Team Profiles


Dean Foster’s Biographical Statement from Legislative Directory, 1973


Vito Chiechi’s Biographical Statement from Legislative Directory, 1979

• Don Clawson, the Speaker’s Communications Director, passed away while this web project was in process. His obituary can be found in The Olympian, March 30, 2005.
• To learn more about Dean Morgan, see “Dean Morgan merged politics and integrity,” The Seattle Times, October 27, 2001, B-6
Canadian coordinates Washington legislature

By JACK MORGAN
Staff Writer

If the so-called continuing session concept is approved for the legislature, coordination between standing committee chairmen strewn throughout the state will be an important task.

Key to much of this coordination will fall to a pretty Canadian-born woman named Dawne Friesen.

With the title of legislative coordinator, Miss Friesen has tried her wings in the newly created job during the regular session. The function appears to have worked in scheduling more joint committee hearings — time savers — and keeping tabs of the status of 2,000 bills.

Miss Friesen attends meetings of the powerful rules committee and would be the key to implementing decisions of the proposed super-rules committee under the continuing session concept.

A hard worker, Miss Friesen has worked at the legislature as a docket clerk, committee clerk for the transportation committee and committee clerk to Sen. August Mardesich's banking and insurance committee.

A graduate of the University of Washington, her favorite off-duty things are travel, skiing, reading, classical and jazz music, watersports, beachcombing and opera.

Although not a trinket collector, she tries to bring something back from foreign nations she visits.

Her most recent trip was to the Bahamas. At the beginning of this legislative session she sported a deep suntan, to the envy of fellow workers.

About her job, Miss Friesen says, "one of the problems is getting the chairmen together to work out which bills they want to pass."

This relates mainly to so-called companion bills. These are nearly identical bills introduced into both houses.

"We've tried to let only one bill pass one house," she says.

With about 35 standing committees being proposed to remain on active duty during the continuing session, she will have her hands full keeping tabs on events.

But she's certain she can handle things.