

Members

Sen. James Merritt, Chairperson
Sen. Thomas Wyss
Sen. Allen Paul
Sen. Rose Ann Antich
Sen. Mark Blade
Sen. Anita Bowser
Rep. B. Patrick Bauer
Rep. Craig Fry
Rep. Clyde Kersey
Rep. Woody Burton
Rep. Thomas Saunders
Rep. Matthew Whetstone



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554

LSA Staff:

James Jett, Attorney for the Committee
Diane Powers, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee

Authority: Legislative Council Resolution 01-2
(Adopted June 7, 2001)

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: September 13, 2001
Meeting Time: 1:30 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St., Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Sen. James Merritt, Chairperson; Sen. Thomas Wyss; Sen. Allen Paul; Rep. Craig Fry; Rep. Clyde Kersey; Rep. Woody Burton; Rep. Matthew Whetstone.

Members Absent: Sen. Rose Ann Antich; Sen. Anita Bowser; Rep. B. Patrick Bauer; Rep. Thomas Saunders; Sen. Mark Blade.

Sen. Merritt called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Legislative Services Agency

Sen. Merritt introduced Philip (Satch) Sachtleben, executive director of the Indiana Legislative Services Agency, and Jeannie Gerstbauer-Hill, a computer programmer with the Indiana Legislative Service Agency (LSA).

Mr. Sachtleben discussed the capabilities of LSA's inhouse printing. Mr. Sachtleben

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

reviewed the cost savings created by the inhouse printing and commented on the significant savings obtained through the use of cd-rom for the Acts of Indiana.

Sen. Merritt asked Mr. Sachtleben about the computer database LSA is building that contains biographical profiles of members of the General Assembly. Mr. Sachtleben introduced Jeannie Gerstbauer-Hill and then discussed the creation and use of the database.

Sen. Merritt asked about the use of the internet as a way of accessing the database. Mr. Sachtleben and Ms. Gerstbauer-Hill discussed the use of the database software and its compatability with the internet. Ms. Gerstbauer-Hill then discussed the specifics of the database and reviewed Exhibit "A" with the Committee.

Sen. Wyss asked whether the current database allowed for multiple entries within a field. Ms. Gerstbauer-Hill said that the database does allow for multiple entries and explained how the entry would work.

Sen. Merritt and Rep. Burton initiated a discussion on the possible cut-off date for the history.

Sen. Wyss stated that he would like to see the database contain more genealogy information. He commented that it would be a valuable resource for those searching their family history. Ms. Gerstbauer-Hill commented that adding additional data fields would not be a problem. The Committee discussed what data should be included in the database.

Mr. Sachtleben discussed the possibilities the database would provide for schools as learning tools and for research projects. He mentioned that one possibility is to have local schools research their past legislators to provide additional or missing information. The Committee discussed school opportunities.

The Committee discussed the potential applications of the database including having an interactive database and worldwide use of the database.

Mr. Sachtleben then discussed the search capabilities of the database. He reviewed Exhibit "B". The Committee discussed Exhibit "B".

Rep. Burton asked whether print volumes of the prior history are still available. The Committee discussed the prior print volumes, and Pam Bennett, director of the Indiana Historical Bureau stated that the volumes are still available.

The Committee discussed the capabilities of the database information, and on the information collected for the next history volume. Ms. Gerstbauer-Hill stated that the key for any of the work is that a digital version be compiled.

Rep. Whetstone initiated a discussion on the types of fields that should be added to the biographical database.

Sen. Wyss encouraged the use of the Fort Wayne library genealogy resources in completing the database.

The Committee discussed data fields.

Dr. Barbara Truesdell, Indiana University

Sen. Merritt recognized Dr. Barbara Truesdell of the Indiana University Oral History Research center. Dr. Truesdell outlined what oral history is, and discussed the oral history compilation process. Dr. Truesdell described the benefits of oral history, and the balance of oral and written history. Dr. Truesdell then discussed Exhibits "C" and "D".

Sen. Merritt asked if the oral history interviews were public documents, and particularly, if it is possible to close off certain interviews from the public for a period of time. Dr. Truesdell informed the Committee that interviews could be restricted, and that a current study has interviews that are closed until 2015.

Rep. Burton asked if the oral histories in the Indiana University collection were available on the internet. Dr. Truesdell stated that the interviews are not on the internet.

The Committee discussed the potential of oral history for the General Assembly.

Pamela Bennett, Indiana Historical Bureau

Sen. Merritt recognized Pam Bennett, the director of the Indiana Historical Bureau. Ms. Bennett provided a videotape to the Committee which gave an overview of the print on demand process. The Committee viewed the videotape.

The Committee discussed print on demand and the benefits related to not having to maintain storage of printed volumes.

Sen. Merritt set the next Committee meeting for October 11, 2001, at 1:30 p.m., and adjourned the meeting.