Working together in especially tough times Western states can build stronger economies, more responsive legislative institutions and a future of greater promise for the next generation.

~ Representative Jose Campos, New Mexico 2009 CSG-WEST Chair

2008 Year in Review

The Council of State Governments-WEST
About CSG-WEST

The Council of State Governments-WEST (CSG-WEST) provides a nonpartisan platform for regional cooperation among the legislatures of the West, creating opportunities for legislators and staff to share ideas and experiences as well as institutional linkages with other elected political leaders throughout the region. Based in California where it was founded over 60 years ago, the CSG-WEST legislative membership of 13 western states benefits from its associate memberships with the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia and the Pacific islands of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam, and benefits from its collaborative partnerships with the border states of Mexico.

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Cover Photo courtesy of Santa Fe Convention and Visitors Bureau
This past year, CSG-WEST joined her sister regional organizations in the Northeast, South, Midwest as well as the National office in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of The Council of State Governments (CSG). In 1933, a group of state leaders from all branches of state government and from all 48 states was convened by Colorado State Senator Henry Toll. This group of visionaries met to share ideas and to map out a strategy of cooperation and recovery among the states and territories of America.

Seventy-five years later as a severe global economic contraction seeps into every corner of our public and private sectors, the need for interstate cooperation has become as critical today as it was in 1933 in coping with the increased demands of a world-wide depression. The founding of CSG represented an aggressive, progressive and sustained response to a national emergency grounded in the idea that only mutual cooperation and respect among the states and federal government could prevent total economic collapse and put the country on the road to recovery.

As the example of the 1930s reminds us, now is not the time for states to withdraw from interacting and engaging with each other. Now more than ever, it is time for states to collaborate and share experiences on what works and what doesn’t work in serving the people we represent. We must have confidence that the spirit of hope and optimism that has always been a vital part of the western character will sustain us in challenging times.

The CSG-WEST 2008 Year in Review provides examples of how states in the western region came together to find practical solutions to common problems -- from energy to state finances to education and beyond. In the coming year, we look forward to working together with the same optimism and tenacity that our founders had in tackling the challenges of governing in tough times.

Sincerely,

Representative Jose Campos, New Mexico
CSG-WEST Chair

Representative Rich Wills, Idaho
CSG-WEST Chair-Elect

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Hawaii
CSG-WEST Vice Chair

Senator Lesil McGuire, Alaska
CSG-WEST Immediate Past Chair
The Executive Committee serves as the board of directors for CSG-WEST, reviewing the work of policy committees, adopting policy positions and annually selecting participants for the Western Legislative Academy.

The committee is comprised of CSG-WEST officers and program leaders, western legislators serving in CSG national leadership positions, the presiding legislative officers and ranking minority leaders of each member state and legislators appointed by the presiding legislative officers of member states.

The Executive Committee of CSG-WEST works with staff and officers of the Western Governors’ Association, Western Municipal Conference and Western Interstate Region of the National Association of Counties to build a creative advocacy for the West’s interests by political leaders at the state and local level.

Executive Committee Program Presenters

Ken Goldstein, a recognized authority on campaign advertising in American politics and professor of political science at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, spoke on campaign advertising and the impacts on American voters.

Principal consultant for the California Senate Banking Committee, Eileen Newall, explained how and why home mortgage lending is having enormous impacts on many Western states and the nation.

Senator Mike Machado, Chair of the California Senate Banking, Finance and Insurance Committee, moderated over a session on the home mortgage lending crisis.

Arizona Senator Tom O’Halleran, CSG-WEST Vice Chair, spent many years on the Chicago Board of Trade. Sen. O’Halleran shared his expertise and insights on the impacts of the home mortgage lending.

Diputado Francisco Javier Cantu Torres of the Mexican state of Nuevo Leon reported on recommendations of the day-long North America Summit that met as an integral part of the 2008 CSG-WEST annual meeting in Anchorage.

Keith Scott, Director of the CSG National Center for Interstate Compacts, made the case for the expanded use of interstate compacts as a constitutional grant of power to the states, citing an interstate initiative on educational opportunities for military children.
CSG-WEST 2008 Executive Committee

Meetings-at-a-Glance

May 3 – Napa, California
- Selection of Western Legislative Academy Class of 2008
- Western Legislative Conference Policy Agenda Setting Sessions
- Home Mortgage Lending Crisis: What Can States Do?
- Report from Western Political Leaders’ Coalition

July 20 – Anchorage, Alaska
- CSG Briefing on National Center for Interstate Compacts
- Updates on CSG-WEST Programs and Projects
- North America Summit Recommendations
- CSG-WEST Rules Amendments
- Western Governors’ Association Collaboration
- Election of CSG-WEST 2009 Officers

Member Participation

Representative Janice Arnold-Jones
New Mexico

Representative Jose Campos
New Mexico

Representative John Coghill, Jr., Alaska

Representative Rich Wills
Idaho

Representative Maxine Bell, Idaho

Senator Kim Gillan
Montana

Senator Lesil McGuire
Alaska

Senator Gary Stevens
Alaska

Speaker Pro Tempore
Jeff Morris, Washington

House Minority Leader
Tom Taylor, New Mexico

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi
Hawaii

Rep. John Schiffer
Wyoming

Senator John Groff
Colorado

Representative Jim Keane, Montana
CSG-WEST 2008 Year in Review

CSG-WEST 2008 Executive Committee

Member Participation

House Minority Leader
Beth Kerttula, Alaska

Representative
Steve Urquhart, Utah

Representative
Mel Brown, Utah

Representative
Marcus Oshiro, Hawaii
and Representative Danice Picraux,
New Mexico

Representative
Ronda Rudd Menlove
Utah

Senator
Elaine Alquist
California

Speaker of the House
Rory Cohee, Wyoming

Representative Dave Quall, Washington (left)
and House Majority Leader Dave Hunt, Oregon

Senator Mike Machado
California

Assembly Majority Floor Leader
John Oceguera, Nevada

Representative Thomas Garcia
New Mexico

Representative
Dell Raybould, Idaho

Representative
Jackie Dingfelder, Oregon

Representative
Ronda Rudd Menlove
Utah

Senate Minority Leader
Ken Decaria, Wyoming

Senator
Tom O’Halleran
Arizona

Representative
Ronda Rudd Menlove
Utah

Senate President
Pro Tempore
Timothy Z. Jennings
New Mexico

Speaker of the House
Rory Cohee, Wyoming

Representative
Marcus Oshiro, Hawaii
and Representative Danice Picraux,
New Mexico

Representative
Ronda Rudd Menlove
Utah

Senator Mike Machado
California

Assembly Majority Floor Leader
John Oceguera, Nevada

Representative Dell Raybould, Idaho

Representative
Mel Brown, Utah

Representative
Steve Urquhart, Utah

Representative
Ronda Rudd Menlove
Utah

Senator
Elaine Alquist
California

Speaker of the House
Rory Cohee, Wyoming

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and House Majority Leader Dave Hunt, Oregon

Senator Mike Machado
California

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Mel Brown, Utah

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Rory Cohee, Wyoming

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California

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Steve Urquhart, Utah

Representative
Ronda Rudd Menlove
Utah

Senator
Elaine Alquist
California

Speaker of the House
Rory Cohee, Wyoming

Representative Dave Quall, Washington (left)
and House Majority Leader Dave Hunt, Oregon

Senator Mike Machado
California

Assembly Majority Floor Leader
John Oceguera, Nevada

Representative Dell Raybould, Idaho
CSG-West 2008 Executive Committee

ALASKA
Lyda Green, President of the Senate
Gene Therriault, Senate Minority Leader
Lesil McGuire, Speaker, CSG-West Chair
Gary Stevens, Senator
John Harris, Speaker of the House
Beth Kerttula, House Minority Leader
Mike Chenault, Representative
John Coghill, Representative
David Guttenburg, Representative

ARIZONA
Timothy S. Bee, President of the Senate
Marsha Arzberger, Senate Minority Leader
Amanda Aguirre, Senator
Carolyn S. Allen, Senator
Tom O’Halleran, Speaker, CSG-West Vice Chair
Jim Weiers, Speaker of the House
Phil Lopes, House Minority Leader

CALIFORNIA
Don Perata, President pro Tempore
Dave Cogdill, Senate Minority Leader
Elaine Alquist, Senator
Michael Machado, Senator
Karen Bass, Speaker of the Assembly
Michael N. Villines, Assembly Minority Floor Leader
Hector De La Torre, Assembly Member
Pedro Nava, Assembly Member

COLORADO
Peter C. Groff, President of the Senate
Ken Gordon, Senate Majority Leader
Andrew McElhany, Senate Minority Leader
Brandon Shaffer, Senate Majority Leader
Paula E. Sandoval, Senator
Andrew Romanoff, Speaker of the House
Cheri Jahn, Speaker Pro Tempore
Mike May, House Minority Leader
Bernie Buescher, Representative

HAWAII
Colleen Hanabusa, President of the Senate
Fred Hemmings, Senate Majority Leader
Brian T. Taniguchi, Senator
Calvin K. Y. Say, Speaker of the House
Blake K. Oshiro, House Majority Floor Leader
Lynn Finnegan, House Minority Leader
Marcus R. Oshiro, Representative

IDAHO
Robert L. Geddes, President Pro Tempore
Bart M. Davis, Senate Majority Leader
Clint Sten nett, Senate Minority Leader
Lawrence E. Denney, Speaker of the House
Wendy Jaquet, House Minority Leader
Maxine T. Bell, Representative
Thomas F. Loertscher, Representative
Dell Raybould, Representative
Richard Wills, Representative

MONTANA
Mike Cooney, President of the Senate
Carol Williams, Senate Majority Leader
Corey Stapleton, Senate Minority Leader
Kim Gillan, Senator
Scott Sales, Speaker of the House
John Parker, House Minority Leader
Jim Keane, Representative

NEVADA
William J. Raggio, Senate Majority Floor Leader
Dina Titus, Senate Minority Floor Leader
Barbara E. Buckley, Speaker of the House
John Oceguera, Assembly Majority Floor Leader
Garn Mabey, Assembly Minority Floor Leader
Hedi S. Gansert, Assistant Minority Floor Leader
Kelvin D. Atkinson, Assemblyman

NEW MEXICO
Timothy Z. Jennings, President Pro Tempore
Michael S. Sanchez, Senate Majority Floor Leader
Mary Jane M. Garcia, Senate Majority Whip
Stuart Ingle, Senate Minority Floor Leader
Gay G. Kernan, Senator
Ben Lujan, Speaker of the House
Thomas C. Taylor, House Minority Floor Leader
Jose Campos, Representative

OREGON
Peter Courtney, Senate President
Ted Ferrioli, Senate Republican Leader
Kate Brown, Speaker
Rod Monroe, Senator
Jeff Merkley, Speaker of the House
Dave Hunt, House Majority Leader
Bruce Hanna, House Republican Leader
Jackie Dingfelder, Representative

UTAH
John L. Valentine, President of the Senate
Mike Dmitrich, Senate Majority Leader
Carlene M. Walker, Senator
Greg J. Curtis, Speaker of the House
Brad King, House Minority Leader
Mel R. Brown, Representative
Ronda Rudd Menlove, Representative
Stephen H. Urquhart, Representative

WASHINGTON
Lisa Brown, Senate Majority Leader
Mike Hewitt, Senate Minority Floor Leader
Frank Chopp, Speaker of the House
Richard DeBolt, House Minority Leader
Jeff Morris, Speaker Pro Tempore
CSG-West Immediate Past Chair
Dave Quall, Representative

WYOMING
John C. Schiffer, President of the Senate
Ken Decaria, Senate Majority Floor Leader
Grant Larson, Senator
Roy Cobee, Speaker of the House
Marty Martin, House Minority Floor Leader

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
Pamela Varni, Executive Director
Alaska Legislative Affairs Agency
Michael Christensen, General Counsel and Director
Utah Office of Legislative Research

Serving Western Legislatures
Summary of CSG-WEST Programs and Projects

Programs

- The Western Legislative Conference brings together legislators from western states to learn from each other and collaborate on issues of regional concern such as water, public lands, energy and transportation.

- The Western Legislative Academy is an intensive professional development program designed to help newer western state legislators become more effective leaders and build stronger legislative institutions.

- WESTRENDS is a regional leadership board comprised of one legislator from each western state that addresses demographic, economic and cultural trends shaping the West.

- The Legislative Service Agency and Research Directors Committee provides nonpartisan western staff leaders management training and opportunities to share best practices with each other.

Projects

- Pursuing cooperative solutions to issues that arise along the 2000-mile U.S.-Mexican border is the focus of the Border Legislative Conference, which is composed of state legislators from California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and the six Mexican border states of Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Nuevo Leon, Coahuila and Tamaulipas.

- The U.S.–Mexico State Alliance Partnership is a collaborative, multi-branch alliance consisting of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Council of State Governments (CSG) and its Western and Southern regional offices, Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG), National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), National Association of State Treasurers (NAST) and other officials aimed at strengthening cooperation among state officials and institutions of the United States and Mexico. The Alliance Partnership promotes and convenes binational exchanges and workshops among border legislators, attorneys general and treasurers to enhance the role of state officials in addressing shared public policy concerns that transcend international borders.

- CSG-WEST acts as a convener for the Legislative Council on River Governance, a cooperative association of legislators from Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana on environment and energy issues in the Columbia River Basin.
Western Legislative Service Agency and Research Directors

October 23-24, 2008 in Santa Fe, New Mexico

There are two ways of exerting one's strength: one is pushing down, the other is pulling up.
— Booker T. Washington, Educator

The Legislative Service Agency/Research Directors (LSA/RD) Committee is a core CSG-WEST program. Made up of the nonpartisan legislative staff directors of the West, the committee is dedicated to finding ways to deliver the best possible customer service to lawmakers in a positive and professional workplace environment. Western staff leaders convene each year for a training and professional development seminar.

Alaska Legislative Affairs Agency Executive Director Pam Varni, LSA/RD chair, facilitated this year’s forum in Santa Fe. The featured trainer was Professor Jackie Hood from the Anderson School of Management at the University of New Mexico. Hood worked with staff leaders on “Managing Workplace Conflict” and “Workplace Motivation.” Members also shared information about new member orientation, legislative training and practices in e-communications. Mike Christensen, Director of Utah’s Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, led a session on “Managing Difficult People” based on Dr. John Lund’s book “How to Hug a Porcupine.”
Lawmakers from the West’s 13 state legislatures assembled in policy forums at the CSG-WEST annual meeting to learn from one another and share ideas about strategies and solutions.

Overview of 2008 Policy Committees

Education Committee

Education Committee members discussed the challenges of teacher shortages in K-12 and higher education as well as the state, federal and university resources to address the issues. They heard about AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) success stories - a new approach in which the student is an active participant in his or her career planning, resulting in improved academic performance and diminished drop outs. Members also heard and talked about the positive impacts and learning opportunities provided to students having technology access.

Energy and Environment Committee

The Energy and Environment Committee sessions focused on a broad spectrum of energy topics including climate change, how it impacts energy decisions, what policy options states have to mitigate carbon emissions, and what alternative energy sources and technologies are available for clean energy.
Fiscal Affairs Committee

Looking at past recessions, the Fiscal Affairs Committee members compared past and present data on wages and salaries and non-wage income, goods consumption, housing, and tax collections, among other topics. From mineral severance taxes to the impact of Medicaid and other health care costs on state budgets, fiscal leaders shared their concerns, experiences and good ideas on a wide-range of important state budget issues.

Transportation and Trade Committee

Transportation and Trade Committee members explored challenges and solutions to the transportation needs of both the western region and the nation. The committee looked at the findings of the Transportation for Tomorrow: Report of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission and the status of trucking in the West.

Water and Public Lands Committee

The Western Water and Public Lands Committee provided legislators an opportunity to discuss and hear from distinguished speakers on federal–state land management practices and revenue sharing in the West. The forum also focused on water management strategies to address changing demographic growth and climate variability.

Western Legislatures Committee

The Western Legislatures Committee brought lawmakers and experts together to tackle tough questions surrounding redistricting in the 21st Century. Governing Magazine’s Alan Greenblatt joined with leading redistricting experts Peter Wattson from the Minnesota Senate and Mike McDonald from George Mason University to debate commission versus legislative redistricting.
WESTRENDS provides a forum for legislators to examine the consequences of demographic, economic and cultural trends shaping the West. The WESTRENDS Board heard a presentation by John Peterson, founder and president of the Arlington Institute, a public, non-profit research center in the Washington, D.C. area. He is a futurist who specializes in global futures and emerging technologies.

Peterson says that technological change will provide an international network of futurists the ability to predict the social behavior of people when confronted by certain types of events. This new think tank model will be devoted to tracking and even predicting “Wild Cards,” which he defines as “low probability but very high impact events” that confound our expectations and experience.

Peterson is convinced that nothing less than a profound shift in priorities will be required in order to cope with the changes that will confront the United States and governments world-wide. He agrees with other futurists who see 2005-2015 as a time when the confluence of social, economic, cultural and technological disruptions create in his words “the beginning of epochal change” that will require a global mobilization. Peterson offered a framework for intervention on four of the major disruptions that have occurred or will occur in the 21st century: oil shock, rapid climate change, financial collapse and global pandemic.

2008 WESTRENDS Board

Senator Michael Machado, California
WESTRENDS Chair

Representative Beth Kerttula, Alaska
House Minority Leader

Senator Tom O’Halleran, Arizona

Senator Gail Schwartz, Colorado

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Hawaii

Representative Maxine Bell, Idaho

Senator Kim Gillan, Montana
WESTRENDS Vice Chair

Representative Ben Lujan, New Mexico
Speaker of the House

Representative Jackie Dingfelder, Oregon

Representative Ronda Rudd Menlove, Utah

Senator Phil Rockefeller, Washington

Representative Thomas Lockhart, Wyoming

Assemblyman John Oceguera, Nevada, Assembly Majority Floor Leader
2008 Forum Participants

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi
Hawaii

Senator Phil Rockefeller
Washington

Representative Nancy Todd
Colorado

Representative Jose Campos
New Mexico

Representative Ronda Rudd
Menlove
Utah

Representative Maxine Bell
Idaho

House Minority Leader
Beth Kerttula
Alaska

Senate Majority Leader
Carol Williams
Montana

Senator Phil Rockefeller
Washington

Representative Thomas Lockhart
Wyoming
The Western Legislative Academy (WLA) is the premier training program for newer state legislators in the West. Each year a class of 39 is selected to spend three and a half days in intensive training classes in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The Academy has two goals:

1. **Helping lawmakers in their first four years of service become effective, and**
2. **Building support for stronger legislative institutions.**

WLA is a scholarship program, and admission is competitive. Its impressive faculty includes leading academic authorities on state legislatures, U.S. Air Force trainers, experienced legislative leaders and national experts in communications, leadership, time management, ethics and negotiations.

WLA is highly ranked by those who participate and by the bipartisan western legislative leaders who support the Academy. Since its inception in 2000, the WLA has graduated 335 alumni from Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Nearly 70 percent of the WLA alumni now serving in western state legislatures are in chamber, caucus and committee leadership positions.

Two alumni now serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, and three serve in the U.S. Senate. WLA alumni have gone on to state-wide elected offices and cabinet positions.

The El Pomar Foundation leads a growing number of public and private sector contributors in giving the financial and in-kind support important to the success of the Western Legislative Academy.
Western Legislative Academy

Class of 2008

Front Row (left to right): Susan Chew (Rep ID), John Mizuno (Rep HI), Gail Schwartz (Sen CO), Mary Throne (Rep WY)
Amy Stephens (Rep CO), Andrew Barreras (Rep NM), Anna Fairclough (Rep AK), Chuck Riley (Rep OR)

Second Row (left to right): Lindsey Holmes (Rep AK), Carlos Bilbao (Rep ID), Dean Takko (Rep WA), Franke Wilmer (Rep MT)
Brad Winn (Rep UT), Mike Gabbard (Sen HI), Cloves Campbell (Rep AZ)

Third Row (left to right): Mark Blasdel (Rep MT), Marge Chadderdon (Rep ID), Jeff Essmann (Sen MT), Mitch Tropila (Sen MT)
James Ohrenschall (Asmbr NV), Tick Segerblom (Asmbr NV), Steve Farley (Rep AZ), Phil Riesen (Rep UT)

Fourth Row (left to right): James Strickler (Rep NM), Candy Spence Ezzell (Rep NM), Craig Johnson (Rep AK), Ken Esquibel (Rep WY)
Jim Hammond (Sen ID), Mary Helen Roberts (Rep WA), Edward Casso (Rep CO)

Fifth Row (left to right): Troy Kelley (Rep WA), Bob Fecht (Sen WY), Bruce Hanna (Rep OR), Richard Berry (Rep NM), Tobias Read (Rep OR)

Photo courtesy of Lynn Boutte Photography
Western Legislative Academy Alumni 2000-2008

ALASKA
Rep. John Coghill, Jr.-02
Fmr. Rep. Eric Croft-00
Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom-04
Rep. Anna Flaklough-08
Fmr. Rep. Hugh "Bud" Fate-02
Rep. Carl Gatto-06
Fmr. Sen. Gretchen Guess-01
Rep. David Guttenberg-04
Rep. John Harris-00
Fmr. Rep. Jim Holm-03
Rep. Lindsey Holmes-08
Sen. Charlie Huggins-05
Rep. Craig Johnson-08
Rep. Mike Kelly-05
Sen. Lesil McGuire-01
Sen. Kevin Meyer-02
U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski-00
Fmr. Rep. Mary Nelson-02
Rep. Mark Neuman-07
Rep. Kurt Olson-05
Fmr. Rep. Ralph Samedu-03
Rep. Paul Seaton-04
Fmr. Sen. Ralph Seeks-04
Sen. Bert Stedman-06
Sen. Pres. Gary Stevens-01
Rep. William A. Thomas Jr.-06
Sen. Thomas Wagoner-03
Fmr. Sen. Gary Wilken-00
Rep. Peggy Wilson-01

ARIZONA
Sen. Paula Aboud-07
Rep. Olivia Cajero-03
Fmr. Sen. Timothy Bee-02
Rep. David Bradley-05
Sen. Meg Burton Cahill-01
Rep. Cloves Campbell, Jr.-08
Fmr. Sen. Robert Cannell-01
Rep Adam Driggs-07
Rep. Steve Farley-08
Sen. Albert Hale-05
Fmr. Sen. Toni Hennon-02
Rep. Russ Jones-05
Rep. Bill Konopnicki-05
Rep. Phil Lopes-03
Rep. John McComish-06
Fmr. Sen. Nancy McLain-06
U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell-00
Fmr. Sen. Tom O’Halleran-02
Sen. Jonathon Paton-07
Sen. Thayer Verschoor-03
Sen. Jim Waring-04

CALIFORNIA
Asmbr. Anthony Adams-07
Sen. Jeff Denham-04
The late Asmbr.
Marco Firebaugh-00
Asmbr. Tony Mendoza-07
Sen. Jenny Oropeza-01

COLORADO
Rep. Debbie Benefield-05
Fmr. Rep. Alice Borodkin-02
Rep. Edward Casso-08
Fmr. Sen. Jim Dyer-00
Fmr. Rep. Dale Hall-06
Rep. Mary Hodge-02
Sen. Jim Iggar-04
Fmr. Rep. Ramey Johnson-03

HAWAII
Fmr. Sen. Melodie Ada-03
Fmr. Rep. Emily Auwa-00
Rep. Rida T.R. Cabanilla-06
Rep. Melo Carroll-07
Rep. Pono Chong-05
Sen. J. Kalani English-01
Rep. Cindy Evans-03
Rep. Lynn Finneegan-04
Sen. Mike Gabbard-08
Fmr. Sen. Lorraine Inouye-00
Fmr. Rep. Mindy Jaffee-01
Fmr. Rep. Sol Kaho‘okalialoha-00
Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu-03
Sen. Russell Kokubun-02
Sen. Donna Mercado Kim-02
Rep. John Mizuno-08
Rep. Hermiina Morita-00
Sen. Clarence Nishihara-07
Rep. Scott Nishimoto-04

IDAHO
Rep. Eric Anderson-06
Rep. Clifford Bayer-05
Rep. Carlos Bilbao-08
Rep. Sharon Block-03
Rep. Darrell Bolz-01
Fmr. Sen. Skip Bradt-02
Sen. Joyce Brodusc-07
Fmr. Sen. Don Burns-00
Rep. Marge Chadderton-08
Rep. Susan Chew-08
Fmr. Sen. Dick Compton-04
Sen. Tim Corr-05
Sen. Russ Fulcher-07
Sen. John Goedde-01
Rep. Marv Hagedorn-07
Sen. Jim Hammond-08
Rep. R.J. "Dick" Harwood-02
Rep. Frank Henderson-06
Sen. Brent Hill-02
Rep. Bill Killen-07
Sen. Patri Anne Lodge-01
Sen. John McGee-06
Sen. Curt McKenzie-03
Rep. Dell Raybould-02
Rep. John Rusche-05
Rep. Mack Shirley-04
Rep. Elaine Smith-03
Rep. Steve Smylie-00
Sen. Joe Stegner-00
Rep. Richard Wills-06
Fmr. Rep. Gary Young-01

MONTANA
Rep. Elsie Amstutz-05
Rep. Mark Blasdel-08
Lt. Gov. John Bollinger-00
Rep. Robyn Driscoll-06
Sen. Jeff Esmann-08
Sen. Kim Gillan-00
Fmr. Rep. George Golie-08
Sen. Ken Hansen-04
Rep. Dennis Himmelberger-05
Sen. Jim Keane-02
Sen. Rick LaBonte-03
Fmr. Rep. Michael Lange-03
Sen. Lane Larson-05
Fmr. Rep. Monica Lindeen-00
Rep. Gary MacLaren-06
Rep. Scott Mendenhall-04
Sen. Lynda Moss-07
Rep. Tom McGilvray-07
Fmr. Rep. Mark Noennig-01
Rep. Bill Nooney-07
Rep. Ken Peterson-07
Fmr. Sen. Don Ryan-01
Sen. Trudi Schmidt-03
Sen. Frank Smith-02
Sen. Mitch Tropila-08
Rep. Frankie Wilmer-08

NEVADA
Sen. Mark Amodei-00
Asmbr. Kelvin Atkinson-03
Asmbr. David Bobzien-07
Expansion of U.S.–Mexico State Alliance Partnership

In October 2008, CSG and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) signed a three-year cooperative agreement expanding the activities of the U.S.–Mexico State Alliance Partnership.

The Partnership is a collaborative, multi-branch alliance comprised of CSG with its Western and Southern regions, USAID, Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG), National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), National Association of State Treasurers (NAST) and other officials.

These Alliance partners, their respective members, networks and linkages comprise a broad and influential coalition that can affect change along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Alliance Partnership is aimed at strengthening cooperation among state officials and institutions of the United States and Mexico by convening binational exchanges and workshops among border legislators, attorneys general, treasurers and others. The goal is to enhance the role of state officials in addressing shared public policy concerns that transcend international borders.

Stretching nearly 2,000-miles, the U.S.–Mexico border region is a major economic engine for both countries. The two countries share not only a common border, but also commercial, historic and cultural ties. Map from the United States Geological Survey (USGS)
Attorneys General Exchanges

On March 10-12, 2008 in Phoenix, Arizona, the Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG) and Mexico’s National Conference of Attorneys General organized the U.S.–Mexico Binational Forum. The meeting was attended by 18 state attorneys general from Mexico, including Federal Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora, and nine state attorneys general from the U.S., along with state and federal law enforcement officials from both countries.

The forum gave state and federal officials the opportunity to identify shared interests in combating human trafficking, weapons trafficking, drug trafficking and money laundering. Participants learned about recently passed judicial reform legislation in Mexico’s federal congress as well as successful binational efforts, including agreements between the states of New Mexico-Chihuahua and Idaho-Morelos, which serve as models of state-to-state cooperation.

During the 2008 National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) annual meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, the attorneys general of the Mexican States of Morelos and Baja California, Francisco Coronato Rodriguez and Rommel Moreno Manjarrez respectively, participated in a North America panel. The panel informed U.S. and Canadian law enforcement officials of the unique opportunities to jointly combat crime that transcends international borders. The Mexico Attorneys General informed attendees of significant judicial reform efforts underway in Mexico, shifting from an inquisitorial, written system to an adversarial, oral system.

The Attorney General of Baja California signed agreements with the attorneys general of Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona aimed at enhancing binational cooperation through exchanges of law enforcement investigators and prosecutorial staff and establishing joint task forces to address human trafficking and other activities. Similar agreements have been signed with the attorneys general of Nevada, Oregon and Washington. For more information about attorneys general binational activities, contact Karen White, CWAG Executive Director at (916) 323-1992.
The legislative component of the U.S.–Mexico State Alliance Partnership is the Border Legislative Conference (BLC), a binational mechanism for cooperation among state legislators of the U.S.–Mexico border region. The goal of the BLC is to empower border state legislators to engage in a binational agenda and provide input for the development of policy between both countries.

In 2008, the BLC convened forums in Saltillo, Coahuila and Santa Monica, California. The forums give lawmakers opportunities to focus on critical topics such as binational water management, immigration, state legislative-executive branch coordination, agriculture, attorney general cooperation, managing climate change, border crossings and trade.

The BLC also participated in the planning and execution of the Americas 2020 Summit in May 2008 in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation. The Americas 2020 Summit brought together government and private sector stakeholders from the U.S., Mexico and Canada to identify ways to enhance the security and economic competitiveness of North America. Expert panelists spoke on border crossings, infrastructure competitiveness, and secure trade and manufacturing. Participants engaged in breakout sessions designed to promote dialogue on how to create a sustainable and competitive North America for the 21st Century.

Membership in the BLC is comprised of legislators from California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas in the U.S., and Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas in Mexico. For more information, please visit www.borderlegislators.org.
Border Legislative Conference

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2008 Year in Review

Border Legislative Conference

BLC Sponsors and Partners
Coahuila State Legislature • Office of the Mayor of Saltillo, Coahuila
Office of the Governor, State of Coahuila • Southern California Edison • Rand Corporation
Verizon • General Electric • California Latino Legislative Caucus • California State Legislature

17th BLC Forum: April 10-12
Saltillo, Coahuila

18th BLC Forum: September 25-27
Santa Monica, California

Border legislators during the 18th BLC in Santa Monica

Legislators from the Mexican State of Tamaulipas

Left to right: Diputada Leticia Amparo Amparo Gamez; Diputada Petra Santos Ortiz and Diputada Irma Villalobos Rascon from Sonora

Assemblywoman Lori Saldaña and Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny, both of California, at the 18th BLC in Santa Monica.

Left to right: Governor Humberto Moreira Valdes of the Mexican State of Coahuila and Senator Eliot Shapleigh, 2008 BLC Chair

Senator Mary Jane Garcia and Representative Andy Núñez from New Mexico
The Legislative Council on River Governance (LCRG) is a cooperative association comprised of legislators from Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington that promotes the exchange of information on challenges along the Columbia River Basin.

In 2008, participating LCRG members were briefed on Columbia River Water Management Plan, 2008 flow projections and infrastructure as well as the Bonneville Power Administration's Residential Exchange Program. Lawmakers also were updated on Idaho and Washington activities regarding the Spokane Aquifer and river basin adjudication. Lawmakers received an update on water conservation, re-use and storage grants, and a federal court decision on litigation challenging an Endangered Species Act Biological Opinion.

Participating LCRG members unanimously agreed to encourage legislative monitoring of the negotiated agreement between Idaho and Washington states on the Spokane Aquifer.
Good leadership requires you to surround yourself with people of diverse perceptions who can disagree with you without fear of retaliation.

~ Pulitzer Prize winning historian, Doris Kearns Goodwin

CSG-WEST 61st Annual Meeting

Senator Lesil McGuire, CSG-WEST Chair and the Alaska Legislature Host State Chair, presided over the 2008 annual meeting that gathered western state legislators to share best policy practices, collaborate on issues and engage in leadership training.

We spent time with two very different political strategists - Donna Brazile and Bay Buchanan. CSG affirmed its conviction that leaders should reach across party and state lines for the good of our great nation.

We stepped back in history with presidential historian and Pulitzer-prize winner Doris Kearns Goodwin. We were reminded that leaders like Lincoln and Roosevelt and Kennedy didn't just listen to those who agreed with them.

Master negotiator, sports agent and "The Power of Nice" bestselling author Ron Shapiro gave tips on bringing together all sides to create stronger public policy, noting that being nice along the way may be the key to breaking gridlock and moving forward.

Four-time Iditarod champion Martin Buser kicked off the annual meeting with lessons in teamwork from the last great race on earth.

"Flags of Our Fathers" author James Bradley revealed lessons in courage from those who planted the American flag on Iwo Jima.
Knocking at the College Door

Dr. Brian T. Prescott of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) based in Boulder, Colorado, reported on a study that projects the demographics of and associated challenges for future high school graduates.

Native American Sustainability Forum

(Left to right) Representative Reggie Joule, Alaska, Sheri Buretta of the Chugach Alaska Corporation, Barbara Donatelli of the Cook Inlet Region, Inc., Sarah Lukin of the Afognak Native Corporation and Senator Thomas Wagoner, Alaska, led a session on Native American sustainability.

Book Signings

It was a popular item to purchase a book signed by the keynote speakers on leadership, including Doris Kearns Goodwin (pictured), Donna Brazile, Bay Buchanan, Ron Shapiro, Martin Buser and James Bradley.

Distinguished Legislative Leadership Award

Former Arizona Senator and current Arizona Director of the Department of Water Resources, Herb Guenther received the CSG-WEST annual Bettye Fahrenkamp Award for Distinguished Legislative Leadership in recognition of his deep knowledge of the law of the river and his leadership and profound commitment to a fair, predictable and transparent apportionment of major U.S. rivers.

Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made in the small ones.

~ Winston Churchill

CSG National Executive Director

The CSG-WEST Executive Committee adopted a resolution honoring Dan Sprague for his almost 30 years of service to CSG, including 10 years as the executive director of the western region.
Leadership for Today and Tomorrow • July 16-19 in Anchorage, Alaska

It isn’t polls or public opinion of the moment that counts. It’s right and wrong and leadership.

~ President Harry Truman

Health Forum Looks at Information Technology Impacts

Lynn Dierker, an R.N. and director of State-level Health Information Exchange Consensus Project in Denver and a participant in the Colorado Regional Health Information Organization, provided an overview on what health IT is, how it is utilized and why it is needed.

Brad Tritle, Arizona Health e-Connections director, shared Arizona’s model for implementing health IT and the subsequent opportunities the process brought about for health care reform.

Women in Politics Session

The second annual “Women in Politics” discussion with the best-selling author of “Mustang Sallies,” Fawn Germer, addressed what makes women in all walks of life rise to the top of their professions.

Washington Senate President Pro Tempore Rosa Franklin (below) and New Mexico Representative Janice Arnold-Jones (center, left photo) were among the audience who actively participated in the Women in Politics forum. New Mexico Representative Danice Picraux and Nevada Senator Barbara Cegavske, respectively to the left and right of Representative Arnold-Jones, listen in on the discussions.

Shooting Star Presentation

Lesil McGuire, Alaska Senator and Chair of CSG-WEST, was presented the prestigious State Governments Affairs Council (SGAC) Shooting Star award by Alden Schacher of EDS, an HP Company, at the closing state dinner. SGAC presented the award in recognition of Senator McGuire’s legislative leadership in the West.
CSG-WEST Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee chaired by Idaho Representative Maxine Bell interviewed applicants for the 2011 CSG-WEST Chair position. Members included (front row, left to right) Colorado Speaker Pro Tempore Cheri Jahn, Arizona Senator Tom O’Halleran, New Mexico Representative Janice Arnold-Jones, California Senator Mike Machado, Nevada Assembly Majority Floor Leader John Oceguera, (back row, left to right) Alaska House Minority Leader Beth Kerttula, Idaho Representative Maxine Bell, Wyoming Senate Minority Floor Leader Ken Decaria and Montana Speaker of the House Scott Sales.

CSG Toll Fellows and CSG-WEST Western Legislative Academy Alumni

CSG Toll Fellows and CSG-WEST Western Legislative Academy Alumni took time at the annual meeting to network and share their experiences. CSG-WEST Chair Alaska Senator Lesli McGuire (right photo), both a Toll and WLA Alumni, along with WLA Class of 2007 President, Representative Thomas Garcia, New Mexico (top left photo), welcomed Toll Fellows and WLA alumni.
Strengthening Regional Security and Economic Competitiveness

The 61st CSG-WEST annual meeting broke new ground with its first-ever North America Summit. CSG-WEST is the only CSG region that shares a border with Canada and Mexico and is a strategic link to the Pacific Rim. The summit grew out of CSG-WEST’s associate memberships with British Columbia and Alberta and ongoing collaboration with Mexico border states through the Border Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments.

Senator Eliot Shapleigh, Texas, Chair of the CSG-WEST Border Legislative Conference, was an opening speaker at the North America Summit.

Diputado Francisco Javier Cantu Torres (left) of Nuevo Leon State Legislature in Mexico and Vice Chair of the Border Legislative Conference actively participated in the North America Summit. Robert Merrifield, Member of the Canadian House of Commons and Co-Chair of the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group in Edson, Alberta, offered insights from his nation.

Simultaneous breakout sessions were led by Peter Lloyd – Consul General of Canada in Seattle, Washington (left), Marisa Paula Walker – Executive Director of CANAMEX Trade Corridor Project in Phoenix, Arizona, and Rick Van Schoik – Director of the North America Center for Transborder Studies at Arizona State University in Phoenix.
Great Meetings, Electronic Talk And Public Speaking

CSG-WEST held its 3rd Annual Legislative Training Assembly (ALTA) at the annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. ALTA is a one-day professional development session that builds ‘process’ skills for members at all stages of their legislative careers.

This full day of professional development gave lawmakers lessons in how to conduct great meetings from nationally recognized parliamentarian Colette Collier Trohan. The director of the Institute for Politics, Democracy and the Internet joined legislators for discussions about what lawmakers need to do with technology to become 21st Century communicators. And renowned speech coach Dr. Michael Shadow offered public speaking tips. “You are not a PowerPoint with legs,” Shadow told lawmakers. And, he concluded, persuasive communication is much more than just delivering information.
Since 1933, The Council of State Governments (CSG) has served our nation’s state leaders by providing a forum for “sharing good ideas across state borders.” As the only organization serving all three branches of state government, CSG at the national level offers a unique look into the issues shaping state policy and legislation.

CSG has four very diverse regions with distinct geographical, demographic and cultural characteristics. Each region elects its own officers who also serve on the CSG national Executive Committee and Governing Board. Each region has its own staff who work with a variety of policy committees, research projects, initiatives and meetings. In the West, CSG-WEST serves western state legislatures exclusively.

With offices in Lexington, Kentucky, CSG national provides policy analysis and tracks national trends in state government. The award-winning “The Book of the States” and “State News” magazine are published by the national office.

The CSG Washington D.C. office provides a voice for state leaders to Congress, monitors federal activities (including U.S. Supreme Court decisions) and evaluates their impact on states.

Regions of The Council of State Governments
Leadership begins and ends with personal growth.
~ Bart Davis, Idaho Senate Majority Leader, 2009 CSG National Chair

Incoming 2009 CSG and CSG-WEST Leaders
Left to right: Alaska Senator Lesil McGuire, Idaho Senate Majority Leader Bart Davis and New Mexico Representative Jose Campos all serve on CSG National leadership committees. Senator McGuire is one of the four CSG-WEST officers as the 2009 Immediate Past Chair. Senator Davis will lead CSG national in 2009 as the Chair. Representative Jose Campos is the 2009 Chair of CSG-WEST.

Sen. Gary Stevens, Alaska
Co-Chair, CSG Energy and Environmental Committee

Rep. Steve Urquhart, Utah
Co-Vice Chair, CSG Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

Sen. Paula Sandoval, Colorado, CSG Governing Board Member

Rep. Maxine Bell, Idaho
Vice Chair, CSG Financial Services Working Group

Asmbr. Hector De La Torre, California, Co-Chair, CSG International Committee

Rep. Blake Oshiro, Hawaii
Co-Chair, CSG Public Safety and Justice Task Force
2008 Western Participation in CSG National

2008 CSG Western Innovations Program Winners

CSG established the Innovations Awards Program in 1986 to bring greater visibility to exemplary state programs and to facilitate the transfer of those successful experiences to other states. Two program winners (described below) were selected from the western region during the CSG-WEST annual meeting.

**Arizona Government University** offers standardized training and curricula to state employees through a central point of contact. The University also enables the state to better coordinate and track certification efforts and agencies to budget for training.

*Left to right:*
- Ms. Mannie Rameriz, Registrar Supervisor, Arizona Government University
- Dr. Joellyn Pollock, Director of the Arizona Government University received the award from Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell, CSG 2008 President.

**Dr. Keon Chi State Governance Transformation Award**

This inaugural award, showcasing promising systematic realignment in state government, was presented to Washington state for its Government Management Accountability & Performance (GMAP) program. Mr. Steve Gorcester of Washington accepted the award on behalf of Ms. Larisa Benson, Director of GMAP. Left to right:
- Alaska Sen. Lesil McGuire, CSG-WEST 2008 Chair

**Washington’s Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) Performance Dashboard**

is a database and a tool that tracks road construction and maintenance projects. It gives TIB managers and the public a window to see how the agency is performing in a variety of areas. Pictured: Mr. Steve Gorcester, Executive Director of the Washington Transportation Improvement Board received the award from Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell, CSG 2008 President.

2008 Western Toll Fellows

CSG’s national Toll Fellowship program offers leadership and policy training sessions to emerging state leaders from throughout the nation.

(front row left to right): Rep. Lindsey Holmes (AK), Senate Majority Leader Carol Williams (MT), Rep. Sherry Appleton (WA), Rep. Jay R. Rodne (WA); (middle row left to right):
- *Rep. Sara A. Geber (OR), Rep. Elaine D. Harvey (WY), Assembly Assistant Majority Floor Leader Marcus Conklin (NV); (back row left to right): Rep. Maxine T. Bell (ID), Rakesh Mohan (ID), Sen. Wayne Niederhauser (UT)
- *Rep. Sara A. Geber was selected by her peers as 2008 Class Representative
A Special Thank You to the 2008

Your support enhanced our capabilities to provide substantive forums, training sessions and networking opportunities for western state legislators at the CSG-WEST spring meeting, 61st annual meeting and 9th Western Legislative Academy.
CSG-WEST Sponsors & Contributors

Thank you for your participation and investment in helping us strengthen state legislatures in the West!

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Save the Date!

CSG-WEST 62nd Annual Meeting
The West: America’s Future
Santa Fe, New Mexico • October 5-8, 2009

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE
Events and timing are subject to change

October 4 (Sunday)
- Welcoming Event: Balloon Fiesta (tentative)

October 5 (Monday)
- Opening Session
- ALTA
  - Annual Legislative Training Assembly
    (personal and professional skills development sessions)
- North America Forum
- Evening Event: Taste of Santa Fe

October 6 (Tuesday)
- Plenary Sessions
- Policy Forums
- Women in Politics Session
- Free Evening

October 7 (Wednesday)
- Plenary Sessions
- Policy Forums
- Host State Event: Chair’s Dinner

October 8 (Thursday) morning: CSG-WEST Executive Committee Meeting

VENUES/ACCOMMODATIONS
All the program sessions (plenary, policy and training forums) will be convened at the new downtown Santa Fe Convention Center.

Special negotiated sleeping room rates, ranging from $149 to $189 (plus taxes), have been secured among eight, conveniently-located downtown Santa Fe hotel properties.

Information on meeting registration, program schedule, accommodations and more will be available soon at www.csgwest.org.

BALLOON FIESTA
The CSG-WEST 2009 Annual Meeting will convene during a very popular time of year in New Mexico. The meeting in Santa Fe is sandwiched between the first two October weekends of Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, kicking off on Saturday, October 3rd and ending on Sunday, October 11th. For more information on how you can plan to enjoy the Balloon Fiesta on your own, go to www.balloonfiesta.com.

Above photo credits (starting from top left): Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, Photo by Chris Conrie; Black Bean Soup, Doug Menham; Fiesta Dancers, Mark Kane; New Mexican Cowboys, Chris Conrie
Coming up in 2009

The 19th Border Legislative Conference will convene March 5-7, 2009 in Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

The Western Legislative Academy is scheduled for August 5-8, 2009 at the Penrose House of the El Pomar Foundation in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Applications, due March 2, 2009, are available for western state legislators in their first four years of service.

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In these challenging times, we look forward to working with legislative colleagues throughout the West in the spirit of optimism that has been a vital part of our region’s character and leadership to produce viable solutions.

2009 CSG-WEST Officers

Representative Jose Campos, New Mexico - Chair
Representative Rich Wills, Idaho - Chair-Elect
Representative Marcus Oshiro, Hawaii - Vice Chair
Senator Lesil McGuire, Alaska - Immediate Past Chair