

1975/  
1976

•SGAC was incorporated as the State Governmental Affairs Council and held its first meeting in October 1975 in Philadelphia, with an initial base of 40 members. Two projects became SGAC's immediate focus for cooperation with NCSL: 1) the Pointless Diversity Joint Task Force, geared toward educating legislators about the consumer-borne costs of conflicting standards on identical issues among states in areas such as labeling, and 2) a film about the state legislative process, "A Day in the Life of a State Legislator."

1976/  
1977

•SGAC had grown to 56 members. SGAC and NCSL formed a joint project to study feasibility of a centralized computer system and software for bill status reporting and statutory retrieval. SGAC members provided resource experts for the NCSL's State-Federal Assembly. SGAC adopted its own Code of Ethics.

1977/  
1978

•A professional management firm was retained to provide staffing for SGAC and its growing programs. The first annual report was produced as a record of SGAC's accomplishments during the year. SGAC began policy of appointing committee chairmen from membership at large. A Publications Advisory Committee was formed to help NCSL improve its printed communications. A Curriculum Development Committee was created to develop better ways for public educators to teach about the state legislative process.

1978/  
1979

•SGAC opened liaison with NCSL's new Assembly on the Legislature (AOL) and its committees. Exploratory meetings were held with the National Association of Attorneys General. The Statutory Retrieval/Bill Status study reported five alternative systems for implementing a nationwide network.

1979/  
1980

•An NCSL Legislator's Handbook to States and the Arts was underwritten by SGAC. NCSL public relations efforts for their annual meeting received help from SGAC member company PR professionals.

1980/  
1981

•"A pivotal year" as viewed by SGAC's leadership. The group adopted a long-range planning process to study and redefine, if necessary, the organization's mission. The State Government Education and Research Foundation (now the SGAC Foundation) was conceived and funded. The SGAC Business Issue Seminar was conceived so state legislative and business leaders could delve into issues of mutual concern. New SGAC publications, including SGAC News, were begun. The first "member forums" were held. Discussions of cooperative activities were initiated with the National Governors Association. NCSL Legislative Staff Institute for advanced training of senior state legislative staff was launched with training faculty provided by SGAC member companies.

1981/  
1982

•SGAC's "Business Issues Speakers Service" was revised and updated to provide expert speakers to legislative meetings and groups. The Federalism Task Force was initiated. Work took place with the NGA and AOL on the topic of Regulatory Reform.

1982/  
1983

•SGAC began a formal policy of twice a year, members-only meetings for professional development, networking, and information exchange. An SGAC/NCSL Loaned Executive Program was formalized. Meetings at Duke University were held with NGA leadership to try to help establish a center for the study of the Office of the Governor.

1983/  
1984

•SGAC's Long Range Plan was updated, expanded, and made ready for the next decade. Issue orientation became a member focus, as ways to develop databases on various issues were explored. Liaison meetings were initiated with the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors and the Council of State Governments.

1984/  
1985

•SGAC developed outreach efforts to communicate its history, accomplishments, and future direction with its public sector partners. Members pledged to increase their involvement with and service to the enhancement of better state government. New progress was made in building a strong working relationship with the Council of State Governments. The first Business Issues Seminar was held.

1986

•SGAC supported the creation of NCSL's Foundation for State Legislatures. The first joint project between SGAC and NCSL's Foundation became a reality in the form of a video on the privatization issue.

1987

•For the first time SGAC was addressed by key representatives of the Intergovernmental Affairs Department of the White House, U.S. Conference of Mayors and American Legislative Exchange Council. SGAC documented its first written annual report.

1988

•At SGAC's suggestion, The Council of State Governments established a subcommittee of the CSG Organization Planning and Coordinating Committee: The Private Sector Relations Subcommittee. The membership of the subcommittee included the private sector as represented by SGAC and CSG Corporate Associates.

1989

•The State Government Relations Institute (SGRI), the first comprehensive professional career development program to be geared specifically for the experienced state government relations professional, was created, and was directed by Dr. Alan Rosenthal of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University.

1993

•At the request of NCSL, a session for the Annual Meeting focusing on emerging information technologies and their applications to legislatures in the future was developed. Headshot photos were added to the Membership Directory.

1995

•SGAC foundation partnered with NCSL to develop the Leadership Institute for experienced state government relations professionals and emerging legislative leaders to come together and explore and enhance leadership skills. SGAC's leaders organized the Past Presidents' Committee to assist the organization in identifying and tackling selected projects such as Lobby Reform. Changed name from State Governmental Affairs Council to State Government Affairs Council.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SGAC goes beyond the state legislative arena to educate the broader public about the state government affairs profession by creating a Lobby Reform Initiative. Retained a law firm to prepare an Amicus Brief in order to defend the state government affairs profession. Created SGAC's Guiding Principles document defining lobbying guidelines.</li> </ul>	1996
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The American Advocacy Coalition (AOC) was established by SGAC as a public education initiative created to broaden the public understanding of the role and value that legislative advocates play in the governmental process. Replaced Code of Ethics with an improved Guidelines for Professional Conduct.</li> </ul>	1997
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Government Education and Research Foundation changed its name to State Government Affairs Council Foundation to maintain SGAC's identity with Foundation programs such as the Leaders' Policy Conference and Leadership Institute. Initiated the offer of a scholarship equal to waived registration fees and hotel costs for first 70 legislative leaders who registered for LPC (and were able to accept this type of scholarship.) Worked with NCSL to create Center for Advocacy &amp; Governmental Ethics, to be located in Denver, CO. Contract lobbyists were first allowed to attend SGAC meetings when invited by a member.</li> </ul>	1998
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voted to allow service providers to join the SGAC membership in direct response to the ever-changing state government affairs profession and the increasing role that service providers play in how SGAC members do business.</li> </ul>	1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved Bylaws change to welcome service providers into one all-inclusive membership category. Greatly expanded electronic communication with members, publishing the quarterly newsletter online, distributing monthly email updates and implementing new features, including the Jobline and online conference registration, on the website. Instituted "Late Night" event idea, hosting first annual event at Buddy Guy's Legends in Chicago. Hired fulltime Executive Director Elizabeth Loudy.</li> </ul>	2000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created a comprehensive database and issued a press release on SGAC members' contributions and response to victims of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Revamped SGAC logo and created new tagline, "Promoting Partnership and Professionalism."</li> </ul>	2001
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiated new awards program to honor the leaders of the CSG regional organizations.</li> </ul>	2002
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implemented alteration of the Annual Meeting schedule to allow participants to travel home on Saturday.</li> </ul>	2003
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changed funding structure to shift income to the price of membership and reduced the price of participation by lowering registration fees. Set annual dues at \$5000. Moved SGAC headquarters from Washington, DC to Alexandria, Virginia.</li> </ul>	2004
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held a Gala celebration in honor of SGAC's 30th Anniversary. Developed an SGAC informational video. Launched a new website. Shifted Annual Meeting schedule so it no longer fell over weekends.</li> </ul>	2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanded Annual Meeting educational offerings by adding concurrent sessions to the program.</li> </ul>	2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amended Bylaws to create an Associate Member category for service providers/vendors in the membership. In response to the country's economic downturn, SGAC provided more regional events to bring SGAC to the members. Instituted a plan to participate in philanthropic activities at our meetings. More than 20 Annual Meeting participants extended their stay over the weekend to participate in a Habitat for Humanity project in New Orleans' 9th Ward Musicians' Village. Meeting attendees also contributed to a children's book drive for local elementary schools. Collaborated with the Public Affairs Council on their 2008 SGR Benchmarking Report. Created a library of resources on the members-only section of the website.</li> </ul>	2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosted first Holiday Happy Hour for members and partners. Developed and launched a new e-newsletter. Collaborated with the Public Affairs Council on their bi-annual Corporate Government Relations and Public Affairs Compensation Survey.</li> </ul>	2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched Professional Certificate Program for state government affairs professionals.</li> </ul>	2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held first sessions eligible for Professional Certificate Program credits during Annual Meeting. Expanded state organization partnerships to include the National Governors Association (NGA). Eliminated fee for first registrant from each SGAC member to Member Lunch during NCSL Legislative Summit. Launched first two half-day education seminars.</li> </ul>	2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created Facebook and LinkedIn groups to expand social media reach.</li> </ul>	2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched new website. Created and launched mobile apps.</li> </ul>	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched the Advanced level for the State Government Relations Certificate Program. Expanded state government organizations partnerships to include Women In Government (WIG). Created new staff position of Manager, Communications &amp; Public Sector Outreach to promote SGAC more effectively and raise the organization's profile among legislators. Commissioned the design of new leadership awards to be presented to national and regional legislative leaders.</li> </ul>	2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After the SGAC website was "hacked", staff developed and launched a new website with a fully integrated database. Expanded state government organization partnerships to include the National Caucus of Black State Legislators (NBCSL).</li> </ul>	2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created a comprehensive communications calendar to use all available means to raise the visibility of SGAC, with a focus on electronic delivery and use of social media. Created a comprehensive history of the organization's first 40 years.</li> </ul>	2015