

THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE COMMITTEE
Mid-Winter Conference
Lexington Hotel, Lansing, MI
February 20, 2010

The meeting of the Department Boys State Committee was called to order by John R. Nelson, Chairman at 10:00 am, Saturday February 20, 2010 in the Aurora meeting room of the Lexington Hotel, Lansing, Michigan. Opening ceremony of Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer were observed.

Chairman Nelson appointed Bill Hafeman as committee secretary for this conference

The following people were present for the meeting:

Members: John R. Nelson (3rd Zone), Director
Nelson O'Bryan (2nd Zone), Asst. Director
Dave Wells (4th Zone)
Bill Hafeman (5th Zone)

Guests: 6 present, representing Districts

Boys State Education Staff (Dan VanderMuelen, Jerry Scarborough, Tom Kasper)
and Northwood University representative Candice Courtemanche

Districts represented: **7, 8, 9, 10, 11/12, 18**

A quorum was present for this meeting.

National Executive Committeeman Darwin Krieger introduced National Vice Commander James Morris of Ohio. Department Commander Carney Jackson greeted the committee and guest and expressed his confidence in the committees work toward a successful 2010 Boys State.

MINUTES: The minutes of the Boys State Committee Meeting held during the 2009 Fall Conference at the R. Eastin Hotel, Roseville Michigan were approved. Motion to approve made by Nelson O'Bryan, second by Bill Hafeman. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: The 2009 – 2010 financial statement / budget for the Boys State committee was reviewed. Chairman Nelson offered that there is very little income and that expenses are in line with budget. There will be very little activity until the time period immediately before and during Boys State Week, June 20-26, 2010.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The 2009 Boys State Yearbook is finished and ready for distribution. The committee discussed the option of having the yearbook produced in compact disc format for 2010. By unanimous consensus the committee approved the idea of producing the Yearbook on CD, and of possibly making that the preferred format.
- Committee discussed the need to order more shirts for the Boys State delegates, and to have a distinctive shirt for the Counselors and Staff. Nelson O'Bryan will investigate several options and present them to Director Nelson for a decision. Northwood University representative Candice Courtemanche volunteered that Northwood will provide a shirt to each boy, if they would be allowed to print the school logo on the shirt, such as on the sleeve. The committee approved that idea, but needs more detail information.
- Committed discussed the need for more Boys State enamel pins. The supply has dwindled; Nelson O'Bryan will investigate options and report to Chairman Nelson for a decision.

- The Boys State Booster Program was discussed. This program recognizes the contributions of businesses and individuals who make a direct donation of money of equipment/supplies. Each of the “Boosters” will be recognized, in the Boys State yearbook, and possibly in the Michigan Legionnaire.
- Chairman Nelson led a discussion on recruiting delegates and finding sponsors. Chairman Nelson shared data and analysis of attendance and sponsorship from the past four years. This included summaries of school participation in each county and district, summary of Post participation by district, and a listing of the “Honor Roll” of Posts, Sponsors, and Schools.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Upper Peninsula Association of American Legion Posts have presented a resolution requesting funding to allow all boys to travel to the Michigan State Government Center in Lansing. Chairman Nelson introduced the topic by showing a program overview of Boys State. The overview indicated that there is no idle time during Boys State. This resolution proposal was discussed, with comments from Dan VanderMuelen, Boys State Education Director. Dan suggested that to send every Boys State delegate to Lansing would be very disruptive. In past years at MSU, Boys State did march to the Capitol Building for Inauguration on Tuesday, and then on Friday only the State Government leaders returned to the Capitol Building to conduct business in the legislature chamber. All other delegates involved with City and County government have work that does not require a visit to the Capitol. Committee members and guest from the UPAA understood the position of the education staff and will take the matter under advisement.
- The committee discussed incorporating Boys State under IRS Code 501c(3). Assistant Director O’Bryan made a motion that the committee investigate incorporation, for its pros and cons, and be prepared to report to the DEC at Department Convention in June. Motion supported by Wells. Motion carried by voice vote.
- Commander Carney Jackson has approved a \$1000 scholarship to one of the delegates to Boys State 2010. Committee discussed the need for criteria in selecting the scholarship recipient. Chairman Nelson and Education Director VanderMuelen will meet to determine award criteria, which will likely be similar to the process used to select the boys for Boys Nation and Samsung Scholarship
- Chairman Nelson informed the committee of intentions to recognize Posts, non-Legion Sponsors, and Schools that have been actively involved with Boys State each of the past four years. As a minimum each will receive a recognition certificate. Dan VanderMuelen suggested that the recognition certificates to the high schools should be sent to the School Board President, and in that way raise awareness of the program with a key decision-maker.
- Volunteers are needed for a successful Boys State. Chairman Nelson challenged each District to send at least one Blue Cap Legionnaire to help with Boys State. A number of activities that are currently supervised by education staff members and counselors could easily be done by a Legionnaire volunteer. A particular need is for a videographer / photographer who will help make a promotional DVD and help produce the first CD version yearbook.
- The committee discussed having legionnaires visit Boys State so they know what is happening and can speak about it with more understanding and enthusiasm. We will also invite all past Department Commanders, all District and Zone Commanders, and legislators and local government officials to visit Boys State on Thursday, June 24, 2010 to observe the boys in action.

- In addition to volunteers, the Boys State Program needs a high speed copy machine during the Boys State week. If any committee member knows of copy machine that Boys State can have or use for the week, contact Chairman Nelson.
- Chairman Nelson commented that a Blood Drive conducted by the American Red Cross is being considered for Boys State. This is currently being done in several other states, and is a complementary activity to teaching the delegates of the obligations of citizenship.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business for the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 am.

Respectfully submitted, William Hafeman, Secretary