



Legislative Service Agency and Research Directors Annual Training Seminar Recap

On October 11 through 13, members of the Legislative Service Agency and Research Directors (LSA/RD) Committee met in Kirkland, Washington, for their annual training seminar. The meeting was led by LSA/RD Committee Chair Raúl Burciaga, Director of the New Mexico Legislative Council Service, and Vice Chair Joe Kolman, Legislative Environmental Analyst for the Montana Legislative Services Division, and it brought together representatives from nine member states.

Virtual and hybrid legislative sessions were a focal point of the opening session, allowing participants to share information about the technologies employed and lessons learned from the unique experience of the pandemic. A moderated discussion followed this session that addressed the challenges of maintaining effective work relationships between leadership and support staff. Members also explored ways in which they can provide support in the dynamic environment of the legislature.

Effective communication is a hallmark of successful support in state legislatures. To help strengthen these skills, a training opportunity was provided by Kelly Buttermore and Justin Peters, an improv duo based in New York City. Through this improv exercise members were able to refine their skills in both communication and active listening.

A panel discussion offered an opportunity for LSA directors to examine various approaches to manage remote operations during the pandemic, and exchange best practices and insights on work-from-home policies in their respective



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states. Additional conversation centered around redistricting processes, showcasing a variety of tools available, including maps and data points.

The LSA/RD Committee is comprised of nonpartisan legislative staff directors of the Western region. The committee convenes each year for a training and professional development seminar. Meetings rotate annually among the thirteen Western states and will be held in Oregon in 2022.

For information about the Legislative Service Agency & Research Directors Committee, please contact Jennifer Schanze at jschanze@csq.org, or visit the [CSG West website](#).