

THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE COMMITTEE - Fall Conference

Roseville, MI

September 18, 2009

The meeting of the Department Boys State Committee was called to order by John R. Nelson, Chairman at 10:05 am, Friday September 18, 2009 in the Sunset N meeting room of the R Eastin Hotel, Roseville, Michigan.

Chairman Nelson appointed Nelson O'Bryan 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
Ray Droste (1st Zone)
Dave Wells (4th Zone)
Bill Hafeman (5th Zone)

Guests: 9 present, representing Districts
Districts represented: **1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11/12, 16, 18**

A quorum was present for this meeting.

Past National Commander Thomas Cadmus introduced Past Department of Florida Commander Jimmy Foster, who brought greetings and request for our support in his candidacy for National Commander, 2010 – 2011.

MINUTES: The minutes of the Boys State Meeting held at Causeway Bay Hotel, Lansing, Michigan were read. Motion to approve the minutes made by Dave Wells, seconded by Bill Hafeman. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: The 2009 – 2010 financial statement / budget for the Boys State committee was reviewed. Chairman Nelson commented that his goal is to have a balanced, break-even or better budget. That is possible with a combination of more attendance and frugality with expenses. Motion to approve the budget, as approved by Department Finance Committee, made by O'Bryan, supported by Wells. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Proposal to amend Boys State Rules of Procedure to add an S.A.L member to Boys State Committee. Motion was made by W. Hafeman, second by D. Wells. Motion passed. Chairman Nelson will present the change language to the Department Internal Affairs Committee during this Fall Conference.
- Boys State 2009 Summary was presented by Chairman Nelson. Total of 259 Boys State delegates, 215 of which were sponsored by American Legion posts. The remaining delegates were sponsored by a civic organization, school, or even parents. But in each case, the local American Legion Post was involved to insure a good Boys State experience. The committee discussed the importance of recognizing all sponsors of Boys State delegates, especially those who are not legionnaires. Chairman Nelson distributed an analysis of attendance by district.
- 2009 Yearbook should be coming out in October. Thanks for all who were part of making that possible, especially the photographers.
- Boys State T-shirts. We will need to order more t-shirts for 2010. The supplier for the past several years has done well, at a low price. Committee discussed and decided to keep the same printing on the shirt in blue ink. Chairman Nelson stated that he would like to have a more distinctive shirt for the education staff. This was tabled until Winter Conference. Dave Wells has sold \$200 of Boys State t-shirts; he will remit those funds prior to Boys State week.
- Booster Program. This program needs to be reinvigorated; it is a way for businesses and individuals to contribute to Boys State. Names of the boosters are printed in the yearbook; suggestion was made to also include them in the Michigan Legionnaire.

NEW BUSINESS

- Schedule for 2010 Boys State. We have the option to begin Boys State on Sunday June 20 or Monday June 21. Motion was made by O'Bryan, supported by Hafeman that 2010 Boys State be held Sunday June 20 – Saturday June 26. Motion passed. The starting date is the final day of Department convention.
- Boys State Revitalization Plan. Chairman Nelson shared a three-pronged approach to creating a reinvigorated, successful Michigan Boys State program.
 - 1) Recruit Delegates. This will take the efforts of all Department Committee members, all District Committee chairmen, and all Posts. We all need to work to get the word out to parents, teachers, and schools. The Department Committee will assist in contacting schools, ROTC units, scouts, PTA s, and church youth groups.

We will use the Boys State website as a promotion tool. One incentive we will use as we talk Boys State is a new \$1000 college scholarship sponsored by Department Commander Jackson.

2) Secure Scholarships to Boys State. No source of financial help should be turned away – post, district, community service club, VFW, high school, etc. Discussion also suggested that small posts can group together to send one boy, making sponsorship affordable. Many different approaches work; use what works in each local post area.

3) The committee discussed the need to increase the number of “blue cap” legionnaires involved with Boys State week. Chairman Nelson spoke of the hope that each Michigan District will have at least one volunteer working at Boys State.

- Chairman Nelson discussed the importance of Department Boys State Committee members being fully engaged. He will send by email to all committee members the expectations and responsibilities of department and district committee members.
- 2010 Boys State attendance goal was discussed. With 80,000 legionnaires in Michigan is it reasonable to have one Boys State delegate for every 250 members? That would be 320 boys. The budget for 2010 will be in the black with 300 boys attending. That is possible with the effort of all districts and posts. Chairman Nelson will provide each Committee member, each District Commander, and each District Boys State Chairman with a goal for Boys State attendance for each district.
- Department of Michigan has created an endowment fund for Boys State. The committee discussed this, commenting that it is a good idea for the future, but that it will not help Department meet current obligations, and that some people will choose to give to the endowment fund and not to the current program year. The committee and HQ staff will monitor this and report data following Boys State next June.
- Tuition for Boys State 2010 is \$310 per delegate. This is the same as for 2009.
- Recognition and Awards. With a Boys State attendance goal for each district, there will be recognition of districts that meet the goal, and recognition of posts that have significant attendance in relation to the size of the post. This recognition will be in the form of a certificate and will be published in the Michigan Legionnaire.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business for the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 am.

Respectfully submitted, Nelson O'Bryan, Secretary