



# GAVEL

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS FOUNDATION

❧ VOLUME 9, ISSUE 3 - FALL 2010 ❧

## SLLF Previews 2011 and Welcomes New Directors at Annual Board Meeting

SLLF's Board Meeting is always a worthwhile and informative affair. At this year's meeting in Las Vegas, in addition to hearing from Congressional scholar Professor James Thurber about the impact of the historic 2010 elections on the states and the country, participants welcomed nine new Directors and learned about the innovative events and activities SLLF has planned for 2011.

### Our New Directors:



*Rep. Kirk Adams  
Arizona*



*Sen. Roger H. Bedford Jr.  
Alabama*



*Rep. Al Carlson North  
Dakota*



*Rep. Mike Chenault  
Alaska*



*Rep. Alex DeCroce  
New Jersey*



*Rep. Patti Koline  
Vermont*



*Rep. Fiona Ma  
California*



*Sen. Gary Stevens  
Alaska*



*Rep. P. Eric Turner  
Indiana*

**LOOK for our new  
website coming in  
January 2011!  
[www.sllf.org](http://www.sllf.org)**

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## Issues Summit 2011: Educating “Future Ready” Citizens



Hunt

In his first two terms as governor of North Carolina, James Hunt’s focus on improving the quality of secondary education and raising the standards and visibility of the state’s university system led many to call him North Carolina’s “Education Governor.” When he returned as governor in 1992, his efforts to improve early childhood and elementary education with the nationally recognized and often replicated “Smart Start” program and the innovative “ABC Standards” for quality education, he solidified that reputation. Upon his retirement from electoral politics in 2000, Governor Hunt established The James B. Hunt Jr. Institute for Education Leadership and Policy.

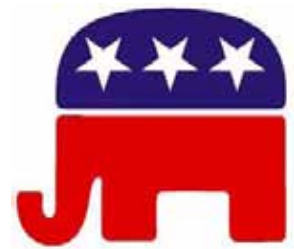
SLLF is proud to announce that in 2011 we will once again be teaming up with Governor Hunt and the Hunt Institute to present a cutting-edge educational program - *The Future of Education: How and What Should We Teach the “Wireless” Generation* (SLLF last worked with the Hunt Institute in 2008). The program, scheduled for March 31 - April 3, will be held in beautiful Chapel Hill, North Carolina, with classes at the Kenan-Flagler Business School’s Rizzo Conference Center.

The second in our “New American Revolution” series, the conference will focus on how changes in technology, economics and demographics are influencing not only what is taught in the classroom, but also how students are taught. Topics will include the opportunities and challenges of on-line education; recruiting the best teachers; retaining and educating an increasingly diverse student population; the value of national standards and a core curriculum; and, the importance of quality data in measuring educational success.

**Mark your calendars for March 31 - April 3, and keep checking [www.sllf.org](http://www.sllf.org) for more information on this exciting and forward thinking program.**

## Election 2010: A Republican Revolution in the States

While much has been written about historic GOP gains at the national level in 2010, especially in the US House of Representatives, the shift in state legislative seats may be even more dramatic and significant. As a result of the 2010 elections, majority status in 19 states changed hands, all in the direction of the Republican party, a feat unheard of since 1994. Republicans picked up almost 700 seats (significantly more than 1994), giving them the most seats they have held since 1928.



Further, Republicans took both chambers in North Carolina and Alabama and gained a majority of all legislative seats in the South for the first time since reconstruction. Republicans now control 18 of 28 chambers in the once solidly Democratic south. Further, Republicans had surprise victories gaining the majority in lower chambers in Maine and Minnesota.

Not surprisingly, such dramatic changes in membership will result in significant changes in leadership. History shows us that with term limits, voluntary retirements and the usual changes in party majority status, we can expect leadership turnover of around forty percent in an average year. As just noted, 2010 was anything but an average year. At SLLF, we are anticipating that well over fifty percent of all legislative leaders serving in state legislatures will be new to their leadership positions and the vast majority of them will be new to party leadership altogether.

For example, as of the end of November, we know there will be at least 25 Speakers wielding the gavel for the first time over their state houses when sessions begin in January, not including Speakers in California, Rhode Island and New Jersey, who are still in their first year. While changes are not quite as dramatic in state Senates (there were no Senate elections in 6 states in 2010), we do expect new leaders in more than half of the senate leadership positions, with new Republican leadership in Alabama, Maine, Minnesota, North Carolina, New York and Wisconsin.



## SLLF/ NSC to Host New Speakers at American University



This January, the State Legislative Leaders Foundation and the National Speakers Conference will once again host newly elected Speakers of the House for its sixth biennial orientation for new Speakers: *BIG Leadership: Leadership in Challenging Times*. This year, for the first time, the program will be held in the nation's capitol on the campus of American University.

This historic class of new leaders, which will include at least 25 Speakers who were not wielding the gavel when this program was held in 2009, will be invited to gather with their peers, leadership experts, and experienced Speakers to explore the opportunities and challenges they will face as they bring their chambers to order for the first time. Faculty will include Dr. Robin Dorff, Strategic Studies Institute, Army War College; Chip Scholz, Scholz and Associates; Dr. Kirk O. Hanson, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics; and Dr. Thomas Little, State Legislative Leaders Foundation. It is our expectation that by bringing these new leaders together with other new Speakers, former and current Speakers and leadership experts, they can be better prepared to face and meet the challenges that lie ahead.

The program will begin on Thursday evening, January 13, with an opening class at The Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, DC. Classes will continue on Friday on the campus of American University and then continue Saturday back at the hotel. Topics of discussion will include discerning the opportunities and addressing the challenges necessary to be a successful leader, identifying and developing useful leadership skills, the power of coalition building, effective media relations, and the significance of ethical decision-making. We will also feature discussions by experienced Speakers on "Tips for Success" and "What I Wish I had Known!"

If you are a newly elected Speaker, mark your calendars and watch for additional information regarding this program. If you have questions, please contact Thom Little, SLLF's Director of Curriculum and Research ([sllfthom@aol.com](mailto:sllfthom@aol.com) or 336-856-0623) or Evelene Lakis ([elakis@sllf.org](mailto:elakis@sllf.org)).



**Robin Dorff**



**Chip Scholz**



**Kirk O. Hanson**



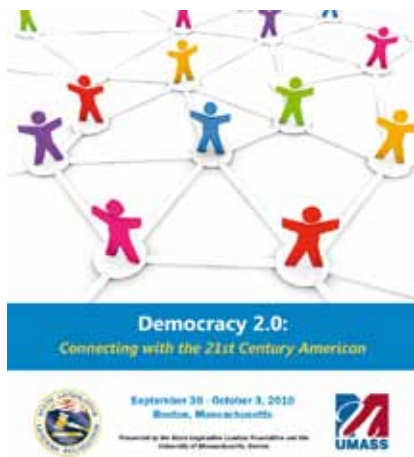
**Thom Little**

## Leadership Summit 2010: Connecting with Constituents and Voters in the 21st Century

Despite dramatic changes in technology and demographics that have taken place in the last decade, the primary source of productive connections with voters and constituents remains the same as it always has: building and maintaining relationships. What has changed, however, are the methods and tools available and necessary to build and maintain those relationships. This was the primary message of *Democracy 2.0: Connecting with the 21st Century American*, SLLF's 2010 Leadership Summit, held earlier this Fall at the University of Massachusetts in Boston.



Under the tutelage of experts from around the country, the more than ninety legislative and corporate leaders in attendance discussed how changes in technology (how we communicate) and demography (who we communicate with) are changing the relationship between the government and the governed. Today's public is more diverse and more open, and expects immediate responses, interactive leadership and civic engagement. They expect to be communicated with and not "talked at."



Cathilea Robinett of the Center for Digital Government and Simon Rosenberg of NDN made clear to participants just how quickly the technology and "face" of America is changing. These changes are leading to significant shifts in how policymakers express themselves and engage their constituents and voters. Leaders today are learning to communicate effectively with growing constituencies from other cultures and are using technology to personalize political messages in ways that mass marketing does not allow. More and more campaigns and political leaders are using increasingly sophisticated, but accessible, technologies to build voter bases, raise money and completely bypass traditional media outlets.

With more than four in five of Americans under 65 now on-line, elected officials are discovering new ways to engage and motivate their supporters, including web sites, social networking, and Twitter. Beyond that, they are using these technologies to gain ideas and support from the public, opening two-way lines of communication between elected leaders and their constituents. As technology continues to break down barriers and the population grows increasingly diverse and "tech-savvy," we can expect the public to demand more access and input. Policy-makers must use these modern tools and methods to provide it.

For the full agenda, more information on the faculty, and to view presentations from the program, visit [www.sllf.org](http://www.sllf.org).

***"This was a highly informative program on one of the most rapidly changing and challenging elements of public service—improved, creative communications."***

-- Senator Martin Looney, Connecticut

***"Excellent and truly geared toward leaders."***

-- Rep. Beth Kertulla, Alaska

## SLLF Bids Fond Farewell to Departing Directors

As we look back at another election and into the new year ahead, we must bid a sad farewell to Directors who will be leaving the legislature or their leadership post. Term limits, retirements and changes in party control of several legislatures will mean a number of legislative leaders will be leaving the SLLF Board of Directors at the end of this year.

Departing members of SLLF Board of Directors:

Hon. Glenn Coffee – President of the Senate, Oklahoma  
 Hon. Ken Guin – House Majority Leader, Alabama  
 Hon. Seth Hammett – Speaker of the House, Alabama  
 Hon. Fred Hemmings – Senate Republican Leader, Hawaii  
 Hon. Tad Jones – House Majority Leader, Oklahoma  
 Hon. Ray Merrick – House Majority Leader, Kansas  
 Hon. Elizabeth Mitchell – President of the Senate, Maine  
 Hon. William Murphy - Speaker Emeritus, Rhode Island  
 Hon. Derek Schmidt – Senate Majority Leader, Kansas  
 Hon. Michael Sheridan – Speaker of the Assembly, Wisconsin  
 Hon. Colin Simpson – Speaker of the House, Wyoming  
 Hon. Robbie Wills – Speaker of the House, Arkansas

Their service and commitment to the State Legislative Leaders Foundation has been greatly appreciated and will be sorely missed. We wish them all the best!



Schmidt



Rubio



Berg



Noem

### Election 2010: Leaders Moving Up

As is always the case, election night 2010 had winners and losers and of course this is true for legislative leaders running for other offices. The elections of 2010 saw several current or former state legislative leaders gain statewide or federal offices. In Kansas, Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt defeated incumbent Attorney General Steve Six to take that post. In Florida, former House Speaker Marco Rubio defeated former Governor Charlie Crist and Congressman Kendrick Meek to become one of the Sunshine State's two members of the United States Senate. Farther west, Rick Berg, the Majority Leader of the North Dakota House, defeated nine-term incumbent Earl Pomeroy to become that state's lone member in the United States House of Representatives. In South Dakota, Assistant House Majority Leader Kristi Noem won a hard fought race to represent that state in the United States House of Representatives.

Unfortunately, some leaders were not so successful in their efforts to seek higher office. Former Arkansas Speaker Shane Broadway fell fewer than 2,000 votes short in his effort to become Lt. Governor of the Razorback state, and former Maine Speaker and Senate President Elizabeth "Libby" Mitchell was defeated in her attempt to become governor of that state.

With Governor Joe Manchin now the U.S. Senator-elect from West Virginia, Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin will become the Acting Governor until an election can be held to fill the post. By law, Senator Tomblin will maintain his position as President of the Senate while serving as Acting Governor, but has agreed to have the Senate President Pro Tempore preside over the Senate while he is serving as Acting Governor. Senator Tomblin has indicated he will seek a full term as Governor whenever that election is held.

We wish the best of luck to all these friends of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation. Keep in touch with us!

## www.sllf.org: New Website for New Year



Beginning in January 2011, www.sllf.org will have a new look and feel. We have completely revamped our website making it more accessible and useful.

New features will include:

- Enhanced leadership program information
- On-line program registration
- Quick links to state legislative leaders
- Ease of navigation
- Online newsletters and updates

## GAVEL

**Stephen G. Lakis**  
 Publisher, Editor-in-Chief

**Thom Little**  
 Director of Development

**Ken Morton**  
 Managing Editor

**Papalinka Paradise**  
 Design & Layout

State Legislative Leaders Foundation  
 1645 Falmouth Road, Bldg. D  
 Centerville, MA 02632-2932  
 Tel.: (508) 771-3821 Fax: (508) 778-2553  
 E-mail: info@sllf.org

*The State Legislative Leaders Foundation:  
 Education. Inspiration. Excellence.*

## SLLF 2011 Calendar

### January 13 - 15, 2011

SLLF/NSC New Speakers Orientation  
*BIG Leadership: Leadership in Challenging Times*  
 American University, Washington, D.C.

### March 31 - April 3, 2011

SLLF Issues Summit (LEIP)  
*The Future of Education: How and What Should We Teach the "Wireless" Generation*  
 James B. Hunt Jr. Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy  
 University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

### June 23 - 26, 2011

SLLF Leadership Summit (LAMP)  
*Government On-Line: The Opportunities, Costs and Challenges of High Tech Governance*  
 Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN