Dr. Jo: A Boys’ State Tradition Still Going Strong

By: Jim Chapman

From the moment the petite, elderly woman strode confidently onto the stage, Boys’ and Girls’ Staters alike were held transfixed by her vivacity, entertaining anecdotes, and powerful message of kindness and responsibility in leadership.

Dr. Joanne Owens-Nauslar, affectionately known by her audiences as Dr. Jo, has been inspiring participants at both the Boys’ and Girls’ State programs for over two decades, and this year was no exception. Partly through her cheerful demeanor and audience engagement, the motivational powerhouse of a woman held her listeners spellbound for just under an hour as she passionately described the responsibilities that come with leadership.

Central topics of her address included turning problems into opportunity (she herself was an unplanned pregnancy), thoughtful communication, enthusiasm for every task set before us, and, perhaps above all, kindness in our actions toward others.

And as the assembled audience sent shock waves through Kimball Hall with a tremendous standing ovation at the conclusion of Dr. Jo’s address, it became sparklingly clear why Dr. Jo has become one of the most hallowed and highly anticipated of Boys’ State’s many traditions.
Federalists, Nationalists, Lay their Party’s planks at State Conventions

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Platform for the Federalist Party
By: Landon Husband

Yesterday morning, both Nationalists and Federalists parties held their party meetings to agree on their respective Party platforms. The Federalist meeting was led by its Chairman, Samuel Baumert, and his secretary, Jake Ridder. Our platform decided upon seven planks that would define our party. To begin we, declared that our party is pro-death penalty, anti-abortion, and that we wanted to reform our foster care system. To continue, we decided we were pro-second amendment, that we needed to add onto our background checks, and require mental health examinations for people who want to purchase and own guns. The party also decided to be for the use of medical marijuana and, after further research, that it would be possible for recreational use to be legal as well. It was also important to the party that teachers and other professions in the education system would receive higher wages, an improvement of educational standards, and equal funding for school activities. We also believe that Nebraska should try to implement more energy diversity and tax relief on our farmers so the agricultural market can expand. We also believe that healthcare needs to be made more affordable for struggling families, and that there needs to

Federalist Party Platform

We are anti-abortion, pro-death penalty, anti-euthanization and pro-foster care reform.
We support the second amendment and our right to keep and bear arms. We recognize the need for stronger background checks and mental health examinations.
We are for the legalization of medical marijuana under strong regulation and the need for further research before legalizing recreational marijuana.
We are for the increase in educational wages, school security reform, increase in educational standards, and funding checks for activities.
We are for the energy diversification in Nebraska.
We are for the expansion of the agricultural market in Nebraska.
We are in support of affordable healthcare and fair competition in the medical market.

Nationalist Party Platform

By: Nicolas Dugan

Richards Hall was filled with echoes of many voices from many different backgrounds. Farmers, ranchers, hunters, fishers, and students who learn miles away from each other all in a single room debating a single topic. After heavy debate most of the party’s planks were approved, some amended then approved, and others rejected. In the Nationalist Party they said that abortion is not permitted unless for the protection of a mother’s health, this was the most heavily debated topic and it held the most controversy and opinions. Other planks such as safe sex education and availability were approved with slight change which in its final say it allowed free access to educational opportunities and safe sex birth control and it would also cover appropriate consent. There were also heavily approved planks such as the right to bear arms as well as easing the process of agricultural instillation for first generation farmers without harming previously established generations. Also recreational marijuana use has been supported but would be heavily taxed, increasing tax revenues to the state. And finally just two planks were rejected: reduced penalties for the illegal use of recreational marijuana and easing the process to the path of legal citizenship.

Nationalist Party Platform

Abortion: Not permitted unless for the protection of the mother’s health.
Safe sex education and availability: Provide free access to educational opportunities and safe sex birth control options including appropriate consent (condoms & birth control).
Marijuana: Favor of recreational and medical marijuana taxed and regulated like that of alcohol (legal age: 21)
2nd Amendment Right to Bear Arms: In favor of 2nd Amendment with reasonable and limited regulation.
Agriculture: In favor of easing the process of agricultural installation for first generation farmers without harming previously established generations.
Stater Spotlight: The Golden Boys
By: Carter Wenburg
Throughout the week, Boys’ Staters from various towns and political parties will be interviewed and featured. Tuesday’s subject of the Stater Spotlight is the Golden Boys, Bunker Hill’s volleyball team. “The Golden Boys” consist of Broden Narke of Papillion, Jacob McNamara of Grand Island, Jade Paxton of Sutherland, William Eppert of Nebraska City, Turner Blick of Fremont, and Carlos Gutierrez of Lincoln. As of Tuesday, the team is 2-0, winning both games by a wide margin. Their success can be attributed to their superior communication and teamwork, which is all the more impressive, as the boys have never met each other prior to Boys’ State. The team will look to continue their run of success throughout the week and into the final tournament. The key to the team’s success, according to Jacob McNamara? The team smooths out the sand surface prior to each set. The team hopes to continue to live by their motto: “Fun is spelled W-I-N.”

Do you know someone who would be a good candidate for Stater Spotlight? Contact Carter at 402-984-3861 to set up an interview!

Third Day of Basketball Features Strong Efforts, Blowouts
By: Jacob Gathje
The third day of Boys’ State held an outstanding day of basketball, with several outstanding individual and team efforts.

In the first game of the day, Alamo defeated Bataan 60-34. Alamo was spurred on by persistent offensive rebounding along with clutch shooting from Shaye Morten.

Bataan took numerous three-pointers throughout the game, missing many of them. Turnovers and missed free throws plagued the team.

The second game was much closer. Belleau Wood knocked off Manila Bay 47-42. This game was highlighted by a graceful inside game from Belleau Wood player Sean Freundenberg.

Game three was a blowout. Yorktown smashed Bunker Hill 89-51, scoring the most points in a game in the week so far. The win moves Yorktown to a 2-0 record going into their final round robin game against Valley Forge.

Valley Forge fell to 1-1 after a 60-41 loss to Gettysburg. Gettysburg overcame 23 points from Valley Forge center Jordan Maxfield, and never looked back after a 23-5 run after halftime after Valley Forge pulled within one.

The results of these games present several key matchups for Bartels County going into the final games of round robin play. Valley Forge and Gettysburg are both 1-1, and Yorktown is 2-0. If Valley Forge and Yorktown win Wednesday, then the teams will move into a three-way tie for county champion.

Leadership Discussions
By: Isaac Goff
The leadership discussions we have every night are meant to be inspiring and educational, and will teach you how to be a strong leader. These are delivered by the town councilors. Questions are asked to the staters to see what they think makes a good leader. It’s a good idea to participate in these discussions to see what others think.

Monday Campaigning
By: Sam McArtor
Monday was filled with new beginnings for the boys of Bunker Hill. Boys were split into their selected parties: Nationalists or Federalists. Citizens broke up into their groups and were given the possible offices they could run for. They got a set amount of time to campaign for their chosen positions and made up slogans to get people to vote for them.

After the candidates won their party elections, the two parties were brought together to determine whom the town would elect to go onto the primary elections. Competitors went against each other in a battle to get the public to vote for them. All in all, Bunker Hill had a fun time during elections!
The Manila Bay Times: Day 2

By: Nicholas Dungan

“Manila Bay”! “All Day”! Rings throughout Harper Hall and surrounding areas as 42 of the most athletic, intelligent, and best-looking men of Boys' State cheer with pride. Over in Manila Bay during the second day, the guys got split up into different parties to discuss hot topics. They kept up the strong brotherhood, however, that defines the city as they listened with reason and wisdom to all the other candidates of state or county office. They later talked about why they should be voted or topics they would support or take out. All under the astounding leadership of Cordell Vrbka, the boys stayed organized and progressed as leaders and level headed decision makers for day two.

Belleau Wood Town Report

By: Joshua Shadbolt

Belleau Wood again was up to some more inspiring things again today. Many have fallen victim to some of the ordinances passed in the first City Council Meeting with various things like, the seat stealing “Quack Quack, Seat back rule” that saves a seat from being stolen, and the “line check” rule that punishes anyone called out for being out of line when traveling from place to place. Keep going, Belleau Woods Top Dogs!

Crazy Town Ordinance

By: Josh Gilbert

The City Council meeting of Alamo passed a lot of city ordinances. Some were serious, however some were very humorous. One ordinance required that three toilets had one task, the other five had a different task. The best of the new ordinances was probably the requirement that our counselors or our mayor would be required to tuck us in, sing a lullaby, or tell us a bedtime story. All city members were excited about this new ordinance, but our counselors and mayor were somewhat less than enthusiastic. Also among the new ordinances, one requires all members to Dap up (a type of handshake) all three counselors before and after each town meeting. It’s safe to say the counselors will have a long week, but they’ll live.

Bataan Town Report - Day 2

By: Isaac Goff

The town of Bataan has selected two candidates each to represent both the Federalist and Nationalist parties. It has also been hard at work to help its candidates for the various political races that are going on. The town is excited for these elections and hopes that the town members win prominent places in the county and state government.

The towns rules have been well enforced so far, and complaints about the shower lines have ceased. There are few complaints about the rules so far.

The town has won two games and has high hopes for the next games.

Valley Forge Day 2

By: Damien Ortega-Hawes

So the day for Valley Forge started off with them being woken up by the mixture of the Barbie theme song banging on people’s doors. Then after breakfast they split up to go to their party’s platform meeting. Afterwards they began to do their campaigning for state and county positions. Lastly they began to do there open campaigning on each floor.

Alamo Town Report

By: Josh Gilbert

The great town of Alamo had another amazing day at Boys’ State. In the morning Alamo attended the Party meetings and the state-level candidates began their campaigns. Alamo had every member that isn’t in a Political Action Committee running for either state or county offices. All candidates from Alamo have the credentials and personality to make it through the primaries.
The People of the Week: Counselors
By: Jack Simpson

Of the counselors on our top floor of Belleau Wood, the Alpha or Dad (Nathan MacDonald), Beta or Mom (Nathan Weidner), and Weird Uncle (Maxwell Jinks) were asked to sit down and have an interview for the newsletter. I only asked them the important four out of five questions in which I will go more in depth. The first question I asked them was what do you see in us Boys’ State kids? Weird Uncle replied that Belleau Wood was and still is one of the best towns here at Boys’ State. To add to that, Mom said that we are the best and brightest, well mannered, and possibly the future leaders of America and the world. For my second question, I asked Dad... what do you miss about Boys’ State? Dad replied that he misses hanging out with his town and his roommate, but still talk with each other every once in a while. Next, I asked the three of them what they expect us to do while we are here for the week. All three said basically the same thing. They said to win, do well, be respectful, listen, and make long lasting connections. My final question was what kind of energy do you expect from us? The three said lots of energy is expected and to be adaptive and talk to people from different towns while we are here.

Faults in our Education System
By: Dominic Smith

Recently a friend of mine, I made at Boys’ State, told me that the difference in knowledgeability about politics was where you come from. He said to me that Urban Areas are more educated than the small farming communities. I am afraid I have to disagree because I believe I was raised in an informed household in a small community.

The problem could be our education system. Frequently, at larger schools, more classes are offered, and that’s the perks of having lots of revenue from a large town. My friend failed to understand that small towns cannot afford things like debate, sign language, and government before our senior year. This is the cause of a divide between class A to class D. I do not have a solution to this problem. I am just telling it how it is. The shame is that nothing can truly be done unless it takes away from other aspects of our lives. My biggest problem, of course, was how he grouped all small town communities as if we were all the same. I felt hurt, as I think we try our best with the amount of money that is provided.

The problem of redistribution of funds also effects one of the most significant issues in U.S history: Teachers are underpaid. We all know great teachers. They get paid considerably less than other jobs with degrees. The reasons for that is the lack of funding public and charter schools receive. Again, I do not have a solution; I’m just pointing out a problem that affects many lives. My mother is one of the hardest working teachers I know, and she gets paid less than some of the laziest people I have met. Of course, you shouldn’t go into teaching expecting a glorious paycheck, especially a subpar teacher, however, you should be able to maintain a middle-class level of income and to exceed that through hard work as in other jobs and careers.

Gettysburg Town Report
By: Carter Wenburg

Gettysburg was happy to continue the success we had on Sunday with a strong showing on Monday. Throughout the morning, our voices could be heard in the Nationalist and Federalist Party Conventions, as we made our opinions heard. We were able to send a candidate to every office, which we hope will allow us to win multiple offices and have adequate representation in State Offices. We were happy to engage in political discourse during the Elevator Campaigns, and we learned a lot about our Boys’ State candidates. We are working to produce legislation that can be deliberated by our state and local legislatures, and we’re excited for the rest of the week.
Shower Lines and Struggles
By: Damien Ortega-Hawes

The towns have had some interesting thoughts about their struggles so far. Avery Martin from Valley Forge said, “It’s hard to voice my opinion because I’m not part of the majority.”

While Jayden Kalinowsk from Bataan said, “Just people losing their keys.”

The Bulletin also asked them about the shower lines and here’s what they said. James Admiraal from Bunker Hill and Ethan Dietrich from Gettysburg said, “It had no line.” While Noah Mosel from Alamo and Wyatt Hansen from Belleau Wood said, “the lines were long.” Throughout the rest of the week the towns will work to develop policies and practices to make the process more efficient.

Weather Outlook
By: Cordell Vrbka

Looking out towards the rest of the week, the weather becomes typical Nebraska weather. Wednesday is mostly sunny with a high of 90° and humid, with a slight breeze throughout the day. Looking ahead to Thursday, there’s a high of 86° with a 55% chance of showers in the morning before cooling off to a comfortable 63° overnight. Friday and Saturday look to be the cooler days of the week, with highs of 84° and 83° respectively.

Harper Hall Dorm Rooms: An Opinion Piece
By: Blake Callahan

As someone who has stayed in dorm rooms before of various quality, I had no real expectations for the rooms we would be staying in through the week. However, I was surprised at the quality of the dorm rooms when I arrived. Thankfully, while the beds did have the strange diagonal crossbar, it was placed on the side closest to the wall, unlike other dorms I have stayed at, which was appreciated. The showers and other facilities were also of good quality. One of my personal favorites about the rooms were the mini-fridges. Overall, I was impressed with the quality of the dorms, especially with the age of the building they are located in.
Bunker Hill Post Edition
By: Landon Husband
In the lovely town of Bunker Hill, there are many stories to be told, whether that be our sports or the campaigning in our town today. Both our sand volleyball and softball teams won their games, while sadly our football and basketball teams were defeated. During the campaigning, many important questions were asked in our town, but the question that we really wanted answered was what the candidates' favorite type of wood was. The question raised many answers, some surprising and others not, but the town really seemed to rally around the candidates that answered mahogany. The town isn’t sure of what’s going to happen next, but I can guarantee that they are looking forward to what’s to come.

Music to Our Ears
By: Norval Books
It’s always hard to make something beautiful in a short amount of time, especially if the people involved have never worked together. Despite the challenge, that’s just what the Boys’ State Choir is trying to do. As Ryan Marlatt, a choir member in Bataan for the week said, “You know, we don’t have a lot of time to get three songs together.” He also went on to say that, “there’s not a whole lot of guys … there’s like eighteen guys in the whole choir.”

What's Up With the Band
By: Joshua Shadbolt
Ever wonder what it'd be like if you had signed up for another activity? Well, wonder no more; Trenton Emmons was recently interviewed so that everyone who isn’t in the band could get a bit of insight as to how it’s going. He described his experience as fun; he was sure that networking and meeting many new people was the best part of the band. It was brought up that he expected the music to be a bit more challenging, though that might’ve been a relief for many. He stated that the band was more formal and bigger than other bands he’d played in before.
### Results of Primary Election State Ticket

**Lieutenant Governor**  
National: William Cook  
Federal: Drake Vorderstrasse

**Secretary of State**  
National: Kiernan Feeney  
Federal: Kalon Cooper

**State Treasurer**  
National: Preston Kotik  
Federal: Jade Paxton

**State Auditor**  
National: Damon Crawford  
Federal: Claysen Davis

**Attorney General**  
National: Isaac Cary  
Federal: Flopateer Habib

**Public Service Commissioner**  
National: Colby Ingram  
Federal: Justin Sousek  
National: Hunter Sharf  
National: Caden Koziel  
National: Alfonso Pena Lopez  
Federal: Ethan Shoemaker  
Federal: Bradley Sullivan  
Federal: Nolan Weber  
Federal: Grant Orchard  
Federal: Archer Vogt

### Results of Primary Election Bartels County

**County Sheriff**  
National: Trevor Ross  
Federal: Hector Nunez

**County Attorney**  
National: James Wetovich  
Federal: Tyrus Eischeid

**County Clerk**  
National: Timothy Smith  
Federal: Dylan Folda

**Clerk of the District Court**  
National: Nolan Benjamin  
National: Santiago Giraldo  
Federal: Nolan Litchfield  
Federal: Kirk Rangel

**County Treasurer**  
National: Samuel Buss  
Federal: Dylan Dendinger

**State Board of Education**  
National: Matt Schneider  
National: Jackson Benson  
National: Ben Anderjaska

**County Judge**  
National: Noah Oraska

**Public Defender**  
National: Jarrett Parsons

### Results of Primary Election Reistad County

**County Sheriff**  
National: Zach Rapp  
Federal: Trystain Roseberry

**County Attorney**  
National: Jacob Anderjaska  
Federal: Tyler Hupp

**County Clerk**  
National: Jack Simpson  
Federal: Kodenn Koester

**Clerk of the District Court**  
National: Jonathan Garcia  
Federal:  
Federal:  
Federal:  
Federal:

**County Treasurer**  
National: Timothy Karbler  
Federal: Anthony Scribner

**State Board of Education**  
National: Sheldom Isom  
Federal: Seth Stroh  
Federal: Connor Kleean

**County Judge**  
National: Braden Eisenhauer

**Public Defender**  
National: Colton Kaup