

Follow the Staters Union
on Twitter:
@KSBSMedia

STATERS UNION

A WEEK THAT
Changed
MY LIFE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2014 • MANHATTAN, KANSAS • VOL. 77, ISSUE 4

New Governor Elect

By Riley Aversman and Connick Roe
Staters Union

The general elections for the State Governor and his cabinet were Tuesday evening, with some stimulating questions by the candidates fellow Staters. Questions included topics such as “with Kansas being in the lower tenth of education, how do you plan on changing the education system?”

The answers to this question were very synonymous within both parties platforms; however, both sides began getting a little hostile with the other side, at least towards the end of the debates.

These debates were structured like an actual political debate with citizens questions being answered and the true colors of political “friends” coming out.

The Nationalist Governor Powell County Clayton Covington’s cabinet included Lieutenant Governor Trevor Langir, Treasurer Tommy Schmidt, Secretary of State Jacob Milgrim, Attorney General Daniel Santos, and Commissioner of Insurance Jake Boyce were running for the three E’s “Education, Economy, and Energy.”

While the Federalist Governor Powell County Brennan Spoor’s cabinet included Lieutenant Governor George Depenbush, Treasurer Luke Wuri, Secretary of State Ashwanth Samuel, Attorney General Abhimanyu Sharma, and Commissioner Insurance Alex Ghekas who ran on a platform of “Opportunity, Diversity, and Efficiency.”

These acronyms and the fact that the Nationalists were also running as “cooperationists”, were the only noticeable differences between party platforms. The debate didn’t go by without its fair share of fireworks and theatrics.

From the extensive use of the artfully stylish phrase “As Kanye West once said...” by Federalist Governor candidate Brennan Spoor, to the explosively charismatic manner in which Nationalist Governor candidate Clayton Covington answered his questions.

The crowd really enjoyed the no-holds-barred way in which the gubernatorial candidates answered their questions, and the two young men on stage seemed to feed from that energy and direct it into their response, even though they both thought their opponents had difficulty “listening.”

After the debate, all Staters voted, and the results rolled in quickly thanks to the ability to vote on mobile phones.

The winners were Federalist Commissioner of Insurance Alex Ghekas of Seitz County, Federalist Secretary of State Ashwanth Samuel of Eisenhower County, Federalist Treasurer Luke Wuri of Patton County, Nationalist Attorney General Daniel Santos of Pershing County, Nationalist Lieutenant Governor Trevor Langer of Pershing County, and finally Nationalist Governor Clayton Covington of Powell County.

The Staters Union looks forward to the rest of the week with these newly elected candidates.



Nuclear Energy Crisis

By Riley Aversman
Staters Union

Rumors seem to have been flying around almost since the moment this year's activities have started about new ideas that Staters think should be pushed into legislation by the new Boys' State legislation.

One of these ideas that stuck out to me during the Whistle Stop Tour was nuclear energy.

It seems to be an interesting topic that has quite a few opponents and allies, but building a nuclear facility in Boys' State of Kansas is actually illegal on the state level.

I caught wind of this and decided to do some sniffing around to figure out exactly why a normally viable source of alternative energy was criminalized.

Eventually I found my way to Jacob Brown, who is State's Head IT Counselor and seems to be one of the few who remember why exactly nuclear energy was criminalized at State.

He recalled that nine or ten years ago, nuclear reactors were criminalized "due to a meltdown that was caused by a terrorist attack."

It seems that nuclear energy has been hands-off for nearly a decade at State, but I believe that it's time

to take a huge step toward energy independence for Kansas.

Other Staters seem to agree with me. Nathan Hemby of Marshall County said that he would be "for nuclear energy if the people building and running the plants were competent."

His statements seem to reflect the opinion of the majority of Staters I talked to, and even the few people that opposed this outlawed source of energy seemed to be open to the concept if it were to be done in a safe and efficient manner.

This idea even has strong support from the Alternative Energy Alliance PAC.

I spoke to the PAC's members about this issue and Brandon Kinn of King County said that he "[doesn't] see why it's criminalized because it's a lot safer and less harmful to the environment than coal energy or oil based energy."

Another member of the PAC, Liam Ormiston, who is from MacArthur County, said that the PAC is going to "try to, by the end of the week, have nuclear energy legal in Kansas."

It seems that the public opinion, as well as the political money, support the decriminalization of nuclear reactors and their use in the

Boys' State of Kansas, so why not legalize it?

The legalization and widespread utilization of these reactors has the potential to launch Kansas into a golden age of energy independence from the rest of the country and the world, and the export of surplus energy created by these reactors could create a bountiful amount of revenue for our great state.

Those who question the safety should keep in mind that 'mainstream' coal and oil energy have their own very distinct risks, and these critics should also note that with proper regulation and guidelines, nuclear reactors are actually extremely safe and pose virtually zero risk to the general population as well as the workers within them, even NASA has done research and found that this is true. So why not use this great energy source?

To our Boys' State Legislators: On behalf of the Staters Union as well as all counties and cities of the Kansas Boys State, I am pleading for you to move to legalize nuclear energy and open up a great opportunity for our state to move towards energy independence.

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.

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: Ron O'Leary

By Riley Aversman and Russel Brown
Staters Union

American Legionnaires are an integral part of the Boys State experience.

All Staters look up to them and give them due respect for their service to our country. Today's legionnaire is Mr. Ron O'Leary.

Identified by his friendly and welcoming personality, O'leary has been a part of The American Legion for 45 years.

He said that Boys State is undoubtedly his "favorite part" of the Legion.

Mr. O'Leary was drafted to serve his country during the Vietnam era and was a member of the U.S. Army from 1967 until 1969, but he, in his words, "got lucky" because after his basic training in Fort Huachuca, Arizona, he was sent to Germany to act as a Typist and Personnel Specialist.

His job was to interview all personnel coming through Germany and assign them to where they could be best used.

O'Leary seemed to be proud to have served his country, and was happy to be able to visit Ireland, which he calls his homeland, and other countries while stationed in Europe.

He was also awarded the Army Commendation Medal for his service to America during his service.

O'leary also discussed his friends that were drafted with him. Ten of them went to Vietnam, and one went to Panama when O'Leary was sent to Germany.

He said, "It was very common to be drafted back



then if you weren't in school or married."

After his time in the service, O'Leary went back to school at Fort Hays State University. The GI Bill paid for quite a bit of his higher education.

He said, "I was glad to get out of the war, and I was welcomed back when I returned to the States."

The day after he arrived back in his hometown, O'Leary was asked if he would like to join the American Legion, and almost immediately after joining, he started with his volunteer work for The Legion by helping with burial detail for a deceased veteran.

After attending Fort Hays State University, he went into the concrete construction business for eight years. Then, Mr. O'Leary began working for the Kansas American Legion.

**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!**

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE OF KANSAS



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

The Tasks of District Courts

By: Connick Roe
Staters Union

Tuesday morning, June 3, saw many operations in full swing including District Court Mock Trials.

Many of the district attorneys and judges got together on their floors to begin practicing in the case of a lawsuit.

Rumor of a suit had begun to spread almost immediately after the primary elections regarding the Federalist gubernatorial candidate; however the Spoor slander case was quickly dispelled as a joke.

Patton District Attorney Samuel Smith felt that “if the Spoor case had happened we would all be prepared, I am also ready to sue other people.”

District judge Andrew Feldkamp of Patton County

saw this job as “not bad, but could be better” and his fellow judge Vivek Tallavajhala said “the job is time-consuming and thought provoking.”

Attorney Braden Hodges said, “there was no evidence to analyze in this practice case, mainly just statements; however I know it can be harder.”

People in these positions could very well be appointed to the position of Supreme Court Justice once the Boys State elected a new governor to the podium.

In a normal court case these positions would “have to research other cases and figure if something was unconstitutional” Tallavajhala said.

Both judges and attorneys work by stimulating the brain with intelligent cooperation and brainstorming with one another, should not all staters do the same?

Operations Feature

By Andrew Benne and Alex Karrasch
Staters Union

At Boys State there are many different Political Action Committees also known as PACs. One of these is the Coalition of Cities and Counties.

The CCC works with the cities and counties and gives them money to help develop themselves.

They are currently in the process of funding a school and a jail.

The Coalition has ingeniously rearranged their room to create a more productive space.

Their office includes a front desk and a back meeting room separated by a sheet.

Cole Rohr, a member of the CCC, stated that they are very ?Pro Marijuana.? He also said that they are mostly funding Nationalist campaigns but are open to funding Federalists as well.

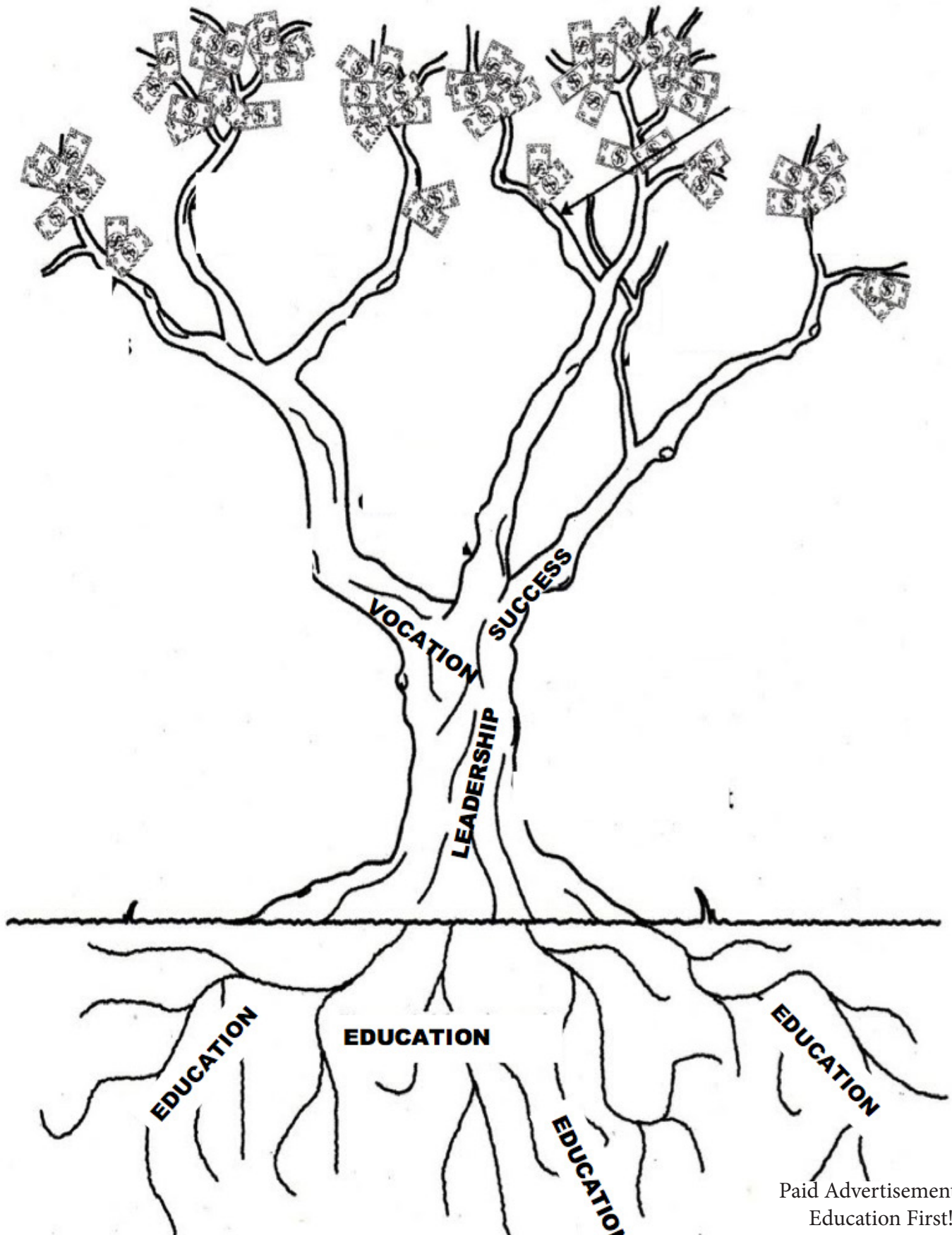
The CCC has also started negotiating a Super-PAC with the Oil and Industry PACS.

As a parting word the CCC would like to tell all cities that they are willing to donate, but only if the cities have good motives for their endeavors.

Selfie of the Day



Eisenhower County



Paid Advertisement by
Education First!

Town Hall Meetings

Kansas Court of Appeals Judge Pierron:

By: Tanner Myers

During the Tuesday night presentations, Kansas Senator Michael O'Donnell discussed his political, religious, and personal viewpoints.

Mr. O'Donnell, in his twenties, is an avid Baptist and Republican party member.

When asked why he became involved in politics at such a young age, he replied "I wanted to be a leader at an early age."

He proceeded to connect with his audience through a humorous story of his elementary shenanigans.

He recounted creating a monopoly of the school playground by requiring payment, currency being VBS tickets, to use various equipment.

His comical story was extremely entertaining and created a very relatable persona.

As for personal

legislation, Michael O'Donnell is the primary sponsor of one bill, and the secondary sponsor for 17 bills.

Despite his young age, O'Donnell is an accomplished and rising politician.

He proclaimed his upbringing in Wichita and described the pride he has for his hometown.

O'Donnell then elaborated on the specifics of his political position.

He moved on to tell the audience of his path through politics, and concluded with a Q&A session in which he answered questions regarding education, gay marriage, and energy.

Overall, Michael O'Donnell is a passionate youthful politician whose exceptional speaking skills voice his vivid republican platform.

Kansas State Senator Michael O'Donnell

By: Alex Karrasch

Following Senator O'Donnell's speech, Kansas Court of Appeals judge Joseph Pierron came to give an overview of what it is like to be a judge.

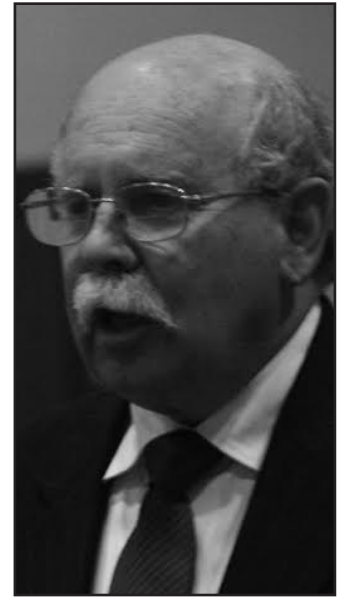
Pierron began by giving a brief summary of American history detailing how the judicial system came to hold such an important role in our government.

From the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation, to the penning of the US Constitution.

He explained how the Founding Fathers feared the potential of the government to become tyrannical and, in order to curb this, created the most powerful court system in all the world.

However, this is not to suggest that Pierron was merely there to teach a history lesson. No, rather he was able to make his topic engaging and extremely entertaining.

He achieved it by bringing the federal Supreme Court case *Illinois vs. Caballes* to life with an actual judge's robes, and a stuffed drug-sniffing dog



named Spike.

Laughs and applause abounded during his speech and this can best be exemplified by the moment when Pierron was answering his most commonly asked questions: "[I was asked] 'do you watch *The Princess Bride*?' and I said 'Of course, my kids watch it three times a day!...you look like the Italian assassin, to which I replied, 'INCONCEIVABLE!,' Pierron exclaimed.

The 2014 session marked the eighteenth time that Pierron spoke at Boys State. One can only hope that he's back for many more.

Follow the Staters Union on Twitter:
@KSBSMedia