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# STATERS UNION

A WEEK THAT  
Changed  
MY LIFE

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## Paper Trail Sheds Light on Ethical Issues

**By Luke McGowan**  
**Staters Union**

Controversy abounds in a certain county following routine data collection. While pursuing another story in Goodnow Hall, Staters Union journalists happened upon a very interesting piece of information. Journalists were wondering how counties had been acquiring their funds and what was being done with them. When this county was questioned, they released information concerning a very strange amount of money.

County commissioners stated that they had received a whopping sum of \$1000 dollars from a PAC which will remain unnamed. Following this interview, Staters Union followed up by speaking to this PAC. A representative of the group stated, "they told us they were going to build a police/fire station."

While by itself this information does not appear scandalous, during the data collection interview the a County Commissioner leaked that they might not have told the PAC the exact truth regarding what they could do with their authority and that some ploys might have been used in the process. Staters Union spoke with the PAC again, and it was revealed that not only had a police/fire station been in the agreement but also the appointment of a new sheriff. After viewing the county's financial statement and discussing the matter with several county commissioners who all repeatedly deny the purchase of a sheriff, questions were arising with few answers. Why had the PAC donated so much money, and why were parts of the agreement not met by this county?

Looking for more answers, the PAC was paid another visit, however, this time they refused to comment and left without saying anything except that they wanted to stay on this county's good side. Now up a creek without a paddle, the Staters Union was desperate for answers until one anonymous, concerned citizen stepped forward to clean up the story. According to the source, "the \$1000 dollars was for [a sheriff] with the objective to create a police station for the capture of [a Federalist Party Candidate] for possession of cocaine." When asked about the validity of this candidate's apparent crime, the source stated, "[He] never had any cocaine."

This story began as intrigue, followed by a transforma-

tion into an exciting quest to find who-dunn-it in an apparent scandal, and finally culminated into a conclusion that had not been anticipated. Staters Union eventually found what had been sought, although it had an ugly side to it.

### The Lesson

What started as a simple curiosity at such a large money transfer, was revealed to be a county and PAC working together to sabotage a candidate's campaign. It is understood that this instance is completely fictitious, as the cocaine was simply crushed mints and these PACs and Counties are simply rowdy teenage guys. However, it does matter. It is important to understand that these actions, while found by some to be humorous, have the potential to tarnish the Boys State experience of some. This is, in fact, a form of bullying and should not be taken lightly. All may hope that humor is taken where it is given, but it only takes one misinterpreted action or word to set off powder keg of problems.

News of these events eventually reached the ears of the higher rings of authority in Boys State and they felt a degree of intervention was required. It was their belief that in addition to a story it would be a wise move to publish a bit of constructive criticism to the staters. Program Coordinator, Adam Doyle, spoke to Stater's Union, saying, "We take everyone's experience during the week very seriously, and we don't enjoy when people base their experience off of the disexperience of another person." He was very adamant about making sure that everyone achieves the absolute best experience possible at Boys State so that they can go out into life and become successful leaders as the Legion intends. He also states that "any cases of bullying [...] are really not tolerated and looked heavily down upon here."

Overall this story has a message to everyone. It demonstrates to all staters that the key to their success lies not in their personal victories, but in the victories of those around them and how they help those around them to achieve those victories. This message leaves no one in the cold. If every stater puts in his share of work for his fellow man, he will receive his just rewards tenfold and be a better person for it. Hopefully this article has helped to shed some light and guidance to any of those currently lost in the whirl and swirl that is the politics of Kansas Boys State and serves as a reminder to all of what it truly means to be here.

## Staters Express Feelings for Counselors

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

As we reach the middle of our Boys State week here at Kansas State University, we get accustomed to the ins and outs of the entire operation. We know where to go when, what to wear where, and what's appropriate or not. However, although we staters have grown comfortable with day to day life here, there still seems to be problems that arise daily in our experiences this week.

Campers continue to discuss showers, lunch schedules, and other problems as well, including lack of sleep and the monitoring that occurred during last night's speaker convention to ensure that all phones were kept in pockets.

A somewhat touchy subject that has also been floating around lately is evaluations of the counselors. Many have different opinions about the performance of their leaders so far this week. Numerous Staters have distinct and different views about the counselors. Some feel like their counselors are doing an amazing job, many are indifferent, and some

even feel like the evaluations of some head positions need work.

"I love our county and it's counselors," said Toby Jenkins. "They do a great job of telling us where to be when, and we really have a lot of fun with them."

The majority of the Staters here seem to have views similar to these, however, a few view their personal situation differently.

"My head counselor seems to yell a lot and overreact," said an anonymous source. "But later, if we're talking one on one, he'll seem really cool. I think he just expects a lot out of us and doesn't want us to walk all over him."

We have to remember that the counselors, in the end, are just trying to do their jobs as best they can. We have to remember that they're here first and foremost for us. We all know that one teacher back home who is a complete push-over, and these leaders want to go into State acting aggressively so we'll gain their respect. In the end it's all for us, and they're all doing a really phenomenal job!

# Your Ad Could Go Here!!!

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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## State Cabinet Comes Unhinged

**By Jackson Koger  
Staters Union**

Most people would think the first bill signed into law by our Boys State Governor would be a meaningful, symbolic legislation that will signal the mindset to carry the State for the rest of the week. As for the first major bill signed in by the new governor of the state Carl Palmquist, it was seen by many as the exact opposite of that.

The bill, as explained by Senator Khayman Short of Icenogle, carries out punishment for those who wear Nike Elite socks while not playing sports, wearing socks one-third of the way to the knee or higher, having multiple pairs of Sperry's, diamond stud earrings, wearing more than one pair of socks at one time, donning sunglasses indoors, or simply having a pair of beats.

Mr. Short and the rest of the Senators around him went on to explain how one would be charged under this law. All it requires is for any citizen to call out the alleged offender and alert a Highway Patrol officer to assess the situation. Another provision in the bill allows the complete hurdle of the officer and will allow a person to be charged if five or more persons accuse them.

The penalty carried for these "infractions" carries a sentence of 30 minutes in jail or wearing a nametag that singles out the person for their offense.

Many Staters expressed displeasure with the law. A large portion was not even aware of its existence, until they were asked how they felt about breaking State legislation. In which several expressed shocked looks and disbelief, even reasons for their apparel.

"I personally think it is stupid, all I brought were these Elites. I usually always wear my socks this high because I do not like my legs," Ian Bollinger of Bramlage city, Bradley county said.

Others saw it as nonsensical legislation and felt it was an

infraction on their rights.

"It is kind of a style now, it is what people do. You are not letting them show their personality. That isn't right," Ter-rance Egger of Mantey city, Patton county said.

An opportunity presented itself at the daily press conference where governor Carl Palmquist, who condoned the bill with his signature, was asked about why he felt it was a necessary law.

He adamantly explained that the purpose was to drive out bad attitudes associated with these Staters and to provide a more positive environment.

But when followed up with why he believes that everyone who wears the previously mentioned clothing needed an attitude change when even his own Commissioner of Insurance who was standing less than three feet away was in violation of the very law Palmquist had signed, (In addition, there is still a private investigation into whether Palmquist's very own Lieutenant Governor Alex Houston has more than the one pair of Sperrys he was wearing during the conference), Palmquist shifted the attention to the Legislative branch attempting to wipe his own hands clean.

The only issue with this transfer of attention is the fact that the Legislation could not have been passed without expressed consent from the Governor in the form of a signature. Which unless the House and Senate threatened to nuke the state if the bill was not passed, Palmquist knowingly signed a law that even his own board is violating.

Not to mention the biggest issue of all. Is the law even constitutional according to the Kansas Constitution which all of Boys State heard would be upheld by these elected officials. According to "The Kansas Act Against Discrimination" (44-1001), the answer is no, the law is not constitutional. Unless you believe that just because someone wears certain clothes or pulls their socks up higher threatens you in any way, you should probably be against this law too.



Twins Working at State

By Taner Sass
Staters Union

This years Boys State Programs has three sets of twins in attendance. Jared and Jacob Brown of King and Pershing county, Zach and Garrett Shoeman of Seitz and MacArthur county, and Eric and Aaron Gray of Kennedy and Patton county.
The set of twins interviewed was the Brown twins, Jared and Jacob. They hail from Kansas City, KS and attend

Piper High School. They both run cross country and track. Jacob is the Lieutenant Colonel of the Civil Air Patrol. When asked about what is unique about himself and what separates him from his brother, he responded “I am slower than him”. Besides that Jacob couldn’t think of anything else that made him different from his brother except for the fact that they have different personalities. Jacob is the younger twin by 10 seconds and is a Highway Patrol Officer here at Boys State.

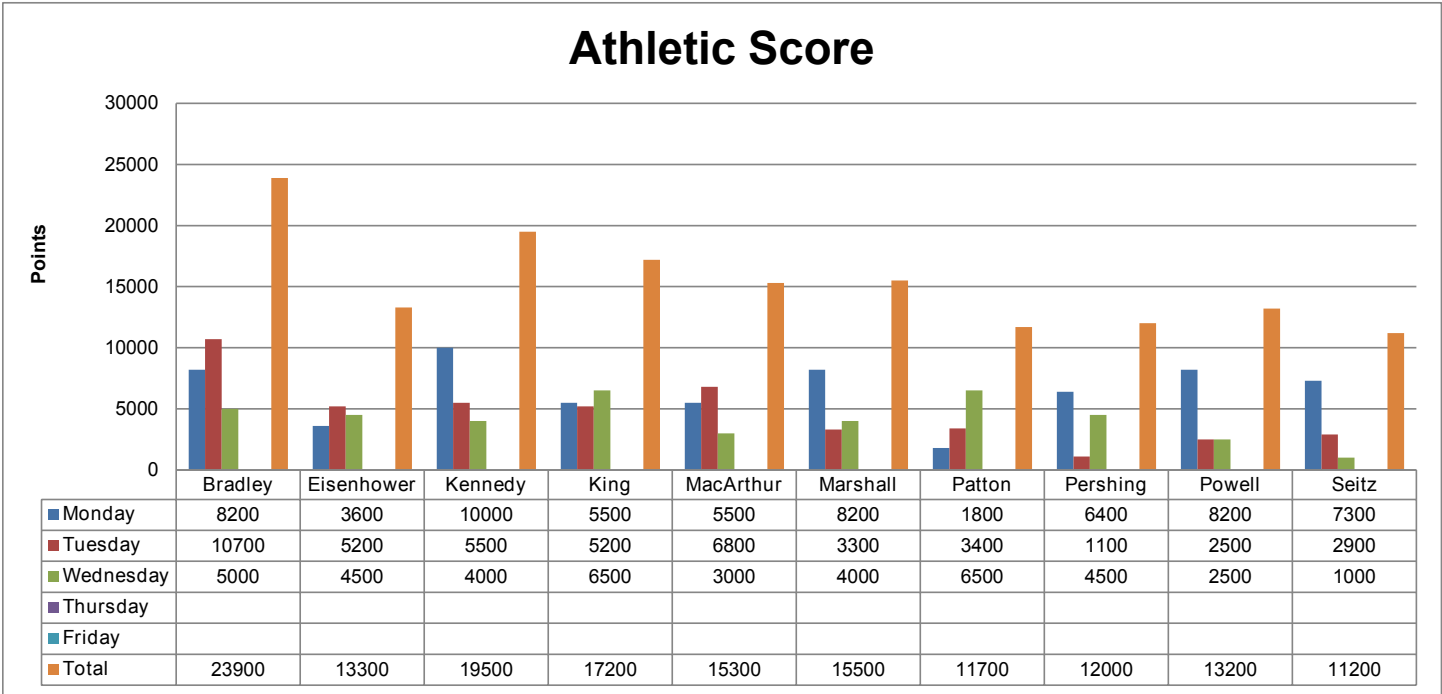
Brown also said that when he asked if being at state was difficult for him being separated by his brother he said he doesn’t really care. His older brother Jared ran for sheriff at first, but didn’t make it and eventually decided to support the Federalist platform and was elected to be the Lieutenant Governor for Yang Yang Li.
Boys State has provided a wide array of duties and opportunities for each delegate and this is only more proved by the twins.

Heat Finds Its Way Inside

By Kevin Chrest
Staters Union

Early yesterday morning there were a couple of problems in Goodnow.
The nice help at the front desk, Natasha Gasswint, stated, “The AC started blowing hot air.”
Soon after the AC went hot, Natasha found out that the middle elevator was stuck on the sixth floor. Thankfully,

there was no one in the elevator.
Another front desk assistant, Brandon Dole, said, “Something went wrong in the Boiler room.”
The mechanics had to find out if it was the boilers or if the problem was the steam plant. Once they knew where the problem was the maintenance workers had to go to the location and fix the problem. The issues were resolved, and everything went back to normal.





## Kramer Dining Provides More Than Food

By Dylan Crow  
Staters Union

**S**heryl Klobasa runs Kramer Dining Center as one of three Unit Directors at Kansas State University's dining halls.

Klobasa works with the management staff to set the menu and tries to balance cost, affordability, and efficiency.

In any given week during the school year, Kramer serves over 17,000 meals per week, averaging 7 meals per labor hour.

They also hire 120 students who work anywhere from 3-30 hours per week.

These student workers can even be promoted to a student supervisor position, where they are not only paid higher wages but also receive 10 free meals per week.

Kramer Dining Center does not only provide a high-quality product to a high volume of customers, but does so in a green and efficient way.

Six years ago, Jennifer Kennedy, service manager at Kramer Dining Center, worked in coordination with Klobasa and Kansas State University to create a variety of sustainability initiatives that have made the Kansas State University's dining program one of a kind.

Kramer Dining Center offers a program known as "dashing," where students can take food carry-out instead of eating in.

Instead of just foam take-out containers, Kramer offers reusable take out containers -- known as clam shells -- that can be purchased by students for a one-time cost of \$5.

After using a clam shell, a student can bring it back to dining services to get a new one.

This way, there is no extra waste of styrofoam containers.

Instead of a traditional, buffet-style dining where students are allowed to take as much as they please, Kramer added a twist, having lunch workers dish out the food and control the portions.

"A lot of times, students eyes are bigger than their stomachs, and having the lunch workers serve them food cuts down on waste," Klobasa said.

Kramer also uses a process known as pre-meal and post-consumer composting.

In post consumer composting, a student places a plate on the rubber conveyer belt and taken to a dish room where waste is pulled off and put into bins.

In pre-meal composting, the lunch staff places all non-edible waste into the same bins.

For example, the rind of a cantaloupe would be placed into the composting bins after it is peeled and cut.

The food in these bins is moved from dining services to the K-State Agronomy North Farm where it is composted.

The compost is used in gardens at K-State and used by university researchers to study erosion as well as field and greenhouse experiments.

"It is really nice because it is a closed system within K-State, taking little gasoline and occurring within a close proximity," Klobasa said.

Klobasa also goes out of her way to work with the Agronomy North Farm to provide other products, including milk.

"We pay more for all of the milk we buy because we support the teaching facility and K-State academics," Klobasa said.

While sustainability may not always win, Klobasa puts forth effort along with her staff to try and weigh all options, including customer service, efficiency, and cost.

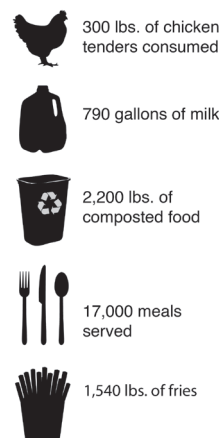
Just recently, Klobasa and her management, staff as well as K-State, were honored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Region 7 for successfully reducing waste and promoting sustainability.

The skills of Klobasa and her staff are on display during the week of Boys State, which is an event Klobasa said she enjoys having in the Kramer Dining Facility.

"We absolutely love and look forward to the counselors and student leaders at camp because they are so enjoyable to work with," she said. "This is the most fun and best week that we look forward to here at dining services."

### LUNCH

By the numbers\*



\*Average data based off weekly totals during the K-State school year

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## Wednesday Press Conference

**By Kent Chrest  
Jackson Koger  
Staters Union**

At 1:15 yesterday the Governor and the other elected officials met at the tennis courts for a short press conference with media members.

When asked of his reaction to the previous day's election Attorney General Samuel Pate expressed excitement with the choices and felt they all held similar ideas on wanting to improve the counties and state as a whole.

The Governor was questioned on what bills were passed and signed by him. He chuckled slightly before answering and went on to explain the several new pieces of legislation he had signed.

"We passed an autobahn bill, a state highway system, that will improve interstate commerce," Carl Palmquist said.

Palmquist also discussed the highly supported marijuana legalization bill which required the user to be over 21 much

like the pre-existing alcohol laws. He also said that the drug would be taxed at a higher rate to bring in more revenue for the state.

Other measures passed included the hydroelectric dam bill which appealed to many parties especially the alternative energy group and attempts to establish reservations for Native Americans.

The group as a whole said they agreed on many topics showing promising signs of bipartisanship and said their number one priority at the moment was getting through the budget proposals. Much of the work had been done but the team hit a technological snag which ruined all the work they had completed.

"We had a computer malfunction which caused us to lose all of our work and we had to start over," Lt. Governor Alex Houston said.

In agreement they are looking to recover from their setbacks and pass a budget and other forms of legislation that will appeal and benefit all.

## Pipeline Sparks Debate

**By Kevin Lansing  
Staters Union**

The Department of Energy is opening a pipeline that runs through oil counties. The department is wanting to put the refineries between the counties of Patton and Eisenhower, the two oil counties in the state. Even though the pipeline runs through all of the counties, the refinery will be put in either Patton county or in Eisenhower county.

Sam DeVore, the head of Department of Energy, said, "We believe that you can not just run off of green energy, you must have a steady background as well." But, he contradicted himself when just a few seconds later he says, "Even if we don't gain power from the oil refinery, we will make money off of it." he says that the refinery will "maximise their profits." DeVore then states, "The entire state would benefit from the oil refinery, and he would really like the Education PAC to help them out."

When DeVore is done with giving reasoning on why other organizations and PACs should help get the money they need to build this refinery, he asks if there is any problems with the idea. Matt Schmitz says, "There is no need to not support the idea if the entire state will benefit from it." The question is asked on how the counties will split the revenue. DeVore says that the two counties will split the profit evenly.

Governor Carl Palmquist was in attendance at the meeting, he says that he is very open to ideas, and that he is in

support of some kind of refinery. Governor Palmquist then states, "He wants an analysis on how the pipeline will bring revenue back to the State. He needs the Department to talk to more people and get more support."

DeVore claims that the refinery will bring more money for the State so that means that there will be more money for all the organizations. DeVore says that they will need 4.5 million dollars to cover the cost of the refinery. He states that this is a high price and that they need more organizations to help cover the cost.

This debate over the pipeline has many organizations and PACs standing behind them. The Departments that are behind them are: the Department of Commerce, Education, Energy, Health and Environment, Human Services, Justice, Labor Tourism and Culture and the Department of Veteran Affairs. The PACs that are behind them are: Coalition of Cities and Counties, Education First Association, Farmers Alliance, Heritage Association, League of Industrial Workers, Oil and Gas workers organization, and the People for the American Way.

In general, the oil industries are in favor for the refinery, They believe that the refinery will bring money to the State, and also will bring money to the oil counties. Governor Palmquist is in favor of the idea as long as he sees a truthful analysis on how it is going to bring revenue back to the state.

## Staters React to Talent Show

**By Taner Sass**  
**Staters Union**

Unparalleled. A word often saved for some of the best experiences of peoples' lives. The 2013 Kansas Boys State Talent Show is now worthy enough for the description.

Negative accounts of the night were not heard and several Boys Staters have gone so far to say that it has further inspired them and been the highlight of their week thus far. Mason Williams, when asked about his thought on the show and the final song carried out with everyone arm in arm, responded with,

"I think the expression of brotherhood and the feeling of comradery is the reason we are all here. It's easy to get caught up in the simulation and our own projects, but moments like that really remind us that we are here to work together. That's the true meaning of Boys State."

The show was considered a major bonding moment by many for the people here this week.

There is a talented group of young men here and some really got to shine during the show.

One of these talents was from a group called "The Woppers".

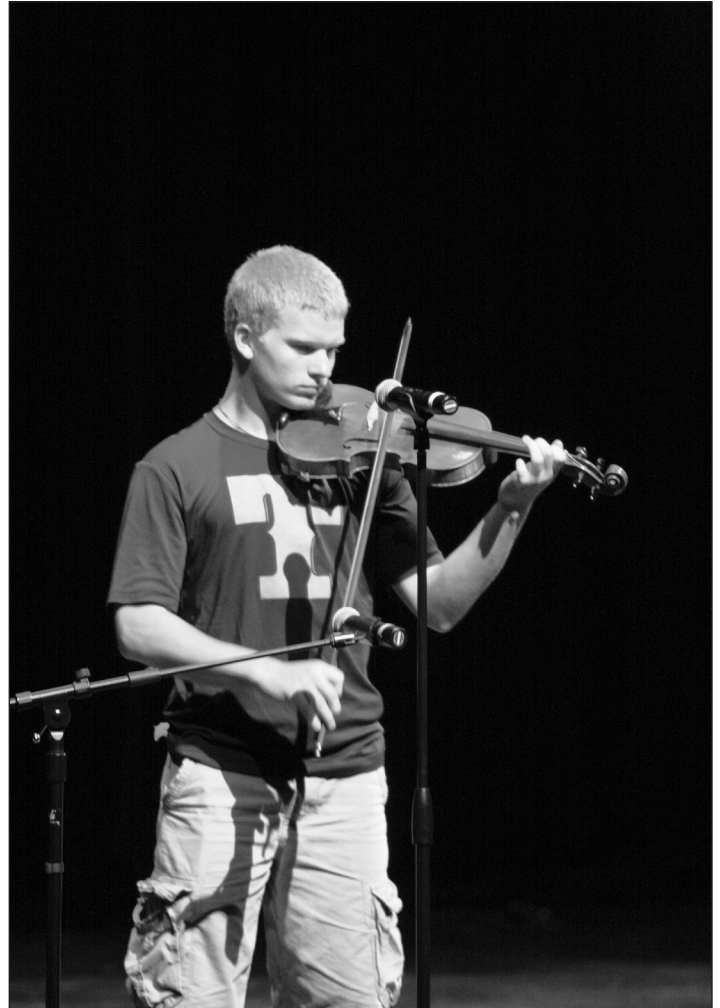
The leader of this group was Sam Pinkerton.

When asked about how he learned to 'wop' so well, he answered, "I was on a mission trip for church in Canada where everyone was doing the Wop and I didn't know how to do it. They taught me and when I got back home I downloaded it. So, it's a song I've known for quite awhile."

When Sam was asked how it felt performing in front of the large crowd of Boys Staters he answered with a smile on his face,

"Honestly, it felt amazing. Rex had told us that every year performing in the talent show is an amazing experience, but we didn't realize the truth in his words until we saw the first act when the counselors got out there and performed to 'Party in the USA'. During practice you feel every second, but honestly I don't remember doing the dance at all. I just remember ripping my shirt off."

It was said by some that the talent show couldn't have gone better. Congratulations to all whom performed!



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**Website:** www.ksbstate.org



## Veteran Loves Basketball

**By James Stapleton  
Staters Union**

We all had times where we had our face show on the television, but our legionare Don Thomson has been for the KSU shot-clock, where he gets a perfect seat to watch the game and also make a mini debut on when people watch the K-state home games.

Thomson is a retired Vietnam war veteran, where he served 28 years from 1965-1993. He served in the 3rd armor division. During his time over there, he was also a military advisor to the S. Vietnamese armies.

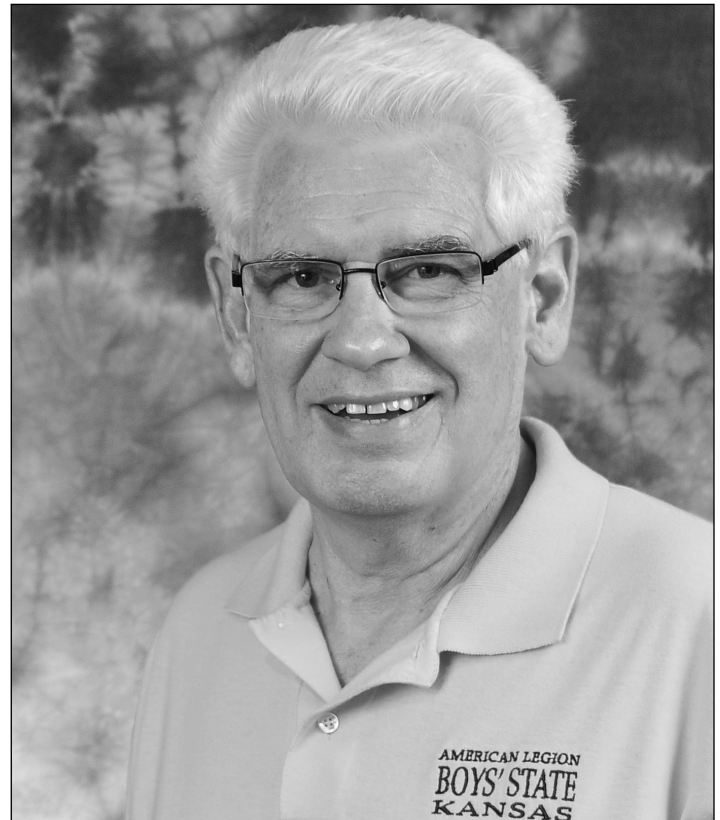
He was also in the Big Red One, and served as a ground liaison officer in the Air force, and he flew in a F-4 phantom jet. The time he was over there in Vietnam, he described it as "Hot and humid" for the most part, except during the rainy season; His main goal was the provide fire support for the S. Vietnamese armies, along with calling airstrikes to bomb the enemy.

Thomson's highest awards were two bronze stars, one of which has a "V" on it, for valor that he had during his time over there. After his time in the service, he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel, now in his free time, he spends time with his church, helps out with the Flint Hills Veterans Association, the Vet to Vet program to Hospice-This program is where disabled vets who are terminally ill, can meet with other vets and get help for them, which is a very good program for those who need a second chance.

He also enjoys singing in a barbershop quartet. Don is married with three children, who had five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. If there is one

thing Thomson enjoys is coming to boys state, to see young boys turn into young adults, even how some of them changed over the period of time they spent here.

He thanks the American Legion and the opportunity to be active in this program, since it teaches people like myself, to have a great or greater respect for veterans, and their sacrifices that they made to this country to protect and preserve freedom in the United States of America.



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