

Follow the Staters Union
on Twitter:
@KSBSMedia

STATERS UNION

A WEEK THAT
Changed
MY LIFE

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2014 • MANHATTAN, KANSAS • VOL. 77, ISSUE 5

Staters Display Talents

**By Russell Brown and Brian Kaufman
Staters Union**

On Wednesday night, the Boys State talent show brought the house down in McCain Auditorium. Many tried out but only few made the cut. While many were looking for an entertaining night, most of the staters and staff were completely blown away at the talent that was brought to Boys State. After many guitar performances and cheesy jokes between acts, the American Pie performance tied the entire show together. Mike Zimmer had an excellent performance to a classic song that got the whole auditorium swaying and singing along with him. This is Zimmer's fifteenth year to come back and perform this song. Additionally, some very important information given to the Staters was the information on Boys Nation nominations and elections. Rob Eagan gave an in-

credibly moving speech about his experience at Boys Nation. This inspired most Staters to campaign to go to Boys Nation in their counties later that night. The two Staters attending Boys Nation from Kansas this year will be selected on Thursday night.



Wednesday Press Conference

**By Andrew Benne and Hawk Goad
Staters Union**

Wednesday June 4th Lieutenant Governor Trevor Langer was interviewed at the media press conference.

He addressed the issues of the split in the Executive Branch, Kush Kastles, and conflict between counties.

He also spoke on the budget as well as minimum wage and social security.

When asked whether the split between Federalist and Nationalist in the Executive Branch he responded, "we have three delegates from both parties who are working together fabulously."

He also stated that there has been good cooperation between the executive and legislative parties. All issues with the budget are being resolved and the House and Senate are willing to work with the Executive branch to

pass the budget.

He also believes that all of the counties will be able to cooperate and calm any disputes with each other.

He also addressed the recent Sticky-Icky bill saying that the legalization of marijuana will produce, "A lot of revenue," and is ultimately going to benefit the state greatly.

He said that the executive branch has looked at Colorado to devise a plan for taxation and regulation.

When asked about the future of the minimum wage he responded that they are currently working on decreasing the unemployment rate rather than increasing the minimum wage to help boost the economy.

He also wants to prevent a welfare fallout by promoting jobs and keeping the majority of the population off welfare.

The Nationalist Plan

By Riley Aversman
Staters Union

On the third day of Boys State the scuttlebutt is spreading around campus quickly about the Nationalist party governor and lieutenant governor.

This bipartisan party is leading the discussion with the slogan "Invest in our future.

Invest in cooperation. Invest in Kansas." Clayton Covington (Powell County) and Trevor Langer (Pershing County), both Nationalists, united as governor and lieutenant governor promptly after discovering that they both had fairly common interests as far as what they wanted to see coming out of the governor's office.

Cooperation is key with these two aspiring delegates and for Covington cooperation is more than just a moral value, it is the fire and the drive for his campaign.

Covington stresses that he is to represent all of Kansas regardless of political affiliation calling himself and his partner 'cooperationists', and establishing that there is an abundance of common ground between political parties primarily in the sector of education that can be covered with bipartisan standpoints.

Langer backs him and his partner's 'cooperationist'

views stating that, "from day one we've had the 'open door' policy where anyone can come and talk to us.

We want to get to hear from everyone, not just nationalists, not just federalists, we want more cooperation..." These two candidates are eager to work with both parties and eager to get the issue at hand eliminated by using bipartisan tendency.

On the basis of education, Covington is taking the lead on tackling the issue of Kansas education being 47th of the 51 school districts.

Covington is counting on incorporating the educational system resembling Maryland and Finland by modifying the teachers' standards to be increasingly rigorous and additionally increasing educators' income.

Covington possesses the qualities seen in a successful politician which includes passion, knowledge, cooperation, and kindness. Langer too carries the appropriate character including desire, creativity, and cooperation resembling his partner to affect change.

Together these two express their appreciation for each other and together, these two delegates are plowing through this week seeking your support, approval, and investment.

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 ksb-media@gmail.com.

Staters Union Staff

Editor-In-Chief: *Tanner Myers*

Managing Editors: *Riley Aversman, Connick Roe*

Staff Writers: *Andrew Benne, Russel Brown, Hawk Goad, Clay Grabes, Alex Karrasch, Brian Kaufman, Austin Prinkki*

Veteran Spotlight: James Kurtis Kimble

By Alex Karrasch and Clay Graber
Staters Union

Vietnam veteran James Kurtis Kimble served in the Navy from 1966 to 1969. Like many war veterans Kimble was shocked, to say the least, when he received his draft notice at age 19. "[It] was a shock because I was making money, enjoying life, and then...it turned my life around," Kimble stated.

He elaborated on what he said about Vietnam turning his life around, explaining that he "got to see how people lived in other countries," and, when he returned especially he, "realized what he had here."

Kimble's attitude when he returned was similar to other veterans serving in the navy with regard to the way American citizens treated those returning, but it was also very unique and intriguing.

Instead of holding onto the weight and humility of returning to the United States, Kimble chose to forgive those who called him names and, perhaps, hated him for fighting in Vietnam.

When commenting with regard to the treatment of the Vets when they returned Kimble says, "I didn't go over there just because...to be in a war and kill people.

You were there to serve your country not...you know just [to] kill women and children and old people and...it haunts everybody to be labeled that way..."

Another way that Kimble viewed the world differently was that he looked at and appreciated daytoday objects/rights much more; Kimble says, "I had freedom, I had food, I had...everything, and people over



there...they just didn't have nothing. It just made you really realize what we have here."

Third class ship serviceman James Kurtis Kimble is an 'American hero' that learned a valuable lesson in Vietnam, to appreciate what you have and be thankful for where you live.

Kimble wants Staters to always realize and appreciate the blessings of America. Next time you see brave Vietnam Vet James Kurtis Kimble, shake his hand and thank him for his service.

Take it from him, "that makes up for a lot."

For more Boys State News, don't forget to tune in to the
>> Boys State News broadcast <<
every day online and during assemblies at McCain Auditorium!

THE AMERICAN LEGION **BOYS STATE**
OF KANSAS



Plans for State Budget

**By: Andrew Benne and Tanner Myers
Staters Union**

The general election concluded Tuesday evening, June 3, and, with the new state officials in office, the Boys State of Kansas faced some serious issues.

One such issue was the fact that the state faces a \$1.6 million deficit. This fiscal jackhammer kept new Governor Clayton Covington and his colleagues awake until the early hours of Wednesday morning trying to find a solution.

On Wednesday, June 4, the preliminary 2014 budget was released before the House and Senate by Governor Covington.

“[The] actual numbers are lower, but the percentages [allocated to each department] are increasing or decreasing,” Covington explained.

The sectors whose budgeting percentages increased include the Departments of Education, Agriculture, Commerce, and Energy whereas the Department of Tourism and all executive offices took cuts.

The reasoning behind the cuts to the Department of Tourism is due to the successful passing of the “Sticky-Icky Act,” or the legalization of marijuana. Said act,

according to projections, will increase tourism to the state by itself so, logically, the department could afford to take a more substantial deficit.

This announcement seemed to go over well amongst the legislators. However, as the Q&A portion of Covington’s visit got underway, controversy began to make its presence clear.

For example, the issue of how to develop the River of Democracy will soon figure to be a very divisive issue. Many legislators desire to build dams in order to generate hydroelectric energy.

What first appears to be a logical plan fitting of the Nationalists’ “Three E’s (Education, Energy, and the Economy)” platform appears to be facing a severe roadblock: Covington’s proposed plan to use the river as a shipping lane.

This, according to him and his advocates, will give the Department of Transportation a much-needed boost. In fact, Covington even referred to it as a “try-or-die” plan.

Thus far at Boys State events have gone rather well, one can only hope it continues to be that way.

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!

Selfie of the Day



Pershing County