

## I Now Know Why Every Vote Counts

*Magin Sanchez, Patton City, Editor –In-Chief*

Civic teachers throughout my entire tenure as a public education student have always instilled the concept to "every vote counts." This idea, that no matter the standing of your chosen candidate, no matter the success or lack thereof of your preferred candidate, you should always vote for your preferred candidate. This idea always seemed far-fetched, as, in our two party system, it is rare that any candidate outside of the two largest parties would win an election. Therefore, why would every vote counts if the victor is systematically pre-determined by factors such as demographics and political affiliation.

The final ballot in the vote during Nationalist Convention for the Attorney General nomination has undoubtedly, proven the concepts of those civic teachers. Through a lead of only one vote over his opposition, Mr. William Davis of Eisenhower captured the nomination in an auditorium full of shock and raw emotion. Further analysis of the circumstances surrounding the nomination cast light on the controversy that will undoubtedly cast a shadow over Davis' candidacy moving forward in the statewide election.

The obvious answer to the source of controversy surrounding the nomination of Davis' victory was the razor sharp closeness of the results. Davis secured the nomination with a 0.32% lead in the vote count over Painter, or merely one vote. Virginia State election law indicates that similar election results, in which an election was decided by less than 1% of the ballot can be requested for a recount by the losing candidate. Supporters of the recount suggest that Rule 5 of the approved rules for the Nationalist Convention states "Any eligible candidate receiving more than fifty percent of the votes cast on any ballot will be declared the nominee of the party for that particular office." Furthermore, the rules are vague on how should Rule 5 deal with abstaining votes in concerns to the requirements for the fifty percent threshold. Those in opposition to a recount indicate that because abstain votes are not presented on the vote tally, those votes are not included in the threshold. Nevertheless, the Boys State Counselor in charge promptly informed the convention that a recount would not occur.

Nevertheless, this election proved one thing, every votes count. It should serve as a lesson; the failure to vote can dramatically alter the results of an election. Thus, my civic teachers were right, every vote counts

Nationalist Party Convention: Attorney General Nomination, Third Ballot Results June 21, 2017		
Candidate	Raw Votes	Percentage
William Davis (Eisenhower)	148	48.68
Andrew Painter	147	48.36
Abstains/Refusals to Vote*	9	2.96%
Total Delegates: 304 A selection of votes were announced by the Chair as a refusal to vote, rather than a pure abstain.		

## Reactions to Nationalist Party Attorney General Final Ballot

*Magin Sanchez, Patton Editor-In-Chief*

"I feel the nationalist convention is causing division in the party which is causing animosity towards our candidates and may cost our voters." – Peter Murphy (Washington City)

"I think it was a good race, but I don't think they should've been a recount because of a technical error" – Cole Lawson (Pershing City)

"It just goes to show that every [should] vote." – Andrew Painter (Marshall), Runner-Up

"I feel really honored, I didn't expect to get so many votes, I feel so great to represent the Nationalist. It was great, and I hope the Nationalist party rallies around me. I feel like Miss. Columbia in the Miss Universe Pageant," – William "Big Willy" Davis (Eisenhower), Nationalist Attorney General Nominee.

## Wednesday's Service

*Jordan Houston*

After three long days of hard work, Wednesday's service was a welcome one; it focused on the theme of perseverance and overcoming hardship through faith.

The service was based principally on the accounts of Job, as well as a passage from Galatians which described the importance of surrendering your troubles to the Lord. "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee," the passage read.

Charles "Chip" Maurer reinforced this theme with his speech to the congregation. "[Job] was like the Bill Gates of farms back then," he said. "He lost his farm, all his sheep, everything...but he didn't lose his faith....faith gives us a reason to keep going, keep fighting each day....We will go through hard times, but if we persist, we will not just survive, we will thrive."

## Election of Mayors

*Corwin Matthews & Cameron Keeley-Parker*

**Lee City:** Will Brzezinski

**Nimitz City:** Wesley Whitehurst:

**Washington City:** Collin Lee

**Eisenhower City:** Zach Mumma

**Stuart City:** Adam Sanders

**Henry City:** John Miles

**Bradley City:** Maximilian Gebauer

**Marshall City:** Dakota Blodgett

**James City:** William Leimberger

**Puller City:** Robert Moore

**Maury City:** Evan Phaup

**Pershing City:** Zachary Steele

**Jackson City:** Alex Szymezak:

**Burke City:** Ibrahim Yasin

**Macarthur City:** Nolan Johnson

**Patton City:** Chris Johnson

## **The Boy's State Experience: Day 4**

*By: Owen Ferguson, Burke*

Wednesday began just as the past days have. Although we all feel a bit sleep deprived, the morning went smooth as could be, with no apparent room check infractions. We were quieter than usual when heading to breakfast, but after all the coffee most of us were alive again. Next, we headed to the flag raising ceremony. The chants were entertaining, with some cities coming up with various chants. Following this, we started making our way to Preston Hall.

The religious ceremony was great. The choir and band have significantly improved since the first time we heard them perform. The band entertained us at the end playing favorite songs as well as the chicken dance. This lightened spirits and gave us all some energy to stay awake, for awhile at least. Following this service we listened to Dr. Stephen Farnsworth, the professor at Mary Washington University, give a very informative speech about Primaries vs. Conventions. We thank him for taking the time to speak with us. Next came the arguably most important part of our morning, The Party Conventions.

The Party Conventions have been a fantastic time. Watching cities campaign and pushing for their candidates to win a spot was entertaining and humorous at times, but we had to end about halfway through and finish after lunch.

Lunch was the same as it is every day, nothing special. Following this, we headed back to our Party conventions to complete the session for today. We ended by voting on the remaining positions. After this was complete, we finally headed to afternoon activities.

For today, the afternoon activities were a break from the hours of debating and voting on positions. We were able to recharge and just have some fun. After all, sports were finished we went to dinner.

Dinner was the same as yesterday. Nothing unusual except for the normal personal conversations. Next on the schedule was the flag lowering. The chants were likable as always, and there were some shots fired by cities at others cities as we don't necessarily have to make or keep alliances, so now we can just have fun with our peers. Following this came the flag tribute. This was an enjoyable experience, as it seemed they wanted to portrait to us the flag speaking. But none the less it was an enjoyable time. After this was a presentation from the Virginia State Police.

This was a kind of cool presentation. They brought out a motorcycle, a bomb dog, and the drunk goggles. Everyone seemed to have a great time watching the performance as well as participating in it. The next speaker we listened to was amazing.

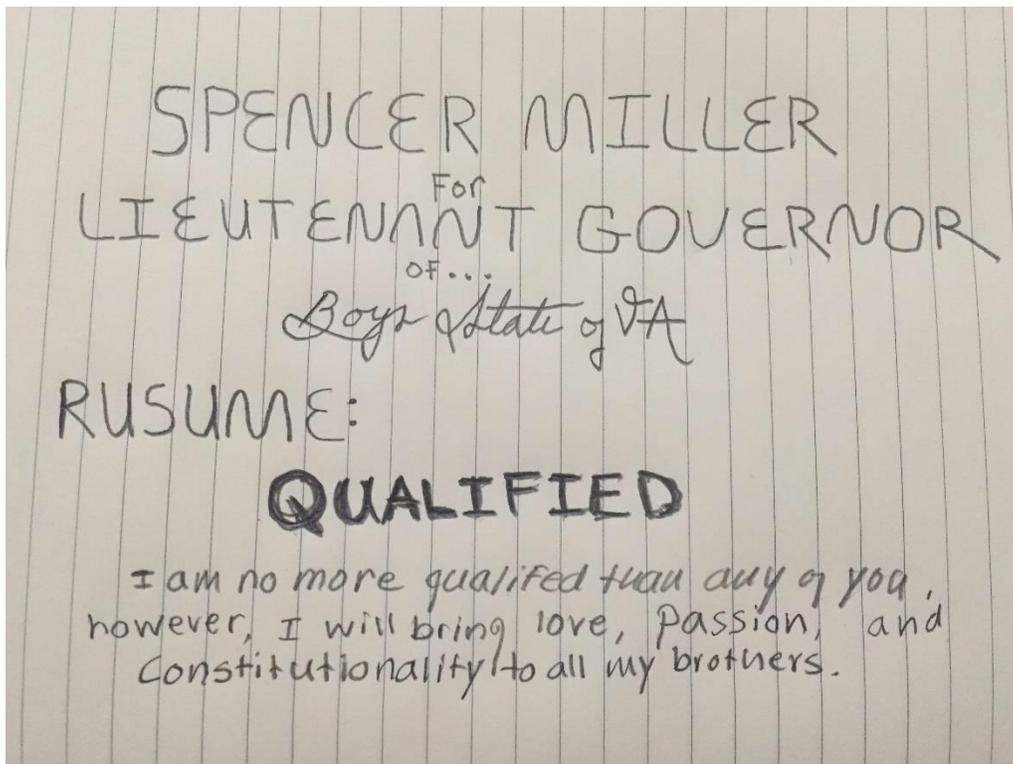
The next speaker was Mr. Chris Skinner. Mr. Skinner shared with us his amazing story. This opened a lot of people's eyes to see first hand what drinking and driving can do to people's' lives. He has and will continue to serve as an inspiration to many teenagers and adults alike. We all thank his for his time and hope that he can reach more and more young people across the nation. This event pretty much wrapped the day except for city meetings. Today was full of events and time passed relatively fast. Let's continue to stay positive and finish out this week strong.

## Federalist Convention

John Donohue

Act two of the Federalist Party Convention began this morning at 10:45, after an elaborate lecture by Dr. Stephen Farnsworth regarding the Virginia Commonwealth electoral system. Dr. Farnsworth's speech served as an appropriate introduction to the convention, which would proceed to follow immediately after. In it, the very pragmatic Federalist Party was faced with ten candidates for Lt. Governor, all of which whom delivered speeches full of captivating tones of unification and bipartisan, and made the entire nomination process an indecisive burden. The ten dwindled to three, then to two. After an extensive nomination process, Jordan Teaford was justifiably nominated to represent the Federalist Party as its Lt. Governor.

The Federalist Governor's nomination was a fierce one that came down to the wire. Fifteen candidates all gave fiery speeches and remained on discussing their plans for the parties three planks; Veteran Affairs, Protecting the Chesapeake Bay, and Boy's State Merchandise. High words of promise were spoken that were met by an uproar of applause. After today, it was clear that the Federalist Party has its nominees and through it has grown stronger as a party.



## **Another Brick in the Wall: Nationalist Convention**

*Jordan Houston*

In the face of a much more subdued and often lethargic Nationalist crowd, contestants needed to work extra hard to stand out. Sometimes it worked; the nickname “Big Willy” carried eventual Attorney General Nominee William Davis to a narrow single vote victory, and the eventual Lieutenant Governor Spencer Miller backed his speech with a falsetto rendition of Gloria Gaynor’s “I Will Survive.” In other cases, however, this tactic was not as successful; attention-grabbing theatrics such as Khanh Nguyen doing the splits, Ryan Man’s attempt at a behind the back water bottle flip, and Calvin Robb pretending to tear up his speech--when in fact the paper had been blank the whole time--all proved to be in vain.

Even the less dramatic speeches suffered from a lack of ability to stand out. After each successive mention of corruption--the phrase “backroom deals” is especially popular--each call for party unity, and delineation of the party platform, the responses grew less and less enthused. Even Boys State favorites like “Who’s the best City?” suffered from diminishing returns, and eventually, none at all. By the end of the convention, only two things could get the crowd excited for more than a fleeting moment: the election of Governor Joseph Jones, and the final proposal to end it.

### **Some moments are indescribable**

By Chris Oglesby

The Boys State delegates truly exemplified unity, philanthropy, and humility at the party convention today for the first time since the commencement of this 75th session. A priceless moment transpired as the Nationalists came together unanimously and transferred authentic support to Joseph Jones for Governor. Joseph has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy yet he still exemplifies the audacity that his position necessitates. When he was walked up onto that stage, in front of countless peers, and he played the recording of his message, the audience was awe struck in wonder. The party was instantaneously moved to a position of reverence and kindness. When this development came to fruition, the room was infiltrated with an attitude of friendliness. Joseph experienced the thrill of victory despite physical discrepancies. Then, if only for an instant, the dichotomy between cities was destroyed and a gateway of unification bridged the gap between what is noteworthy and what is morally right. It is our job as humans to bless those around us and to prioritize the betterment of others before we accommodate our own whimsical desires. True character can be discerned through sacrifice and sacrifice derives from conviction. In life, as you feel compelled to act in an upright manner - despite the opinions of onlookers - you should absolutely follow through with the correct action. In doing so, you will get to be a small part of an extravagantly magnificent moment.

JORDAN TEAFORD  
FOR  
LIEUTENANT  
GOVERNOR  
ASKING FOR YOUR  
VOTE!  
THANK YOU

## **Virginia's Courts: Not as Boring as it Seems**

Alex Szymczak

The Virginian judicial system is a behemoth of a concept to grasp and understand, with customary procedures dating back hundreds of years. Fortunately, aspiring attorneys here at Virginia Boys State can listen to lectures and participate in hands-on proceedings at the Moot Court, located in the Chubb building.

Within the Court, citizens of Boys State are applying what they've learned from lectures into their engagement in legal proceedings. Currently, all sixteen of the four-member teams within the court system are appealing the case of Commonwealth v. Swift, in which the suspect Swift was found guilty on two counts: possessing marijuana and possessing marijuana with intent to distribute. Teams on the defendant's side are finding it difficult to appeal the case, on account of substantial evidence and restrictions imposed on what can and cannot be considered as viable evidence. Additionally, teams are arguing their position in front of one of four legal experts, private defense attorney Fred Kellerman, Commonwealth Attorney Eric Branscome, Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Erin Little, and the Honorable Judge Turk of the 27th judicial district in Montgomery County.

Despite the intensity and overwhelming nature of the Swift case, the Moot Court representatives are enjoying the experience. Ryan Cunningham, a Jackson City resident, characterized Moot Court as "humbling and eye-opening, especially since we're in front of real attorneys." Joseph Godin, a fellow counselor on Cunningham's defense team, articulated that "it's not like on TV, there's emotion behind the proceedings.....you can feel the personality on the court." In spite of its complex content, it is clear that Boys State members are appreciative and interested in what functions Virginian Court systems perform and represent.

As Attorney General Mark Herring vocalized on Tuesday, "we in Virginia are fortunate to have such an excellent judiciary." Although it can be cumbersome to understand, it is crucial to the development of future generations that we utilize the opportunities presented to their full extent in learning the Virginia court system, and how it plays a critical role in our everyday lives. At some point in the future, we may end up becoming involved at one of the millions of cases tried each year across the Commonwealth; retaining extensive knowledge in how the courts will be essential to success on the floor.

## **How to Save a Life**

*Long Luu*

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Many are familiar with the term, and at least vaguely familiar with the procedure, but few are properly trained and certified. Virginia's Boys State offers a training program that teaches its participants how to perform quality CPR, resuscitate overdose victims, and save choking children and adults. The program is taught by Mark Altman, a paramedic, and several nurses and, although the course takes less than two hours to complete, the training provided is quality enough for students to receive a certification at the end of the course.

The course does far more than teaching the fundamentals, although it naturally mentions the basics and the rather infamous 'Staying Alive' rate of compression. It significantly expands on this common knowledge and dispels common misconceptions about the procedure as well. One of the most overlooked aspects of CPR is communication and teamwork; a bystander's training alone is rarely enough to save a victim and any misunderstandings before, during, or after the process may ultimately kill the person the people were trying to save. Touching a person while the AED is administering a shock, for example, redirects the electricity to the tougher and deprives the victim of the electricity the heart needs to get back into rhythm, so the first responder always has to make sure he clears the scene and properly communicate with other bystanders. It's also critical to communicate with emergency responders. The nurse advised the students to count the number of compressions out loud so fellow Good Samaritans and professionally trained workers can know exactly where they are in the process. Another common misconception people have is their emphasis on the breath aspect of CPR. People often blow for too long or retry failed breaths, because many people overestimate the importance of the mouth-to-mouth aspect of it. Although they certainly improve the victim's chances of survival, ultimately it is nothing more than supplementary; it is a temporary and somewhat unreliable source of oxygen, it does little to restart the heart. So, when a would-be rescuer spends too much time doing mouth-to-mouth, it wastes time better spent doing chest compressions which could save the victim.

So, before you start trying to save a life, be sure to take a CPR course, or else you might begin to wonder "Where did I go wrong? I lost a friend, somewhere along in the bitterness.". And although you know you would have stayed up them all night, you just didn't know how to save a life.

### **Daily Quotes**

*Corwin Matthews; Puller City*

Today's Daily quote comes from none other than Motivational Speaker, Chris Skinner. A self made man full of happiness, experience and care for all people of this world.

"The sky is not the limit cause we've already been to the moon."

## **A New Perspective on City Government**

*Nathnael Alazar*

In addition to the criticism of our federal government, there are also many public misconceptions about local governments that are poorly perceived by many citizens and constituents. And let's face it, many people generalize the roles of federal, state, and local government and the intertwining powers of each level while also believing that the federal government reigns supreme. As those here in Virginia focus most of their attention on national politics, municipal governments across the Commonwealth often work behind the scenes to influence all aspects of one's day-to-day life. The mayor, city registrar, and city manager all work together to make sure operations run smoothly on the local level. Although these individuals often go unheralded, their roles are important. We here at Boys State were fortunate enough to gain insight in local government from the leaders themselves.

The Mayor of Radford, Dr. Bruce Brown, discussed some of the most exciting parts of being mayor. He discussed how Radford runs a council-manager type of municipal government, one in which the mayor's powers are limited. Dr. Brown also noted how some of the notorious powers of the federal and state government such as immigration and taxes do not fall on the local government. Instead, the mayor oversees the 16,500 citizens of Radford, 9,000 of which come from Radford, to ensure the safety and prosperity of all. However, as a council-manager government, Radford has a city council that holds on average five to eleven representatives. The city council then goes on to appoint a city manager who runs the day-to-day operations of the municipality.

Furthermore, the city registrar for Radford, Tracy Howard, went on to discuss the influence of elections and the electoral process itself. Mr. Howard offered a terrible reminder that local elections garner much less attention by the media and, most importantly, voters. In fact, only 25% of registered voters go on to vote in elections for local government. The number plummets to 10.5% of registered voters who vote in state primaries.

Lastly, the city manager of Radford, David Ridpath, mentioned some specific roles of local government in Radford. Garbage, solid waste disposal, sanitation, electricity, and the budget are just some of the issues that are controlled on a local level.

Overall, the discussion lead by the three leaders was truly informative, helping citizens learn some of the unheralded aspects of the people's government: local government.

## **Sports Update**

*Walter Spurlock*

A quick sports update, for flag football Patton and Henry are in the semifinals. We will find what other two teams will push through the second semifinals game today with James heading against Bradley and also Washington clashing against Marshall for a spot. For Basketball Bradley and MacArthur advances to the semifinals In basketball, Washington forfeits against Eisenhower, so Eisenhower advances to the finals. Last but not least for volleyball Patton and Eisenhower advances to the semifinals.

## **A Nomination With Some Controversy?**

*Nathnael Alazar (Maury City)*

It felt like a typical Nationalist nomination for a well-deserving candidate for State Attorney General. Although this thinking may be the same, unexpected controversy was added to the steaming pot that was the Nationalist Party Convention. As the sixteen party chairmen voiced the tally count for each city, the votes started piling up for William Davis and Andrew Painter. It was a back-and-forth contest, with ten or more votes alternating between the two candidates. Then came the final vote count. What many Nationalists saw shocked them; Painter garnered 147 votes to Davis' 129 votes. As the Excel sheet displayed the results on the screen, there was jubilation by many in the convention, especially for those who voted for and supported Davis. However, that short moment of excitement and triumph for the Painter base came crashing down only a few minutes later as a new vote count was shown; while Painter's votes remained at 147, Davis' became 148.

Now, many may have expected a Davis victory or at least were expecting a tight race between the two candidates, but the fact that some saw Painter as victorious while others Davis provided a new sense of intrigue and some would even say controversy to the nomination for Attorney General. Many Nationalists went so far as to ask for a recount at the convention but were declined vehemently by the State Party Chairman and Nationalist coordinator Dan Combs. The operator error helped define the Nationalist Attorney General nomination, adding tension to an already hotly contested convention. Depending on how one sees it, the controversy or non-controversy lives on--you decide.

## **Artist's Corner**

*Donovan Reynolds*



**"AND THIS WILL BE YOUR OFFICE JUST FOR SKYPE CALLS"**