



# AMERICAN LEGION JERSEY BOYS STATE

*“A WEEK THAT SHAPES THE FUTURE”*

Sponsored by THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

JUNE 22-27, 2014; RIDER UNIVERSITY, Lawrenceville, NJ

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## **Brian Doyle and Alex Kochanik to Serve as Boys Nation Senators in Washington, DC**

*Sen. Doyle of Audubon & Sen. Kochanik of Bridgewater Will Represent New Jersey at the National Session*

LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ – On Friday, June 27, the American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS) Board of Elections announced Brian J. Doyle (Audubon, NJ – Post 262) and Alex Kochanik (Bridgewater, NJ – Post 12) will serve as Boys Nation Senators, representing ALJBS and New Jersey, at the annual American Legion Boys Nation program in Washington D.C., from July 18-26, 2014. Per prior commitment, Andrew Chen (Plainsboro, NJ), who was elected to serve as Senator, will be absent from Boys Nation and Sen. Kochanik will serve in his stead. The Senators were read the oath of office and sworn in by Senator Robert Menendez. At American Legion Boys Nation, Senators Doyle and Kochanik will learn the proper method of handling legislation, participate in the national political party process and elect a president and vice president.

The Boys Nation Senators will also have the chance to meet many elected officials including US Senator Robert Menendez (ALJBS Class of 1979) and US Senator Cory Booker (ALJBS Class of 1986). Senators Doyle and Kochanik join Governor Chris Christie who represented ALJBS as a Boys Nation Senator in 1979.

The hands-on approach for teaching civics and government in action at the local, county and state level allows each statesmen to run for many offices from Mayor—to County Freeholder—and to Boys Nation Senator – among many others. This year’s 924 statesmen hailed from more than 325 communities across New Jersey.

Throughout the week-long program, statesmen:

- Heard from notable speakers including Senator Robert Menendez, Senator Cory Booker, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, Congressman Leonard Lance, CBS 3 Philadelphia’s Jessica Dean, US Senate candidate Jeffrey Bell, former Congressman Bob Inglis (SC), among many others;
- Visited the ALJBS College Fair featuring nearly 100 institutions from across the country;
- Attended leadership and career seminars featuring business executives, military representatives, political consultants, law experts and journalists, among other professional experts;
- Elected the 69<sup>th</sup> ALJBS Governor on Thursday, June 26; and
- Elected two Boys Nation Senators on Friday June 27, who will represent New Jersey at the annual American Legion Boys Nation program in Washington D.C., from July 18-26, 2014.

Notable ALJBS alumni include Governor Christopher Christie (Boys Nation Senator, 1979), Senator Robert Menendez (1971), Senator Cory Booker (1986), Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito (1967), Congressman Leonard Lance (1969) and Assemblyman Herbert Conaway (ALJBS Governor, 1980).

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### **About American Legion Jersey Boys State (ALJBS)**

In its 69<sup>th</sup> year, ALJBS is a week-long experience that educates and motivates New Jersey’s youth so that each statesman may become a citizen leader dedicated to service, respect, and Americanism. Together, the delegates form the mythical “51st” state of the union each year, where they elect their own local, state, and national representatives. Activities at ALJBS include legislative sessions, general assemblies, court proceedings, athletics, band, and career seminars, among many others. All expenses associated with attending ALJBS are typically donated by a sponsoring American Legion Post, a local business, or a community-based organization. To learn more, please visit [aljbs.org](http://aljbs.org).