



Cornhusker Boys' State *Bulletin*

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Thon, Traynor Face Off

The final moments of the 2014 Gubernatorial Race



Candidate profiles, debate recap in this issue.

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The Results Are In

Compiled by Cody Riecken, Manila Bay

State Offices

Lieutenant Governor

Joseph Ferris

Public Service Commissioners

Connor Baldwin
Marshall Glock
Austin Stone
Alex Conley
Jeremy Davis

Secretary of State

Nathan Maginnis

State Auditor

Gage Hoegermeyer

State Treasurer

Guma Kuku

Attorney General

Landon Schmitt

Washington County Offices

Lincoln County Offices

County Sheriff

Colby Cassidy

John DeSanto

County Attorney

Jackson Porter

Josh Baue

County Clerk

Cody Beckmann

Darin Barth

Clerks of the District Court

Andrew Rasmussen

Jameson Bennett

Trenton Buhr

Nathan Rouse

County Treasurer

Jeremiah Perkins

Sam Roth

State Board of Education

Noah Fisher

Travis Eller

Aaron Moore

Jonah Scheffler

Jordan Polk

Noah Sherman

County Judge

Jacob Widhelm

Emmett Beckler

Public Defender

Colton Krause

Noah Johnson

A Well Earned Privilege

By Dempsey Tapley, Belleau Wood

EDITORIAL: This is an overall congratulations to all those who were successful in their State and County Election Campaign. The fact that you won in your particular position means a majority of your intelligent and dignified peers have seen you as the most qualified and driven individual for the job. This is cause for great celebration and personal pride.

The exhilarating experience after one learns that they have been successful in their political race is indescribable, as it should be. There is no point to be over-intellectual when it comes to this emotion. It doesn't need to be, but it needs to be felt and understood. Every time you experience this rush of euphoria, cherish the moment. This is your exhilaration. This is your 2014 Cornhusker Boys' State. You've earned it!



The Final Two

By Mathew Ramierez, Gettysburg

The moment that has been long awaited is finally here: the election of the next Boys' State Governor. The position will be given to one of two men, Hunter Traynor or Carl Thon. These two men had to come a long way and face off against some strong competition, but, in the end, they came out on top. Now it is time to see who the better candidate truly is.

Hunter Tranynor is the candidate for the Federalist Party as well as the Mayor of Gettysburg. He believes that one should be

judged on their character, not their academic achievements. Traynor does not like to dwell on his own academic accomplishments, believing that someone's morals and ability to lead are what makes a great candidate. Traynor said, "I am here to compromise and be open minded toward all opinions."

Carl Thon is running for the Nationalist Party and is also Mayor of his town of Alamo. His fellow citizens describe him as a level-headed man with big plans for his possible term as the Boys' State Governor. Thon believes that the educational system is in need of reform. His ideals are moderate and he wishes to appeal to con-

Progress in Legislature

By Cesar Linare, Belleau Wood

"Chena" Ganesan presided over yet another riveting session of the Legislature yesterday. The bills passed Thursday ranged from the serious priority of education, to "Nighty Night" tuck-in requirements for counselors. The session differed from Wednesday's as three new laws were passed as opposed to two. There was much frustration among the more quiet members of the Legislature, the reason being that other members became militant on their issue.

The session began with the floor to Jackson Blalack, presenting a bill to basically reinstate the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights. Representatives of Manila Bay pointed out, however, that the bill did not try to solve any issue.

Conversely, the State may now start losing less money to

Iowa from casino gambling. Casino gambling will be legal once the Governor signs the bill into effect. As one member of Bunker Hill iterated, "... hundreds of millions of dollars are lost to Iowa every year."

Teachers in Nebraska will now have to meet certain academic standards or else they will be subject to teacher training programs by special committees. The progress of education will be measured using standardized tests.

Perhaps the most notably successful piece of legislation from Thursday was the the "Nighty Night" bill. The legislation requires counselors to tuck their students into bed, if requested, and to also sing a lullaby if further called upon. The bill passed near unanimously, with Cesar Magana Linares of Belleau Wood being the only Senator against the bill.

Presumably, the delegates of Boys' State are eager for the Governor to sign the law into effect on Friday night.

stituents across the whole spectrum. **3**

Who will be the next Boys' State Governor? One can only speculate at this moment, but one thing is for sure: they are both equally great candidates and will do great things for the future of Boys' State. Good luck gentlemen, and may the best candidate win.

Political Parties of Nebraska

By Will Patterson, Manila Bay

Yesterday, the boys attending Cornhusker Boys' State were given the unique opportunity to watch Vince Powers, the State Chairman of the Nebraska Democratic party, and JL Spray, the State Chairman of the Nebraska Republican party, go head-to-head on current issues in politics today. This casual debate was hosted by Jon and Taryn Vanderford from 10/11 news.

The debate began with Spray and Powers giving their opening statements, during which they explained their positions of their parties and what their party platforms consisted of. As the debate heated up, both Chairmen continued to treat one another with respect, still taking swings at their opponent's party. As the debate raged on, both Spray and Powers began to wind down their swings back and forth and finally concluded with their closing statements. Both Powers and Spray encouraged all members of Boys' and Girls' State to join a political party in the future in order to stay active within the political community and have a real impact on our government.

Alamo Town Report

By Tyler Ruzicka, Alamo

As the week starts to come to a close, the town of Alamo is hard at work. They are striving to obtain excellence in as many areas as they can this year at Cornhusker Boys' State. Whether it's campaigning alongside their gubernatorial candidate Carl Thon, demonstrating their physical prowess in basketball or track, working to perform to their best at the band and choir performance on Wednesday night, or creating the best cheers and chants that Boys' (and Girls') State has ever seen, the Alamonians have proven their place among the cream of the crop.

In the political race, Alamo is really becoming a big contender. Alamonian Joe Ferris won the office of Lieutenant Governor, Landon Schmitt is our new Attorney General, Gage Hoegermeyer proudly holds the office of State Auditor, Nathan Rouse was elected as Clerk of the District Court for Lincoln County, and Blake Dvarishkis was given a place as an Associate Justice for Lincoln County. Finally, Carl Thon won the primary election for the office of governor for the Nationalist Party. Congratulations to all of you, and Alamo is proud!

The citizens of Alamo are also working hard in their own respective extracurricular activities. The boys were able to win games in sports like volleyball and football, and performed several musical pieces during the concert on Wednesday night.

Finally, I think it is important to say that the town of Alamo produces some of the high-

est-quality chants that Boys' State has ever seen. They have shown some surprising musical talent to all Staters, Boys' and Girls', during our joint sessions. The song-smiths have been serenading the Girls' Staters all week long, and they are sure to impress in the final days of Boys' State.

Belleau Wood Town Report

By Chance Kennicutt, Belleau Wood

Citizens of Belleau Wood have kept busy lately with their numerous campaigns and rallies for their respective politicians, but there is more than just a political



machine behind the scenes. For instance, Belleau Wood often holds assemblies purely for the purpose of discussing one another's views on issues and concerns in an open forum. Belleau Wood's citizens are also very pleased with their athletes for their successes over the course of the camp and is proud to have two of its teams playing in the championship games. Although Belleau Wood has excelled, it has also had its share of defeat. The citizens realize we won't win every game, election, or position, but it is this knowledge that makes us stronger. With the end of the

session approaching all citizens of Belleau Wood have learned that it is in the face of defeat, not victory, that we need to support each other and are stronger everyday because of it.

Gettysburg Town Report

By Mathew Ramierez, Gettysburg

The end of the Boys' State experience is fast approaching and the subject on everyone's mind is the upcoming election of the Boys' State Governor. The men of Get-

tysburg have been focusing a major portion of their time and energy on helping their two candidates for Governor in the campaigning process. It has been a long and well fought race by all candidates. After the results of the primary elections, they found out that one of their candidates made it into the final election. All of Gettysburg is coming together as a whole to help their candidate become the next Governor of Boys' State. They have been talking non-stop about ideas for how to help themselves achieve their goal. Seeing them work so hard to help out their friend truly is something great, and shows the bond that these men share.

Manila Bay Town Report

By Cody Riecken, Manila Bay

Thursday was rather uneventful for Manila Bay. We went through the sessions as usual, such as the Federalist and Nationalist meetings for the Governor Primary Election and the General Election for all other candidates. Manila Bay rallied behind all of our candidates, including two for Governor: Isaiah Miller and Randy Thomas. The town is looking forward to the track meet as well, and I know that the guys were super excited to hear that Girls' State was going to be there. So good luck, don't choke, and represent.

Bunker Hill Town Report

By Jared Polack, Bunker Hill

As always, Bunker Hill has had an outstanding 24 hours. Last night, Bunker Hill rocked the house with their rendition of "Get Low", which they sang to the Girls' Staters' in an effort to acquire their phone numbers. At this point they are unwilling to comment on whether this effort was successful or not.

Many new ordinances have also been passed recently in the town of Bunker Hill. Of course, in Bunker Hill fashion, absolutely none of them were practical, but no one has had a problem with that thus far. One example of this, and to provide fair warning, is ordinance 14: "All persons entering Bunker Hill from another town shall make out with the John Michael picture for 10 seconds".

Overall, Bunker Hill is full of some of the best guys here, and I don't just mean personality-wise. On Wednesday, Bunker Hill won every sports game: basketball, football, softball, and, yes, even volleyball. GO BUNKER HILL!

Yorktown Town Report

By Jordan Werth, Yorktown

Wednesday proved to be another busy day for Yorktown as Boys' State slowly winds down. The candidates that are going for State offices have worked diligently on their campaigns. They have worked on promoting themselves within other towns as they try to steal votes from other candidates. They are currently past the primary election within their respective political party and are now looking to win votes from the whole Boys' State community in the General Election. The candidates will be paying close attention to the results when they come in to see if their hard work paid off.

The sports team had another successful day Wednesday as all teams managed to win their games. They will be looking to win the championship in their respective sports when they compete on Friday. Yorktown also worked on creating chants for the joint session with Girls' State Wednesday night. The chants were a huge success as they created a crazed atmosphere in Kimball Hall. This concluded another successful night in Yorktown.

Thursday was another busy day with many events going on. Thursday was the last day that the candidates for the State positions were able to promote their cam-

paign. All the candidates hope their hard work turns into positive results.

Valley Forge Town Report

By Ted Degner, Valley Forge

VF Black had a rather eventful Thursday. In the morning, both Nationalist and Federalist candidates for various positions gave a short spiel and answered a few questions to sway voters in their favor. During the Party Platform event, in Kimball Hall, the black-shirts serenaded the Girls' Staters by singing "Good Morning Beautiful", and received miraculous applause from the girls.

After that, the primary election for the position of Governor took place, Valley Forge's candidates for that position being Zachary Faltys (Nat'l), and Francisco Gonzales (Fed). Unfortunately, neither candidate survived the primaries. On the State & County side, however, Valley Forge scored many victories, including: Guma Kuku for State Treasurer; Marshall Glock for Public Service Commissioner; Coby Cassidy for County Sheriff; Jackson Porter for County Attorney; Cody Beckmann for County Clerk; Andrew Rasmussen for Clerk of District Court; and Jacob Widhelm for County Judge. Congratulations to all those who won their respective offices!

Before heading to the Track Meet, the City Council held a meeting and discussed how they would respond to certain scenarios, like

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how the city would deal with a large amount of litter and the punishment for littering. As the week winds down the black-shirts are both anxious and sad for the end of Boys' State.

Bataan Town Report

By Tristan Bruc, Bataan

The day started with governors and state candidates presenting to their parties. Then the whole town of Bataan walked eagerly towards Kimball hall for the joint session. There they listened to a Democratic representative and a Republican representative. They watched as the representatives fought back and forth on their parties' views on particular issues. The townspeople of Bataan were shocked by some of the responses that the representatives gave. Once they got back from Kimball Hall the townspeople could not wait to vote for their favorite candidates. After lunch, the city council came to order. The city council passed two new ordinances. Throughout the day, the constant talk about the track meet filled floor nine. The town of Bataan is very excited for the Capitol visit on Friday, and they can't wait to listen to more great speakers.

A Beforehand Debate

By Dawson Cozad, Gettysburg

Thursday's Kimball Hall debate between the State Chairmen of the Nebraska Democratic and Republic Parties Vince Powers and JL Spray, respectively, was rather heated and intense. In the minds of some Boys' and Girls' Staters, this debate was very entertaining. This

joint event was hosted by Jon and Taryn Vanderford of 10/11 news. These charismatic and energetic political rivals had the chance to voice their views on controversial matters and different issues and problems that we, as Nebraskans, are facing currently and/or are worried about. It is also notable that the questions chosen to be voiced were hand-selected, written by both Boys' and Girls' Staters. These men were able to give both Cornhusker Boys' and Girls' State a wide-angled view on what their respective political parties hope to accomplish and what they stand for in their campaigns. Issues ranged anywhere from the Keystone XL Pipeline, to Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO), to the legalization of marijuana. Attendees were able to clearly see where each chairmen stood on the issue, with plenty of back-to-back debate between the two men. One currently controversial issue that these men touched base with was same-sex marriage. JL Spray was very static where he stood; he believed in traditional marriage between a man and woman, but that change was bound to come whether they wanted to or not. Powers was on the opposite side of the spectrum, saying that he believed that it was not the government's job to get involved in these kinds of personal affairs, and that the government shouldn't define who someone can love. Both men had equally interesting points of view on these controversial matters, and each one held their opinions in high regard. Each person was very enthusiastic to answer the Boys' and Girls' State questions, as well as each Stater was equally intrigued with the answers that these men had provided.

Courts in Session 6

By Adrian Silva, Manila Bay

Thursday afternoon, Boys State Delegates involved with the judicial system had four different cases to either be the Plaintiffs or the Defendants for. (The Plaintiff in a case is the one who is suing, and the Defendant is the one who is being sued). The four cases that were discussed were Hobby Lobby vs HHS, Wurie vs US, Monsanto vs Bowman, and Sioux vs Multiple Parties (White Clay). Each delegate was assigned a different position in one of the four cases. These cases can be argued very strongly on both sides, and it was fun for delegates to put their debating skills to work. There were three Plaintiffs and three Defendants on each side of a case. Delegates had to first create and present their opening statements. Then, both Plaintiffs and Defendants argued back and forth between rebuttals (Rebuttals are statements that disagree with what the other side said). After this, closing arguments, which summarize why their side should win, and why the other side shouldn't. The Judge assigned to the case then made the final decision whether the Plaintiff or the Defendant won. Delegates got a taste of how court room trials work, and they got to have fun with it.



Letter to the Editor

With two days left of Cornhusker Boys' State, some anonymous members would like to make it clear what a wonderful experience they have had thus far. From the knowledgeable and esteemed speakers, to the hospitality of The American Legion, to the University of Nebraska Staff, to the camp counselors who have made this experience as exciting as it possibly could be, we thank all those who have put in the time and effort to make this week an unforgettable experience we can cherish for the rest of our lives. Thank you.

Hobby Lobby

By Adam Pinkelman, Manila Bay

With the formation of the Political Action Committees (PAC), positions were given to the members: Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Lobbyists, and School Board Members. Possibly the most interesting positions were the lobbyists. Lobbying is when a person tries to persuade the legislation to vote and pass certain bills in favor of their ideals. At Boys' State, the lobbyists strive for the same goal except they are allowed to watch the legislation in session. The lobbyists would approach a senator while they are in committee and try to persuade them the bill they are proposing is relevant and a viable law. When the committees close and move to debate, the lobbyists retire to an area in the chamber and watch the debate of all the bills including their own, but they are not allowed to interfere with the arguments. Then, eventually,

Concerts, Questions, and Acapella?

By Chance Kennicutt, Belleau Wood

Since the start of Boys' State, all participants have been forever on the go to learn as much about our government in a short amount of time. The on the go mentality seemed to have nearly



dominated the the lives of each town a special event on Wednesday night. After the march to Kimball Hall, that seemed all too familiar, something unique happened. As the Boys' State participants filed into the auditorium, khakis and all, they were met by a stage filled with musicians eagerly awaiting to perform for, none other than, Governor Dave Heineman. The program began with a thunderous roar of harmonious notes under the direction of Boys' State's very the legislation will vote to pass, kill, or table the bill. The process of lobbying is very interesting and quite fun. It allows you to fully and directly voice your opinions to legislation, make sure your voice has been heard, and see you ideas that root in government and everyday life.

own Jim Kucera. Shortly after, the Boys' and Girls' State 7 choir took to the stage to showcase their incredible vocal talents for the hundreds of awe-struck in the audience. When the choir performance had concluded and Dr. Peter Eklund took his final bow, there was another surprise in store for the audience. Coach Bo Pelini and numerous athletes and staff from the University of Nebraska personally recognized the

achievements of each and every Boys' and Girls' State participant.

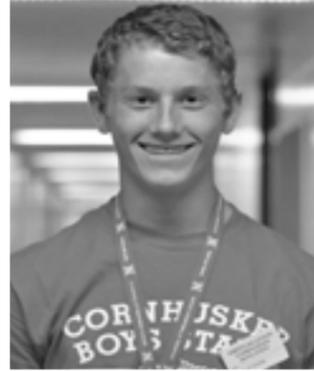
Afterwards, Governor Heineman took to the stage in one of his final addresses as Governor and spent nearly an hour fielding questions from an inquiring audience. Governor Heineman addressed every type of question ranging from education reform to the hot button topic of capital punishment. By the end of the inquiry, all in attendance left with a better understanding of the major issues facing Nebraska. After the address, the counselors had one final event planned for the audience. An acapella ode to the Girls' State who joined the the congregation for the event. All in all, Boys' Staters were pleased to have a night that was slightly spontaneous and off of the schedule.

Carl Thon

By Chris Jurich, Gettysburg

Over the past few days, everyone has been hearing a lot about the views and opinions of the Gubernatorial Governor Candidates. We need to remember however, that these candidates are more than just opinions, but people as well. As the election for this prestigious position nears, let's take a moment to learn about the candidates themselves. Last night, I interviewed Nationalist Candidate Carl Thon over dinner, and learned a lot about him.

Carl said that his experience in this year's Cornhusker Boys' State began months ago. In Carl's hometown, the Legion plays a large role in many of the local events, selling



fireworks around the Fourth of July and frequently organizing banquets. For Carl, the drive and ambition to be Governor began during the interview process when he was asked if he would go for the position. He thought about it, and decided he was up for the challenge. Since he's been here, he has put a lot of effort into getting his name out there, and he says he has benefited from it. Thon said that this experience of running has changed him, and empowered him as well. Although he thought the Primary was very stressful and at times scary, he said he still enjoyed it. According to Carl, he finds shaking the hands of his constituents to be a refreshing experience and notes

that it has given him a new-found confidence. **8**

Carl says that he thinks both he and his opponent will benefit from the similar party platforms between Nationalists and Federalists, and thinks that it will make winning the vote a more personal experience. If elected, Thon says he would focus on Education Reform, emphasizing changes in the structure of student loans and the payment of teachers.

It is important to focus on the opinions of our Candidates with respect to one issue, the Nighty-Night Bill. This highly controversial Bill was passed in the Legislature and states that any Boys' Stater can request to be tucked in by his Counselor should he so pleases. Carl wholeheartedly supports the Bill, saying he enjoys the fact that the Boys' Staters are willing to have fun while getting the job done.

thankful enough for the opportunity to be here. Without the American Legion, we wouldn't be here. Personally, I don't think they are thanked enough for this opportunity.

One of my floor counselors, Levi Pofahl, challenged us with something I would like to extend to the rest of Boys' State: say, "thanks." Say thanks to all the American Legion members, say thanks to the men at the post that sent you, say thanks to your counselors and the UNL staff. All these people have sacrificed so much or worked so hard for us to be here this week, and the least we can do is say "thanks."

Hunter Traynor

By Dempsey Tapley, Belleau Wood

When we look to leaders as a collective, we cannot separate the choices they make from who they are as a person. In the gubernatorial race we are not electing a set of values or an ideology. When you show your support in this particular race, you are showing your support for a human being. The leader is a dynamic and complex individual with unique experiences and views that cannot be completely understood by reading a simple party platform. Understanding who your candidates are as people is essential to form an accurate opinion on whether or not a particular individual is properly suitable for the position they are pursuing. All policy aside this who Hunter Traynor.

On Sunday night, Hunter Traynor arrived at Boys' State not knowing what to expect. Having very little experience with diplomatic issues or public speaking, Traynor said his expectations for success didn't go far beyond learning about government and meeting new friends. That night, a town election was held and Hunter decided to try to campaign for Mayor. Winning the mayoral race boosted Traynor's confidence and assured him that he did, indeed, have the leadership qualities to succeed.

When it came time to run for State office, Mayor Traynor felt he had the support of his town and the essential leadership qualities need for an excellent Gubernato-

rial campaign. Not knowing how the general Boys' State population would respond to him, he knew it was not going to be an easy task. While speaking to the Federalist party, Traynor's stated that he didn't want differences of people's opinions on the most controversial issues to be the deciding factor. He thought the main priority should be to focus on big picture ideals that can be for the betterment of all, rather than being caught in a perpetual political deadlock.

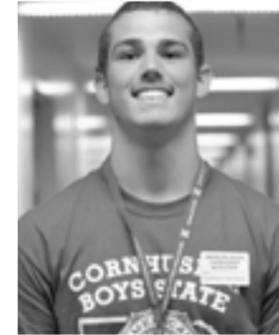
Thursday afternoon, the results of the Gubernatorial primaries were released, and the Federalist Party selected the Gettysburg Mayor to run its behalf. When asked what direction he would lead Boys' State if he was to win the election he simply stated, "I think

the biggest thing a politician can do after they win office is uphold everything they talked about." To Hunter Traynor, consistency and transparent honesty are more valuable than any single issue.

On winning the Primary, Traynor said, "It's incredibly empowering and humbling to think that, of some of the 400 best, brightest and most capable people I've met, in some way I'm representing all of them. It's an incredible thought to have and honestly a little hard to wrap my head around."

On the issue of the controversial "Nighty Night Bill," Traynor said, "The counselors have been pushing us out of our comfort zones all week, and it is time for us to give back."

When you push a little beyond the surface of this race, there



is a deeply rooted respect and passion for Boys' State in the context of it being a product of the Legion. Traynor's grandfather and uncle are both veterans of foreign wars. His grandfather was a marine who served in active combat in the Vietnam War, and his uncle was a marine who served in active in combat in the Iraq War. For Hunter, every decision he makes at Boys' State is another footprint in the legacy laid first before him by his family. **9**

Time Honored Tradition

By Jared Polack, Bunker Hill

The daily raising of the colors, or reveille, is a time-honored tradition that has been observed at military installations, schools, and other places in the United States and beyond. Currently, this ceremony is seen as a good way to honor all active duty, reserve, and retired military personnel and thank them for their service. It is so well known and such an important ceremony that some towns had more than one volunteer who wanted to join the team. For example, the town of Bunker Hill had two volunteers and was required to use a highly scientific method to decide who would get to join the team, so they held a rock-paper-scissors contest.

Usually when the color-raising ceremony is conducted, everyone has practiced together and with the same commands multiple times. As with the band and the choir here, though, the entire flag detail team came from different backgrounds. The team is split roughly half and half with boy

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Giving Thanks

By Xavier Hurst, Belleau Wood

This week has been nothing but action; a chance to see what you're like on your own. People get a taste of living on a floor with a variety of people and having to adapt to their life styles. Granted, all the boys are from this great state, but still.

Essentially, take it as this: we get a taste of campus life. We aren't dealing with the mass of humanity that is having some 30,000 other students around, and we aren't dealing with hectic class

schedules. The thing we ARE doing is experiencing a dry-run of dorm life. We are getting the experience so that way when it comes to dealing with others in college, we will have gotten our feet wet and will have experience in this field.

Another thing is the food. Oh, my word, the food. Coming in, skepticism about the supposed "Freshman-15" rumor seemed insane, but after a few days in the cafeteria I have concluded that it is a lie. It is more like the "Freshman-50."

In the end, I think that having Boys' State on campus is a hidden gem and we are not nearly

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scouts and JROTC students along with one Civil Air Patrol member. Going deeper than that, there are two army JROTC cadets and one air force JROTC cadet. This presented a challenge for the team that they were all ready to face. After a few minutes the team collectively decided to march under the United States army regulations and spent about an hour practicing and getting ready to perform. Now, if anyone reading this has ever tried to learn how to march, one hour is simply not enough. For most JROTC drill teams that is about the length of one practice.

Coming up on Saturday will be a slight change from what we are all used to during the morning colors ceremony. Instead

of raising the colors, the team will be retrieving the colors in recognition of Cornhusker Boys' State 2014 coming to an eminent close. Saturday morning is the last time that the flag detail team will march together and this will surely be a somber event not only for them, but for the rest of the Staters and counselors present. One of the members of the team described his experience as such. "I have been a part of many flag details, two every day during the school year since freshman year, to be exact. However, I have never been so honored to be a part of a flag detail.

The Cornhusker Boys' State program has so much history behind it and it is a pleasure and an honor to have the ability to partic-

ipate in a ceremony for the program. The greater honor, though, comes from performing this ceremony for all of the active duty service members and veterans that are present every day."



Federalists Caucus

By Chris Jurich, Gettysburg

This morning the Federalist Party gathered to decide which candidate would represent them in the race for Governor. People from each town came in with high expectations and were intensively interrogated by the Party. The meeting had the following format: each candidate was given a minute to open and introduce themselves. Next, the various candidates dispersed throughout the room and were questioned individually by the members of the party. Penultimately, the Federalist Party questioned each candidate for three minutes in a more traditional manner. Finally, each candidate had a minute to close and make final remarks.

This format gave the candidates an opportunity to voice their opinions on issues and gave the constituents a chance to decide who they would support. Overall, it was a good experience as a diverse set of topics ranging from the legality and the implementation of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) to leadership qualities were discussed.

Federalists were not the only ones there, however. As a result of some PAC backing, a few candidates from the Nationalist Party were able to pay a visit and share some of their opinions and some information about themselves. Soon, the meeting was over and it was time to cast the ballots. As the Federalists prepared to vote, they had a lot of things to consider, and their decisions on which candidate to support were no doubt instrumental in who was elected.

Nationalists Caucus

By Cade Nelson, Yorktown

Today during the caucus for Governor on the Nationalist side, we had the state runners from the Federalist side come in and introduce themselves to us. Once that was done we got on with our Governors, they introduced themselves and had three minutes to explain their platform and answer a few questions that the audience had. Then they gave the Lieutenant Governor, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer, the Auditor, the Attorney General, and our five Public Service Commissioners a chance to go over their platforms before they got put up against their Federalist counterparts just before lunch.