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COUNSELORS SIZE UP STATE



BY BRETT CHAPMAN, JOSH KHANG AND DANIEL PARK

Writers for The Delegate

Eighty students. Around eighty young men on just one of the floors at this year's Boys State of Kansas. Eighty boys in a week long camp. And they are all handled under the care of just four individuals for each county: the counselors. Being volunteers and Boys State alumni, these men are in charge of leading delegates to a successful year. However, the massive number of eighty boys was not always the case. In the years before, the number of boys the counselors had to watch over was nearly half of this year, and counselors are facing challenges in face of this.

The responsibilities of the counselors have changed as a result of the larger county numbers with the larger amounts of boys under their watch. Joe Mirakian, a counselor for the Kennedy county, stated that the larger numbers have caused counselors to make "more last minute improvisations" to be able to include all students for their plans. This year there are five county divisions for the

STATERS at opening ceremonies in McCain Auditorium. Photo Credit Dustin Curiel

camp with around eighty students in each county. Compared to the 10 counties each containing around thirty to forty delegates from the previous years, the new numbers are a near double to what the counselors have to manage. Possible reasons for this situation is the increase in number of delegates participating in Kansas Boys State and also the fewer number of counselors.

For some counselors, the news of the increase in number came just a few weeks before camps started, giving more boys for the counselors to be responsible for mentoring without experience or time to adjust. There's increased difficulty in ensuring that each and every delegate is involved and mentored in larger groups. There's also a greater amount of effort needed to keep a larger group in check in order to push the delegates on a path to success.

Mirakian also mentioned "slightly more isolation between cities" as a result of the increase in numbers. As number of delegates per county increases, it becomes increasingly

difficult for county counselors to maintain involvement. The difficulty is what he believes is a main cause of the "isolation" between cities. The larger groups are more easily divided and with the fewer number of counselors, the unity of the state may be harder to maintain as the delegates are split off by this "isolation".

However, with larger counties, the counselors believe the delegates' experience change as well, and possibly for the better. Mirakian believes with the larger counties this year, "delegates will be able to create more relations with each other than in previous years." Similarly, Ryan Fullerton, the curriculum coordinator, believes "the larger counties increase creativity in how delegates interact with each other." The popular opinion believes delegates will experience larger amounts of interactions with others to their benefit, practice communication and leadership on a larger level, and participate in a larger model that imitates their community today.

The Delegate is a designated forum of free speech. The print edition is published every day of Boys State by the Media Staff. It is distributed throughout Kansas Boys State for no charge. All stories pertaining to Boys State within these pages refer to a simulated society, and editorial license may have been used to report the "facts" of such stories. Letters to the editor are encouraged and accepted. Letters must be signed and the writer's county indicated to be considered for publication. All letters are subject to editing for length, legal, grammatical and factual reasons. Letters should be taken to the media office in Wefald Hall 302. To contact The Delegate, please email us at media@ksbstatesim.org.

Kansas' Future Lies in Bipartisanship

BY GRAHAM BOND AND PEYTON WEIXELMAN
Writers for The Delegate

According to party leaders, the future of Kansas lies in bipartisanship. After speaking with both the Nationalist and the Federalist Chairmen, both members mentioned that bipartisan voting would be a big part of the upcoming campaign.

Nationalist Chairman Tyler Boutte wished to address a couple significant issues during his time in office. He was asked a few questions about the upcoming elections, challenges his party plans to take on, and a few other details including his plans to interact with opposing state legislation.

"We're gonna try to elect people to our state legislature and our state executive office and work with our senate and house representatives on both sides, not only the nationalists, so we enact legislation that benefits both parties," Boutte said.

Boutte also stated education would be the backbone of the team's campaign. As stated by Boutte, "We have seen huge cuts in education in the past few years, which is an issue we can address. And by creating appealing solutions to both sides we two parties can reach an agreement to take appropriate action."

John Price, Chairman of the Federalist Party, had similar words to say about the upcoming elections.

"We are intending to run a campaign that, while remaining to our core conservative values, is something more in the middle of the spectrum in order to attract as many nationalist voters as we can," Price said.

The Nationalists, while

trying to score some State positions, have no intention of losing track of their party's core values.

"[Party leaders have been] talking about issues such as healthcare and social issues for people," said Boutte. "We've seen in recent years a lot of cutbacks on education. Also, there's a lot of issues going on socially with our schools, and that's something that needs to be addressed because it secures our future."

On the other side, the Federalists are still in debate about the future of their party within the next week. However, multiple Federalists are considering running in the gubernatorial race.

"So, at the moment we have several of our other leaders for the Federalist party who have declared their intent to run," said Price. "So far, some of them have already brought forward many of their ideas. We also have several other individual members from different counties who have expressed personally to me their intent to run. Hopefully, we'll be meeting with them tonight and within the next couple of days to speak and further develop our platform."

According to Price, CJ Pfananstiel, Dalton White, and Dominic LiCastro, all county-level Federalist party leaders are planning to run in the upcoming election for Governor of Kansas.

All in all, Boys State is already moving at a quick pace; both sides are showing signs of willingness to find a common ground with the opposing party in order to gain as many future votes as possible, and the gubernatorial race is starting to receive much attention as the delegate wait in anticipation.

Get Real!

BY GRAHAM BOND
Writer for The Delegate

We at Kansas Boys State are currently modelling a state government, yet is this model being taken seriously enough? I'm asking this question, as I've run into several people throughout the camp that have won high positions in the simulation by simply telling jokes during election speeches. On my floor alone, people have brought national and past issues to attention as if they are currently relevant in a state government setting.

Fear mongering about communism, use of vulgar language to call out corruption, and proposals of

remodelling state governments to match foreign national governments have elected several people just from my county of Powell. While I'll admit, the candidates comments were funny, they didn't establish confidence in some people.

I'm eager to see how the camp continues in the upcoming days. After all, the words "a week that changed my life" are never too far away from the Boys State logo. After all, I already feel like I'm growing up and maturing a bit, and the experience has been really fun and refreshing.

Have Fun!

BY DANIEL PARK
Writer for The Delegate

To be perfectly honest, I no intention of wanting to enjoy my week here when I first arrived at the K-State campus. I believed that this would be a long week filled with boring things to do. I joked with people I knew back at home about how formal and dull this camp would be and how I would be stuck doing monotonous work for a whole week.

That changed the moment I walked in to the orientation for my county.

Talking to people, making jokes, screaming a whatever dumb thing happened in the last two

seconds. These small details of what happens as I interact with people truly got me involved in the camp. It was only after I had fun in an area that let me fool around when I found myself wanting to get involved.

I do understand that we, as delegates, have a specific goal of stepping out of our comfort zone at Kansas Boys State and all the "Become a outstanding citizen!" mantras, but honestly, it's a camp. And it's summer. And we're highschool guys. We should have our fun.

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