NATIONAL AMERICANISM CONFERENCE
81st ANNUAL AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE DIRECTORS CONFERENCE
Indianapolis, Indiana
September 23 - 25, 2016

Digest of Proceedings

Friday, September 23, 2016

The 81st annual American Legion Boys State Directors Conference opened with a joint session with The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Directors on Friday afternoon, September 23, in the Meridian Center Ballroom of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Conference Chairman and Past National Commander Robert Turner (GA). American Legion Auxiliary National Chaplain Valerie Brown-Debrow (GA) offered the Invocation. Conference Chairman Turner led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Respect was paid to those listed as POW's and MIA's.

Greetings were extended by American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt (OR) and American Legion Auxiliary National Secretary Dubbie Buckler (IN).

The joint session featured Brian Parker, Director of Education, Taylor Hooton Foundation who led a presentation on "Appearance and Performing Enhancing Drugs". Timothy Lankford (IN) and Brittany Yoder, Assistant Directors, Americanism Division, provided information and updates on the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program.

After a review of Saturday's agenda and remarks, the opening session of the conference recessed at 6:11 pm.

Saturday, September 24, 2016

The business session of the Boys State Directors Conference reconvened at 8:30 am on Saturday, September 24. Conference Chairman Robert Turner called the meeting to order in the Meridian Center and West Ballroom of the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel.

One hundred and seventy three Boys State directors, chairmen and program staff were in attendance, representing 37 American Legion Boys State programs. Several departments were represented with five or more Boys State staff members.

Conference Chairman Bob Turner brought greetings and made introductions for himself and Aubrey Dunn, secretary to Jason Kees, Deputy Director, Americanism Division. Chairman Turner gave an overview of the weekend's activities and encouraged all in attendance to use the weekend to network and gather information to take back home to their respective American Legion Boys State programs.

Chairman Turner introduced Mrs. Maggi Van Dyk, President of S. A. Van Dyk who gave the conference attendees an insurance update.

Mr. Turner introduced Americanism Chairman of The American Legion, Richard Anderson (CT). Chairman Anderson's remarks stressed the importance of the Boys State and Girls State programs and his belief in 100% Americanism for The American Legion.

The session featured National Judge Advocate Philip B. Onderdonk, Jr. (MD) who led a discussion on program issues and best practices to include:

- The transgendered student
- Participants paying part of the registration fee
- Public facility vs. private facility to host your Boys State program
- Americans with Disabilities Act compliance
- Contributions to Boys State programs tax deductible?
- Non-US citizen participants

The information sharing sessions on the Saturday morning agenda included the following presentations:

- ROTC Cadets as Junior Counselors - New York Boys State
- Recruiting Overseas Veterans' Children - Kentucky Boys State
- Developing a Boys State Director's Program Contingency Plan - Ohio Boys State
- Fundraising with Recurring Donations - Missouri Boys State

(Presentations are posted @ www.legion.org/boysnation/resources)

Deputy Director Mike Buss (IA), provided reports on the 2016 Boys Nation session **(EXHIBIT A)** and the national participation in the 2016 Boys State programs **(EXHIBIT B)**. A total of 19,570 young men participated in the 49 American Legion Boys State programs during 2016, reflecting an overall **increase** of **121 participants** from the previous year. Conference attendees were again challenged to return to the national participation goal of 20,000 participants in 2017 and to again re-double their efforts to reduce the number of no-shows, which numbered 619 this year. Those departments color-coded yellow on the national participation report were recognized for increasing their attendance from 2015. Those departments color–coded in green were recognized for increasing their attendance from 2002. The departments color–coded in orange had an increase in attendance from 2002.

The annual group photograph was taken at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the Circle.

The information sharing sessions on the Saturday afternoon agenda continued and included the following presentations:

- Special Program Segments: Courts, Banking, Law Enforcement - Ohio Boys State
- Whose Shoes Will You Fill? A Plan for Succession - Wisconsin Boys State
- Revenue Generation - South Carolina Boys State
- Growing Your Boys State Program- Texas Boys State

(Presentations are posted @ www.legion.org/boysnation/resources)

Door prize drawings were conducted. There were plenty of great prizes given away thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the departments.

The conference recessed at 5:00 pm.

An evening reception honoring the youth program chairpersons and volunteers was hosted by Mrs. Maggi Van Dyk, President of S. A. Van Dyk, Inc. Mrs. Van Dyk expressed gratitude on behalf of S.A. Van Dyk, Inc., for all the volunteers who support The American Legion's youth programs and for S.A. Van Dyk, Inc., being included in supporting those same programs for so many decades.

Sunday, September 25, 2016

The Sunday morning session was held in the Meridian West Ballroom in the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel following religious services. The meeting of Boys State Directors was reconvened at 9:00 am by Conference Chairman Turner.

Father Gary Gummersheimer conducted a memorial service for Boys State staff, delegate alumni, and program supporters who have passed away over the past year. Those remembered were:

Alabama	Ted Copland	Assistant Director, 42 years AL Boys State Staff
Alaska	Gary Berry	Counselor, Past Department Commander
Arizona	Doris Vawter	Wife of Boys State Director Dr. Charles Vawter, 30 year Boys State Office Staff Member
Arizona	Gail Reed	10 years Department Headquarters staff
Arizona	Paul Griffin	Past Department Commander
California	Bernard Moon	2015 Boys State Delegate
California	Steven Halseth	2015 City Councilman
Colorado	Harry "Mac" Macfadden	Boys State Staff, Past Boys State Chaplain
Connecticut	Dennis Dziadowicz	Boys State Counselor
D.C.	Kent Webber	Department Budget Officer
D.C.	Ernie Sohns	Department Admin Management
Georgia	Ron Kennan	Boys State Graduate, County Counselor
Illinois	Thomas S. Johnson	51 year member of Boys State staff, President of Boys State Corporation board
Illinois	Alan Kirkpatrick	Member of staff and Corporation board
Indiana	Monty Buchanan	Boys State Counselor
Iowa	Carroll Wegner	Past Department Commander, County Counselor
Iowa	John Ross	Past Department Commander
Iowa	Phil Stovall	32 year City Counselor
Kansas	Ron O'Leary	Past Department Finance Officer
Kansas	Dr. Chuck Werring	Former housing & dining at Kansas State University
Kansas	Bill McConnell	Legionnaire Advisor
Missouri	Bill Liddle	Boys State staffer
Missouri	Tom Surdyke	2014 Alumni, West Point Cadet
Missouri	Dee Schafer	Wife of Past Department Commander Dave Schafer, Boys State staffer
Montana	John Louk	40 + years Montana Boys State Chairman
New York	Al Paviglianti	Assistant Program Director
New York	John Folk	Boys State Counselor
New York	Ken Govenor	Past Department Commander
New York	Bob Lejune	Boys State Counselor

New York	Al Goodwin	Boys State Chairman
Ohio	William Balser	24 years Boys State staff, 2010-2011 Boys State President, Past Department Commander 2005-2006, Past NEC
Ohio	Tom Boughton	15 years Boys State staff
Ohio	Dick Cherry	30 years Boys State staff, Past Department Commander 1987-1988
Ohio	Elmer Fuhrhop	28 years Boys State staff, 11 years Chairman of National Children & Youth Commission
Ohio	Del Latta	1997 Boys State Delegate, 30 years U.S. House of Representatives
Ohio	Mike Oxley	1961 Boys State Delegate, 25 years U.S. House of Representatives
Ohio	Don Reader	20 years Boys State staff, Retired Judge Ohio 5th District Court of Appeals
Ohio	Jim Shaw	34 years Boys State staff
Virginia	Vera Bright	25 years Boys State office staff
West Virginia	Glenwood Burton	Past Department Commander
West Virginia	Dana Orndorff	Past Department Commander
West Virginia	Eugene T. Billmeyer, Sr.	Past Department Commander
West Virginia	Denver Gandee	Boys State Supporter
West Virginia	Milton Hoag	Boys State Supporter
West Virginia	Aubrey Lee	First African American Boys State Governor
Wisconsin	Beau Solomon	Assistant City Counselor

A robust discusion was had regarding the selection and evaluation of Boys Nation delegates.
In his closing remarks, Conference Chairman Turner encouraged everyone to use what they've learned and share it with the rest of their staff. He concluded by thanking everyone for what they do for The American Legion and The American Legion Boys State program.

With no other business to come before the group, following a salute to the flag of our country, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Exhibit A

Boys Nation Update to the
Boys State Directors Conference
Indianapolis, Indiana
September 23-25, 2016

Michael D. Buss (IA) Deputy Director
Americanism Division

The 70th anniversary session of American Legion Boys Nation was held July 22-30, 2016, in the Washington, D.C. area. For the 30th year, the Boys Nation program was based at the main campus of Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia. Ninety-eight young men representing 49 Boys State programs participated. The young men were excellent representatives of today's youth, courteous, extremely well- mannered and deeply engaged in the legislative processes of Boys Nation.

The following officers were elected:

President
Anighya Crocker
Springfield, Tennessee

Vice President
Choteau Kammel
Omaha, Nebraska

President Pro-Tempore
Aaron Jaffe
Old Greenwich, Connecticut

Secretary of the Senate
Pranoy Behera
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

The young senators submitted 119 legislative bills and resolutions involving a variety of issues. Leading issues included the federal budget, education, government legislation, and social problems. The attached legislative tracker provides a synopsis of the 2015 Boys Nation Senate legislative agenda and actions. The text of all Legislation can be found on the Boys Nation website @ http://www.legion.org/boysnation/legislation. Our thanks to Tim Aboudara (CA), Legislative Administrative Assistant and Byron Bowles of our MM & C staff at National Headquarters.

The voting process for legislation and the various offices was greatly simplified, much more quicker and very efficient through the introduction of voting clicker technology provided by Jerry Kinder (IA), Senate and Party Counselor.

Highlights of the program included:

- Interviews of Boys Nation President Anighya Crocker, Boys Nation Vice President, Choteau Kammel, Boys Nation Legislative Director Mike Bredeck and Boys Nation Assistant Program Director Tim Lankford again this year on the Jim Bohannon Westwood One 500 radio talk show
- Legion Night hosted by American Legion Post #136 in Greenbelt, Maryland
- Placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery with National Commander Dale Barnett (GA) and Acting National Chaplain Randy Cash (NC)
- A visit to the Vietnam, Korean and World War II memorials
- A day on Capitol Hill

Again this year the Boys Nation webpage located on the Legion website featured daily video newscasts highlighting events at Boys Nation. We also enjoyed great editorial, pictorial and social media coverage on Facebook and Twitter. The Boys Nation video newscasts remain available for viewing on Legion TV.

Boys State Participation- 2016

BOYS STATE	2016	No Shows	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	Variance btwn 2015-2016	Variance btwn 2002 - 2016	Current Fee
ALABAMA	602	11	598	554	585	658	535	585	520	579	532	565	632	632	635	637	4	-35	$225.00
ALASKA	15	0	19	25	25	21	15	25	28	18	16	22	37	38	45	49	-4	-34	$300.00
ARIZONA	256	10	267	287	317	313	327	307	321	302	269	283	298	268	274	285	-11	-29	$450.00
ARKANSAS	581	42	618	604	578	558	609	586	631	565	630	639	700	686	720	730	-37	-149	$175.00
CALIFORNIA	**989**	12	1008	999	1041	998	975	949	935	931	943	931	941	920	920	918	-19	**71**	$330.00
COLORADO	**180**	3	185	180	209	173	162	158	147	142	98	116	152	162	266	153	-5	**27**	$200.00
CONNECTICUT	206	3	213	203	196	212	212	201	227	216	223	225	253	240	240	265	-7	-59	$300.00
DELAWARE	**104**	4	108	101	100	101	101	91	71	59	61	68	64	66	72	81	-4	**23**	$75.00
FLORIDA	**529**	1	535	524	530	519	508	528	528	510	514	505	512	528	517	518	-6	**11**	$450.00
GEORGIA	**349**	0	**324**	315	368	364	349	355	365	358	339	328	368	397	361	355	**25**	-6	$250.00
IDAHO	120	3	134	105	141	144	185	153	185	167	139	162	186	250	250	255	-14	-135	$400.00
ILLINOIS	**469**	25	**452**	463	502	504	535	583	608	526	568	584	576	628	614	620	**17**	-151	$250.00
INDIANA	434	39	483	525	483	513	549	529	597	587	583	600	634	633	650	640	-49	-206	$300.00
IOWA	**438**	14	**432**	469	423	490	512	498	531	570	650	620	692	725	715	691	**6**	-253	$250.00
KANSAS	**483**	16	**450**	469	418	470	451	479	452	405	450	460	478	500	600	639	**33**	-156	$325.00
KENTUCKY	**117**	0	**79**	80	71	55	66	65	65	46	45	54	63	100	100	92	**38**	**25**	$200.00
LOUISIANA	363	7	366	370	387	355	383	430	381	354	500	500	500	700	700	700	-3	-337	$325.00
MAINE	**206**	7	**200**	205	219	203	188	207	227	243	252	260	294	325	356	360	**6**	-154	$300.00
MARYLAND	**208**	5	**187**	194	174	174	149	160	160	150	163	170	182	205	230	203	21	5	$300.00
MASSACHUSETTS	**363**	4	**355**	390	433	423	400	400	403	395	362	386	350	290	350	375	**8**	-12	$325.00
MICHIGAN	**272**	10	**270**	243	274	262	268	262	259	302	315	360	435	435	450	453	**2**	-181	$325.00
MINNESOTA	328	4	344	353	363	379	330	369	383	401	388	405	443	436	453	463	-16	-135	$300.00
MISSISSIPPI	**338**	41	387	379	369	315	260	287	296	231	276	274	285	320	320	320	-49	**18**	$275.00
MISSOURI	**979**	19	983	915	983	989	932	962	983	983	972	987	979	935	946	943	-4	**36**	$400.00
MONTANA	117	4	120	131	170	188	194	170	206	208	227	236	271	245	315	320	-3	-203	$300.00
NEBRASKA	**393**	6	**384**	387	383	396	391	348	372	382	384	339	357	365	380	380	**9**	**13**	$350.00
NEVADA	**125**	46	148	155	164	174	170	161	152	144	123	100	109	135	140	123	-23	**2**	$60.00
NEW HAMPSHIRE	**61**	1	**54**	68	60	57	62	63	59	59	63	33	51	63	84	92	**7**	-31	$325.00
NEW JERSEY	**986**	0	**945**	924	952	970	874	866	820	833	837	788	905	905	900	900	**41**	**86**	$250.00
NEW MEXICO	**97**	15	**95**	129	132	138	105	117	110	109	137	176	173	240	225	202	**2**	-105	$200.00
NEW YORK	968	5	981	922	1020	1030	1052	987	1008	998	1002	1011	982	1060	1086	1080	-13	-112	$350.00
NORTH CAROLINA	**278**	3	**259**	255	275	259	298	309	278	234	248	250	260	310	370	354	**19**	-76	$350.00
NORTH DAKOTA	**90**	14	**75**	105	130	130	105	141	145	142	177	221	190	200	245	245	**15**	-155	$250.00
OHIO	**1229**	21	**1145**	1153	1220	1210	1162	1183	1,155	1200	1225	1290	1310	1240	1300	1261	**84**	-32	$300.00
OKLAHOMA	412	30	467	396	487	502	520	546	622	647	670	689	751	663	687	720	-55	-308	$225.00
OREGON	92	3	130	130	166	123	127	145	144	133	113	156	156	180	180	200	-38	-108	$350.00
PENNSYLVANIA	**237**	10	**213**	201	190	204	199	186	154	153	115	141	147	161	147	150	**24**	**87**	$175.00
RHODE ISLAND	17	1	29	21	34	32	44	40	39	30	26	30	20	25	23	25	-12	-8	$175.00
SOUTH CAROLINA	**1087**	19	**1025**	1016	945	859	853	900	863	811	808	810	837	877	835	820	**62**	**267**	$300.00
SOUTH DAKOTA	299	32	304	315	350	393	427	435	414	410	414	440	496	475	496	496	-5	-197	$175.00
TENNESSEE	550	50	609	629	584	570	573	556	582	602	600	587	620	632	632	632	-59	-82	$350.00
TEXAS	**1023**	31	1005	909	936	801	815	691	691	723	754	719	817	849	881	908	**18**	**115**	$295.00
UTAH	**269**	3	**225**	231	231	256	258	189	221	199	210	175	185	201	270	270	**44**	-1	$375.00
VERMONT	**119**	2	**110**	129	125	131	106	101	120	143	124	140	120	148	167	167	**9**	-48	$275.00
VIRGINIA	**681**	13	**641**	704	700	739	733	761	790	819	773	768	801	782	836	834	**40**	-153	$400.00
WASHINGTON	**169**	11	**163**	167	231	170	232	184	267	273	221	222	300	325	323	324	**6**	-155	$400.00
WEST VIRGINIA	**415**	15	**385**	352	477	418	310	302	315	351	325	360	342	362	361	386	**30**	**29**	$200.00
WISCONSIN	877	4	878	864	856	883	865	855	826	814	788	830	820	830	880	878	-1	-1	$250.00
WYOMING	50	0	62	72	105	83	85	100	100	68	93	98	120	109	130	150	-12	-100	$150+$25
TOTALS	**19570**	**619**	**19449**	**19317**	**20112**	**19909**	**19561**	**19505**	**19756**	**19525**	**19745**	**20113**	**21194**	**21801**	**22677**	**22662**	**121**	-3092	
																			8/10/2016

Exhibit B