

# AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE OF KANSAS *Staters Union*

Volume 70 Issue 1 • Sunday June 10, 2007 • Marlatt, Goodnow Halls • Kansas State University



## Hometown:

Arkansas City, Kansas

## Education:

Washburn University School of Law

## Leadership Roles:

1955 Boys State Delegate

Peace Corps

C.E.O. for National Public Radio

U.S. Justice Department

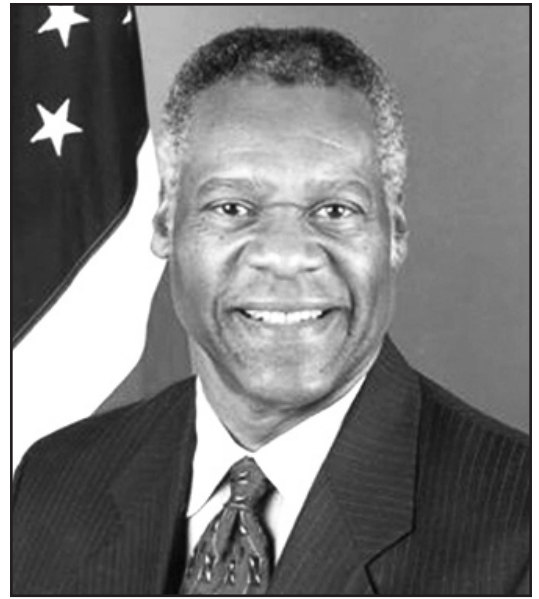
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

U.S. Ambassador to South Africa

## When:

2:30 p.m. Opening Ceremonies

McCain Auditorium



## Coordinators move up in ranks

### Jordan Watson

#### Stater's Union Advisor

"Reinvention is the key to the success of Boys State," Thane Chastain, Director of Development, said.

With the opening of the 70th anniversary session of Boys State reinvention has been a major theme. Newer computers have been purchased, projects have been updated and two coordinators, Rick Raven, former Events Coordinator, and Mike Zimmers, former Head Director, have been promoted to advisors.

Being a coordinator takes a lot of planning in the months away from state and often times, careers can conflict with coordinator meetings. This was the reason that Zimmers

and Raven received the promotion to Advisor.

"It was really my time schedule at work. I felt that I couldn't do both without short changing one or possibly both so I chose to still be involved by being an advisor," Zimmers said.

Zimmers works as a Program Engineer at AKRO Fireguard, in Lenexa, Ks. Raven runs his own business entitled Raven Enterprises.

They found worthy replacements with Jared Meitler, former Assistant Events Counselor, taking over as Events Coordinator. Spencer Sward, former Hall Coordinator, will be the new Office Coordinator and Jake Ellis, former County Counselor, will be the Marlatt Hall

Coordinator.

"Jared brings a great deal of energy and a desire to know more about all aspects of the program and Jake brings a tremendous sense of organization and drive," Chastain said.

These new appointments are going to fill all of the jobs that Raven and Zimmers left behind as they moved up to Advisors.

Jobs can be filled but Raven and Zimmers left behind a legacy as coordinators.

"Rick has unrivaled enthusiasm and Zimmers is completely unflappable," Chastain said.

Raven and Zimmers developed very close relationships with the staff of Boys State as they moved through the ranks. Often times the See **Promotions** on Page 4

## Active involvement builds courage

**Scott Bley**

Curriculum Coordinator

Welcome to the 70th session of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas. An army of volunteers has dedicated many hours in the off-season to improving various aspects of the program so that each of you has a positive experience. The fruits of our labors will soon be revealed during the course of this single week.

I can distinctly remember my first day of Boys State back when I was a delegate in 2000. I had a lot of feelings bottled up inside me, but excitement definitely wasn't one of them... more like uncertainty, confusion, and fear. Many of you are probably experiencing some of

those same feelings. Don't worry – you are not alone.

You may be asking yourselves the same questions I asked myself five years ago. What is Boys State? Why am I here? Is this a conspiracy by my parents to get rid of me for a week? Did I get sent here because I failed my history class?

Unfortunately, I can't answer those questions for you. Boys State means different things to different people, and in the end, the reasons that delegates give for being here are as numerous as the delegates themselves. Regardless of why you are here, the realization is that you are here. Someone back home thought enough of you and your abilities to sponsor your participa-

tion in Boys State.

Now each of you is faced with a choice. What will you do with the week you have been given? A world of opportunities awaits you. You alone must choose how you will spend your week at Boys State. In the end, you will get out of the week what you put into it. Will you take an active part in the Boys State simulation and government process? Will you work with one another to solve the problems that confront your cities and counties?

The choice is up to you. We wish you well in your decision. We wish you courage to face your fears. We wish you success for your week at Boys State.

## Immerse yourself in volunteerism

**Tyler Suelter**

Goodnow Hall Coordinator

I am honored to welcome you to the seventieth session of Kansas Boys State. A meme during our training and preparation for the year has been "good to great," through continued improvement and refinement of our amazing program. I would like to relate this idea to your experience at State: for many, the Boys State program is an inflection point in their lives. Young men, like yourself, depart

from the road that they are on to a path of greatness.

As with any things in life, how much you get out of Boys State is directly correlated to how much you give to the program. To get the most out of this "week to change a lifetime" I challenge you to immerse yourself in the program and engage the other delegates, your counselors, coordinators, and advisors. Try to meet new people with new thoughts and ideas.

In our program, just as in our

commonwealth, the efforts of one person can affect the lives of all of its citizens. Consider carefully the repercussions of your ideas, and the ways in which those actions will play out in the future. Ensure that your decisions are justified, and that they serve the greater good.

When you leave on Saturday, I hope that you will be motivated to participate in our own great democracy. Whether or not you pursue politics in your future, I encour-

See **Volunteerism** on Page 4

## Empowering people

**Spencer Sward**

Office Coordinator

This May I graduated with bachelor's degrees in social work and art from Bethel College. The professional actions of all social workers are governed by the Social Work Code of Ethics. The first line of the preamble to the code of ethics states:

The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty.

Key points in this statement are 1) enhancing human well-being, and 2) empowering people to help

themselves become better. I see a great deal of connection between this and Boys State. The counselors want to enhance the lives of all the delegates that attend the program. This is why we all come back every year, giving up a week of our summer, volunteering our time to be a part of this program. This is why many of the advisors have dedicated 30+ years of their lives to the program – helping it grow and be the best it can be. It is my hope that all of you have the best possible experience you could have. I hope that each of you walk away from this program profoundly changed in a positive way by your experience here.

The goal of the Boys State Staff is See **Empowering** on Page 4

## Opportunities wait at State

**Jared Meitler**

State Events Coordinator

Welcome to the 70th session of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas. First off, I want to wish you all congratulations for being invited to a program that has changed so many men's lives in the past 69 years. You are now part of an elite group of young men who have become leaders in many aspects of society. The week ahead of you will be many things; fun, challenging, inspiring, exciting, perhaps disappointing at times, and

eye-opening.

One thing I would encourage you to keep in the front of your minds during your short stay here is that each one of you has the opportunity to do and be whatever you wish. There are no limits to what each of you can become. When you get home, please remember to thank those who made this program possible and good luck in everything you do this week and apply what you learn to your lives beyond Boys State.

## State can bring friendships, knowledge

**Jake Ellis**

Marlatt Hall Coordinator

Congratulations on being selected to attend the 70th session of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas. Young men from all across Kansas have been selected by their teachers, high school counselors and members of their communities as exemplary leaders and have come together to participate in a week filled with government, leadership and fun.

During this week you will have the opportunity to actively participate in a simulated government complete with real time economic results. Some of you will be chosen as city councilmen and county commissioners and will be given the challenge of improving the welfare of all of the citizens within your realms of jurisdiction. Some of you will choose to work for Political Action Committees (PACs), which are organized around a particular interest, and your job will be to promote your PAC's ideological views to both the See **Knowledge** on Page 4

## ***Volunteerism*** from page 2

age you to participate in service to others through volunteerism. I cannot imagine a more benevolent enterprise than benefiting the lives of others. I challenge you to take what you learn this week and apply it to your own school, city, county, state, and country. Share your experiences with others in your school and community. Actively debate and discuss policies that you are interested in, write your elected officials, vote, run, whatever. However you decide to participate, never underestimate the influence of your voice.

## ***Promotions*** from page 1

staff of Boys State would become part of their lives outside of state.

"Zimmer's wedding was a great Boys State get together and we all had a blast," Chastain said.

Passion is a must-have at Boys State and Raven was notorious for being passionate about every detail of his job.

"Everything he ever did he put 100% into," Zimmers said. "He wouldn't rest the entire week until he accomplished everything he wanted to do. He was truly selfless during state."

run its course with the it's new staff promotions.

Zimmers will be mentoring King

and Kennedy County and Raven will return to Boys' State in the years to come as an Advisor.

## ***Knowledge*** from page 3

local and state governments. Other will run for the House or Senate and will be responsible for passing the budget as well as other legislation that will affect the entire state. Lastly, staters will be appointed to different departments and positions within the state level of government. These positions are all equally important to the success of the democratic system of government that we operate under.

Through this week we hope that you gain knowledge of how the government works and how different entities must interact in order for our government to be functional. Most importantly, we hope that you are able to create interpersonal relationships that you can continue to foster throughout the rest of your high school careers.

## ***Empowering*** from page 3

to empower each and every one of you to become the best leader you can be. We want to help give you the skills to become the best you

can be in whatever position you are elected or appointed to. I believe that each of you have the potential to be great. Another major concept in social work is the strengths perspective. The idea behind this concept is that every individual had strengths that help them survive and thrive in their environment.

As Maya Angelou said, "Diversity makes for a rich tapestry. We must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value, no matter their color; equal in importance no matter their texture."

A core value of social work is a belief in the dignity and worth of each person, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or political view. As you debate, work with, and interact with other individuals this week, remember to treat each other with dignity and respect.

This session of Boys State is my second year as a coordinator, and I am very excited about it. I am looking forward to working with you all. I know it is going to be awesome!

Good Luck, gentlemen.

Spencer Sward, Media and Events Coordinator

## **Letters to the editor policy**

Letters to the editor are encouraged and accepted. Letters must be signed to be considered for publication. All letters will be edited for space, grammar and legality. Letters should be taken to the Stater's Union office.

All stories pertaining to Boys' State within these pages refer to a simulated society, and editorail license may have been used to report the 'facts' of such stories.