

Sir Yes Sir!

Noah Eckstein

The term “Sir” is an honorable address that we here at Boys State use frequently. Whether it be marching in a line or responding to a chant, “Sir, Yes Sir” is a powerful phrase backed by tradition and respect. I, coming from a progressive background, find myself respectfully questioning the origin and continued use of the aforementioned term.

Boys State is a forum of political passion and leadership through American values. Since Sunday, my city's attending Marine, Sergeant Espinoza, has taught us chants, marches, and different traditions embodied by the United States Armed Forces. At the end of each chant, a dedicated and ear-shattering “Sir, Yes Sir” is echoed. Sergeant Espinoza said that the term “Sir” is used out of respect toward the elderly and people of rank. I, however, feel that there are different and less militaristic ways to show respect. From acts of kindness and honest feedback to thankful conversations and passionate embraces, we statesmen can show our respect in unique forms.

I spoke to a group of Rider University students who collectively deemed the term “Sir” as a tradition of the past that can “...be expressed in many different colors.” I sat down with Dr. Greg Wilson who, in direct contradiction, deemed the term classic. He went on to declare “Sir” as something of tradition that (from a military standpoint) should be preserved.

As the week goes on, and the number of “Sir, Yes Sir” rises, remember to stop and think about respect. It is easy to forget the importance of respect on account of its repetition, so continue to keep in mind the positive reasons why we are here.

Tuesday Schedule Highlights

12:30pm-2:30pm 2014
College and Career Fair
7pm Deadline for
Prospective Governors to
inform their SCC of their
intent to run
7:35pm-11:15pm D-Day
Presentations and State
Party Conventions



*U.S. Marines
June 23, 2014*

Armwood: Advocate of Change

Ryan Oakley

Middlesex County Freeholder Kenneth Armwood made an appearance at the first General Assembly of the week on Sunday afternoon. Armwood approached the speaker's podium armed to the teeth with quips and anecdotes that earned him large amounts of both laughter and applause. Going far beyond just words, Armwood injected energy into his speech that everyone in the room could hear and feel. From recalling the time he fired his former high school principal to poking fun at Governor Chris Christie's bridge scandal, Armwood kept every delegate awake and attentive with his enthralling words and energetic personality. Even though his speech was designed to be humorous, Armwood still had a serious point: change.

During his speech, Armwood focused on the idea of challenging the status quo to create positive changes and remaining strong in the face of adversity. Even when faced with obstacles, Armwood persevered in his desire to change the bad into good. Hopefully, every delegate at ALJBS will take Armwood's lesson to heart and be eager to make a difference.

Boys' State News

First Day of Seminars: A Resounding Success

Michael Tang and Stephan Kozub

The first day of seminars at Boys' State covered an exciting array of different professions, ranging from stock market exchange to information technology.

The Careers on Wall Street and the Stock Market seminar featured two speakers: Peter Crivelli, the Director of Business Development for GavKal Capital, LLC; and Chris Rilling, Senior Account Executive for Fidelity Investments. During the seminar, Crivelli drove several points across, such as the need to be intelligent. That being said, not only book smarts are required, but also common sense and street smarts. He also advised the delegates to be humble, be trustworthy, and work hard. Rilling added to these points, saying that the number one trait needed in order to succeed both on Wall Street, and in general, is the ability to listen. This means having the ability to figure out the best objective solutions to solve the problems of others, and in turn being able to carry out these solutions and give input. Additionally, Rilling gave the delegates the advice to be prepared, to be able to think on their toes, and to be honest.

The Careers in Technology seminar provided unique perspectives on the field of technology. All speakers gave advice concerning what they believed a college graduate needed to succeed in a career in technology: internships and work experience, flexibility in learning computer languages and business, and the need to diversify in specialties such as security. What was most important, however, was the need for passion. Liskovec, a professor at the College of New Jersey, was especially emphatic about this point when telling the audience, "If you're in this job to chase money, you'll only hate your job and what you do." Only by taking pride in using technology to help solve real world problems will you truly succeed in this field.

During the Careers in Law Enforcement, both current and former police officers spoke about the qualities expected of a law enforcement professional. Police officers need to be careful about their public appearance, especially with social media; when aiming for a career in the field, one must take extra caution about what they post online. Additionally, both municipal officers and state troopers need to be confident in encouraging (and forcing) people to follow the law. They must be valiant and determined, and possess a desire to ensure the safety of the community.

While the professions that these speakers presented may be extraordinarily diverse, they all possess a common thread: in order to be successful in any job that you pursue, you must be truly passionate about what you do.

Message from the Managing Editor

Kris Schneider

Good morning statesmen, and welcome to the 69th Annual session of the American Legion's Jersey Boys State. Well, you've made it to Tuesday, and there are only three days remaining of the program. It is our privilege to provide you with the latest and most accurate information on events and elections this week. Every evening, you'll find the Jersey Statesman staff working tirelessly in the office to bring you the best news possible.

In every issue, you'll find sports news, information about past seminars, opinions, great photos, and some political articles as well. On Thursday, you'll see our political staff moderating the Gubernatorial debate, asking the tough questions of the two candidates seeking to be your Governor. On Friday, you'll see the same staff members moderating the Senatorial debate, interrogating the candidates seeking to represent New Jersey at Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. We will also publish a special edition on the winner of the Gubernatorial election.

If you ever have the desire to write for the Statesman at any time during the week, simply let your city newspaper editor know, and he will give you further instructions. Once again, welcome to Jersey Boys State, and thank you for taking the time to read the first edition of this year's Jersey Statesman.

Boys' State News

The Campaign Process: Getting Votes at Boys State

Raven Haub

8:40, Monday morning, Van Buren City. The entire city is alive with energy, getting ready for the municipal elections that will be held in twenty minutes. For the past hour to hour-and-a-half, the Nationalists and the Federalists have been running around excitedly, campaigning for their offices in a mad scramble for votes that will culminate in their first serious elections.

The campaigning process is one of the most critical processes of the Boys State experience, and very closely tied to understanding real-life election processes. Like in real elections, the candidates and their party met in the morning in the city to discuss their platforms and support of particular candidates. The Nationalists met privately, discussing policy and strategies to individually convince all voters—regardless of party—that their position would be the most effective method to solve Van Buren's issues. In addition, the Nationalists realized the value of knowing their opponent's agenda, and so sat in on the Federalist strategy meeting later on. By doing so, the Nationalists also gained another opportunity to impress the Federalists and pitch their party ideas, campaigning for themselves while at the same time reinforcing their own strategies.

Patrik Harsanyi, successful Nationalist candidate for city councilor, sums up the spirit of campaigning in Van Buren City: “A lot of people were enthusiastic about the process, and spent time discussing the platform and voting strategy, specifically who on both sides were voting for who. Everybody was very into it, and enjoyed it a lot.” About the actual election as a whole, David Harris, Van Buren City's dog catcher, has this to say: “It was a tedious process, but it helped us determine how to effectively govern a municipality.”

After brief endgame campaigning in the Cavalla Room, the twelve candidates, two for mayor and ten for councilmen, delivered several intense speeches presenting their views on our town's problems. Effective campaigning and vote-gathering in the morning payed off, and the Nationalists walked away with one mayor and four councilmen, with the Federalists claiming a single seat on the city council. In Van Buren City, and in cities across Jersey Boys State 2014, campaigning seriously on the second day has paid great dividends for those in office now, and taught all statesmen the value and importance of this political process.

How Will This County Govern Itself?

Charlie Castillo

Voters in Marshall County, comprised of the cities of Jefferson and Madison, chose to govern themselves using the County Supervisor Plan. The citizens of these cities chose this system of government in a landslide, with at least forty-two statesmen in favor.

Under this system, the county would be governed in a manner similar to that of the “weak mayor” municipal system, in which the executive position does not possess all the powers of a strong executive body. The executive body must share administrative functions with the legislative body. In this form of government, voters elect candidates to several positions. These include the county supervisor, members of a Board of Chosen Freeholders, a clerk, registrar, surrogate, and sheriff. The supervisor, once elected, will appoint members to all county boards and commissions. The freeholders, once elected, will appoint the county's chief administrator.

First Day of Softball Doesn't Go as Planned

Matt Costantini

Today was the first day that statesmen had a chance to show everyone another side of themselves. Sports ranging from football to soccer, volleyball to softball and many others were played. Softball found a challenge in finding enough players from counties to field teams and were left with forfeits. In the first game Marshall County beat Schwarzkopf 3-1 with full teams on both sides. After that games did not go as smoothly. In game two, Nimitz County beat MacArthur County by forfeit. A member of Nimitz county team, Liam Flynn, explained that there was enough people left around after the first game to put together enough people to play a game anyway. In game three, Vanderberg County beat Rigeway by another forfeit. Joe Clarke, a counselor and umpire, said “We'd like to have more people show up and participate because these events are a lot of fun.” At the end of the day, out of the five games played, four of them ended in forfeits. Both counselors agreed that when everybody shows up to the games, it's a great experience.

Boys' State News

The Political System Explained

Brian Milara

Though awake long after they would ever desire to be, ALJBS statesmen were in for quite a privilege upon entering the Alumni Gymnasium late Sunday night. There, awaiting their arrival, was a myriad of political figures, including U.S. House Representative Leonard Lance, Republican United States Senate nominee Jeffrey Bell, Co-Chair of the Democratic Task Force and Lisa Chapland, the NJ Womens' Political Caucus, and Jim Schulz, Executive Director of the NJ Dental PAC.

During the assembly, the speakers provided input on the role of government and political parties, in preparation for the development of the Jersey Boys State Nationalist and Federalist Parties later that night and the next morning. Rep. Lance explained the structure of state and federal governments and described the relationship each branch has with its counterparts. Mr. Bell described his experience in the field of politics, from his beginnings, to the opportunity to campaign for Presidents Nixon and Reagan, to campaigning on his own behalf. Bell also outlined a plan to begin a campaign and follow through with its development—by focusing on one key issue at a time and building a platform that describes to the electorate what form of a leader the candidate will be.

The final segment of the assembly, in which Ms. Chapland and Mr. Schulz spoke, characterized by a cacophony of applause and murmurs, was likely the most interactive for the statesmen. Short on time but limitless in creativity, Chapland and Schulz made an impromptu debate out of a question-and-answer session with the statesmen. When asked about their behind-the-scenes role in politics, the importance of persistence in campaigning, and more polarizing topics such as the Affordable Care Act, Chapland and Schulz responded openly and sometimes controversially, but to the great delight of the tired statesmen.

The assembly clearly encouraged statesmen to become involved in the creation of their party platforms and to take an active role in assisting in the development of campaigns and platforms on which to run.

Realizations: Better Prompt than Prodigal

Daniel Mattei

The 69th session of Boys State is identical to every other session in at least one regard: the understandably hesitant skepticism which claims the mood of the day soon yields to jubilant participation. It is entirely infectious, and initially overwhelming.

Both are magnified by the expectations which are levied upon us. This magnification is not an entirely accurate representation of the real world, but its purpose is entirely didactic, "...you must jump to know if you can fly." Boys State is composed of the most capable high school students in New Jersey, and only a trial by fire, replete with tangible consequences for inactivity can best convey this truth.

Nevertheless, the failure to assume an elected position or failure to be appointed are both concrete, and impart an impression of the repercussions which persist in what looms beyond college. Among such occasions, it is important to recognize that the virtues of endurance and persistence allow failure to be surmountable and success to be achieved.

A blind jump is demanded by our surroundings, and the principal lesson is only comprehensible to those who leap. Opportunity is presented to those who take action. It is an ideal and rational hope for every delegate to recognize this.

Editorial Staff



MANAGING EDITOR: Kris Schneider
ASST. MANAGING EDITOR: Ryan Oakley
LAYOUT EDITOR: Ryan Oakley
SPORTS EDITOR: Matt Costantini
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR: Jugal Shah
SEMINAR EDITOR: Michael Tang
OPINION EDITOR: Keshav Amaro

FEDERALIST POLITICAL EDITORS: Ganesh Gopal;
Stephan Kozub; Daniel Mattei; Daniel Wang;
Ricardo Vargas-Mora
NATIONALIST POLITICAL EDITORS: Nathun Bray;
Charlie Castillo; Noah Eckstein; Raven Haub;
Brian Milara; Nick Troise

PUBLISHER- Thomas Marsden ASST. PUBLISHER- Kevin Cameron PRINTER: Rider College Press
and Matt Reper Lawrenceville, NJ