



By Almeda Dunn

In September, NCISS held a successful Hit-the-Hill campaign and a most productive mid-year board meeting in Washington, DC. I was able to arrange a meeting with Senators Richard Durbin and Barack Obama, both from Illinois. Our lobbyist Larry Sabbath joined me at this continental breakfast meeting, along with the following members of our legislative committee: Bruce Hulme, Steve Kirby, Lynette Revill, and Vince Ruffolo.

Bruce, speaking as our legislative director, shared our concerns with the senators, both of whom were interested in our positions on the many privacy bills. However, Senator Durbin expressed great concern over the wide distribution of personal information and security breaches. Senator Obama was well aware of the need for the the investigative and security business sectors to have access to sensitive information to properly do our work. The Democratic victory in both the Senate and House has increased the stature of these two senators. Senator Durbin will become majority whip and Senator Obama almost overnight has become a contender

for president. It is indeed fortunate that we were able to let these two gentlemen know of the concerns of NCISS.

I applaud the good work of the NCISS legislative committee and our lobbyist. In the 109th Congress, NCISS suffered no legislative defeat, when all was said and done. Most of our legislative priorities were with the bills of concern to private investigators. However, our contract security members faced a different threat. The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) continues to unionize our industry. It been effective in passing local and state self-serving legislation, and at the federal level will probably concentrate on gutting Section 9(b)3 of the National Labor Relations Act, now that the Democrats will be in the majority. Vince Ruffolo, as president of Security Companies Organized for Legislative Action (SCOLA), of which NCISS is also a member, will have his work cut out for him in 2007.

You should be aware that our



NCISS arranged a successful meeting with both Senator Obama (above) and Senator Durbin (right), both are Democrats from Illinois.

board has considered raising membership dues. The current \$125 annual dues cannot sustain us if we are to continue our good work and obtain the excellent results that we have thus far achieved. The dues have not increased in ten years. I expect a moderate increase to be approved by the board at our annual meeting next April in Minneapolis.

In the meantime we are seeking additional voluntary donations from our members to be earmarked for the NCISS legislative fund. Although
continued on page 6

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