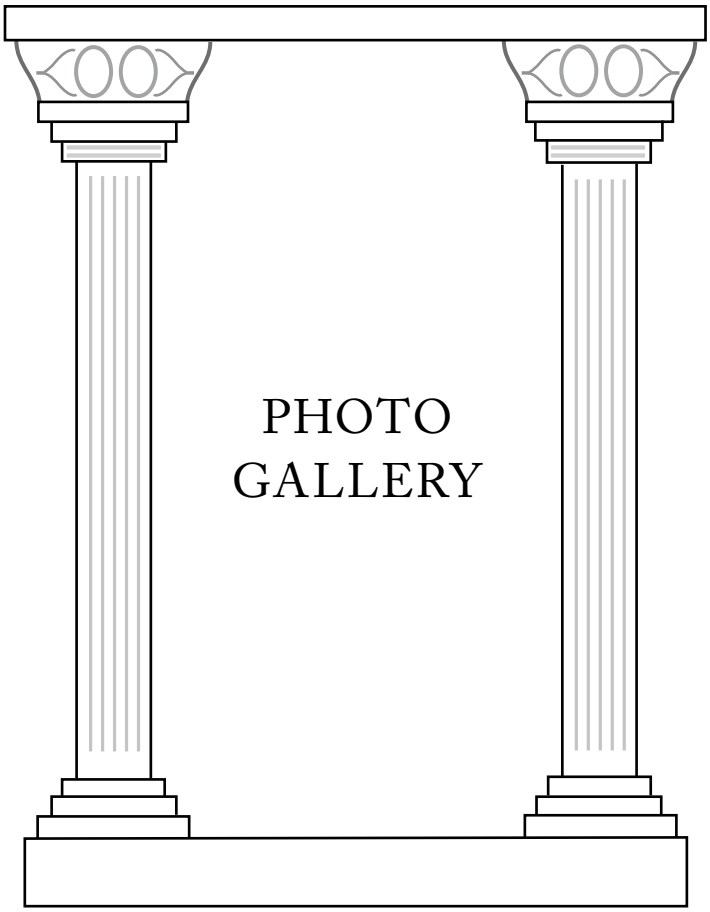


PHOTO
GALLERY

Winter 1987

In addition to the annual conference usually held during the summer months, the executive committee met during the winter. All secretaries were welcome to attend and, by the 1980s, it gradually became more like an annual summer conference hosted by a secretary in one of the states. Since 1995 the winter meeting, as it is called, has been held in Washington, DC.

Winter 1989

Winter 1993

Winter 1994

Winter 1995

Winter 1998
Emeritus Dinner

Winter 1999

Foreign Election Assistance

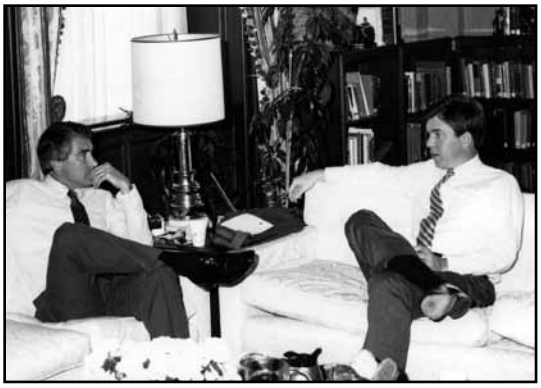
Joan Growe and Gail Shaffer
U.N. Observers in South Africa

James Waltermire
Election observer in Turkey

West Virginia Secretary of State Ken Heckler, a long time dedicated public servant of NASS and an 18-year Member of Congress, always generated ideas that were given freely to help other members at NASS meetings.

Scenes from NASS

Scenes from NASS



Thoughts and Reflections by Affiliates

Two long-time NASS corporate affiliates Allan F. Davies and Dana McKinnon kindly agreed to share some thoughts on their NASS experience. The affiliate program began in the early 1990s and helps to defray the expenses of NASS annual conferences.

Dana McKinnon:

In 1954 I was employed as an Intern while attending Florida State University by Secretary of State R. S. Gray. Duties included assisting in the Elections Division, which had one employee. I handled Mr. Gray's constituent correspondence, replying in the first person, for his signature. The volume of correspondence was heavy, but I was able to complete the tasks each day. Mr. Gray's motto and strict requirement was to handle all work throughout the office on a same-day basis.

Primary duties were in the Election Division, but it was understood that all employees would assist in all areas of the office when necessary.

Secretary Gray became dean of the National Association of Secretaries of State because of his long years of service, and his membership in NASS beginning in 1930. He did not believe in reimbursement by the state for his travel expenses, saying the state paid his salary and it was sufficient. This philosophy was evident in the operation of the office with strict control on expenses.

The late Missouri Secretary of State James C. Kirkpatrick told me several years ago that Secretary Gray (Florida), Secretary Fortson (Georgia) and Secretary Eure (North Carolina) ran NASS totally and were close associates and each was a career Secretary of State. Secretary Kirkpatrick said any decision regarding NASS required the approval of Gray, Fortson and Eure.

One year Secretary Gray had opposition and the employees asked what they could do to assist him in the election. He admonished the employees by saying there would be no campaigning by any employee and no monetary contribution. He said the employees best assistance was the continuing "one-day service" to the citizens of Florida. He said to me on one occasion that he could hold the State of Florida in the palm of his hand because of this kind of service.

The annual meetings of NASS were events of great importance and formality. Secretary Gray hosted the 1934 meeting in St. Petersburg and the 1955 meeting in Miami Beach. The state dinner was held at the convention headquarters hotel, The Roney Plaza.

The next Florida NASS annual meeting was held at Disney World in Orlando. The late Secretary Dorothy Glisson coordinated the meeting. One of the famous stories concerned a nationally known news commentator who appeared as speaker at the State Dinner. He reminisced, talked and continued speaking for well over his designated time. Disney personnel continually contacted Dot Glisson reminding her the Disney entertainment troupe was backstage waiting to start the show and the hourly charges were mounting. He finally stopped speaking, and there was enough left in the budget to pay the overtime charges. Dot said this probably caused ulcers.

In the 1988–89 period, I was in government relations at CT Corporation System in New York. The late James Grigsby, President & CEO, asked me what my thoughts were on making a contribution to NASS. I replied that it would be a good idea and he issued a check for $1,000 to NASS.

Allan F. Davies:

In July of 1984, Senior Vice President Delaine R. Donohue asked me to attend the NASS conference in Annapolis, Maryland. He explained that he had become a sponsor of the National Association of Secretaries of State because their offices were responsible for the regulation of commercial documents such as corporate charter details and Uniform Commercial Code filings. Since I had started with Dun & Bradstreet in 1969 as a credit reporter, I understood the important significance of these commercial documents.

D&B customers needed to know how a business was organized (proprietorship, partnership, corporation or other organization type) and the Secretary of State's office was the only place a corporate organization could be verified. I also knew our customers needed to understand the secured obligations of a business if they were extending credit and once

again their office maintained the UCC filings. The Secretary of State's office has a pivotal role in supporting the commercial and economic health of the United States by properly registering business organizations under their jurisdiction.

The NASS organization was a good place for D&B to meet with the various state officials and understand any issues or challenges they had with our offices. We contacted them on a regular basis to confirm the existence of registered businesses and collected UCC filings in bulk to document the existence of a UCC filing in our Business Information Reports.

My first meeting in Annapolis was a great experience (I remember the state dinner in the U.S. Senate Caucus Room, the ride from Annapolis to the Pentagon to meet with Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger in 45 minutes during the 5 p.m. District of Columbia rush hour, three different state police escorts, MD, DC, VA, and the twenty-one gun salute from Fort McHenry while entering Baltimore Harbor). The Secretaries of State and their staffs were a very welcoming group. They were interested in their sponsor businesses and discussed a wide range of topics and the needs of their states. Politics were "on hold" during the meetings as the Secretaries met to discuss common issues faced by their offices and how they could work together to solve those challenges. They shared and borrowed ideas from one another to achieve their goal of serving their citizens.

I have been very fortunate over the last twenty years to represent D&B at the summer and winter Secretary of State meetings. Visiting the different states has given me an opportunity to experience the diversity of the United States and meet with public servants dedicated to upholding the constitutional values of the country. One of my fondest memories was standing in front of Mt. Rushmore for the opening ceremonies of the summer meeting in South Dakota. The backdrop seemed to fit perfectly with the ideals of public service honored by the National Association of Secretaries of State.

Allan F. Davies, Leader
Global Business Registrations D&B