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A WEEK THAT  
Changed  
MY LIFE

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## Whistle Stop Tour 2013

### Candidates begin running for elected office

**By Jared Shelton**  
**Staters Union**

Going into the Whistle Stop Tour this morning, few knew what it actually was. Was it a tour?

Did it involve a whistle? As we all now know, the Whistle Stop Tour was a chance for people running for positions to formally address the public about tactics and ideas they possessed and promised to carry out if they were voted into office.

This involved numerous skills, including confidence, public speaking, and the ability to vocalize ideas.

Participants of this campaign were very diverse in their levels of experience.

Of course, some had years and years of public speaking - due to forensics and debate - whereas others were speaking to an audience for their first time.

"I was a little nervous going into it, but once I went through a couple of floors, I started to get more and more comfortable with it," said Henry, the campaigner for the Nationalist Governor in the county of Eisenhower.

Others said that preparing for the speeches they gave was both physically and mentally draining.

Because this campaign was taken so seriously, a lot of stress was put upon the candidates.

During the actual tour, the audience started off strong and focused.

They paid attention to each speaker

and ranked the presenters as best they could.

However, after an hour of doing so, some found it hard to focus because it simply got harder to keep track of the people and their speeches.

Another distraction seemed to be inappropriate questions during the campaigners crucial three minute time block.

Some felt that it wasn't moral to take time away from speakers by asking irrelevant questions that were only considered as time wasters.

On a different note, the technology that was used to vote appeared to help efficiency and thus contributed to the smoothness and successfulness of the Whistle Stop Tour.



Text Polling Not So Easy

By Kent Chrest  
Staters Union

While the advance of technology is unpredictable and rapid, the Boys State program attempts to take advantage of the benefits new technologies offer. This is the first year that voting will be held primarily by text instead of traditional paper ballots, but the important question is will it work effectively? No doubt it is quicker and easier than counting ballots, but everything must be in order to make sure everything runs smoothly.

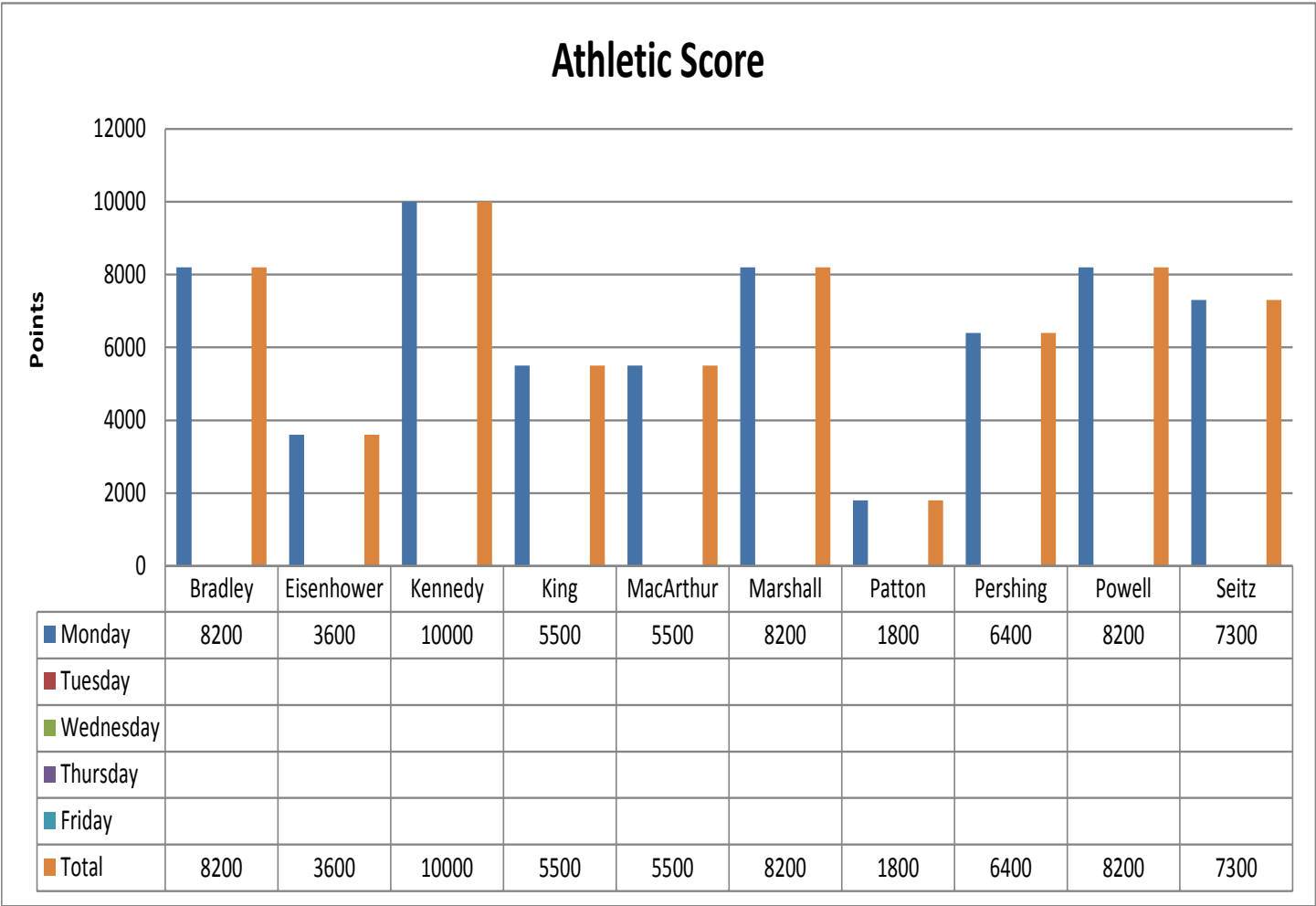
The use of technology in the voting process is an upgrade, but with that, there were some bugs in the system. In order to register into the system, the students were told to text a certain number to receive a response to make sure they are in the system. Some of the students got through to the system perfectly but others had difficulties.

“I texted the number and waited and waited for a response that didn’t come,” one Stater later explained.

Another student received a response that simply said the pollings were already closed. Although the technology advancement is great, is the system effective enough to use? Even if the Staters weren’t able to vote via texting, the numbers were still minimal and it was fixed simply by letting them fill out a paper ballot. Even with the minor setbacks, the voting system is a step in the right direction in terms of technology. One way or another, each and every Stater’s voice was heard.

Then again, who succeeds fully on the first try? The moral of the story is that although there were small mishaps in the new system of voting that can be improved for future years of state, it is still impressive and adds value to the program.

Sports Update



## A Change of Heart

By **Luke McGowan**  
Staters Union

Unrest in the Federalist Party! According to Nationalist Attorney General candidate Chase Barclay, the Heritage Foundation is currently displeased with the apparent lack of party platform organization shown thus far by the Federalist party leaders.

Barclay states, "[The Heritage Foundation] expressed some dismay at the fact that the Federalists have not even proposed a plan yet."

The Foundation is in fact discussing and may very well support the Nationalist Party.

This is an interesting step as this particular PAC has always been one of strong support for the Federalists. Should the public worry about Federalists chances of election now that their strongest supporter is bailing out?

## Military Intel to Fisherman

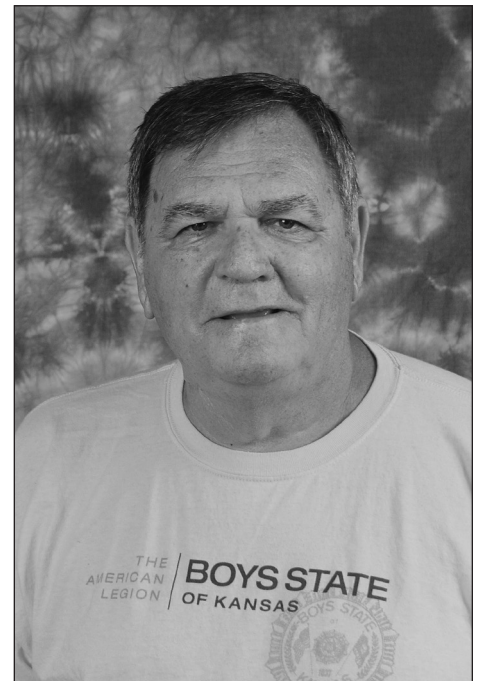
By **James Stapleton**  
Staters Union

Sometimes we have a lot to learn from history and the shocking effect it had on our country's citizens. Our own Legionare Bob Jenkins has been in those situations.

From 1965-1968, Jenkins went into infantry school for his ROTC. He eventually went on his way in the 82nd airborne along with the 135th intelligence group in Vietnam, and soon after became a member of the 902nd intel group of the Pentagon. His job was to help POWs get released of imprisonment under Vietnamese forces. After his time in Vietnam, he went to Pittsburgh University to play basketball, and then

on to Washburn to become a lawyer. He even helped with the funerals of Martin Luther King Jr and Bobby Kennedy. One event that happened during his course of work was a march on the Pentagon that rallied over 300,000 people. They marched to the walls and then around the building, trying to emulate that of the biblical story of the City of Jericho. Sadly, however, it did not end as they had intended.

When some tried to force themselves into the building, they were met by force. Today, Jenkins is a man who enjoys fishing when he has the opportunity.



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**>> Boys State News broadcast <<**  
every day online and during assemblies  
at McCain Auditorium!



<http://www.youtube.com/ksbstate>



## Changes To Education

**By William Montgomery Staters Union**

Today the Nationalist and Federalist candidates participated in a press conference. Our media team had the opportunity to ask them questions pertaining to their election and their plans for their respective counties. We asked both parties how they felt about the state's education, as it ranks very low compared to most other countries.

Carl Palmquist, the Governor candidate for the Nationalist party stated, "Education is important, and it's not about teaching them, but about giving them a better economic future."

Palmquist added that education is an investment and that the money we put in now will come back in the future and increase exponentially.

"As far as education goes I definitely support it and giving more money to the schools who need it, especially under No Child Left Behind," said Palmquist.

Drew Stapp, the State Treasurer candidate for the Nationalist also com-

mented, saying, "The thing that separates us from other countries like Finland is that Finland actually invests in their teachers and their teachers all come from the top third of their graduating class in college, while we have them come from the middle third. Investing in teachers like the Governor said is probably something we should do."

The Federalists were asked the same question and the Governor Yang Yang Li responded saying that it is very important and that he fully supports it.

"I believe it is important that our state has good education. One of the ways we can do that is by investing in good teachers that will help students go on to do much, much more," Li said.

Samuel Pat, the Federalist Attorney General candidate, said that he too will do his best to make our state better in education, because he believes it is important that our students get a good education and a great career after college.

It was great to see both parties opinions as we look forward to the general election tomorrow.

## Reviewing Gun Control Policies

**By Luck McGowan Staters Union**

In today's press conference under the apropos sound of rolling artillery fire, KBS Media asked the Federalist and Nationalist candidates their views on Gun Law reform and what they felt should be done to counter the seemingly growing number of mass shootings.

Nationalist Governor candidate Carl Palmquist responded "The first step in reforming gun laws is, of course, stricter background checks."

Palmquist also added that this is a subject of debate that is bipartisan, with both parties standing behind reform. Federalist Lt. Governor candidate, Alex Houston added another interesting aspect of the debate.

"The only way to change how guns are changed in society [...] is to change the ideology and the mindset

we have towards them [...] at the roots which is education.

Interestingly enough, Houston was not alone in this theory. When the Federalist candidates were questioned on the same issue, Governor candidate Yang Yang also had something to say.

"We have to work in other areas such as mental health and education, as opposed to a complete ban on all firearms."

With a slightly different message than Houston, the Li talked about how these educational measures could be used to find possible perpetrators of these atrocities before the crime is ever committed.

Federalist Attorney General candidate Samuel Pate concluded by stating that, "if [he] were elected, [he] would be defending the people of Kansas, not guns."

Only time will tell how these well stacked parties fair in the general election.

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## Convention Overview: Nationalists

**By Jackson Koger**  
**Staters Union**

"I obviously had no idea how this was going to go to-night but I was thinking we would just go with the flow and get people as hyped as possible. Ideally that would happen and I came here a my mind was blown," Nationalist governor candidate Carl Palmquist said.

The Staters left their counties en masse around 9:44 late Tuesday evening and traversed across shadowy parking lots towards their highly anticipated political conventions.

Finally the horde of soon to be high school seniors met the yellow-shirted gatekeepers and were forked into two separate directions with the proud nationalists going to the right, ending at the Leadership Studies building.

"My brother went here and he told me to have as much fun [at the convention] as you could," Canyon Smith M.C. of the Nationalist Convention.

Nationalists were met with enthusiastic high fives, "whoohoos" and free candy raining down from their party's candidates.

Not soon after arriving a spontaneous chant and clap for Carl erupted throughout the auditorium rising in decibels as it progressed.

The rally was not only to speak on the hopes of the candidates to be elected, but they also made sure to give shout outs to the several PACs supporting their cause.

Some of the PACs listed throughout Palmquist's speech included the Farmers Alliance, Alternative Energy Alliance, Assembly for the Advancement of Minorities, the surprising Heritage Association, Education First Association, League of Industrial Workers, Oil and Gas Workers Organization, and the People for American Way who responded with insane cheers and a chant of "Carl County".

The wide range of PAC backing displayed support for the Nationalist candidate coming from both parties.

"I think we really have the Nationalists on our side basically, on lock-down now and now it's just getting those federalists and independents," Nationalist Lt. governor candidate Alex Houston said.

The night ended on a note of optimal excitement with the entire Nationalist party busting a move to the "Carl Shake" and a quick Q&A session where the delegates found out that both of the governor candidates attend the same school.

It was fitting that the final question asked displayed the intensity brought throughout the Convention in six simple words.

"ARE YOU GONNA FREAKIN' WIN CARL?!" Elijah Short of Schmitt city, Pershing county screamed in Ray Lewis esque ferocity.



## Convention Overview: Federalists

**By Kent Chrest**  
**Staters Union**

The Federalist Party platform held their convention at Umberger Hall on Monday Night. James Davis, candidate for Commissioner of Insurance opened the ceremony with a humor-filled speech. The platform that he stressed was putting an end to the fly-by-night agencies that were taking advantage of the Staters that ultimately had no good purpose. He also proposed to lower premiums and offer tax incentives. Another point was to amp up adjustor speed, to keep the people happy as soon as possible. His ultimate stress for the Federalist party was for the most part conservative, but with changes that are only effective.

Next to the podium was State Treasurer candidate Vishnu Nagireddy. His main goal was to fund programs that the counties were heavily dependent on. Money gathered from PACs was going to be a key component of the counties getting their well-deserved money back somehow or another. The Federalist party supporters were enthused by his emphasis on local level

sectors rather than the whole state in general. The counties and towns were the roots of his platform.

David Nolan from Patton County was next to speak, running on behalf of his Federalist nomination for Secretary of State. Nolan's platform really harped on the idea of getting things done from not certain individuals, but by the input of everyone. Nothing can be accomplished without teamwork and collective effort by all the Federalist supporters.

Attorney General candidate Samuel Pate began his speech by telling everyone to think of their favorite sports team. Next, he wanted to paint the picture in everyone's heads how smoothly things would run on that team if everyone had their own different collective ideas that wanted to be put in play. As if it's not hard enough running your own sports team (government). During his speech, he also deemed the popular slogan of "Make it great with a Federal State". As you could imagine, Umberger Hall was ecstatic at that point.

Embracing the momentum, Jared Brown, candidate for Lt. Governor

hoped to instill hope in the people through his education plan. He argued that education is the strongest base, needed by everyone in order to succeed and to make the country stronger in all aspects. Such aspects as farmers creating newer more effective systems of cropping. Brown also mentioned more incentives for teachers and also preached about teachers implementing the STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) program.

As all the Federalists had waited for, it was Yang Yang Li's turn to speak. His emphasis more than anything was that the candidates could not perform alone, rather than with teamwork and backing from the members of the party. From the crowd's initial reactions, it seemed like he had achieved trust from the members of the party.

After more chanting from the crowd, the Federalist party convention was over with and people took away with what they had wanted to. With the intensity of the Federalist party, there's no telling on how the primary elections will end up.

The Staters Union is a designated forum of free speech. The print edition is published every day of Boys State by the Staters Union Staff. It is distributed for no charge throughout Kansas Boys State. 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 Staters Union office in the basement of Marlatt Hall (Room 20). To contact the Staters Union, please email us at [ksbsmedia@gmail.com](mailto:ksbsmedia@gmail.com).

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