 13th Annual Transatlantic Leadership Forum. Home of the extraordinary architecture of Antoni Gaudi, Barcelona is Europe's 6th largest city and an economic powerhouse for the region.



The Parliament of Catalonia

The program was called "*A Cry for Freedom: The Arab Spring and its Political Impact on the Mediterranean Region*". Hosted by Member of the Spanish Parliament Hon. Jordi Xuclà i Costa, the agenda focused on the 'Arab Spring' and Catalanian regionalism. The participants from Catalonia hold a special appreciation for freedom and independence - Catalonia has won and lost its autonomy multiple times in its lengthy history. The discussions were sometimes intensely passionate. Participants from Egypt, for example, were critical of European and US policies towards the Middle East and said so. According to SLLF President Steve Lakis, the biggest issue - one that overrides all else with respect to policy in the region - is the Palestinian question. It's difficult to envision progress on most other issues without a resolution to this seemingly intractable conflict.

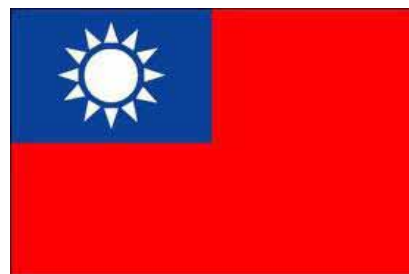
Keynote Speaker Hon. Jordi Pujol, former President of Catalan Government (1980-2003) - "the Nelson Mandela of Catalonia" - was spellbinding on the European economic crisis. Mr. Pujol speaks with a rare authority about the intertwined European economy and its impact on Mediterranean nations and regions. Captured and detained in 1960 for his protests, Mr. Pujol spent two and a half years in prison during the Franco regime. Upon his release, he immediately began a campaign to raise Catalans' national awareness and build the cultural and financial institutions necessary for the development of Catalonia.

The staff here at our U.S. headquarters would like to send a special message of appreciation to our fine European team for their tireless work in putting this and the past twelve TLA programs together. To Vice President of European and International Relations Alfons Schöps and Bureau Chief Janneck Herre, we say "Thank you - job well done!"

SLLF President Steve Lakis visits Taiwan to lay the groundwork for a Pan-Asian/U.S. Summit in 2013

This past May, SLLF President Steve Lakis traveled to Taiwan to meet with various officials and to begin planning for an expected summit in 2013.

Taiwan is a gateway to Asia, geographically situated near six (China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, and Malaysia) of the United States' 15 biggest international trading partners. SLLF's goal is to convene a Pan-Asian/U.S. Summit in 2013 bringing American state legislative leaders there to meet with their legislative counterparts from these dynamic countries.



The Taiwanese are enthusiastically pro-American and are eager for SLLF to set up shop as a way of promoting economic and cultural exchanges between our nations. Mr. Lakis conveyed to the Taiwanese officials that Taiwan could be a neutral broker for political, economic, and cultural exchange.

Mr. Lakis and the officials with whom he met - Senate President Wang Jin-pyng, Former National Security Council Secretary General Su Chi, Chairman of the Council for Industrial and Commercial Development Albert Wu, and other key leaders from government and the private sector - engaged in frank discussions about Taiwan's place in the world. The Taiwanese emphasized the strong and enduring cultural, economic and trade relationships between the Taiwanese democracy and mainland China. The more tricky political relationships were quietly placed on the back burner. It is clear that Taiwan needs to be friends with everybody, which sounds like a refreshing foreign policy, and that its future depends on good relations with the world.

For the sake of trade, cultural exchange, and the sharing of information and experience in general, it is important for leaders to understand how other countries operate. This is especially true in cases where state legislative leaders move on to play a larger role in national politics and rise to national office. But even at the state level, as we see foreign companies open factories here and as we seek to expand exports overseas, U.S. leaders can benefit from insights gained through international exposure. More and more, legislative leaders are not just taking care of state business, but are finding that global events have impacts locally. In SLLF's view, more information is always better and these international summits are nothing if not eye-opening and information rich.



Group photo at Legislative Yuan (Senate) of Taiwan with SLLF President Stephen Lakis (3rd from left) and Taiwan Senate President, Mr. Wang Jin-pyng (middle).

What Leaders Learned at the Technology Summit at Notre Dame

Tips for State Governments and Legislative Leaders

Attended by 25 legislative leaders from 16 states, this “simply outstanding,” “cutting edge” program addressed the challenges and opportunities every legislature faces in coming to terms with the technological juggernaut that threatens to overwhelm the unprepared.

Technology has changed the way government works and what constituents expect from government, and we have seen just the tip of the iceberg. Within the next decade, changes will be even more dramatic, with constituents taking a much more active role in decision making and governing.

For every challenge we face as a community, broadband is part of the answer. Information technology (IT) improves efficiency and reduces redundancy. It allows governments and leaders to leverage information to make better decisions, anticipate problems to resolve them proactively, and coordinate resources to operate effectively. Legislative bodies and their leadership can gain unprecedented confidence that it can get policy right when it counts.

Advice for states:

- Include the development of broadband in all infrastructure planning. It's as important as building roads and providing electricity and phone service. Businesses will not locate in your state without broadband access. It is the number one asset in education, health care, environment, and energy.
- Use the data. Gathering the data is the easy part. Putting it to good use - which includes making it easier to use - is the real challenge and opportunity. Problems can be identified and corrected before they occur. Government can be predictive rather than reactive. Applications are endless: traffic flow, fraud detection, digital rights, cyber security, information searches, water systems, drug treatment.
- Build strategic partnerships with Chief Information Officers and Budget Directors to create a uniform and business-like approach to the management of IT services. Focus on strategy, rather than crisis management, within the context of a structurally sound budget.

Advice for leaders:

- There is no option not to be in the social media game - if you're not using these tools, you will lose control of your message. Use Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to get your message out and engage with your constituents. If you are not using these tools, keep in mind that people are talking about you on them. Social media is an unbelievable opportunity in politics; it makes politics better.
- Adjust to the fact that the “strong leader model,” grounded in a one-way broadcast form of communication, is giving way to a “working with” model, grounded in the interactivity of new media.
- Policy should be driven by data and information and based on facts. Information is a collection of data; knowledge is the use of the data over time. Leaders need to make knowledge-based decisions and be able to choose among alternative solutions.

SLLF would like to acknowledge the contributions of **Cathilea Robinett** of *Governing* for her assistance in putting this program together. And we are very grateful to **Representatives Eric Turner** and **Pat Bauer** (Indiana) for hosting us.

Resources:

Maryland StateStat – <http://www.gov.state.md.us/statestat/>

Khan Academy – <http://www.khanacademy.org/>

Remembering Senator Bob Stenehjem (1952 - 2011)



Statesmanship, equanimity, compassion

On July 18, 2011, we lost a very special friend when The Honorable Bob Stenehjem died tragically in an automobile accident. Big and gruff on the outside, kind, gentle and big-hearted on the inside, Bob was always quick with a smile and a kind (and usually humorous) word that would put all those around him at ease. He treated everyone with respect, dignity and honesty. Status and position meant little to Bob. He was, as they say in his beloved North Dakota, "just good people."

Bob was first elected to the North Dakota Senate in 1992 and was chosen to serve as its Majority Leader in 2001, a position he held without interruption until his untimely death. He was first elected to the SLLF Board of Directors in 2002 and became Vice-Chair two years later. There was no stronger advocate for SLLF than Bob - he enthusiastically attended every meeting he could and represented us with honor and integrity. He was the rare person who could see the big picture but also take the many small steps needed to get the job done, which he did for North Dakota for many years. He built the kind of constructive compromises that moved important legislation, and the state, forward. North Dakota Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem said of his brother, "He was a real mechanic. He took apart a problem and looked at all the pieces and the intricacies and put it back together. He was North Dakota's master of the Senate. He could put together a deal understanding all the interests, personalities and needs."

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family that meant so much to him: his beloved wife Kathy, their children and grandchildren. They lost a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. North Dakota lost a great statesman and public servant. We all lost a very good friend who can never be replaced, but will live forever in our hearts and memories.

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Education. Inspiration. Excellence.*

SLLF 2011 Calendar

September 7-11, 2011

National Speakers Conference - 20th Annual Meeting
Hosted by Hon. Robert Harrell, Jr., Speaker of the
House, South Carolina
Charleston, South Carolina

September 20, 2011

SLLF DC Office Inaugural Gala
Washington, DC

October 27 - 29, 2011

SLLF Health Care Summit
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

December 2 - 9, 2011

SLLF Global Forum
Pune and Mumbai, India