



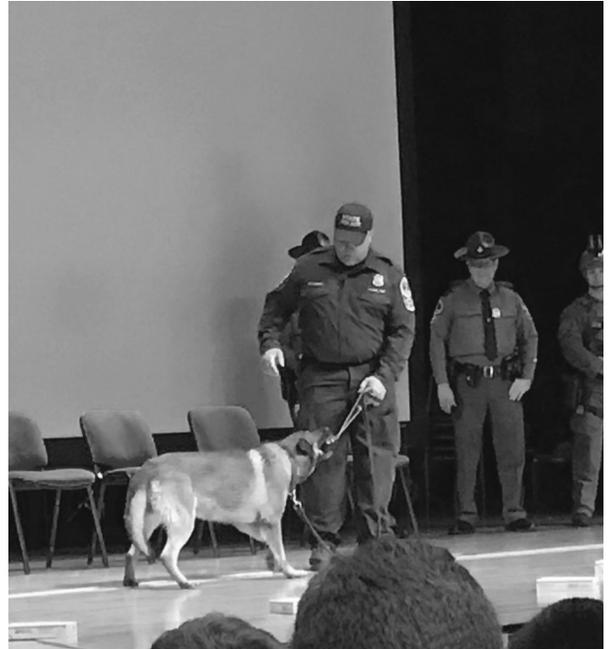
State Troopers Wow at Boys State | By: Will Clemons

Easily some of the most memorable speakers we have had thus far at Boys State, a group of road officers arrived at Radford in a show of lights and excitement. Those who witnessed a motorcycle roll onstage, followed by various other officers, some more outfitted than others, will most likely be unable to forget any of the experience. However the event was more than just a display of the various groups that Virginia State Police belong to. It also carried some very important lifelong messages.

The event had two separate but equally influential sections followed by a question and answer session. First, after a display of the abilities of the K-9 units in Virginia, the speakers allowed some volunteers on stage to attempt to walk in a straight line or throw a football whilst wearing goggles that simulate a blood-alcohol level that exceeds the legal limit. As for the second section, a few of the speakers chose to take a more serious tone in talking more realistically about how driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol affects not just the offender, but the lives of the people around them. While drastically different in the ways that the speakers chose to convey that message, both sections carried with them that overarching theme.

One of the more relatable and therefore convincing portions of the entire two-hour long session was that of the personal anecdotes of the officers who have witnessed, at some point or another, a tragic and oftentimes fatal accident involving a reckless driver under the influence, who through their decisions had ruined the lives of many.

However, unlike the rest of the event, the question and answer session posed many other questions and hypotheticals for the audience to speculate about. The most relevant being the rise in police brutality-related deaths, especially among poor communities of color, as well as suggested legislation



Above: A Trooper shows off Flex, his working dog.

Left: Troopers are introduced.



from multiple portions of the federal government about allowing teachers in schools to carry firearms to protect their students and colleagues. Both topics carry weight, both in concept and in the context of the experiences of the speakers. Despite the potentiality for flaring passions and fierce defensive accusations due to these topics being highly controversial, the question and answer session was able to maintain order and allow all questions, regardless of their topic, to be asked and answered.

The entire "Highway Safety in Virginia" presentation was one of the more memorable and impactful for attendees of the 76th Boys State. Be it the controversial nature of some questions, the inspirational guiding lessons from the speakers, or just the fact that some citizens of Boys State were allowed to take a picture with a riot shield, Wednesday the 20th of June will remain in the minds of many for days, months, or even years to come.

Understanding the Kneeling Debate | By: Will Helms and Carter Bailey

During recent NFL games many players decided to take a knee during the national anthem in opposition to injustices such as police brutality and racism. In response many Americans criticize the protest saying that the protestors are being unpatriotic and disrespectful to the flag. This issue needs to be addressed as it follows the current trend of polarization among American citizens. Understanding and interpreting each side's argument is key for developing an educated opinion on the issue.

Those who support taking a knee claim that politicians and NFL fans have misled people on what the kneeling stands for. The protestors say they are kneeling for police brutality and racism. They believe that to make change in America they need to take actions that will attract the attention of people who currently don't know about the injustices faced by minorities in the United States. Many of the kneeling players tell news sources that they are just as patriotic as any other Americans; they just believe this is the best way to protest for support of their cause.

In argument against kneeling many Americans cite the historical value and relevance of the American Flag. To many Americans, kneeling to the flag signifies disrespect towards the people who have fought and died for the freedom of the United States. However, there is no law against the actions as it is protected under the constitutional right to protest. Even so this is still seen by many as disrespectful and unprofessional because many refute this with the fact that other forms of protest exist. Each side of the issue is nuanced with both kneeling and the flag holding different meanings depending on the views of the individual.

Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax Stops By | By: Justin Carminucci

Virginia Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax stopped by Boys State on Wednesday to share about his duties, personal journey, and insight about running for public office. Lieutenant Governor Fairfax explained his responsibility of overseeing the Senate of Virginia, which includes voting for bills in the event of a tie. He further detailed that he has been forced to use his tie breaking vote a total of 6 times during the 2018 legislative session; 4 of which were on a budget-related vote.



Above: The band plays for the Lt. Governor.

One source of this stagnation could be the polarizing political climate that currently encompasses the nation, a topic that Lieutenant Governor Fairfax also addressed. With a sharply divided political spectrum, many legislators are unwilling to compromise on issues, leading to party line votes that result in a tie. He credited this polarization to most Americans' tendencies to only get information that backs up their previous beliefs, encouraging the digestion of multiple sources in order to obtain a multifaceted perspective on the issues.

The lieutenant governor also described his fascinating journey up the political ladder. After obtaining his law degree at Columbia Law School, Fairfax went on to become an Assistant District Attorney in Alexandria, Virginia in 2010.

In 2013, Lieutenant Governor Fairfax decided to run for the democratic nomination for attorney general, a race he ended up losing. He talked about this experience, telling the crowd that losing is not an uncommon event in the world of politics. While it might be stinging in the moment, he noted that many successful politicians suffered multiple losses before they won, citing President Abraham Lincoln. Following his bid for attorney general, Fairfax won the democratic nomination for lieutenant governor in 2017, going on to win the general election in November.

The visit ended on a memorable note, with Lieutenant Governor Fairfax receiving an honorary blue shirt, and then acting as a guest conductor for the Boys State band. With the elections for Boys State governor and lieutenant governor right around the corner, it is evident that Lieutenant Governor Fairfax gave candidates and voters much to consider when running their campaigns and deciding their votes. His insightful visit proved to be an incredible opportunity for the citizens at Boys State, one which very few will ever forget.

To view *The Legion Post* online, visit:

www.vaboysstate.org

Trivia of the Day

How many students participated in the first Boys State?

Email the answer to va-boysstate2018@gmail.com along with your name and city. The first correct response will have their name printed in tomorrow's edition of *The Legion's Post*.

Yesterday's answer was Illinois. The winner was Armando Moran from Jackson City.

Public Speaking: It's for the Best | By: Brooks Pollard

"Public speaking is a chance for you to say something meaningful. Something that an audience can appreciate," said Mr. Dale Jenkins, professor at Virginia Tech University who teaches communication skills and public speaking classes. He shared these words during the Better Speaking class available to the citizens of The American Legion Boys State program in the afternoon activity block. A classroom full of Boys State citizens gathered in Young Hall at Radford University to sit in on the class, in hopes of gaining knowledge about public speaking.

The Better Speaking class began with the enthusiastic Mr. Jenkins asking the students what came to mind when hearing "public speaking." The students gave answers that were, for the most part, catered towards feelings of anxiety or nervousness such as "criticism" and "judgment." This was easily explained by the fact that public speaking can be a very hard thing for some individuals to handle. As stated by Mr. Jenkins: "People are more afraid of public speaking than death." The class was able to explain why this may be as they talked of the vulnerability people may feel when in front of people who may be judging them. Considering the daunting nature of public speaking, it only makes sense that the Better Speaking class is a great addition to the Boys State program as a whole.

The Better Speaking course will continue throughout the week. Throughout the course, Mr. Jenkins ensures that he will try his best to condense his collegiate level material in order to give the citizens the best learning experience possible. The class will cover topics such as how to get over nerves, projecting one's voice, fixing one's posture, and acting professional overall when delivering a speech. At the conclusion of the class, the citizens enrolled will all undergo a speech "competition" to determine one individual that will deliver a speech to the entire Boys State body during graduation on Saturday, June 23rd.

The Better Speaking class serves as a great asset to the Boys State program, and with the increased interest from the citizens, it stands to reason that it is highly appreciated. Learning how to speak publicly without apprehension will benefit the citizens as they advance through their lives. After all, it is in the best interest of all to speak better.

Let's Hear It for the Nationalists! | By: Grey Cashwell

The second Nationalist Party convention was completed over two periods of elections and campaign speeches interceded with a lunch break today, and ended with the selection of a Nationalist attorney general, lieutenant governor, and governor. The convention commenced around one in the afternoon. Prior to these nominations, the Nationalist Party passed a series of new planks; many of which were passed with passionate support. Among those new policies passed during the convention were: to ensure pre-ordered shirts for next year's Boys State convention, to allow hats and sunglasses outdoors, to create designated snack times, and to allow drawstring bags. During the nominations for the position of attorney general, citizens were shocked by two of the more popularly received candidates, who surprisingly each threw their cell phones into the air to apparently demonstrate their extremity in commitment to Boys State law. Ultimately, however, candidate Farez Zia was elected as attorney general of the Nationalist Party, due to his voting alliances with multiple cities, as well as his promise to defeat the Federalist Party in the upcoming state election.

After breaking the session with a lunch intermission at twelve, the convention resumed for another three hours. Mr. Kiggins was elected as lieutenant governor after a lengthy session which included multiple candidates (one of whom was booed repeatedly offstage after insulting the audience and refusing to resign from the competition), who also presented his ideas for the betterment of Boys State itself. His arguments supported freer selection of clothing and outdoor wear such as sunglasses and hats, and included the promise that Saturday, the awards ceremony, will be "for the boys."

But it was the winning candidate for the Nationalist Party governor of Virginia Boys State who won his ballot to thunderous applause and approval by instead switching his speech towards the political impact that Boys State can have on the politics of Virginia. Whereas the aforementioned winners mentioned what they would do to improve Boys State, Governor-Elect Williams talked about how the achievements of the Boys State citizens and politicians could help to influence policy on poverty outside of Radford campus, allowing other qualified boys, who may be less fortunate when it comes to their bank accounts, access to the same educational opportunities which we have enjoyed over the course of the week.

Needless to say, the Nationalist Party is determined to emerge victorious through its candidates in the state elections, which will take place on Thursday.

Do They Really Listen? | By: Grey Cashwell

With the bustling activity and fast-paced schedule of the opening day of Virginia Boys State, it was tricky to notice the little things that can be just as important in crafting a memorable experience. However, one Blue Shirt counselor, who prefers to remain anonymous, was able to witness a "fascinating" and encouraging event which took place during dinner time at the campus mess hall. The Counselor noticed after finishing his meal that the dishwashing attendants were unavailable and absent from the clean-up area outside of the kitchen. Doing his part, he decided to help out by cleaning up his own silverware and plates and stacking them by himself.

The Counselor eventually realized that the dishwashing attendants were on their own dinner break, and he notified them that there were many dishes to clean. However, when the Counselor and the attendants returned to the kitchen area, they were pleasantly surprised to find that the citizens of Boys State had taken matters into their own hands. When asked just why they were taking the mess hall workers' jobs by stacking their own dishes and wiping down their own tables, the boys collectively claimed that they "[had] to clean this up." Needless to say, the kitchen staff were quite impressed. Through only a small act of kindness on a busy day, and especially one which could be so easily overlooked, the Boys State citizens demonstrated their immediate cooperation with each other and appreciation not only for the Radford campus staff, but also the counselors whom they emulate. The Counselor was impressed at the chain reaction he had seemingly started simply by stacking his dishes and was proud to find that indeed, the citizens of Boys State really do listen, or in this case, pay close and thoughtful attention.



Above: The Federalists convene to make party decisions

Federalists Pull It Together | By: Keagan DeLong and Justin Carminucci

The first Federalist convention on Tuesday started as a jumbled mass of confusion. As positions started to fill, the atmosphere was tempered for a short time. The majority of the audience, participating in the laborious task of voting, continued to remain in a state of disorder. The procedures of the convention were not firmly established until Wednesday, the second Federalist Convention meeting.

There was a noticeable difference in the amount of organization between the two party meetings. The first day was utter chaos, and most citizens were noticeably irate by the conclusion of the convention. The establishment of political deals, where campaigns gambled votes between the cities, were a noticeable taboo that was addressed in many of the candidates' speeches. While some of these speeches stuck to the issues, other candidates found more creative ways to capture the attention of the electorate including one candidate from Maury City who performed a rendition of "Hotline Bling" that spoke to many voters. The convention managed to select the party nominees for the offices of attorney general, lieutenant governor, and governor. However, this was not without fierce debate amongst competitors over qualifications, rhetoric, and party strategy. In the end, the Federalist party selected Charles Jessup for attorney general, Prasanna Joshi for lieutenant governor, and Jovan Elliot for governor, with the hope that they can bring the party to success at the general election on Thursday.

Overall, it was an experience to be remembered. Riddled with disruptions and disheartened individuals recounting the convention; there is much to be improved upon for Thursday's joint convention. An ecstatic audience is an energetic audience, thus making it hard to control. But with dedicated candidates, the disorder will hopefully be resolved.

2018 Boys State Makes Record Donation to Daily Bread | By: William Rowe



Above: The shelves at Daily Bread before Boys State contributions

Below: The shelves at Daily Bread after Boys State contributions



Boys State began its relationship with Daily Bread in 2016 when Counselor Fargo Wells discovered that Girls State citizens donated food items to Farmville food bank. He said to himself, "If Girls State can do it, so can Boys State." Wells then reached out to the Radford community and was put in contact with the Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread organization. And the rest is history. 2018 Boys State contributed the most donations in Boys State history with 2,127 total items (14 boxes of trash bags, 176 rolls of paper towels, 395 rolls of toilet paper, and 1542 food items).

Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread was established in 1992 by local churches with the goal of addressing the needs of the hungry within their communities. The organization approached these problems by creating a dining room service where anyone could get a free noon-day meal, no questions asked.

The program operates on weekdays in downtown Radford. In Daily Bread's first year they served around 5,000 meals. They've grown ever since, currently serving over 23,000 meals. A unique aspect of the Daily Bread's program is that all the food is prepared beforehand and served family-style instead of just handing out groceries to those in need. Some do not possess the capabilities to prepare their own meals so the Daily Bread fills this need. The family-style promotes community and brings people together to eat. Many friendships have formed around the tables at the Daily Bread program between both volunteers and those in need.

The Daily Bread would not be possible without donations and volunteers. Their budget contains only enough money to pay the small staff, rent, and utilities. The volunteers are the driving force of the organization. There are 80 regular volunteers with plenty of drop-in help as well. Volunteers come back time and time again because they love helping their neighbors.

The Daily Bread also took over the Meals on Wheels program which brings food to those who are unable to leave home. Drivers for Meals on Wheels don't just drop off the meals and leave. Often, volunteers will help those in need with little favors such as moving furniture or changing the thermostat.

Donna Fern, Director of the Daily Bread, remarked, "We are very grateful to be the beneficiary of the good will of [Boys State]." She also greatly appreciates the generosity of Boys State citizens because even though we only stay for a week our donations will last for months to come.

To make a donation or contact Radford-Fairlawn Daily Bread visit www.radfordfairlawndailybread.org or call (540) 639 - 0290.

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