



# Cornhusker Boys' State *Bulletin*

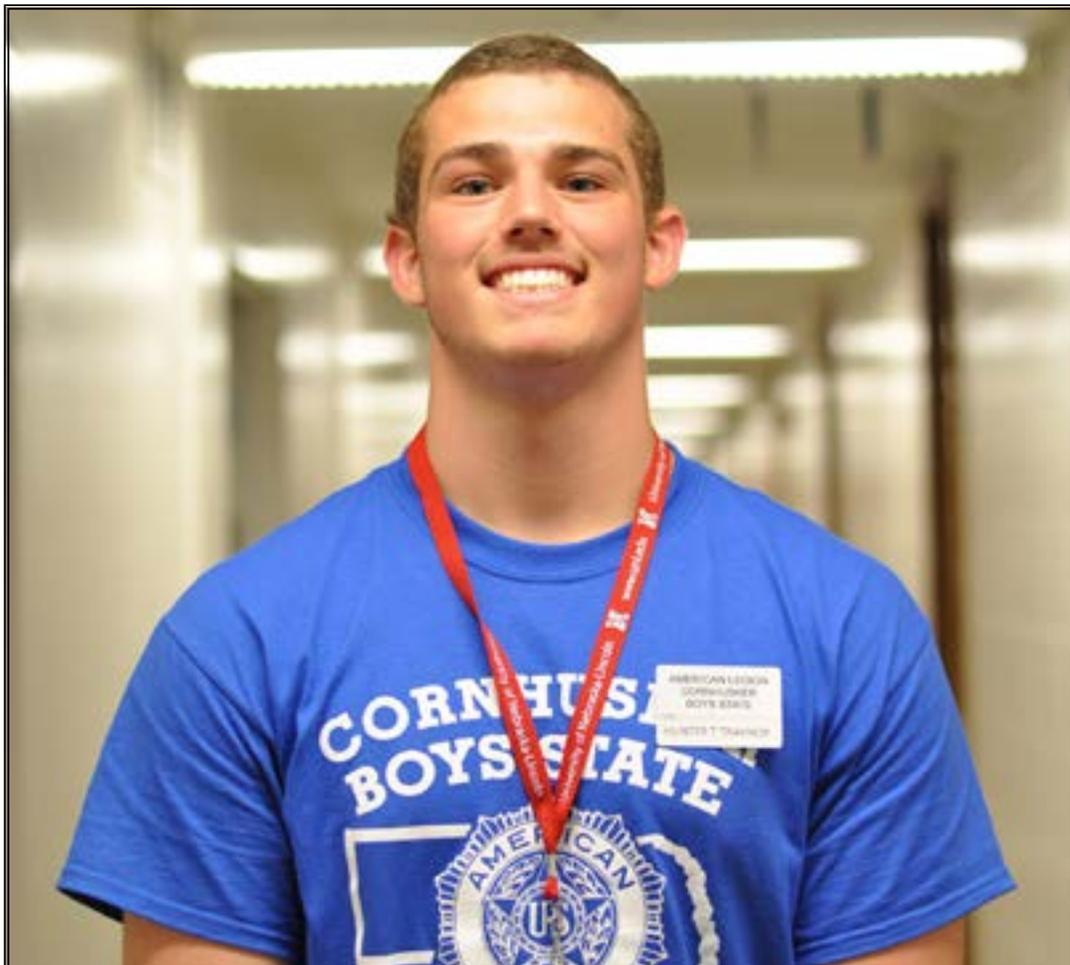
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## Governor Traynor

After several days of campaigning, Hunter Traynor, Gettysburg resident and Elkhorn, Nebraska, native prevails as Governor-elect for the 74<sup>th</sup> session of Cornhusker Boys' State.



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## A New Direction for the Future

By Chris Jurich, Gettysburg

The unicameral legislature of Nebraska is unique. It is composed of 49 representatives from around the state that come to Lincoln to pass the law that governs the people of Nebraska. Even though the lack of a house of representatives does speed up the passage of law, deadlock, both partisan and non-partisan, still exists and frequently plagues this legislative body. Similarly, the Cornhusker Boys' State Legislature is composed of 49 representatives from each of the eight towns. They work hard to pass bills and debate policy, and this year, by the end of

the week they have passed nine bills and a resolution for Governor Walter Paul to approve or veto. Interestingly enough, after the bills are ultimately passed, the actual Legislature of Nebraska takes a look at what has been approved, just to get an idea of what the future citizens and leaders of Nebraska have to say about policy. Normally, the bills that make it through affirm current values that are prevalent in Nebraska, but I think that this year, things will be different. The members of the 74th Legislature of the 2014 Cornhusker Boys' State made compromise a priority, often taking moderate and at times liberal stances on many issues. While many bills that were passed that reflect the ideals of the predominant party policy in Nebraska, many others didn't. For

example, a very complicated 2 bill with many regulations was passed that made the Recreational Use of Marijuana legal, and another bill made Casinos and Gambling legal in Nebraska. The question is how the Nebraska Senators will react to seeing this new found moderate attitude among the youth of Nebraska. Hopefully, they will realize that this is not a result of a loss of traditional values, but instead an effort to avoid deadlock and promote progress in the future. Whether or not the Boys of Cornhusker State 2014 can change the politics of the US and the world, it should be noted that they are starting now, and trying to put in the effort to make politics in the future change, and hopefully push things in a direction they've never been before.

## The Truth About Politics

By Chance Kennicutt, Belleau Wood

OPINION: Like many of the people I've met over the course of Boys' State, nobody was quite sure what to think before arriving on campus to Boys' State, one of the largest political simulations in the State of Nebraska. Of course, we all knew that we'd have to run for office and most of us were aware of the major duties associated with each position. However, I don't think any of us knew the true world of politics. One eye opening moment occurred to me on a Wednesday morning when I attended a session called "Beyond

the Two Party System". It was there that I first heard from members of the Libertarian and Green Parties and their respective views. Granted, these parties could be viewed as extreme on one side of the aisle or the other but one consensus between them was the same.

Americans have grown so accustomed to the traditional two party system that we alienate and discredit other views and ideas. I think Winston Churchill put it best when he said, "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others that have already been tried." Don't get me wrong, I'm proud to be a citizen of Boys' State and of our great nation but there is definitely room for improvement. Attending Boys' State

personally made me rethink our political system and its motivations. No matter your party affiliation, I believe we can all agree that there is room for improvement in our system of government.

Even in simulation of government we deal with issues like voter competency, intimidation, and the old method of clean hands and dirty tricks. Boys' State has probably been one the most life changing camps I've personally ever attended because it opened my eyes to the real world and showed me how government can work successfully and also where its unrefined. We all want to show our local Legion Posts our gratitude for such an amazing and educational experience.

## Lasting Impact

By Chance Kennicutt, Belleau Wood

Boys' State has proven to be a great week long event that has left a lasting impact on everyone. We have learned valuable lessons pertaining to leadership, government, and brotherhood. These characteristics will help us in becoming positive leaders and role models in our local communities. We plan to use our skills to influence our classmates to make the right choices and improve our schools. We will use the leadership skills we learned in various

sessions. We have learned how to surround ourselves with the right people and not focus on the negatives in people, rather, focus on the strengths in people instead. Boys' State has also led to new friendships that will last a lifetime. At Boys' State we have learned how to create a government and pass laws into motion. Boys' State also has given us the opportunity to learn about



the judicial system and how criminal justice works. This has proven to be one of the best weeks of our lives that we will never forget.

## Buker Hill Town Report

By Brodie Mackling, Bunker Hill

On Thursday night the town watched the Miami Heat and the San Antonio Spurs game. Somehow the Spurs won and John Michael's prayers were answered. On the last full day of Boys' State, the boys from Bunker Hill were slow to get out of bed because of the long week they had been enduring. When breakfast had been eaten and showers had been taken, Bunker Hill and the seven other towns filed into Kimball Hall for a presentation on the police-dog service unit of the Nebraska State Patrol. After the State Patrol's presentation, the Boys' Staters listened to the two gubernatorial candidates. During the debate of course, Bunker Hill was the only town to be respectful and not fall asleep. This is because every citizen in Bunker Hill is terrified of what John Michael would do if he caught anyone sleeping. You could say John Michael is one scary dude, right after A-Aron. These last minute words from the candidates were attempts at swaying the voters in their favor, and they would find out just how well it worked when the election was tabulated. Following the session we went to vote for the 2014 Boys' State Governor. Hunter Traynor from Gettysburg is the new Governor.

## Belleau Wood Town Report

By Dempsey Tapley, Xavier Hurst, Cesar, Chance Kennicutt, Belleau Wood

As the end of the Boys' State 2014 session nears, many citizens of Belleau Wood remember their impressions upon arrival at Harper Hall. We remember the nervousness of meeting our brothers for the first time as well as the desire to fit in. Lucky for us, our counselors were there to support us and break the tension through jokes and ice breakers. It was then that we knew our counselors would be our greatest asset over the course of our time here. They quickly acknowledged the leadership capabilities in all of us and the Belleau Wood political ma-

chine was born. We experienced our greatest triumphs and victories in the political field, but also our greatest defeats. Each and every citizen felt the pride of victory and the sting of defeat over the week. Regardless of the outcome, we all became stronger together and recognized talents we didn't know we had while perfecting the ones we already knew. We built relationships that won't soon be forgotten and truly had an experience of a lifetime. With each day a new challenge was brought forward, and each citizen of Belleau Wood rose to every challenge. In the end, we all found brotherhood and support we never thought we would experience when we were selected to attend Boys' State and that is truly great.

## Gettysburg Town Report

By Mathew Ramierez, Gettysburg

Our time at Boys' State has come to an end. Over the past few days we have made some great memories that will last us through the ages. At first, the men of Gettysburg were skeptical and withholding from one another. The counselors had us toss a bean bag around the room and the recipient had to tell the group where they were from and say one interesting fact about himself. After a few funny stories and weird facts we started to become friends. It was after our first assembly that we became "brothers".

As time went on our bonds were further strengthened through the various sessions that we attended and time spent with each other. Our "town" counselors, Gabe Ingram, Hunter Cave, Phillip Levos, and Patrick Nolan, were also a big part in the bonding that took place in Gettysburg. They may have started out as our counselors, but they will leave as our "brothers" as well.

The time spent in Gettysburg has been much like a roller coaster, filled with "ups" and "downs". We would like to focus more on the "ups". Such events like our Council meetings, time

in between sessions and the movie night that took place instead of the National Guard Base tour. All of these and more were the defining factors that played into the formation of our brotherhood. We will leave here: Boys Staters, citizens of Gettysburg, but most of all, we leave as MONEY TEAM!

## Manila Bay Town Report

By Mathew Ramierez, Gettysburg

Boys' State has kicked off and so has the fun in Manila Bay. Our town first got to know each other by ice-breaker exercises. They had to say something about themselves for each square of toilet paper they had. The next day, Manila Bay City Council met and passed ridiculous ordinances including making campaigners run for free talk time. Some campaigners did not accept the running challenge, so they said the Manila Bay Pledge of Allegiance: "I pledge allegiance to Manila Bay; Of the United Floors of Harper Hall; And to the dormitory from which we stay; One Brotherhood; Under Weeder; Indivisible; With Green and Justice for all; Manila Bay all the Way." After the meeting was quickly concluded, the campaigners began to pour in to face the intense ordinances upheld by the ever vigilant citizens of Manila Bay. With only three campaigners successfully beating the time of 35.5 seconds.

The boys found themselves singing "All of Me", serenading Girls' State, when Weeder played the air piano melodiously and lead Manila Bay to their legendary fate. The town got fourth in the track meet as well. Boys' State visited the State Capitol and conducted their elected offices there. All in all, the citizens of Manila Bay felt this way about Boys' State: Conner V.-"It changed my life." Adrian S.-"It has changed my future career plans." Adam P.-"It opened my eyes to the entire political spectrum." The general consensus was that Boys' State was an enlightening experience. MANILA BAY, ALL DAY.

## Valley Forge Town Report

By Ted Degner, Valley Forge

On Sunday, we were sorted into our events after everyone had checked-in. When deciding who would do what event, we started asking times, and for the 4x400m, Austin Schnitzler stated he ran, "52 seconds", with a collective awe coming over us.

On Monday, we held City Council & School Board meetings where we discussed many ordinances that were both serious and comical, and theoretical situations and how to deal with them.

On Tuesday, we split into our political parties and had our first party meetings. On the Federalist's side, many were surprised with just how passionate people got. On the Nationalist's side, we got a good laugh when one member donned a horse mask and proceeded to ask a question by neighing, and every single candidate responded by also neighing back.

On Wednesday, the band and choir concert was held and entertaining pieces were played. After the concert, Governor Dave Heineman gave a speech and was asked many questions by the Boys' and Girls' Staters.

On Thursday, the primaries for Governor were held, unfortunately neither of our candidates won, however, we did win two State positions and five County Positions. Later that night, we all gathered in our lounge to watch the Heat vs. Spurs game.

On Friday, the entirety of Boys' State visited the Capitol Building. At the Capitol Building, many participated in the Judicial and Legislative system, along with visiting their districts senator. Many district senators were missing though, so many black-shirts headed to the top of the building to behold the spectacular view before returning for sports.

## Yorktown Town Report

By Jordan Werth, Yorktown

This week has been very memorable inside Yorktown for many reasons. Things have happened in Yorktown that will never be forgotten such as walking the plank, the Truffle Shuffle, and of course Red Beard. Red Beard almost single handily turned Yorktown into a pirate town with his pirate looks and humor. We will never forget the loud chants that rocked our small floor lobby. We also took these chants to Kimball Hall at the joint sessions and energized the other Boys' State attendees who would quickly join in with their own chants. We almost went undefeated in all of the sports, which is no small feat. These were some of the most impressive and most entertaining memories but there were some more serious memories that were just as significant.

We had many serious memories throughout our short week at Boys' State that will leave

a major imprint on us. One serious memory was when our counselor Sergio would blow his whistle to try to quiet us down. Unfortunately, sometimes it didn't work all the time and we had to hear the loud screeching sound that felt like it would never end. Another great memory was hearing Aaron Davis speak at the very first joint session. Davis was a very entertaining and energetic speaker that taught some important life lessons that the members in Yorktown will never forget. Another memory was the long walk over to Kimball Hall that quickly became routine.

One of the most significant aspects of Boys' State were the elections. The elections started the first night on our Yorktown floor and continued throughout the week. They kept us busy, especially on the first night, as most of us were still trying to figure out what office we wanted to run for. All the candidates from Yorktown worked diligently to try to attain their respective office. This concludes an amazing week in Yorktown that will never be forgotten.

## Bataan Town Report

By Tristan Bruce, Bataan

Nervousness shattered, fear demolished, and trepidation decimated. The town of Bataan started off as 48 strangers, but grew into 48 friends with memories that will last a life time. The Bataan delegates started their hectic week with the town elections. Scott Riley showed his impressive attributes and charismatic personality to win the coveted mayor position. The other office positions were filled shortly afterwards in heated elections. After the elections, a joint session, and a town meeting, Bataan's first day came to a successful close. Day by day, meeting by meeting, and election by election, Bataan not only grew closer, but also started making momentous progress in developing their own government(?).

However, Bataan focused on more than just governmental policies. One of the more important social factors Bataan chose to fixate on, was that of creating cheers for the joint sessions. The cheers became an important part of the Bataan society, with creativity being at the top of the list. It just wouldn't be Bataan if they didn't serenade you with their ingenious renditions of classical songs.

Whether it was a social or political event, the Bataan town never faltered in giving their all. With the phenomenal help of their councilors: Garrett Shaal (mom), Abe Dush (dad), and Shane Brichaeczek (auntie), Bataan was able to not only enjoy themselves, but learn more than they ever thought possible. Their week at the annual Cornhusker's Boys' State was one filled with experiences that will not only last a life time, but one that they will cherish and look back upon for the rest of their lives. At the end of the day, Bataan rightly proved to everyone that they were the true "cream of the crop".

## Alamo Town Report

By Tyler Ruzicka, Alamo

Sadly, the week of the 2014 Boys' State Program is ending. After a long, hard week, the towns-people of Alamo are proud of all they have accomplished, and have really grown together to become not just a town, but a family. We have consolidated to become a single body that works together to achieve things that are greater than the sum of its parts.

The men of Alamo have labored throughout the week to become elected to many of the State, County, and town offices, or to support their desired candidates. Three of the high-ranking State offices are held by members of Alamo, including Lieutenant Governor (Joseph Ferris), State Auditor (Gage Hoegermeyer), and Attorney General (Landon Schmitt). We also proudly promoted our very own Mayor Carl Thon



## Looking Towards the Future

On the surface, Cornhusker Boys' State is just a simulation of our state government. However, when examined closer, Boys' State is much, much more. Boys' State is a lesson in life.

When I walked into the lobby of Harper Hall last Sunday, I was scared. I did not know what I was getting myself into, and I was on the edge of a nervous breakdown. Today, I have nearly 400 new brothers whom I look forward to changing the course of history with, not only in my local and

as he competed in the Gubernatorial Race, and as he became the Nationalist candidate for governor.

Many thanks to the counselors, Myles Sudbeck, Marcus Manley, Carrick Perlinger, and Dylan Dam. Alamo would be nothing without these men, who donated their time to serve and lead these young leaders. They helped instruct our citizens on how to respect, lead, and inspire others. However, most importantly, they electrified our spirits and got us excited to participate in Boys' State. We had fun with them every day singing songs and creating cheers to awe all of the Girls' Staters.

Alamo's driven citizens have also been releasing steam and demonstrating their non-political skills in the extracurricular activities. The four sports teams, the track athletes, pentathletes, and band and choir members have given their all every day for their so they have pride in their abilities.

up to public scrutiny, to be judged by a large group of my peers, and to risk failure. I am no longer afraid to put myself in uncomfortable situations, and I can't wait for the great days that my future holds.

-Conner Vokoun

Not only were we exposed to how the government works in the real world, but we were also exposed to the way our jobs might be in the future. For example, I was on the layout team for the newspaper. Layout/desktop publishing has always been an interest of mine. In school, I have taken graphic design class, but now, this is real-world graphic design. We have to meet deadlines and make sure our layout is approved by our editors. Also, we have to be able to make other people's articles fit into our design. It is a rare and valuable opportunity to work in a real newspaper environment. There were many days where we had to come to newspaper after it had officially ended. Also, many days the layout team stayed out late to get the job done. Not only did we have to meet the strict deadline, but we also had to make sure that the newspaper looked good. The layout had to be simple and easy to read. There were many challenges in making the layout look good. We had to make sure that all the pictures fit into the paper and that the articles were easy to follow. This was a rewarding experience, and one that I will never forget.

-Isaac Pavkovic

Although there were a lot of obstacles to overcome, I managed to persevere and appreciate all the knowledge I've managed to obtain throughout the week. Deadlines, although they posed a challenge, allowed me to fully understand the pressure put on by supervisors. While deadlines might not be the easiest thing the work with, their an important part of the work place. Deadlines also forced cooperation between me and my other peers on an crucial articles. Even though teamwork might not have been the most accepted idea between us, it forced us to work together, and allowed us to get closer to each other. Once we got to know each other more, our writing improved, and we began

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accomplishing tasks way before the deadline. This proves that while getting a task is an important part of life, you cannot forget the social aspect of life either. For, without people to have your back, and help push you towards your full potential, you'll never be able to fully show your capabilities. Boys' State has provided me with so many useful life lessons. Boys' State gave me a different perspective on how to look on issues and allowed me to experience a taste of what the real world is like. With just that little taste, I believe I'm ready to tackle the real world, and it's all possible because of the influential people at Boys' State.

- Benjamin Logston

## #talkcornytome

By Benjamin Logston, Bataan  
Christian Pfeifer, Bataan  
Xavier Hurst, Belleau Wood

"Cream of the crop," a phrase we are all familiar with, encompasses more than just the delegates of Cornhusker Boys' State. Just as The American Legion chooses 400 of Nebraska's highly commended boys to attend Boys' State, The American Legion Auxiliary selected 400 of Nebraska's most outstanding girls to take part in Girls' State. Their experiences draw a parallel to that of the Boys' State representatives. What follows is the result of an exclusive interview with three Cornhusker Girls' State delegates.

Campaigns, elections, and meetings were all part of the rigorous schedule of both State Conferences. Campaigning was the primary focus as everyone wanted to triumph over their newly made friends and rival towns. This year, Abigail Allen conquered the challenge of winning the coveted position of Governor. With candy as an incentive, Abigail was able to climb her way up the political ladder surpassing her competitors. However, delegates from both the Nationalist and Federalist parties blew through their whistle stops to acquire the other positions in office. Elections took place early Wednesday morning which allowed their newly inaugurated officers to prepare for the joint session that took

## Not the End?

By Xavier Hurst, Belleau Wood

OPINION: Since day one, people have been calling us the "Cream of the Crop," and throughout the week I have found that they weren't kidding. Everything this week has come to this, the end. But is it truly the end? Brotherhood is a strong part of this organization, and that has become key to how the floors interact amongst each other and with others.

For instance, I would do anything for any single one of my town members, and I would hope they do the same, but that shouldn't stop here at Boys' State. Our lives have been changed by this amazing experience, but our lives don't stop here. Once we walk away, we won't forget. How could we forget about everything that



place that evening. After all this, meetings were held to both congratulate and confer the next day's busy schedule which included more meetings and discussions.

With a mission similar to one another, both Boys' and Girls' state delegates had shown many differences in their approach to achieve the goals that had been set for the week. The representatives from Girls' State showed their respect to the world of business by wearing business casual attire for the majority of the week. As different as this may seem, the girls found great satisfaction in proudly representing #murica. The girl's professional attitude towards the week was amplified by the tests and quizzes they are made to complete. With pertinent scenarios about today's issues, the Girls'

took place during this week? How can anyone forget the political wealth that people have learned, the speeches given, the laughs, the triumphs, and the failures, everything that is the Boys' State experience? No one can forget.

Now comes the difficult part of all of this: taking what you've done here and applying it to your life, present and future. For some, this is a start to their career, politics is their destination. For others, this was just a way to soak up as much as they can and may come to be a leader in their community or state. Either way, what happens here is not the end. Friendships here have been said to transcend a lifetime. Whether or not that's true will not be seen until down the road, but regardless, this is not the end. If anything it's the beginning of something new.

State towns worked on composing a solution that corrected the problem. After their long sessions and meetings, the Girl's state delegates are allowed to roam around their floor to improve the relationships with their fellow town members. With each floor having a different and unique theme, the girls are able to relax in a comforting environment, complete with glitter and duct tape from their left-over campaigning supplies.

Regardless of the differences that both conferences might have, both worked with the intention of promoting and enhancing the knowledge of both the Nebraska and national governments. Delegates from both Boys' and Girls' state enjoyed the debates between the local government officials, which allowed them the

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opportunity to personally ask them questions about controversial topics giving them more insight on today's prevalent controversies. Sarah Book, a representative of Girls' State, commented, "Although I was nervous about not knowing a lot about politics, I came in with an open mind, and was thoroughly impressed with the great experience that I had". Sarah Book wasn't the only girl with exceptional remarks about Girls' State program. In fact, the girls gave an overwhelming amount of praise for the conference, which was seen on the highly used social media sites such as, Facebook and Twitter. With hashtags providing an easier way to compile and document similar experiences, the Girls' State participants are sure to only look back on their experience with gratitude and immense respect for all the dedicated volunteers who helped make the conference what it is today.

## Time Machine

By Jared Polack, Bunker Hill  
Cade Nelson, Yorktown  
Mathew Ramirez, Gettysburg

Often times, when one looks back at history, one marvels in the fact that people thought that the issues of the time were real issues, that people actually argued about them. Some common examples of this include the segregation of schools and units in the armed forces, the scandal of changing styles that made less-modest clothes more popular, and the decision on whether women would get the right to vote. If one walked up to the average five-year-old today, the child would likely be surprised if you told them that at one point these things were not as simple as they are now.

Likewise, in twenty years, people will probably look back on the issues of today that we have been discussing and making decisions on all week. Some of these issues include gun rights, education reform, health care, the legalization of marijuana, same-sex marriage, abortion, and the Keystone XL Pipeline. As Matthew Waite

said in his presentation, "The Trouble with Flying Robots", new ideas such as these go through many stages as they are introduced. The first of these stages, he said, is the "freak out" stage. The last of these stages is acceptance. He informed the audience that this process can take anywhere from five to ten years and assured us that drones would be in common use by the year 2020.



All of the candidates, and most other Staters, expressed their views on most of these issues over the course of the week. In general, as Nebraskans, most of us shared a common view on gun rights. We even had a PAC called "Sun's Out Guns Out" that lobbied for this issue, which only united us more. Another issue concerning gun rights that came up often in forums and debates was whether teachers should be armed or not. The Staters were nowhere near as unified on this issue as they were about gun rights in general. The current governor of Cornhusker Boys State openly expressed his opposition to arming teachers during the forum on Friday morning while the B.E.A.R. PAC worked tirelessly to pass a well-thought-out piece of legislation that supported arming educators.

The argument over same-sex marriage and the question about what should be done about it has come up quite a lot this week. The basis of the issue is that that same-sex couples want the right

to be married in a marriage that is recognized by the state so that they have all the same rights and privileges as a traditional married couple, such as hospital visitations, tax filings, and no death tax. There was a fair number of Staters that did support this and a few who didn't. Both Ben Sasse and David Domina, the current candidates for Mike Johanns's spot in the US Senate, had different views on this

subject. Sasse said that marriage is a union between a man and a woman, while Domina defined marriage as: "A union between two people who love each other and that the government does not belong in the bedroom."

Our generation will likely be the first ones faced with the possibility of marijuana being a fully legalized drug. Currently, recreational marijuana is legal in two of the states, Colorado and Washington, and these states are being watched heavily and all of the pros and the cons are being assessed by the other states in an effort for them to make the right decision for their citizens. This week at Boys' State, the vast majority of Staters argued for the legalization of the drug on the grounds that it is easily taxable and the added revenue could be invested in areas such as education. One of the legislative candidates from Manila Bay, Blake Brocht, was 100% in support of the legalization of the drug. Brocht wanted the tax revenue from the marijuana sales to go to the state to improve their public services.

# The History Behind Boys' State

By Christian Pfeifer, Bataan

FEATURE: Each year, for the past seventy-four years, with the exception of the War years (1941, 1942, and 1943) close to 400 of Nebraska's finest, most intelligent boys ranging from ages sixteen to eighteen, travel to Nebraska's capitol to participate in one of the The American Legion's well-known programs, Cornhusker Boys' State. Boys' State is a mock government-style program in which delegates selected and cooperate to build a temporary state government. Over the course of six days, the high school boys run for and elect officials to the numerous positions in the government. There are over twenty officer positions available. Of the positions, the most important and acknowledged are those of the Secretary of State, Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor. Two delegates, the Governor and one other stater deemed outstanding by the counselors at Boys' State, are given the opportunity to fly to the nation's capitol, Washington D.C., and participate in Boys' Nation.

The program, Boys' State, began in 1935 as an idea from two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card. The initial concept was to counter socialism-inspired Young Pioneer Camps by exposing students to a week of democratic-based lectures, debates, and speakers to help students understand the structure of the United States Government. The very first Boys' State was held on the grounds of the Illinois State Fair in 1935. As the program grew and became more known throughout the United States, The American Legion Auxiliary created a program providing similar opportunities for girls of high school age. The very first Girls' State was conducted 1938, and since 1948, it has been one of The American Legion Auxiliary's best citizenship programs.

Being selected into the Boys' State program is no easy task. At the local level, only one or two representatives are chosen out of

the multiple applicants from each participating school to attend the prestigious state conference. The process of applying for Boys' State differs from school to school. In some, between ten and fifteen students wish to acquire the spot as representative from their school, and in order to land the position, they must go through an extremely intensive selection process. After several essays and interviews, the boys to represent their school is selected. However, this is not the case in every school. Many of the chosen boys are given the position due to low interest, and a small number of applicants.



One example of the many states who support and participate in Boys' State is Nebraska. Nebraska's "Cornhusker Boys' State" is based at The University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Just as Lincoln is home of the program, it also is Nebraska's political center, and the state's capitol. Cornhusker Boys' State is operated in an extremely fluent manner. After waking at 6:30 in the morning, the boys head to breakfast and then raise the flag at 8:00. Soon after, debates and lectures take place, then the boys' have lunch. This is followed by more lectures, as well as elections and joint sessions, and then town meetings at 9:00p.m. Once town meetings came to an end, the boys go to bed and repeat repeat the cycle again the next day. Nebraska's American Legion runs a fairly smooth program. The boys who attend learn more than they imagine when they first arrive.

As stated, Boys' State originated in the state of Illinois in 1935. In the beginning, the program was very laid back, with no set idea of what to expect from the program.

The creators worked hard to plan on a year-to-year basis. Since then, this exceptional program has spread to all fifty states, excluding the state of Hawaii. Starting off as an idea with only a few delegates, within a decade, Boys' State had become more known than the founders had ever conceived feasible.

Although the week was full of debates, elections and countless arguments, it also gave the 400 attendees a chance to spend a week with some of Nebraska's finest, most intelligent, and outstanding individuals. Cornhusker Boys' State is an amazing program that allows students to build a government from scratch. It is a great way to express your opinion and have your voice heard, as well as understand what it really takes to run for offices, write bills, and go through elections. At the beginning of the week the boys arrive as a group of strangers, but by the end, they leave as not only friends, but companions and comrades. Individually, Boys' Staters are unique and outgoing, but together, they are truly the cream of the crop.

## One Week.... Lifetime Impact

By Jayden Rannells, Valley Forge

On occasion, one event can define, shape, or inspire a human for the rest of his or her life. That event can be a minute, day, week, month, or even years; there is no time limit that a defining event has to happen in. As a Red-Shirt freshman, an unproven quarterback by the name of Taylor Martinez had an event define him. Starting against Western Kentucky, he showed his total offensive ability and gained popularity. The event of October 7th, 2010 was what defined him and it was in Manhattan, Kansas at the Bill Snyder Family Football Stadium against the dominant inter-conference team, the Kansas State Wildcats. The Huskers averaged over 11 yards-per-play that night with a total of 587 offensive yards in the 48-13 win. That Thursday night defined Martinez here in Nebraska.

Similarly, Barack Obama famously was elected in 2008

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*Continued from Page 8* and that event defined America. Previous to this election, no African American had been in Presidential office. There are many examples of this, including the one that has just concluded. Nebraska's Boys' State program continues to occur and the incredible veterans, councilors, and other volunteers' experiences during their Boys' State experiences continues bringing them back.

The real question is what impact has this one week led to? The answer to the question is easy. The question was answered in a speech given by Scott Day: brotherhood. But it's self-actualization, too. These aren't the only two things, but they are important ones to touch on.

Beginning with brotherhood, Boys' State veterans continue to return to see old friends, the councilors come back to unite their towns, and the others continue to see everlasting relationships of the state's leaders form to give only a few specific answers. There is no one specific reason, but it all comes down to the impact that the brotherhood has and continues to make through the sense of family and relationship. We are here not for ourselves, but our American Legions and our schools, towns, or cities.

The second answer, as mentioned, is self-actualization. No one example is correct, but with relationships, politics, and surrounding war veterans, brings the characteristic of self-realization. Former Boys' Staters such as Dave Heineman, Ben Sasse, and even Bill Clinton had self-realization of pursuing politics by standing up for what they believe and taking on the responsibility of doing what they believe is right for who it is that they represent.

Politics is one of the main aspects, but it certainly isn't the only. We are not all here to be future politicians, though it may be an interest of ours. The leadership aspect and development is truly unique and applies to all. There's not a single time, place, or setting that leadership cannot be used and there certainly isn't a time limit on it, either. We are all here because we are

leaders in our own unique ways and we come here to continue developing that attribute. Everything in life is based on perspective. Powerful self-actualization leads to immense leadership and the qualities that are developed and improved.

The American Legion consists of people who know and can recognize leadership and that's why they invest in leaders and send them to Boys' State. In a line of dominoes, when the first is knocked down, it leads onward to keep knocking the others down. Boys' State is the first domino in this analogy, the event completed leads to the force and momentum causing dominoes to be knocked down. One by one, that Boys' State domino leads to the continuation initially started with the force it has and all happened because of it. That impact is what we take from this event no matter what it possibly is and this impact carries on through this chain of future experiences. Boys' State teaches and develops good leaders into great leaders which is a drive from an event that impacts all for a lifetime and makes those return to keep seeing our future leaders improved.

## The 2014 Gubernatorial Race: Our Crowning Glory

By Austin Stone, Bunker Hill

At the beginning of the week, when all of us convened for the first time, scores of hopeful young men came forth to offer themselves as our delegates for political and non-political offices. Sadly, by the middle of the week, many of these prestigious individuals had been weeded from the pack and only the most independent were left.

However, despite the large fallout of Gubernatorial candidates, there is a lot to be said for the many creative ways that the large majority campaigned for their respective offices. Using the aid of "Dave Dollars", candidates were allowed the respective aid of but not limited to: newspaper ad-

vertisements, posters, and speaking time at predetermined Boys' State meetings.

Returning to present issues, the final two candidates, Hunter Traynor and Carl Thon were caught in multiple heated debates in their Gubernatorial race for office. The two were present in the Harper Hall lobby on Wednesday for their first debate of their race, in which the two went in depth about such topics as euthanasia and abortion in order to persuade voters in their ultimate favor.

Following this smaller debate was a much larger one that was held Thursday at Kimball Hall, which came after a small presentation by the Nebraska State Patrol. In the larger debate, the two candidates went into a heated and at times rather pressing debate for the role as Governor, as the entirety of Boys' State was there and this was their final shot at persuading their peers.

At the end of the debate there was really no clear winner or loser, as both of the candidates had answered all posed questions with intricate, and sometimes intriguing, solutions, leaving those returning to Harper Hall Dining Services torn on their decisions. However, it should be fair to say that the decisions that were made weren't made on the manner of the man, or morals, but remedial issues, as both candidates have stood on par for the entire road.

After the election came a static nervousness that seemed to follow ever floor for the remainder of the day. All of the activities that followed hereafter, were rather slowed and lulled into the backs of everyone's minds, as they pondered the possible outcome and fate of the possible candidates. The tension was soon remedied, as the announcement of the victor of the gubernatorial campaign gradually leaked to the entire Boy's State population within minute of its revealing. With the victor being the esteemed Hunter Traynor of Gettysburg.

The race was hard fought and well won, and ultimately gave a sense of camaraderie and power to all of the Staters, allowing them to grow into more developed citizens.