

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF INSURANCE LEGISLATORS
BUSINESS PLANNING COMMITTEE
WASHINGTON, DC
FEBRUARY 29, 2008
MINUTES

The National Conference of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) Business Planning Committee met at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, on Friday, February 29, 2008, at 8:50 a.m.

Rep. Brian Kennedy of Rhode Island, NCOIL president, presided.

Other members of the Committee present were:

Rep. George Keiser, ND
Sen. Carroll Leavell, NM
Sen. James Seward, NY

Other legislators in attendance were:

Assem. Joseph Hardy, NV
Rep. Judy Livingston, VT

Also in attendance were:

Susan Nolan, Nolan Associates, NCOIL Executive Director
Candace Thorson, NCOIL Deputy Executive Director
Mike Humphreys, NCOIL Director of State-Federal Relations
Jordan Estey, NCOIL Director of Legislative Affairs & Education

MINUTES

The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of its November 16, 2007, meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

FUTURE SITES

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

Ms. Nolan reported that she had secured locations for the next several NCOIL meetings, as indicated:

2008 Summer Meeting	New York, New York
2008 Annual Meeting	Duck Key, Florida
2009 Spring Meeting	Washington, DC
2009 Summer Meeting	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
2009 Annual Meeting	New Orleans, Louisiana
2010 Spring Meeting	Washington, DC*
2010 Summer Meeting	Boston, Massachusetts
2010 Annual Meeting	Phoenix, Arizona*

**tentative*

Regarding the current Spring Meeting, Ms. Nolan reported on her recent conversations with staff at the Hyatt Regency in light of issues regarding low 2008 meeting attendance and high NCOIL attrition charges. She said the hotel welcomed starting the 2009 Spring Meeting on a Friday rather than a Thursday—an idea strongly encouraged by Rep. Kennedy—because the hotel is busiest on weekdays and could use the extra rooms on Thursday.

Ms. Nolan overviewed other suggestions she had made to Hyatt staff, including 1) moving the next DC Spring Meeting from 2009 to 2010; 2) cutting back on room nights; and 3) holding the 2009 Spring Meeting at a Hyatt in another city. Ms. Nolan said that, according to her contact, the DC Hyatt would be willing to negotiate with NCOIL regarding the Spring Meeting's attrition charges but would want to secure a contract for spring 2010, in addition to the contract NCOIL had already signed for 2009. Ms. Nolan said she had expressed strong reservations about holding a third meeting in DC but commented that the hotel would be within its rights to charge NCOIL full attrition for the 2008 conference.

Legislators and Ms. Nolan discussed how to plan for future Saturday night stays, as well as similar challenges faced by other organizations. Sen. Leavell expressed concern that moving DC Spring Meetings to Fridays, rather than Thursdays, meant that NCOIL legislators could not meet with their federal counterparts—which he noted was the original purpose of holding NCOIL conferences in DC. Committee members agreed and discussed the idea of sending select NCOIL legislators to DC in between NCOIL conferences.

The Committee discussed options for re-ordering committee sessions and determined that, regardless of conference location, NCOIL should hold Executive Committee meetings on Sunday mornings rather than Saturday afternoons.

Regarding registration fees, Ms. Nolan suggested that NCOIL establish a somewhat higher fee for attendees who register after a certain date. Rep. Keiser further commented that NCOIL should charge a processing fee in addition to standard registration charges. Following discussion, the Committee supported raising fees by \$100 for late-registering attendees.

Legislators overviewed alternatives to a future DC Hyatt location. Ms. Nolan noted that the most highly attended NCOIL Spring Meetings have taken place in Hilton Head and similar locations. Legislators then offered suggestions for other sites including, among others, Myrtle Beach, Fort Myers, Amelia Island, and Naples, Florida.

CONGRESSIONAL VISITS AT FUTURE WASHINGTON, DC, MEETINGS

Legislators discussed their meetings with Congresspersons. Ms. Nolan suggested that the officers have a call to discuss availability for future DC visits.

QUESTIONNAIRE TO DETERMINE CONSUMER ADVOCACY STATUS

Ms. Nolan described activity at the Spring Meeting regarding attendees requesting consumer-advocacy status, as well as general NCOIL policy for waiving speaker fees.

Following discussion and review of a draft questionnaire before the Committee, legislators determined that attendees requesting reduced consumer registration fees must complete the proposed questionnaire. The NCOIL president or his/her designee, the Committee agreed, must approve the request, followed by the NCOIL executive director.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.