

# THE STATESMAN

A Publication of American Legion Boys' State of New York, Inc. Volume 83, No. 3  
Sunday, June 30, 2019



## McNamara, Ashforth hand down tips for public speaking success

By Max Berryman #0210

Boys' State citizens were welcomed on their third day of the program with short, effective speeches from District Attorney Scott McNamara and motivational speaker Fred Ashforth in Rec Hall. Both McNamara and Ashforth spoke about the importance of public speaking and enlightened the group with tips for success. The two proceeded to take questions after concluding their speeches and received their own signature Boys' State clock, pen, t-shirt, and certificate of appreciation.

McNamara kept his speech short in order to allot time for questions from the boys. One question asked what is important to be elected. The DA responded by saying a candidate needs to be trustworthy. McNamara's job holds a responsibility to distinguish right and wrong and advises the boys to do the right thing. "When you do the right thing, sometimes it can be hard, but it's important," said McNamara. He also mentioned that in his cases winning or losing should take a backseat to simply formulating solutions to problems. McNamara is currently involved in a high profile case featured by Fox News involving an illegal



*District Attorney Scott McNamara addresses Boys's State citizens questions.  
Photo by Erik Adolfsson, #0106*

weapons charge for a 64 year-old man who shot and killed two burglars invading his home in the early afternoon.

Fred Ashforth describes his speeches as "speeches on how to speak". As he mentioned, the three main components for success are attitude, technique, and behavior. Ashforth found it important to come speak with the citizens of Boys' State because he knew that young leaders need direction and tips for how to properly speak in order to win crucial positions in state conventions. Some tips

include: dressing to impress, proper posture, speaking on a passionate topic, addressing the individuals in the audience, and smiling. Ashforth has spoken to more than 20,000 people in New York about a number of topics along with his wife who discusses her double lung transplant that saved her life after suffering from cystic fibrosis.

The 2019 Boys' State citizens shockingly sang the Boys' State Alma Mater three times, surpassing the usual two time loop of the anthem.

# Federalists Prepare for the State Elections

By Riley Johanson #0532

The first half of Boys' State is complete. As the citizens of Boys' State face the second half of the experience here at Morrisville, the time of state elections rapidly approaches. In the previous few days, both the Nationalist and Federalist parties have selected their nominees for the highest positions in the state government. On Thursday and Friday, the Federalist party met at the Rec Hall for a series of party conventions that can best be described as an interesting take on the democratic process.

As each session took place, the members of the Federalist party were exposed to a multitude

of speeches ranging from long, preaching speeches to quick, funny statements. Drama was abundant as nominees competed for their party's favor through varying means. There were candidates who appealed to their audience through jokes about blue juice, cellphone usage, and back flips, resulting in cheers, boos, and chants, from the candidates' fellow party members. After a long, grueling election process, the Federalist party made its decisions and has begun to prepare to meet the Nationalists in the coming elections.

On Thursday, the Federalists elected Kaleb Sonnenberg from Roosevelt County as their Party Chairman, Mani Chugh from Pedro County as the Party Secretary, and

Jassup Bensley from Scheiberling County as the Federalist Clerk. When Friday rolled around, the Federalists made their decisions on nominations for each of the major government positions up for election at the state level. The nominees for Judges Court of Appeals were selected: Patrick Cullen from Wong County as Comptroller and Obi Nwako from Rohan County as Attorney General, resulting in a victory for the two counties. The nominations for Governor and Lieutenant Governor will be selected on Saturday night. The Statesman will report on those nominations in Sunday's edition of the paper.

*Photo by Emmanuel Agbavitor, #1009*



## State Convention Highlights:

By Riley Johanson #0532 and Will Sylvia #0455

In the Nationalist convention, Keith Szczepanski (977), candidate for attorney general, gave a roaring speech with few words, "Reinstate trial by combat." Candidate 507 (Alexander Owens) upon losing in the 3rd round, attempted to take Keith up on his offer. After approaching prepared to take on the cool soon-to-be Attorney General, Owens was surrounded by State Police. After

deciding to run, he soon returned to a hall filled with laughter and cheering.

On the Federalist end of the festivities, there was great excitement among the audience when a citizen of Boys' State running for Party Clerk performed a back flip on stage. His actions resulted in his victory with the support of the cheering Federalist mob, but he ultimately resigned his position and it was taken by another. In the following convention, the

race for Attorney General got heated when a candidate cursed on stage. Following his speech, there were chants from throughout the crowd yelling "watch your language" as he proceeded to sit down. Coincidence was also present in the convention as two Boys' Staters running for Judge of Court of Appeals were both named Ryan Reynolds. Aside from coincidence, both candidates share their name with the famous actor, resulting in a funny scenario.





Photo by Eric Yen, #0364

# Nationalist State Convention Friday evening and Saturday afternoon recap

By Will Sylvia #0455

Friday's Nationalist State convention began with making a heartwarming video for parents back home. Proceedings then went on to establish temporary rules and positions, and then election for those positions followed. After a fierce debate for three rounds Dylan Cepeda #1031 addressed the crowd saying, "I'm sorry. I'm kind of nervous," establishing a common emotion sympathized by all citizens in the room. Cepeda won in a landslide of 271-170 votes. Candidate Miguel Connell #0987 placed second in the running.

After four rounds of voting, candidate Miguel Connell #0987 achieved the position of Vice Clerk with a final vote count of 284-137. Candidate Scott Smith #0503 was the runner up. Finally, the position of Chairman was decided after three rounds, decided with a 285-151 vote. Candidate Alvin Lukose #0803 took first and Andrew Mulhare #285

placed second, concluding the first Nationalist convention.

On Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m., the second Nationalist Convention began. The first position up for election was the State Comptroller. After three rounds, candidate Samuel Walz #0353 won 246-127 against Joseph Wloch #0193. Next, the seven judges were selected, and

finally, the position of Attorney General went to vote with candidate Keith Szczepanski #0977 winning in a four round debate and 310-107 vote over Matthew Hecht #0095.

The convention was halted, leaving the final positions of Governor and Lieutenant Governor to be elected on Saturday evening.

Photo by Eric Yen, #0364



# Weather

## Sunday, June 30

**High:** 65° | **Low:** 54°  
**Humidity:** 78%  
**UV Index:** 8/10

**Today:** Showers in the morning, then partly cloudy in the afternoon. Winds NW at 10 to 20 mph. Chance or rain 50%

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy skies. Winds NW at 10 to 15 mph.

**Sunrise:** 5:27 a.m.  
**Sunset:** 8:45 p.m.

## Who Got That Juice?

By Grant Allen #0982

Boys' State citizens may be divided by city, county and party lines, but there is one thing that unites us all: blue drink. Blue drink, also known as "blue drank," is the nectar that citizens of Boys' State consume for the energy necessary to carry out their governmental duties. No one knows exactly what ingredients make up blue drink, but without it, Boys' State would surely descend into the depths of anarchy. City policemen and mayors proclaim, "I need my blue drank to find the strength to even

wake up in the morning." Many lowly dissidents argue that the reliance on blue drink risks serious addiction and displays a lack of moral character; therefore, I believe that these men are likely cretins who are jealous because they've never gotten their hands on a cup of the sweet, blue drink.

Despite the clear benefits of mass consumption of blue drink, Boys' State and SUNY Morrisville as a whole has created a cruel monopoly over the purchase and distribution of blue drink. By regulating the amount of the sweet nectar in the market, Boys' State officials and

cafeteria staff have ensured that we, the citizens and people of New York Boys' State, are forced to yield to their every whim to guarantee the absolute authority over our precious democracy. Our Boys' State has become a "puppets' state," and I refuse to accept it. I encourage all Boys' States citizens to demand their human right of blue drink, and for those campaigning for governor and other high-ranking positions, you must guarantee the delivery unto the masses of the water of life that is our "blue drank."



# 2 Types of Candidates

By Craig Haas 0462

Over the first three days of Boys' State, its citizens have participated in numerous elections for government positions within the political levels: cities, counties, and states. Throughout these elections, we have seen a wide range of personalities from the candidates. Outgoing and silly candidates compete against serious and knowledgeable citizens for each political office. As I watched these elections from the audience, I asked myself a question: why are we voting for people who don't take the position seriously?

While there have been some incredibly strong candidates willing to do anything to earn themselves a position, we have seen back-

flips, foul language, unrealistic legislation proposals, and outright craziness take place on stage. For example, the commissioner for the Federalists party ran his platform off the idea of blue juice every day, but there already is "blue juice" every day. He also insisted on ten minutes of phone time every day, a proposition in which he has no power to overturn. Another candidate gave his name and did a backflip. He gave no speech but won a high government position on the initial vote simply because of the flip. He had no intention of actually holding the office but just wanted to do the back flip on stage as evident by his immediate resignation after the concluding vote.

There's also plenty of foul language spoken by the candidates in the state conventions. This needs to be fixed because this behavior is disrespectful towards the respective office positions, the state of New York and the American Legion.

We are all here to learn about politics. This is not a summer camp to baby-sit high school students. Maybe I am missing the whole point, but I don't understand how some of us are voting for candidates who disrespect the offices of Boys' State. For next year, something must be done to maintain the integrity for the American Legion and uphold New York's Boys' State's reputation as an elite leadership program for young men.

---

## Letter to the Editor: Attendance Requirement

The American Legion Department of New York sets its Boys' State dates by the school dates. We ask for a commitment of five days. We pay for your five days. Why would we not expect you to be here for five days?

We are attempting to show you a basic understanding of how our government works and do this in five days.

So, what does attending a non-tragic event entail? What if you are at the farthest part of the state from Morrisville? Now, you need

two days to really accomplish your goal [of missing one day]. Losing two out of five, to me, as a county Boys' State chairman, is only 60 percent and I find it unacceptable.

Should the delegate who is away for 2/5ths of the program receive the same certificate as those who worked so hard to do five out of five? Is 3/5ths or 4/5ths acceptable?

We ask for 100 percent. Five days that would open your eye to a portion of the world as the Legion knows it. Also, it's a commitment and

an agreement that is signed and notarized. When did it open to negotiations for five days? We agree to a specific term. Five days. Not four, three, two or one. Would you accept me only giving you 80 percent or 60 percent?

You're about to go off into life. Is 80 percent or 60 percent of your agreed salary acceptable? Why should the Legion want less than 100 percent?

- A Boys' State County  
Chairman



# SPORTS

## Kiersing walks off 14-13

By LJ LaFiura #0723

In a neck and neck game, the city of Kearsing came out on top with a 14-13 walk off win over the city of Ward.

Ward got a jump on Kearsing in the first inning. The city rattled off four runs, including an RBI triple by Andrew Mulhare. In the next inning Kearsing responded with five runs. Two of which came off of a hit over the head of the left fielder for a two-run home run by Andrew Magistrado.

"We've had a lot of good hits. I was really happy. It was all I really wanted to do," Magistrado said.

With dinner rapidly approaching and the last inning coming to an end, Ward was down two runs, but



*Photo by Erik Adolfsson, #0106*

station to station hitting let them tie up the game.

Kearsing stepped up to the plate and was unstoppable. They loaded the bases just in time for their cleanup hitter, Sam Greco, to hit a

walk off single.

"I just had to put it on the ground, and I did," Greco said.

Kearsing advances to the next round. They will play tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. on Field No. 2.



*Photo by Emmanuel Agbavitor, #1009*

# Fish County Basketball Champions

By Gage Kilborne, #0874

Van Patten and Troiola competed in a heated basketball game to determine which city was going to represent Fish County in the 2019 Boys' State Basketball Tournament. The two teams showed their worth early on as Van Patten lead 2-1.

As the game progressed, Van

Patten went on a 8-0 run to lead 11-3. Troiola fought back with a 6-0 run, bringing the score 11-9 with Van Patten ahead. Van Patten's strong defense and moves to the glass held Troiola down by a significant deficit.

The two fierce teams decided to call a timeout. Van Patten, regaining its strength, went on a 6-0 run expanding the gap to 17-9. Troiola

was victorious and move on to represent Fish County in the county tournament.

Van Patten's strength inside the paint on defense and ability to obtain offensive rebounds is responsible for their win over Troiola. The team was able to work well together, advancing them on to the county level to face fiercer competition.

## LeBron James changes back to old Miami Heat number

By Gage Kilborne #0874

Lebron James is officially returning to his Miami Heat number, No. 6. In preparation for Anthony Davis to join the Los Angeles Lakers, James is giving his old number 23 to Davis and reclaiming his former number. The last time fans saw the King wearing No. 6 was in

the 2014 NBA Finals as a player for the Miami Heat.

Throughout his career for the Miami Heat, James went to four consecutive NBA Finals, winning two championships. But when James traded to the Cleveland Cavaliers flaunting the number 23, he went to one NBA Final but lost to the Spurs in four quick games. Upon his return to Cleveland, James

made it to the NBA Finals again but this time claiming the title of 2016 NBA Champions against the Golden State Warriors.

It appears that James performs better in his No. 6 jersey than in Michael Jordan's magical No. 23. Fans should expect James to lead the Lakers back to their past dominance in the Western Conference.

## Kemba Walker signs with the Celtics

By LJ LaFiura #0723

With the impending free agency of all-star point guard Kyrie Irving, it was clear that the Boston Celtics would need to find a replacement point guard if they wished to be an NBA Championship contender. It looks as if the Celtics have found their solution with all-star point guard, Kemba Walker.

Walker is set to sign a four-year \$141 million contract with the Celtics in the year 2023. The

28-year-old basketball icon has spent the entirety of his NBA career with the Charlotte Hornets who drafted him as the ninth overall pick in the 2011 NBA Draft. The Hornets never regretted their pick with Walker, after he averaged 20 points and six assists per game.

Walker will be replacing Irving, a former Cleveland Cavalier prior to signing with the Boston Celtics in 2017 as part of a block buster trade. Irving rode the bench much of the season and through the playoffs and

finals due to a sustained knee injury.

Walker will not have to subject himself to New England fan criticism as many other professional athletes in sports have had to. In 2011, Walker carried the University of Connecticut Huskies to the NCAA National Championship. In that season he became known as "Cardiac Kemba" for his sensational performances in important games. After being drafted to the NBA, Walker averaged 24 points, five rebounds, and five assists per game.