



## From the statehouse to Capitol Hill: views from three ex-legislators

(Continued from page 1)

the majority floor leader in the Michigan Senate. In his first term as a member of Congress, he was the only freshman appointed to serve as a deputy whip. This term, Rogers serves on the leadership team as deputy whip for coalitions. In this position, Rogers' job is to put together coalitions to get the votes needed to pass major pieces of legislation. In this capacity, he works with the White House, the congressional leadership, the whip team and interested parties.



Mike Rogers, Mich.

Rogers credits his leadership role in the Michigan Senate as having contributed to his the responsibilities assigned to him early in his Congressional service. But despite his early leadership role, he recalls the adjustment phase he underwent as a new member on Capitol Hill. "It's always a bit of a change when you go from being part of leadership in the state legislature to coming to Congress. Starting at the bottom of the heap is always a bit of a cultural change," he says.

Rogers also found some other differences that took some getting used to, but he also recognizes that his legislative service eased the transition.

"The sheer size and scope of what happens here is obviously something that takes a bit to get a hold of. But you can tell the state legislators who serve here. They tend to be leaps and bounds ahead of their peers when it comes to getting their feet on the ground and getting something done here."

"I wouldn't want to come and serve in the U.S. Congress without first having served in the state legislature," says

Rogers. "I think it's that invaluable of an experience here."

"The rules are a little bit different here," he continues. "But politics is really about people and relationships, and legislators understand that quicker than anyone. And when they get here, forging those relationships and understanding the rules comes far easier to those who have done it in the state legislature." Rogers also appreciates the unique experience that state legislative service has given him regarding the impact of the decisions being made at the federal level.

For third-term Wisconsin U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, serving in Congress has its similarities to the state legislature, but there are enough differences that make it challenging even for experienced state legislators. "It's the state legislature times 10," explains the Democrat from Madison. My constituency is 10 times as large, it costs 10 times as much to run, my schedule is 10 times as full, the rules that govern the procedure on the floor and in committee are 10 times as complicated, and I have 10 times the staff."

According to Baldwin, her service as a state legislator exposed her to a number of tools and skills that she needed to be an effective member of Congress, including knowledge of the

legislative process, rules of order, the legislative drafting process and dealing with caucuses. "I really felt for my colleagues in my freshman class who had not had legislative experience because it was overwhelming enough even given the background I had. I couldn't imagine what it would be like without that background," she observes.

In his first months in Washington, D.C., King has found that one of the hardest things to adjust to legislatively

is the knowledge base of the body. "With all the people that are here, it's difficult for me to determine what level of knowledge the general body of the Congress has and where I can contribute to the gaps in that knowledge. I don't want to be a redundant congressman," he says.

Thus, he has adopted a cautious approach in speaking on the floor. "I don't want to step up and give a speech and that's the same speech that they've heard 10 times a year for the last 10 years," says King. "I want to put something out there for them that is interesting and unique and a perspective that is going to help with policy."

Rogers agrees with King on the difficulty of dealing with information and believes that gaining an understanding of issues was easier in the state legislature than in Congress.



Steve King, Iowa

"When I got here, I found out that getting information here is like drinking water through a fire hose — there's a lot coming at you and it's very fast. Not only do you have the national issues and the local issues, you have the international issues, which are fairly complex as well," he explains.

Baldwin agrees with both assessments of trying to find a policy niche and trying to grasp the many issues facing Congress. "I think that in Congress it becomes more important to have a few specialties around which you can develop your reputation as a serious member, a thinker, an innovator. At the same time, one has to have a general grasp of the breadth of issues that Congress tackles," she says.

Baldwin also, however, comments on the importance of having accumulated some Congressional experience as well. "I recognize the value of having four

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 — Congressman Mike Rogers, Michigan

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years under my belt to really have a far greater comfort with the policy issues, many of which we're seeing for the second or third time in committee or on the floor. I feel a greater level of comfort with all rules of procedure both in committee and on the floor, a [better] working relationship with a higher percentage of the members of Congress, and a greater level of comfort in being



Tammy Baldwin, Wis.

able to speak to the enormous breadth of issues that Congress tackles," she says. Rogers believes that his second term has been easier than his first, partly because of his position on the whip team, and partly because of the issues he faced early in his service. He points to events surrounding Sept. 11 and homeland security issues, the war in Afghanistan and the recession. "I experienced things in my first two years that some members

hadn't experienced in their whole careers, for no other reason than timing. So I feel like I'm ready to step up and take a stronger role here in Congress because of all that, and because of my state experience."

All three of these congressional members find that their federal colleagues have a high degree of respect for the work being done at the state level, despite what oftentimes appears to be a tug-of-war between the two partners in the federal system.

"You want decisions made where you are; it's a human instinct," explains King. "But I think it's important for all of us to be looking at it through the eyes of the other people who have to deal with our decisions, and that's why I strongly advocate networking and interactivity between the state legislatures and their congressional delegations."

Rogers, who describes himself as a

supporter of the 10th Amendment, believes it is important that decisions at the federal level do not supersede the authority of the state legislatures.

"I believe state legislatures are very capable of handling very complex issues, and I don't think that just because we're in Congress it makes us any smarter than our folks back in the states," he says.

"In all the briefings and conferences we have, people continually talk about the good work that's happening in the states about fiscal discipline and those kinds of things. We need to remind ourselves of what they're doing vs. what we're doing and states are doing some things right and we ought to take note," concludes Rogers.

Laura A. Tomaka is a program manager with the Midwestern Office of the Council of State Governments.

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***— Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, Wis.***

## The BILLD experience: beyond the statehouse

Former state legislators Tammy Baldwin, Mike Rogers and Steve King, all now members of the U.S. Congress, have a variety of memories about their experiences at the Bowhay Institute, but one opinion they have in common is that what they learned at BILLD has stayed with them over the years.

"It was very, very beneficial to me," says Rogers, a 1997 graduate of the BILLD program. Rogers also says he continues to use the things he learned at the Institute in his dealings in Washington, D.C. "The skills you get and learn and hone there will last an entire career. And it also makes you understand that you have a lot more to learn, which I think is always a good conclusion to come to."

King, a member of the 1998 BILLD class, says that "many times I reflect back on how challenging and enjoyable that time was and how it bonded us together and how it brought out a lot of leadership skills within us."

Wisconsin Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, a 1996 graduate of BILLD, points specifically to the value of role-playing exercises and the media training she took part in during the program. "It was a truly eye-opening experience for me, and I have often stopped since then to try to imagine walking in a colleague's shoes and recognizing that their role and expectations might be different from my own. I also remember very fondly the hands-on media training that we were treated to.

And there are lessons that I took there that I have often shared with future generations of young politicians."

King also points to the group project and role-playing exercises as being particularly useful. "That experience and the way it was responded to by the people who critiqued us was really rewarding and enlightening," he says. King also remembers the lessons shared by veteran legislators. "I got the most out of the people who were seated legislators who came to share their work experiences. That was frosting on the cake," says King.

Baldwin advises newer legislators to take advantage of the training resources available to them, as does Rogers, who recommends that newer legislators pursue any and all training opportunities presented to them. "I had a great opportunity to go to Bowhay, and I think that allowed me to gain some leadership skills, hone some of my leadership skills, give me a better understanding of coming to a conclusion among a very diverse group of people and for moving the ball forward."

"How do we know when we look back in life at those things that made the difference?" wonders King. "There are so many marginal calls in life. I could go back and pick a half a dozen things and pull them out of my experience and I wouldn't be here in Congress. I can't say for sure that [BILLD] was one of those, but it was an enriching experience that helped at the minimum," he concludes.

# ALUMNI NOTES

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT  
BILLD ALUMNI

## CLASS OF 2002

**Illinois Rep. Annazette R. Collins** chairs the Juvenile Justice Reform Committee and has sponsored a bill to change the age from 17 to 18 at which a mandatory transfer of minors to adult criminal court for prosecution of certain offenses would be required.

**Michigan Sen. Irma Clark-Coleman** was elected to the Senate in November, making her the first African-American woman from Detroit to serve in that chamber.

**Nebraska Sen. Doug Cunningham** is the vice chair of the General Affairs Committee.

**Wisconsin Rep. Donald R. Friske** is chair of the Committee on Forestry and has been appointed to serve on the Joint Legislative Study Committee on Improving Wisconsin's Fiscal Management. He was also named legislator of the year by the Wisconsin Counties Association and was awarded the National Federation of Independent Business' Guardian of Small Business Award and the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce's Working for Wisconsin Award.

**South Dakota Rep. Cooper Garnos** was elected majority whip by his caucus this session.

**Michigan Rep. Scott Hummel** is currently assistant majority whip and is chair of the Education Committee. Last year he served as chair of the 2002 Campaign Review Committee and he sponsored legislation that amended the state's 2001 concealed weapon law.

**Wisconsin Rep. Jean Hundertmark** has been elected assistant majority leader for the current session.

**South Dakota Sen. Royal "Mac" McCracken** has been elected assistant majority leader and serves on the Executive Board. He also is chair of the Commerce Committee, vice chair of the Transportation Committee and serves on the State Affairs Committee and the Interim Rules Review Committee. Last year, McCracken was given the Outstanding Advocate Award from the American Cancer Society for sponsorship of legislation to prohibit smoking in public places. He also received the Cosmopolitan Community Service Distinguished Award, and was recognized with the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service.

**Nebraska Sen. Vickie D. McDonald** sponsored legislation that creates a cancer drug repository program, which will accept unused, unopened cancer drugs donated at doctors' offices, pharmacies, hospitals and health clinics and then rescribe those drugs to indigent cancer victims.

In addition to being elected to serve as minority whip this session, **Minnesota Sen. Mee Moua** was appointed vice chair of the transportation committee. Recently, she was presented with the Ann Bancroft Award for Leadership and the Flame of Courage Award from the Minnesota Women's Consortium.

This session, **Indiana Rep. Scott Reske** was appointed chair of the Roads & Transportation Committee. He also serves as a member of the state's Counter-Terrorism and Security Council.

**Ohio Rep. Geoffrey C. Smith** was appointed chair of the Insurance Committee this session.

**Iowa Rep. Greg Stevens** was elected assistant minority leader, and he sponsored legislation on the environ-

ment and on character education this session.

In addition to being elected chair of the Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee, **Kansas Sen. Ruth Teichman** received a gubernatorial appointment to serve on a task force to study credit scoring, and has been appointed by the senate president to the Kansas Business Health Policy Committee.

**Iowa Rep. Jodi Tymeson** was appointed chair of the Education Committee this session, and she was recently awarded a 2002 Public Service Award by the Coalition for Family and Children's Services of Iowa.

## CLASS OF 2001

**Michigan Rep. Glenn S. Anderson**, who currently serves as the House Democratic Caucus chair, was appointed minority vice chair of the Transportation Committee. He also was named Legislator of the Year by the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

**South Dakota Rep. Mary Glenski** received the American Cancer Society's Outstanding Advocate Award for 2002 for her sponsorship of legislation to prohibit smoking in public places and worksites across the state. She also served on the summer study committee for the University of South Dakota Medical School and is currently on the Appropriations Committee.

This session, **Kansas Rep. Lana Gordon** was appointed vice chair of the Economic Development Committee and chair of the Higher Education Subcommittee on the Commercialization of Ideas and Innovations.

**Ohio Rep. John Hagan** was appointed vice chair of the Public Utilities Committee once again this session. Last year, he served on two special study committees dealing with economic development and energy policy. Hagan has introduced

legislation to lower Ohio's blood alcohol concentration from .10 to .08.

In addition to his appointment as vice chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Family Independence Agency, **Michigan Rep. Chris Kolb** serves as a member of the Appropriations Higher Education Subcommittee and the Appropriations Corrections Subcommittee. Kolb also is a member of the governor's bipartisan Michigan Land Use Leadership Council.

**Michigan Rep. Jerry Kooiman** was elected assistant majority floor leader by his caucus for the 2003-2004 legislative session. In addition, he has been appointed chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Family Independence Agency. Kooiman also has been selected to co-chair the bipartisan, bicameral Legislative Arts Council.

**Minnesota Rep. Eric Lipman** was appointed vice chair of the Committee on Government Operations and Veterans Affairs, and he is continuing his work on election law reform. In addition to serving as vice chair of the Judiciary Committee this session, **Michigan Rep. Alexander Lipsey** continues to serve on the Commerce and Government Operations Committees. This year marks his second as chair of the Democratic Lawyers Caucus. Lipsey also was appointed to the Joint Select Committee on Business Competitiveness, as well as the Midwestern Legislative Conference's Economic Development, Technology & Labor Committee.

**Wisconsin Rep. Kitty Rhoades** was appointed to serve on the Joint Committee on Finance.

This session, **Iowa Sen. Bryan Sievers**, who is serving his first term in the Senate, was appointed vice chair of the State Government Committee and vice chair of the Administration and Regulation Appropriations Subcommittee.

#### CLASS OF 2000

**Ohio Rep. Steve Buehrer** was re-elected assistant majority floor leader for a second term. He was also recognized by the American Legislative Exchange Council as its Legislator of the Year.

**Minnesota Rep. Sondra Erickson** was appointed to serve as chair of the Ethics Committee.

**Kansas Rep. Ward Loyd** was appointed chair of the Corrections and Justice Committee and elected chair of the Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee. He also was appointed to serve on CSG's Legal Task Force and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee.

In addition to being elected assistant Republican leader, **Illinois Rep. Tim Schmitz** was appointed minority spokesperson on the Public Safety Appropriations Committee.

**Wisconsin Rep. Jeff Stone** has been appointed to serve on the Joint Finance Committee, where he has been focusing on the issue of transportation funding. Also, he recently served on the Legislative Council Study Committee on Long-Term Financial Planning for the state.

#### CLASS OF 1999

**Ohio Rep. Catherine Barrett** serves as ranking minority member on the Finance & Appropriations Human Services Subcommittee.

In addition to being elected assistant majority leader by her caucus this session, **Iowa Rep. Carmine Boal** was appointed vice chair of the Administration and Rules Committee.

**Kansas Rep. Marti Crow** is serving her second term as agenda chair for the House Democrats for 2003-04. Also this session, she has sponsored legislation to create the position of children's advocate in the state's foster care system.

In addition to serving as an assistant minority floor leader, **Michigan Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs** is the ranking minority vice chair of the Economic Development, Small Business and Regulatory Reform Committee and of the Family & Human Services Committee.

**Michigan Rep. Charles T. LaSata** is vice chair of the Judiciary Committee, and he serves on the Criminal Justice Committee, the Higher Education Committee and the Energy and Technology Committee. He also chairs the bipartisan Lawyers Caucus and is a member of the Michigan Legislative Arts Caucus.

**Wisconsin Sen. Mary Lazich**, who was elected caucus chair shortly after the November 2002 elections, also was appointed to serve as one of 16 members on the Joint Finance Committee, which examines all legislation that deals with state income and spending.

**Kansas Rep. Peggy Long** is currently serving as vice chair of the Health & Human Services Committee. She sponsored a "truth in budgeting" bill that calls for an annual or a biannual report on all expenditures, including revenue transfers between funds.

**North Dakota Rep. Jon O. Nelson** was appointed chair of the Natural Resources Committee this session.

**South Dakota Sen. Orville Smidt** was selected to serve as chair of the Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council.

#### CLASS OF 1998

**Michigan Sen. Raymond E. Basham** was elected Democratic caucus chair this session and was appointed vice chair of the Local, Urban & State Affairs Committee. He also was appointed to the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee, the Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs Committee and the Transportation

Committee. Basham also was appointed to the special Joint Committee on Business Competitiveness.

**Illinois Rep. Elizabeth Coulson** was appointed to a three-member policy committee for the House Republicans that examines major issues and determines how best to address them.

In addition to being appointed majority caucus whip, **Illinois Sen. Terry Link** was appointed chair of the Revenue Committee and serves as a member of the Financial Institutions Committee, the Local Government Committee and the Transportation Committee.

**Ohio Rep. Dale Miller** has been elected Democratic Whip by his caucus this session.

**North Dakota Rep. Carol Niemeier** sponsored a bill to provide victims of domestic abuse with an exemption from the requirement to publish notice of a name change. Earlier this year, she received the Public Policy Leadership Award from the American Association of University Women.

#### CLASS OF 1997

**Indiana Sen. David Ford** serves as chair of the Economic Development & Technology Committee and is a member of the Senate Finance Committee. He received the Indiana Chamber Small Business Award. Ford is also a candidate for lieutenant governor in 2004.

**Indiana Sen. Becky Skillman** was elected chair of the Senate Republican caucus and serves as ranking majority member of the Economic Development & Technology Committee.

**Minnesota Rep. Kathy Tingelstad** was appointed assistant majority whip and vice chair of the Environment Finance Committee.

After having served for two years as assistant minority leader, **Ohio Rep. Charlie Wilson** now serves as ranking member on the Finance & Appropriation Subcommittee on Agriculture & Development. He is planning a run for state Senate in 2004.

#### CLASS OF 1996

**Kansas Rep. Deena Horst** has been appointed vice chair of the Higher Education Committee and chair of the Joint Committee on Arts and Cultural Resources.

**Michigan Sen. Elizabeth Brater** was elected assistant minority leader this session. She also serves as vice chair of the Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs Committee, vice chair of the Agriculture, Forestry & Tourism Committee, and on the Governor's Land Use Leadership Council.

In addition to his position as chair of the Higher Education Committee, **Kansas Rep. Tom Sloan** serves on the Utilities Committee, the Environment Committee and the General Government & Commerce Committee, and he has been appointed to the Kansas Water Authority. He also has been appointed to serve on CSG's Environmental Task Force and was recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy for his leadership on renewable energy issues.

**Nebraska Sen. Elaine Stuhr** was elected chair of the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee this session, and she continues to serve as vice chair of the Natural Resources Committee. She also is a member of the State Water Policy Task Force.

#### CLASS OF 1995

**Indiana Rep. Charlie Brown** serves as chair of the Public Health Committee, the Commission on Excel-

lence in Health Care and the Health Finance Commission. This session he was the author of several pieces of legislation including bills on the securitization of tobacco funds, child obesity, reauthorization of the family and social services administration, mandatory reporting of fireworks injuries, and the prohibition of utility cutoffs during the winter.

**Kansas Sen. David R. Corbin** serves as vice chair of the National Conference of State Legislatures' Budget & Revenue Committee.

**Illinois Rep. Dave Winters** was appointed assistant Republican House leader this session, and he was instrumental in drafting and adopting Republican caucus rules to decentralize the power structure and empower individual members of that caucus.

#### CSG ACTIVITIES

Eight BILLD alumni have been selected to attend the Henry Toll Fellowship Program this fall. **Ohio Rep. Thom Collier** (class of 2001), **South Dakota Rep. Jean Hunhoff** (class of 2002), **Michigan Rep. Alexander C. Lipsey** (class of 2001), **Nebraska Sen. Vickie D. McDonald** (class of 2002), **Minnesota Sen. Mark Ourada** (class of 1996), **Indiana Sen. Marvin D. Riegsecker** (class of 1996), **Kansas Rep. Tom Sloan** (class of 1996), and **Indiana Rep. Peggy Welch** (class of 1999) have been awarded fellowships to attend the annual leadership program held in Lexington, Ky.

**Nebraska Sen. Adrian Smith** (class of 2001) was one of four Midwestern legislators selected to participate in a legislative exchange hosted by the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly in June.

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The BILLD Alumni Newsletter is published twice a year. The next issue will be released in the fall of 2003.

We welcome your submissions for Alumni Notes, as well as any article suggestions you may have.

Please contact Laura A. Tomaka at CSG's Midwestern Office with your newsletter submissions or ideas.

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## Steering Committee awards 2003 BILLD Fellowships

The BILLD Steering Committee met on May 3 to select the recipients of fellowships for the 9th annual Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development. Thirty-four legislators from the 11 member states of the Midwestern Legislative Conference were named Fellows and will attend this year's Institute in Madison, Wis., on July 12-16. The class also includes Fellows from Saskatchewan, an affiliate member of the MLC.

The BILLD Steering Committee, along with the entire Midwestern Legislative Conference, would like you to join us in congratulating the 36 lawmakers receiving this year's fellowships.

<i>Rep. Maria A. Berrios, Ill.</i>	<i>Rep. James M. Kurtenbach, Iowa</i>	<i>Rep. Louise S. Potter, N.D.</i>
<i>Rep. Donald Betts, Jr., Kan.</i>	<i>Sen. Gary A. Lee, N.D.</i>	<i>Rep. Larry Price, Ohio</i>
<i>Rep. Laura M. Brod, Minn.</i>	<i>Rep. Vicki Lensing, Iowa</i>	<i>Rep. Jim T. Raussen, Ohio</i>
<i>Rep. Sydney L. Carlin, Kan.</i>	<i>Sen. LeRoy J. Loudon, Neb.</i>	<i>Rep. Chapin Rose, Ill.</i>
<i>Sen. Jeanne M. Combs, Neb.</i>	<i>Rep. Carolene Mays, Ind.</i>	<i>Rep. Dan J. Ruby, N.D.</i>
<i>Rep. Joni M. Cutler, S.D.</i>	<i>MLA Warren McCall, Sask.</i>	<i>Rep. Kathleen A. Ryg, Ill.</i>
<i>Sen. Thomas A. Dempster, S.D.</i>	<i>Rep. Kathy Miles, S.D.</i>	<i>Sen. Robert Schuler, Ohio</i>
<i>Sen. D. Scott Dibble, Minn.</i>	<i>Sen. Ray Mossey, Neb.</i>	<i>Rep. Mary Taylor, Ohio</i>
<i>Rep. Jacob W. Hoogendyk, Jr., Mich.</i>	<i>Rep. Carla Nelson, Minn.</i>	<i>Rep. Amy Sue Vruwink, Wis.</i>
<i>Rep. Tupac A. Hunter, Mich.</i>	<i>Rep. Cindy Noe, Ind.</i>	<i>Rep. Leah Vukmir, Wis.</i>
<i>Rep. Jeff Jack, Kan.</i>	<i>Rep. Michael L. Nofs, Michigan</i>	<i>MLA Milt Wakefield, Sask.</i>
<i>Rep. Kent Kramer, Iowa</i>	<i>Rep. Sondy Pope-Roberts, Wis.</i>	<i>Rep. Christopher Ward, Mich.</i>

### Midwestern Legislative Conference to convene in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The 58th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference will be held August 24-27, 2003, in Milwaukee. Wisconsin Rep. Suzanne Jeskewitz (BILLD Class of 1997), chair of the MLC, will preside over the meeting, and she is eager to welcome her colleagues from across the region to her home state.

The 58th MLC Annual Meeting will have plenty to offer to participants and their families. Throughout the meeting, attendees will be minutes from the shores of Lake Michigan and Milwaukee's revitalized lakefront. Evening activities are scheduled to be held at the Milwaukee Public Museum and the Milwaukee Art Museum, which was designed by world-famous architect Santiago Calatrava.

Social events will complement the myriad substantive sessions being planned. Attendees will be able to explore a number of policy issues, ranging from environmental issues, state efforts to slow Medicaid growth and the changing nature of state-federal relations. The meeting will also feature a number of smaller discussion groups through a series of table topics over breakfast and afternoon policy roundtables.

As in previous year's, BILLD alumni will be able to participate in special events designed for them. The Wisconsin delegation of Bowhay Institute graduates will host the annual BILLD alumni reception, and graduates of the Bowhay Institute will be able to continue their leadership training as they host a professional development session for the entire conference. The alumni of the BILLD program will sponsor a session on *The Art of Negotiation* with Dr. James Hennig, who will help attendees sharpen their understanding and use of negotiation. He will define the unique characteristics of a successful negotiator and lead the audience through some common errors in negotiation, guidelines for concessions and how to foster negotiation partners.

BILLD alumni should plan now to join their Midwestern legislative colleagues in Milwaukee for what promises to be an educational and informative meeting. **For more information about the 58th Annual Meeting of the MLC, as well as plans for BILLD-related events, contact the CSG Midwest Office at 630.810.0210 or visit the CSG Midwest Web site at [www.csamidwest.org](http://www.csamidwest.org).**