



THE LEGION



6th Edition: 6/22/19

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We Thank You

Sam McGuire

This week at Boys State, we have been blessed with some amazing counselors, men who we can all look up to in a variety of ways. Whether it be a wise word, a kind glance, or a little help with our room inspection, we all know that we can count on them in one of the most hectic weeks of our short lives. So, from all of us VA Boys State citizens, thank you all. Seriously - thank you.

Personally, I will stand by my Pershing City family all day. To start the week off, we were all given a warm welcome by Connor, probably the most experienced young

counselor in the program. From his unbelievable stories about his own Boys State experiences back in 2015, to his spot on impressions, I feel lucky to have met someone who can be so driven yet so comical at the same time. There was also the stern, yet fair Mr. G. He truly was the guiding

force behind much of Pershing's success, both on the front stage and behind the scenes. I also gained from him one of the most compelling pieces of advice this week: "Praise in public, correct in private." And then, of course, there's Rock, Pershing's not-so-Junior counselor. Rock has been a huge presence, and between his humor and constant dialogue, there was no doubt that Rock was the most beloved counselor in Pershing City's (or should I say "Rocco City's") history.



However, as great as my experiences were with Pershing's counselors, each and every one of the Boys State advisers was irreplaceable to all of us in this program.

So, as this experience comes to a close for us citizens, we all would like to personally send out a huge "thank you" to all of the adults who have made such a positive impact on us here.

Liberty and Justice for All

David Donnan

Open your flag books and turn to page forty. Now flip back to page thirty six. Section III, titled appeals, says that all verdicts from the Circuit Court can be appealed to the Boys State Supreme Court. This statement does not seem to be true. While at least two appeals were filed today, none were given the chance to speak in front of the court seemingly rendering this section useless. How can we ensure justice if we can't appeal to an impartial, qualified group



of justices? While the Circuit Court judges try their hardest, there is a reason for the Supreme Court in Virginia. Maybe next year justice will be able to be served, maybe not. It sure would be nice, and exciting, if the citizens of Boys State were able to watch real justice unfold.

NEWS AND OPINIONS

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The Last Night of Boys State

Tyler Schwartz and
Jarrett Pearson

After a week full of practicing, Boys State citizens finally got to show their chops marching around the

Radford campus.

The parade began at 7:30pm, when all of the cities of Boys State conglomerated on the Heth lawn. After roll call, cities were able to form rank within minutes and began their march. The display was surprisingly impressive, as even the most stubborn cities formed straight lines for their parents and loved ones. The familiar “left, left, left, right, left” rang throughout the campus



for several minutes until the parade ended in Preston Bondurant. Where everyone- parents and counselors included- settled in for an American Legion ceremony. It started out with POW/MIA memorial service.

Then progressed into a recognition of several American Legion officers such as the commander of the Virginia American Legion, Tom Queck, and former Director of Boys State and Nation, Dr. Blume. Later on, the winners of the Boys Nation

senatorial bid were announced. It all ended with a rousing, boisterous and substantial chorus of the Boys State song.

Virginia Progressives Deserve Better

Jacob Tisdale

Today, Governor Ralph Northam

delivered an address to Virginia Boys State, rounding out the trio of Democratic state leadership to visit the program. Joining Attorney General Mark Herring and Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax, Northam espoused words of advice and delineated his political experiences to an attentive youth. However, in the duration of his speaking, there was a certain level of unease throughout Preston Hall. This feeling permeated all three aforementioned speakers' time at Boys State. The scandal and unfortunate past of these leaders is the direct cause of this, and the root of a statewide issue.

Policy-wise, Virginia liberals such as myself should be generally content with the figureheads elected to represent them on this level. They are representing leftist ideology and policy with their work and stances.

However, the allegations and unfortunate missteps of the past hold these leaders back from fulfilling the ultimate needs of the principles they stand for. I am of the belief that the Democratic Party needs leaders with unburdened pasts. We at Boys State should be these leaders. Whether or not



you believe in one's ability to mature and change, having leadership who previously acted harmfully, carelessly, and indefensibly towards the marginalized that they claim to support is nothing but detrimental to their causes. It not only gives their opposition plenty of ammunition, it makes the

platforms they stand upon incredibly weak. We need leaders that we can have an open and constructive dialogue with, not leaders who we have to tiptoe around when asking questions.

After responding to 3 questions in a guarded manner, Northam touched on a common talking point during Boys State: our future as civic leaders. Then, he made his most resonant point. “They're about to put me out in the pasture,” he remarked to us in a surprisingly candid manner. Northam says it is young Virginians' responsibility to pursue the betterment of their state. I say that it is young progressives' responsibility now to become politically aware so as to not make the mistakes of his generation at this age. To ensure the security of our current ideals, it is our job to present ourselves in a mature, respectful, and considerate manner. Perhaps, when we speak at Boys State in the future, this feeling of uneasiness should cease.