



The American Legion Boys State of Kansas Staters Union

June 6, 2010

Volume 73, Issue 1

Optimism Required



Scott Bley
Executive Director

Welcome to the 73rd session of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas. An army of volunteers has dedicated many hours in the off-season to improving various aspects of the program so that each of you has a positive experience. The fruits of our labors will soon be revealed during the course of this single week. In short, we are excited that you are here.

I can distinctly remember my first day of Boys State

back when I was a delegate in 2000. I had a lot of feelings bottled up inside me, but excitement definitely was not one of them... more like uncertainty, confusion, and fear. Many of you are probably experiencing some of those same feelings.

Don't worry- you are not alone. You may be asking yourselves the same questions I asked myself five years ago. What is Boys State? Why am I here? Is this a conspiracy by my

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CARPE DIEM

Derek Symes
Newspaper Counselor

"Seize the Day," this is the way that every stater should establish themselves when walking into this camp. Live this week to the fullest and take advantage of every aspect of this week. Here is a word of advice to all of you newcomers: don't waste your time! Sometimes a week can sound like forever, but it will go by as "quick as a flick."

Some people think of Boys State as a boring government or a politics camp, but this camp transcends above the "camp" title into "a week to shape a lifetime." The goal of Boys State is to find the difference between the unknown person who first walked into camp and the known man who walked out.

During this week, use your time to introduce yourself to as many people as possible, and sometimes even throw in a few facts about yourself. I know this may seem "cheesy", but it will make your time at Boys State worth while because as odd as this may sound, these people will become your family.

On behalf of the counselors, coordinators, advisers, mentors, and legionaires... Welcome!

THE RESILIENCE OF CHARACTER

Andrew Roozeboom
Program Coordinator

I know that I am not the first and I will certainly not be the last person to welcome you to the 73rd Session of the American Legion Boys State of Kansas. I will do so anyway, Welcome.

You have seen the literature, you have browsed the website, and maybe you have even seen the recruitment video. You have come as prepared as you can. Mom packed clean underwear and Dad heaved your heavy suitcase into the trunk. Now they are gone. You are alone with 500 other young men who are in the exact same situation. No amount of literature or information can replace what is going to happen to you this week. Friends will be made, memories will be forged, and your life will be reshaped forever.

Unfortunately, reshaping lives is not a natural occurrence. People tend to find themselves falling into the same habits and the same routines because it is easy. In my experience it takes no effort to do the same thing you did yesterday. It is hard to motivate yourself to do something out of your comfort zone or something

that challenges you mentally or physically. While doing the easy thing may be enjoyable at the moment take a second and think about how it develops your character.

Your character is developed in large part by how you encounter and respond to obstructions and unforeseen events that pop up when you least expect them. This week will be full of things you have never encountered and you will find yourself responding in ways you never thought you would ever be able to.

As the week begins, take the time to think about the way you think about issues and how you relate to people. By the time Friday rolls around I guarantee that it will be different. Maybe not an extreme 180 degrees, but perhaps a refinement in the way you interact with people from a different socio-economic class, race, sexual orientation, or geographical location. This week is a controlled environment that is full of chaos where you can take advantage of every moment to take a look at yourself and realize this is the

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Meet the Boys State Coordinators



Andrew
Roozeboom
Program



Jared
Meitler
Personel



Kevin Phillips
Departments
PACs



Paul Day
Legislature
State Offices

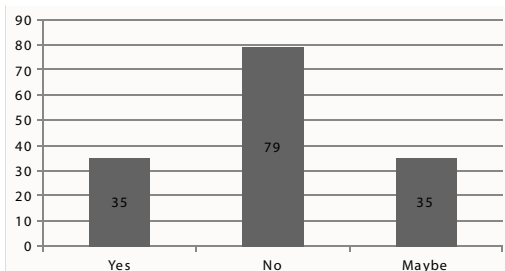


Adam Doyle
IT/AV

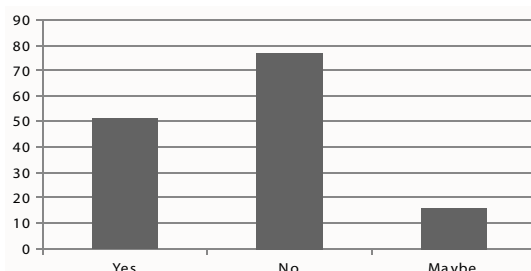


John Moeder
Local Events

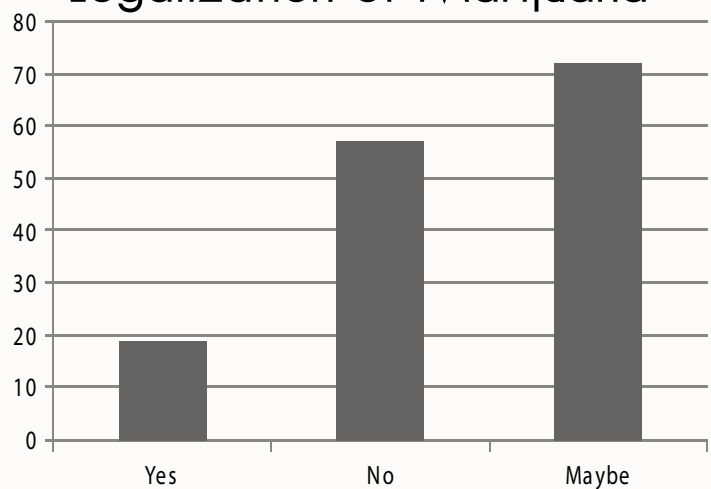
Should the
H1N1 virus
(aska swine flu)
carriers be
quarantined?



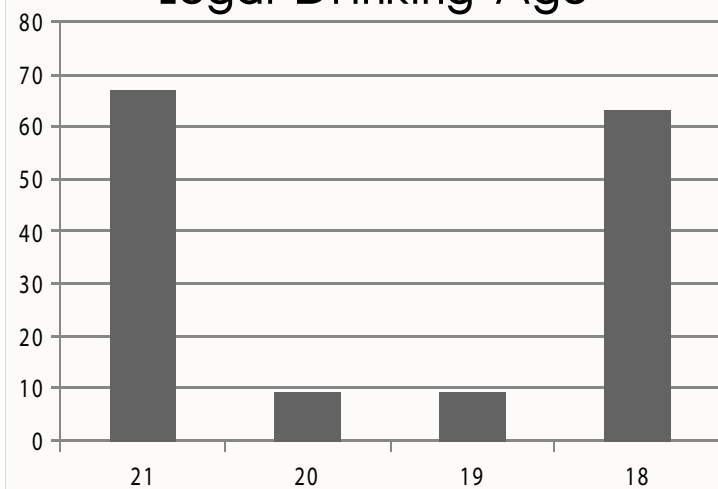
Do you
support
Same-Sex
Marriage?



Legalization of Marijuana



Legal Drinking Age



Viewpoints

John Moeder
Local Events Coordinator

Algernon Black once said, "Why not let people differ about their answers to the great mysteries of the Universe? Let each seek one's own way to the highest, to one's own sense of supreme loyalty in life, one's ideal of life. Let each philosophy, each world-view bring forth its truth and beauty to a larger perspective, that people may grow in vision, stature and dedication."

Essentially, Black was arguing that diversity of opinion makes individuals and society stronger and more culturally rich. Of the many lessons Boys State teaches its delegates, this is one of the most important. That is why during the week the program emphasizes the need for dialogue and friendly debate.

Throughout the week delegates will be introduced to many new experiences and ways of thinking and being. This is a result of the diverse

backgrounds from which our delegates come and their differences in terms of race, religion, political ideology and future goals.

At Boys State we encourage everyone to share their unique interests and beliefs. This is not merely an exercise in multiculturalism for the sake of multiculturalism, but is an attempt to show the necessity of cooperation and interaction among people with diverse experiences. For example, the problems that delegates will face throughout the week do not have set solutions and no one view of the world will provide the necessary answers.

There is an old story about a group of blind men that came upon an elephant. Each of them touches a different part of the animal and come to very different conclusions about what it is. One man touches the trunk and insists that it must be a snake, while another man embraces

the leg and emphatically states that it must be the trunk of the tree. Finally, a third man grabs the elephant's tail and declares that the others are wrong because it most definitely is a rope. For some time, the men continue to argue until a fourth man comes along and explains to them that they are all close, but have overlooked the entirety of the picture. Just like the story of the blind men and the elephant, the delegates this week will face problems that they cannot fully grasp on the experiences of any one individual. Instead they will have to share and collaborate in order to understand the problems they face and discover possible solutions.

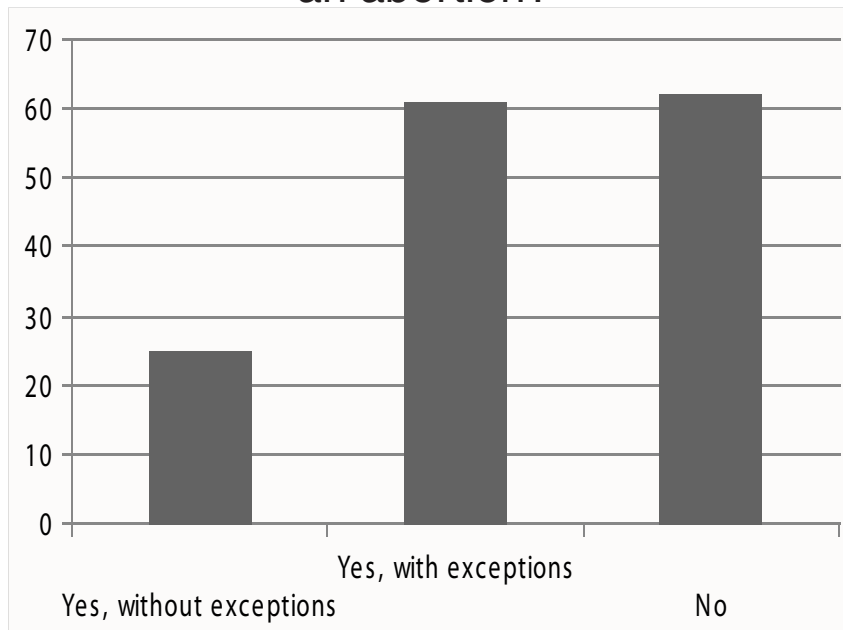
During this week we ask all of our delegates to be open to new experiences. Frankly, just showing up demonstrates a willingness to try new things. Hopefully, this week will only enrich this curiosity.

THE NEWSPAPER

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 to be considered for publication. All letters will be edited for space, grammar and legality. Letters should be taken to the Staters Union office.

Do you support a woman's right to have an abortion?



Polls

These results are from a survey of approximately 156 delegates and was taken prior to this session of Boys State.

facebook

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 contact with your fellow staters.

Search for the American Legion Boys State of Kansas on Facebook and join today!

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parents to get rid of me for a week? Did I get sent here because I failed my history class?

Unfortunately, I can't answer those questions for you. Boys State means different things to different people, and in the end, the reasons that delegates give for being here are as numerous as the delegates themselves. Regardless of why you are here, the realization is that you are here. Someone back home thought enough of you and your abilities to sponsor your participation in Boys State.

Now each of you is faced with a choice. What will you do with the week you have been given? A world of opportunities awaits you. You alone must choose how you will spend your week

at Boys State. In the end, you will get out of the week what you put into it. Will you take an active part in the Boys State simulation and government process? Will you work with one another to solve the problems that confront your cities and counties?

The choice is up to you. We wish you well in your decision. We wish you the courage to face your fears. We wish you success for your week at Boys State.

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perfect opportunity to develop a network of friends, to learn about others and yourself, and to see how you can make a difference in your communities.

As staff we will do our part to challenge you in ways you never thought possible, we ask only that you rise to our challenge and discover that, with the support of peers, changing a lifetime can be a lot simpler than you expect.

Interested in Journalism?

Run as your county's delegate for the Media Corps tonight! Only two from each county will be elected. Good luck!