

Follow the Staters Union
on Twitter:
@KSBSMedia

STATERS UNION

A WEEK THAT
Changed
MY LIFE

MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2014 • MANHATTAN, KANSAS • VOL. 77, ISSUE 2

Staters' first remarks

By: **Russell Brown and Connick Roe**
Staters Union

Opening day of Boys State is finally here and Staters arrived at 11:30 in the morning, prepared to learn and to soak up knowledge.

Many Staters have looked forward to this day for months due to the elaborate stories told to them by previous Staters at their schools.

Executive Director of Boys State Rex Gardner was waiting for them in the lobby of Kramer dining hall to welcome them to State.

Upon marching to McCain hall for the first time, Staters were thrilled to hear University of Kansas Men's Basketball head coach Bill Self speak, despite the location of the K-State campus.

Stater Garrett of Pershing County commented, "I liked seeing a speaker I knew, despite being a K-State fan." The atmosphere created in McCain Hall was one of inspirational living for this week.

One Stater, Nick of MacArthur County, even said that "the coolest part of the opening ceremony was listening to Bill Self speak about leadership."

Self's message of leadership and competition inspired Staters to ponder why they came to State and what they came to learn. He encouraged the Delegates to challenge their peers and branch out in roles of leadership throughout the week.

Self said that his "best leader was Earl McClellan, a walk-on, at Oral Roberts University" when asked by a Stater via Twitter. Self left, but not before taking a fashionable pseudo-selfie with all of the Staters in the background.

An aspect that comes with the opportunity of Boys State is being able to participate in countywide sports. A Patton County resident James was excited to find this out, however, he did not know there was a limit to how many one could sign up for.

When asked about this James stated, "arm wrestling sounded cool, but I found that soccer needed more participants to fill the team."

Staters picked from a variety of sports including tennis, cross-country, arm wrestling, and even ultimate frisbee.

When James was asked how Boys State became an opportunity for him, he said, "Dan Thompson came to our school and told us about the political simulation." Come today, James was excited about State and said that he liked being in Patton county.

He is a County Commissioner and is ready to be a leader this week. Multiple elections occurred on Sunday and all Staters were established in important positions within their respective cities, counties and even state.

By Monday night, the candidates for governor will be narrowed down to only two delegates, one from each party.



Dress code pains

By Austin Prinkki and Hawk Goad

Staters Union

Arriving Sunday at Boys State, each Stater was given a dress code which they were required to adhere to for the first day of State.

Each Stater received two white T-shirts and was instructed to wear one of them with either khaki shorts or jeans and tucked in shirts.

Staters have also been designated additional times at which to wear said uniforms throughout the week, these being mainly State-wide events.

Several Staters and a counselor were interviewed about their opinions on the uniforms.

Stater Lance Schimke from Crum City in Eisenhower County said, "I think it is good to have the boys unified in a standard dress that is both comfortable and professional."

This seemed to be a general consensus among interviewees. The biggest concern about the uniforms is that they will be worn across several days.

"They might get a little rancid after wearing them over several days," Lance eloquently put.

There was one thing that was not agreed upon by everyone and it pertained to the question, "If you could change one thing about the uniforms, what would it be?"

Counselor Zachary Headings from Wiles City in Seitz County said, "I would change the shirt design and possibly add more colors." while Stater Jared Belardo from Mantey City in Marshall County said, "Not a thing... I think they're fine the way they are."

While there are a few negative points on the uniforms, the overall feedback appears to be positive.

The Staters go marchin' in

By Riley Aversman and Brian Kaufman

Staters Union

Many Staters seemed a bit confused when they were told to get into rank and file just after they had their introduction to their new living quarters and counselors.

However, whether the delegates like it or not, marching always has been and probably always will be an important part of Boys' State.

It's how we delegates get around without getting lost or into trouble. However, some Staters, such as Tate Schmard of King County, who described marching as "extremely monotonous", weren't too happy with State's preferred mode of transportation for delegates.

Some Staters such as Paul Gilbert noted that since "no one knows how to march", it's a bit difficult to "get in the groove."

Despite the few complaints, Staters actually seemed to enjoy the interesting way of getting from point A to point B that marching is.

Waylon Sheetz said that "marching is working pretty well." and Russell Krug even though that we "got quite a bit better at it."

Although marching takes quite a bit more concen-

tration and work, the popular opinion is that marching is a very effective and efficient way to get from place to place.

As Stater Luis Ramirez put it, "I think it is very effective in getting to where we need to go." It brings a traditional feel to Boys' State while proving as a solution to horseplay and wandering by the Staters.

If marching wasn't the best way to commute for the Staters, it would have stopped years ago and not continued for seventy-seven years.

Marching has endured because it seems the quickest and easiest way of moving about 500 Staters without the usual chaos of moving a group of people of that size.

Because Marching is so very excellent at preventing the headaches that would normally come from moving a large group of seventeen-year-olds around, every Stater should start to get used to it and maybe even try to enjoy it because this unorthodox way of moving around campus will probably be here for many more years to come.

Not to mention it provides a good source of exercise outside of Rec time!

Veteran Spotlight: Andrew Roberts

Staff Report

Whether it be welcoming new Staters at Kramer dining hall or wandering the sidewalks between Marlatt and Goodnow halls, American Legionnaires have already begun to make their presence known at the seventy-seventh session of Boys State.

These veterans of the United States Armed Forces can be identified via their gray shirts and legionnaire caps.

Over the next week, the Staters Union will be profiling a different legionnaire each day to showcase these individuals who are integral to the Boys State experience.

Monday's legionnaire is one Mr. Andrew Roberts. Originally from Chanute in southeast Kansas, Roberts attended the 2003 Boys State Session and has been a counselor, advisor and now, legionnaire at Boys State since 2004.

Following his high school graduation, Roberts attended the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

After that experience he served at a base in North Dakota until being medically discharged in 2008.

"[I served because] I believe in the American way of government and believe that the oath to protect and defend the Constitution is inherent to the military," Roberts said.

Upon beginning his senior year, Roberts was distraught that there was no representative student government.

As a former stater, Roberts, along with his newly instilled sense of civic duty, sought to change this.

"I brought [it] up to the principal and [he said] 'why don't you make it happen?'," Roberts said. He was



able to bring together the school's National Honors Society, among other clubs, and founded a student government.

To this day he remains an advocate of student involvement in politics.

"It's a really cool way for Staters to implement the skills they learned here," Roberts said.

Before his interview was finished, Roberts left one lasting thought: the importance of military service.

"I encourage any young man or woman who's interested in serving to serve," Roberts said.

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.

Demographics of State

Staff Report

Every summer hundreds of students journey across Kansas to attend the American Legion Boys State. Nowadays, this program is held on the the Kansas State University campus in Manhattan, Kansas.

The participants come from all regions of the state, but the vast majority of Staters come from a concentrated area of Kansas.

Despite having four hundred and seventy-two boys admitted to the 2014 session of Boys State from the eight Kansas Legion districts, an enormous amount of one hundred and fiftyfive Staters (33%), come from District 2.

This is understandable since this district does include the Kansas City metropolitan area. However, this statistic poses a valid question: does the Boys State of Kansas incorporate enough diversity?

With seven districts splitting a mere two-thirds of

the total attendance, it is possible that junior boys from the less populated regions are missing out on the week that changes lives.

For many though, the issue of distance does not dictate attendance. Stater Andrew Miller from Topeka says that "being 50 miles away, it really wasn't a concern."

Transportation may play a part in the decision process of future potential Staters that live further than 50 miles, but Miller says, "driving really wasn't an issue for me."

Additionally, Stater Zach Terry says that the ride was not an issue for him. Although boredom, Terry admits, struck him on his two hour long drive from Leavenworth, Terry comments that he is not yet homesick.

Terry's example just goes to show that distance from campus has little to no effect on the confidence and capabilities of these well traveled Staters.

A candidate debate will be held Tuesday, June 03, 2014, before the general election. If you have questions for the candidates, please get them to the Media Office located in the basement of Marlatt Hall (Room 20) by 5 p.m., Monday, June 2. You can tweet us your questions as well at @KSB-SMedia or via email at ksbsmedia@gmail.com.

Be sociable!

Connect with Boys State

online!

Twitter: @ksboysstate OR #ksboysstate

Facebook: search for "American Legion Boys State of Kansas"

Website: www.ksbstate.org

Join the group on Facebook for "The American Legion Boys State of Kansas"!

Share with others
your amazing stories
about Boys State and
keep in touch with your fellow staters.

Search for
"The American Legion
Boys State of Kansas" on Face-book and join
today!