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STATERS UNION

A WEEK THAT
Changed
MY LIFE

TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2014 • MANHATTAN, KANSAS • VOL. 77, ISSUE 3

Whistle Stop Tour 2014

Candidates begin running for elected office

By: Brian Kaufman and Connick Roe
Staters Union

With primary elections happening Monday, many of the candidates stayed up through Sunday night writing speeches and creating platforms.

Throughout Monday the candidates and their opposition went around to the members of their parties, Nationalists or Federalists, convincing their party members why they should be elected to the position they wanted.

This procedure, known as the Whistle-Stop tour, went on throughout Monday morning until lunch. Positions that delegates could challenge for include Governor, Secretary of State, Commissioner of Insurance, Attorney General, and State Treasurer.

Nick Harrelson of the Powell Nationalist Party ran for Treasurer and gave his platform as "I want to help out the public works as well as the small business and renewable energy sectors."

While on the other side candidate David Kaufman of the Federalist party was qualified to "add and subtract, that's about it." Many of the delegates had phenomenal ideas from opposite ends of the spectrums that inherited many great questions from their peers. The Commissioner of Insurance entourage had great ideas for the regulation of the insurance markets and communities.

Stater Drew Mark of the Powell Nationalists stated, "I feel that Commissioners should focus on the veterans somewhat, because they have sacrificed for us and done their time."

Another such Stater from the Federalist side known as Woody of Eisenhower County said, "the private sector is a very big part of insurance companies, and

needs to be respected, but the government will have some say in it."

These quotes came from questions being asked by these men's fellow Staters as well as from their original speech. Winners of these elections were decided Monday afternoon and the results were greatly anticipated throughout the day.

Winners of the Governor positions were Nationalist Clayton Covington of Powell and Federalist Brennan Spoor, also of Powell.

Commissioner of Insurance winners were Nationalist Jake Boyce of Eisenhower and Federalist Alex Ghekas of Seitz.

Nationalist Secretary of State Jacob Milgrim of MacArthur, Nationalist Attorney General Daniel Santos of Pershing, Federalist Secretary of State Ashwanth Samuel, Federalist Attorney General Abhimanyu Sharma, and the Nationalist Treasurer Tommy Schmidt of Eisenhower and Federalist Treasurer Luke Wuri.

These winning Staters will now be in the running for these same positions at a State level. Brennan Spoor, Federalist Governor, gave some food for thought, "Are you going to stand up for what you believe in and actually show your true honesty?"

Clayton Covington, Nationalist Governor, felt that "the State should move towards alternative energies, but should not get rid of the fossil fuel foundation." Lastly Abhimanyu Sharma our Federalist Attorney General felt strongly about his position and assured his peers, "I will defend you so hard!"

Which Governor will follow in the words of Braveheart quote "And Boy's State thrice he shall bring to peace?"

Fairness in Campaigning

By Andrew Benne and Russel Brown
Staters Union

Tommy Schmidt was elected as the Nationalist candidate for Treasurer on Monday, June 2nd.

His platform focused on marijuana legalization and renewable energy, but a larger issue seems to be the fact that two of his opponents, Samuel Vaughn and Benjamin Abbas, devoted their campaign speeches to endorsing Schmidt.

Why did Vaughn and Abbas endorse Schmidt? Were they bribed or just trying to get the best candidate in office? When asked whether he bribed his opponents, Schmidt quickly dispelled the rumor saying, "No I didn't bribe them."

He also mentioned that he did not know about the

endorsement until after the speeches.

Vaughn and Abbas also rejected the rumor. Vaughn stated: "Brandon and I chose to step down and endorse Tommy because we were looking for a way to improve our party."

Staters are split on the issue. Many believe Vaughn and Abbas truly thought that Schmidt was the better candidate.

However, some believe that it was an act of bribery. Kishan Desai of Patton County thought that "[Schmidt] was using them as a way to get his name out. In turn, he will give them positions."

While we believe that this was not an act of bribery, Staters should continue to think critically on ethics and the possibility of bribery in any future cases of endorsements.

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Athletics Scores

Bradley: 65

Kennedy: 60

Pershing 40

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 @KSBSMedia or via email at ksb-smedia@gmail.com.

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Veteran Spotlight: Don Whitten

By Alex Karrasch and Clay Grabes
Staters Union

American Legion Veteran Don Whitten was in the U.S. Army from 1951-1971 and served in the Korean War in the 77th field artillery as a truck driver.

When asked of his experience in Korea, Mr. Whitten exclaims that he was just glad to get back home. Mr. Whitten's most vivid memory of his experience was the freezing temperatures.

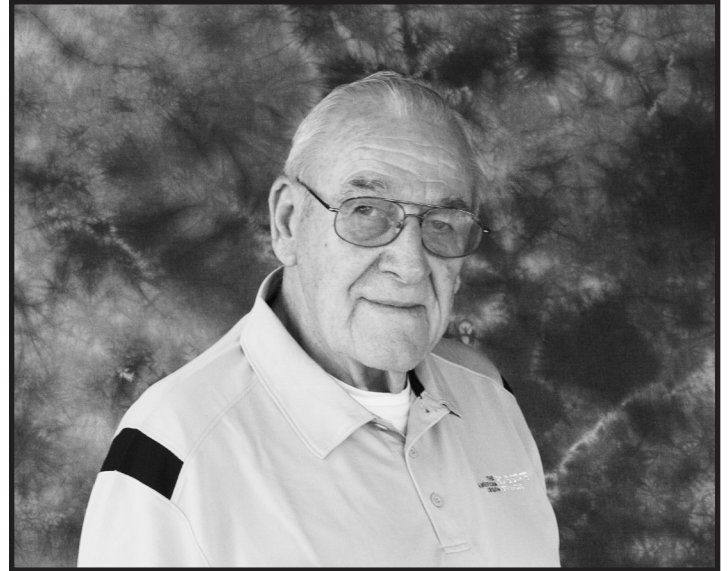
He remembers when he was in KMAG (Korean Military Advisor Group) and a Coleman gas heater was sent to him to keep him warm.

He states that, "I was lucky because I had a gas heater in my truck." At that time very few pieces of U.S. Army equipment were outfitted with heaters yet Mr. Whitten joyfully recalls the heat and hot coffee that he had as a result of someone's gracious care package in the sub-zero temperatures.

When not deployed, Mr. Whitten served in California working with logistics, New Jersey studying in radar school, Fort Huachuca Arizona, the Pacific Rim, and Chicago working with the national air defense.

Mr. Whitten shared a story from when he was in Washington D.C in the Baltimore tunnel; he explained that at the bottom of the tunnel he saw a vehicle with "4 kids in it, and an army sticker on it" and the driver, Mr. Whitten said, looked like a private in the Army.

After a short conversation with the driver Mr. Whitten learned that the man's car had run out of gas.



Mr. Whitten then offered to push the man's car to the nearest gas station for he knew the streets and the area well.

After they arrived at the gas station and after Mr. Whitten denied payment from the driver, he learned that the driver was a colonel of the Army MAG service.

The colonel then, after learning that Mr. Whitten was deploying to Fort Huachuca, generously offered Mr. Whitten a job overseas as a radar technician which Mr. Whitten had studied munificently in New Jersey.

Don Whitten's kindness and perseverance as a veteran proves that generosity results in prosperity.

Mr. Whitten is a phenomenal role model for any Stater as well as a man of great passion and kindness.

Highway Patrol Sworn-in

By Hawk Goad
Staters Union

Elections are about over, and some candidates are happy, while others are not, but with elections comes responsibility and to keep that in check, there is the Highway Patrol.

Superintendent Officer Trent Rietzke, Marshall County led all other patrolmen into sworn allegiance with the constitution and to prevent any illegal political activity to happen within cities, counties, and the

state government.

They also learned the steps and learning process of the Highway Patrol.

Afterward, Staters Union interviewed the Superintendent Officer to see what he thinks of the Highway Patrol.

Trent displayed his point of running the crew, and will bring "Good morale, and being strict in [actual] serious situations." Then he promises to keep the counties safe from harms way, that's what patrolmen do.

Press Conference

By Tanner Myers and Austin Prinkki
Staters Union

On Monday, June 2, both the Nationalist and Federalist parties held their primary elections in order for each party to choose the best candidates possible for the positions of Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, Governor and Commissioner of Insurance.

Following the elections, the Staters Union sent two representatives to a press conference for the leaders of each party prior to the general elections on Tuesday, June 3.

Now, as the voting populace, Staters must be well-informed about the issues that Kansas faces which matter to them. Thus, each political party has formulated a specific platform to outline the specific goals of their party.

The Federalists have chosen healthcare, energy and education as the issues that they want to hone in on and the Nationalists have selected education, environment/energy and the economy as their issues.

"I think that we were able to settle on a plan [for education] that would help teachers, help students and help the budget of the state...[in order to] make us a leader in the United States," a Federalist advocate of education stated.

The Nationalists also broached the issue of marijuana legalization, a goal of some in the party. "If

we legalize marijuana, first off, [it] will free up three hundred and twenty million dollars that would be spent on prisoner housing and could go elsewhere," a Nationalist leader said.

Now, both parties selected some of the same issues for their platform, including education and energy.

This poses a potential problem for voters out there: which party to choose? Some of their leaders expressed why their respective party was best.

"I believe that our policies would do the most to help consumers, teachers, students and workers of the oil and gas fields," one Federalist leader said.

"If you want more money in your pocket, vote for the Nationalist Party," a Nationalist leader proclaimed.

"I think the biggest difference between our approaches to getting more votes is conveying [the idea] that the Nationalist Party will be a party of inclusion rather than exclusion."

Ultimately, the voters of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas will face a whole host of dilemmas depending on whom is elected whether it be the Federalist majority being strengthened by the addition of a Federalist governor or the problem of trying to please the more left-centric PACs.

However, one must keep in mind that, finally, the majority will have its way. So it goes with democracy.

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.

Selfie of the Day



MacArthur County

Federalist Convention

**By Riley Aversman and Brian Kaufman
Staters Union**

The Federalist Party Convention began in much the way one would think a conservative convention would: with hard rock and Ronald Reagan riding a velociraptor while firing a submachine gun.

Despite this, the Federalist Convention was not only shouts of “America!” and endless cheering.

The party also presented to their members the key agendas that each candidate was going to attempt to pursue during the coming week.

The first candidate to speak was Alex Ghekas, the candidate for Commissioner of Insurance who talked about the Federalist’s stance on healthcare.

The party seems to be taking a step toward privatization of healthcare and reform of the state interpretation of the Affordable Care Act.

The general consensus with the Federalist party is that the party wants to move healthcare away from the government and make application for healthcare assistance more extensive.

The next candidate to give his talk about welfare was Luke Wuri, the candidate for Treasure.

His belief, as well as the party’s, is that the government has to be smarter about spending.

The party wants to make welfare more difficult to obtain by using methods such as an abundance of paperwork making sure that the recipient is looking for a job and contacting employers to keep tabs on the welfare recipients.

The Federalists believe that this is an important system and it needs to be weakened in an efficient way. At the podium after Luke was the Secretary of State candidate, Ashwanth Samuel.

Mr. Samuel’s focus was on the party’s stance on energy. Energy, for the Federalists, seems to be mostly more of the same.

The party wants to focus on ramping up production of coal and oil energy, but they also, in the long run, would like to take some of the funding made from the increased energy production from fossil fuels and use it to fund the research and use of several different

alternative energies.

This policy was met with hugh approval from the coal and oil counties. The Federalist’s speaker on education was Attorney General candidate Abhimanyu Sharma.

He blamed programs like “Common Core” and “No Child Left Behind”, for our poor ranking in education.

They pitched the idea of programs that push the limits of our youth, provide more diverse learning opportunities, and limit the amount of government involvement.

The Federalist Party believes that this is the way to get our country back on track. Abhi believes that this is how America will rank nationally in education.

The final speaker of the night was the Federalist Gubernatorial Candidate, Brennan Spoor.

Brennan began by talking about 2nd amendment rights and how he wanted to make sure that the citizens of Boys’ State of Kansas would always have access to any type of gun that they need.

He then moved on to talking about the government and policy in general.

Brennan seemed to want to avoid major change, saying “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”

He also talked about wanting to focus on “opportunity, diversity, and efficiency” during the coming week. The Federalists seemed to be excited with their candidates and with the coming election.

Be sociable!

Connect with Boys State
online!

Twitter: @ksboysstate OR #ksboysstate

Facebook: search for “American Legion Boys State of Kansas

Website: www.ksbstate.org

Nationalist Convention

By Alex Karrasch and Connick Roe
Staters Union

“Investing in our Future, Investing in Cooperation, Investing in Kansas.”

This is the motto of the 2014 Boy’s State Nationalist party.

In an extremely exciting and intense rally, the Nationalist candidates for Commissioner of Insurance, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor voiced their plans for their platforms and the overall intentions of the party.

Commissioner of Insurance candidate Jake Boyce began by expressing the importance of money to the Nationalist program.

Jacob Milgrim followed by expressing his intentions as Secretary of State. He emphasized the benefits of legalizing marijuana, as well as reforming education to better select educators.

Treasurer candidate Tommy Schmidt discussed his ideals on the distribution of wealth and the stimulation of growth in the economy.

He believes there is a need to improve agriculture and energy to gain funds in order to fund education and business, big and small.

Daniel Santos, who is running for Attorney General, advocated his “for the people” attitude, and promised to stand up for the minority party and protect its ideals from Federalist opposition.

After this the Nationalist Governor candidate Clayton Covington took the floor.

His primary statement expressed the need of a “cooperationist” party, or one in which members of the Federalist and Nationalist parties could work together to create the best and most efficient legislation possible.

He reinforced his argument by recounting his visit to the Heritage PAC.

His discussion with the Federalist PAC went smoothly and he was pleased to announce that the PAC’s ideals aligned well with his own and cooperation was very possible.

After his speech Covington introduced his Lieutenant Governor Trevor Langir.

Trevor proceeded to give a very moving, pathos loaded speech expressing the importance of camaraderie.

He also pointed out the fact that everyone loses their way sometimes, but through companionship the correct path can be found.

He conveyed his message through a short account of his walk with Clayton Covington on the way to the convention.

Trevor stated, “Nationalists were coming down and I was talking to Clayton. I told Clayton ‘I’m sorry I got us lost Clayton’ and Clayton replied ‘It’s fine we all make mistakes.’”

After Trevor’s moving speech the highly energized and emotional convention came to a conclusion, and the members of the Nationalist party left the gathering prepared to invest in the future, invest in cooperation, and invest in Kansas.

