

**Don't  
forget to  
vote in the  
Election at  
10:00  
in the Rec  
Center**



# THE JERSEY STATESMAN

VOLUME LXVII, ISSUE IV JUNE 22, 2012

**This is the  
final issue  
of the year.  
We at The  
Jersey  
Statesman  
will miss  
you all!**

## Boys' Nation 101

As Boys' State draws to a close, the final elections, with candidates from all cities and counties, are taking place. Requiring an outstanding fifty-five signatures, delegates trying to become Boys' Nation senators from New Jersey eagerly await possible opportunities in the nation's capital.

Most delegates, however, only think about the prospect of meeting President Obama. However, there is much more to this prestigious trip to Washington D.C.

Luis Zamora, a member of the staff for Jersey Boys' State this year, was New Jersey's delegate to Washington D.C. last year in 2011. He went on the trip about a month after the end of Jersey Boys' State. Although he met President Obama and discussed immigration policy and the DREAM Act, he accomplished much more over the course of the ten day trip.

Boys' Nation acted as "a simulation of the Senate," and conducted legislation, formed committees, and held hearings. They also took multiple trips across the city to government buildings, such as the Supreme Court and the Capitol building to meet Senator Frank Lautenberg and to see Congress in action.

It was a very rewarding experience for Zamora and hopefully it will be for this year's delegates as well.

## Laughs Instead of Gaffes: The Experience

After the experience at American Legion Jersey Boys' State it seems like the art of winning elections comes down to getting the voters' attention. With that said, gaining voter attention can be done in a variety of ways including being confident, relatable, compassionate, personable, witty, or even tough. However, the most successful candidates use a well balanced combination of the above characteristics in order to win the voters over. For instance, those who were comedic were seldom elected unless they took it down a notch and got serious. I witnessed this first hand when Richard Shiovone was voted in as the Nationalist State Party Chairman. Truly, one must display a variety of personal assets in order to engage and ultimately win over the voters of Boys' State.

It's obvious that the fun and games of lite are to be included in politics while, at the same time keeping things at a serious tone. Someone who is too serious can't relate to the people can sometimes be described as lacking people skills while someone who is excessively silly can come off as a clown. In short, the importance of a sense of humor in a politician is unquestionable because they must not let the rude bloggers and adversaries get to them. I argue that a good candidate will find ways to balance the scale in a fashion that displays not one or two, but all of the most desirable traits.

## Friday Schedule Highlights

- 1) Senatorial General Election; 10:00 – 11:00; Student Rec Center Court #3.
- 2) 2012 ALJBS Family Day; 11:00 – 1:20.
- 3) Final Retreat Ceremony; 1:15.
- 4) Final Assembly on Campus Green; 1:30 – 4:00.
- 5) Go Home!

## Forecast

Today: High-91° F

Low-80° F

Feels like-96° F

PM Thunderstorms

Tonight: 68° F

Feels like-75° F

Scattered Thunderstorms



# Boys' State News

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## A Big "Thank You" to the Tech Staff!

In 1994, Brian Epstein attended ALJBS as a delegate. The following year, and for every year since, Mr. Epstein, or "Eppy" as he is commonly referred to, has returned to Boys' State. In 2002, he became the Dean of Technology at Boys' State, instituting a computer program for registration and for creation of manuals. The entire technology program is run entirely off of donations, and better computers are always wanted. Often, the tech staff spends time rebuilding donated machines that are used or broken. Clearly, the tech staff has an incredibly difficult job at Jersey Boys' State.

The greatest achievement of the Boys' State technology department is the "unified desktop," which means that all ALJBS computers are exactly the same, and that staff can access any file on any ALJBS computer from any other ALJBS computer. In fact, Mr. Epstein was commended by RedHat for his work with the unified desktop; he was highlighted as one of the best computer/software engineers in both North and South America. In addition, the staff monitors this massive system using Nagios, a program that offers a view of all the machines' statuses in real-time. For all their behind-the-scenes work, the delegates of Jersey Boys' State would like to give a heartfelt "thank you" to Eppy and all the other tech staff members.

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## Personal Experiences at Boys' State

Upon arriving on the grounds of Rider University at the start of this year's session of the American Legion Jersey Boys' State, I was a bit anxious as to what I should expect. In the weeks prior to this week, I asked a couple of the delegates from last year's ALJBS, of what to expect, and the advice that they gave was very simple: "Do not take a back seat." and "Get involved". This advice was reminiscent of the advice given by the counselors and speakers alike. When I got here on Father's Day, I was cautious of stepping out of my shell and of wanting to run for elections. Before the close of the first day, after having won only one of the three positions for which I ran, I figured that I was not going to run for any other position and that I would simply let those who were set on running for various offices do so without fighting for the position. If I could go back and change any part of my own personal involvement here at ALJBS, it would've been to have taken that extra leap and run for higher offices at the county or state levels. After a position opened on the city council, I figured to give it a try and take the advice that I heard from counselors and speakers. So I ran for and won a position on the council. In addition to this position, I was also honored to have been appointed as both the City Clerk and the County Council.

After having experienced all that Jersey Boys' State has to offer, I now have attributes that I will be able to take with me in life. Firstly, spending a week with a group of strangers gave me a chance to step out of my comfort level and to go out and meet new people. Hopefully I will be able to foster the friendships which I made throughout the course of this week over the course of my life. Secondly, more related to the ALJBS program's purpose, is that I have come to realize that I do not wish to enter into politics after having the once-in-a-lifetime chance of experiencing the inner workings of the political arena first hand during this week which truly "shapes the future".

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## Rising Tension of the Court Trails

Tension is rising and delegates are becoming increasingly anxious. It finally arrived: the court trials. As it begins, one person is called up and each person must swear to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Every person that is called to trial is accused of an egregious crime and is punished commensurately. For example, some cities accused their counselors of being hypocrites! Other cities accused delegates that are cops of violating Kyleigh's Law by ignoring seventeen year-old drivers. Furthermore, most cities accuse delegates of dishonoring their city name by shouting out other city names while they were in public. Many were proven guilty and paid the consequences while others were proven innocent.

The punishment for delegates who committed minor crimes was to embarrass themselves in a specific way in front of their whole city. In contrast, for delegates who committed major crimes, punishments included probation from their job. While some people were proven guilty of their accused crimes, others tried to accuse other delegates to divert attention, which surprisingly worked and they got off innocent!



# Boys' State News

## Practice Makes Perfect

On Wednesday, June 20th, all the delegates of Boys' State were called to an assembly. Most of the general assemblies are about politics or upcoming events, but this particular assembly showcased the Boys' State band. The impressive quality with which the band played the songs was best reflected in the response of the crowd.

All around the room, people were humming, clapping, and even singing along to the music. The mood of the room was set by the first song played by the band, Don't Stop Believing by Journey. But what is the cause of such successful playing? The answer is simple: practice.

Every day at recreation time, members of the band meet and put their hearts into practice. Like any skill, playing an instrument requires great amounts of practice. Judging by the way they played, the band has certainly been hard at work. The great thing is the assembly was just a taste of things to come. We'll be hearing more impressive playing on Friday, so get ready to experience some more great tunes.

## Sleep Deprivation

For many, "Lights out!" signals the end of the day, but for the editors of The Jersey Statesman, there is no rest. Late at night, the editors work tirelessly, trudging along like zombies. Despite our immense exhaustion, we strive to inform the Jersey Boys' State delegates about issues that affect them in real-time. From seminars to meetings to general assemblies to sports, the editors of the newspaper observe everything, hoping to educate all of the statesmen about not only the political process but also the state of affairs at Boys' State.

Amazingly, we editors can survive on almost no sleep, denying both the regular curfew and our bodies' demands for rest, without "checking out." We manage to stay awake by doing sets of push-ups, making idle chatter, and discussing plans for our futures. We forced ourselves to test the limits of what we thought we were capable of.

We fought adversity without fear. After an apparent crash in the publishing software, we settled down for an extra two hours of work. We dealt with this tragedy without many words. We simply moved on, proving that we refused to just give up. Fortunately, the program's auto-save feature saved us from working all through the night. Regardless of our little failures and little victories, The Jersey Statesman is hard work, just as hard as anything else at Jersey Boys' State. So we write on, with or without sleep.

## The Value of Boys' State

We all know that Boys' State looks good on resumes, builds confidence and speaking skills, and allows delegates to meet new people. About the last benefit, however, people usually think of making new friends and having the ability to get along with different types of people. Personally, I don't believe that many people realize what "different types of people" could really mean.

When I first looked around the newspaper room, I saw pictures of Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, and John F. Kennedy. I didn't know much about each person's background, but I knew that they sure as heck were different from me. Their mothers and sisters, fathers and brothers, friends, acquaintances, institutions, and the organic way by which all of these things come together, create people that, as far as I can see, are incredibly distinct and unfathomable islands of consciousness.

I spoke with a counselor on the issues of taxation, the rich versus the poor, and the March on Wall Street. According to him, the trickle-down theory absolutely could not work, and he saw the disparities between the rich and poor as equivalent to a crisis; I argued the opposite.

The counselor whom I spoke with was from a relatively destitute city: Camden, New Jersey. On the other hand, I am from a middle-class, suburban town. While considering these characteristics, another thought struck me. "Che" Guevara was from a poor Latin American nation, while former president Kennedy was from the first-world United States. As far as I know, these two people were never brought together. Here, in a setting where only ideas are important and where we have nothing but our names – neither social status nor any kind of societal responsibilities – people can communicate in a rather free way. Because of this, I believe that this may be the most incredible benefit of Boys' State.



**A BIG THANK YOU TO THE ENTIRE VOLUNTEER STAFF! JERSEY BOYS' STATE WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU!**

# Opinion

## Donation Inspiration

In an apathetic society where people put themselves before others, more than one hundred highschool juniors donate not only their time, but one pint of their blood to the American Red Cross. When Red Cross representative Carol Field asked the delegates who would be interested in donating, an astonishing number of hands shot up. Carol implored the audience, saying that blood donations are scarce, but high in demand. She spoke of a girl who was diagnosed with cancer, who needed fifty whole donations of blood so that she could survive. The girl with cancer was able to receive the necessary amount of donated blood, but Carol still stressed the fact that the American Red Cross needed as many donations as possible.

The delegates' enthusiasm towards the donations proved that the natural-born leaders of Boys' State are some of the most generous people in New Jersey. When Kevin Cameron, an ALJBS staff member, was asked why he donates, he said, "I donate because I know it is necessary, and I have a useful blood type. I try to donate whenever I can". It is because of people like Kevin and the hundreds of delegates who donated yesterday that it is possible for people in need of blood to survive.

## A Valiant Fight 'til the End

All counties have been contending intensely to try and gain the number one spot in the ALJBS 2012 sports league. In the volleyball program, numerous counties have stood out as very professional, very eager teams, ready to play hard and fast. However, the volleyball league was a particular center of heated competition, and today a climatic battle took place for the final match of the week.

Today, Nimitz and Vandenburg met one final time to decide who would become the volleyball champion of the 2012 ALJBS. The Nimitz Finals team included Cj Herdt, Ray Horner, Akbar Hassonjee, Jacob Henderson, Mayor Kevin Hernandez, Joey Ikuss (all of Jackson City), and Sean Gonzalez (of Monroe City). The Vandenburg County Finals Team consisted of Daniel Robinson, Sean Quigg, Jake Pyrzynski, Pavan Patel, Ambrose Powell, Christopher Pappayliou, Brian Quinn, and Sean Rambauch. Nimitz opposite hitter Cj Herdt and setter Ray Horner led the team with impressive conviction in a hard battle against the 'Burg team led by valiant setter Dan Robinson and hard-hitting Ambrose Powell. The two powerhouses played 6 straight games in a double elimination match that ALJBS sports director Andy Robertson called "the first, real volleyball match with real, good players" he had seen in a long time. From the astounding noise from the side crowds, to the incredible self-sacrifice of Nimitz hitter Jacob Henderson to make every play, to unstoppable momentum of Daniel Robinson's front line, the game was filled with excitement.

In the end, Nimitz fell just short in game 6 of the double series with a score of 15-13. Both teams put up an amazing effort and a huge group cheer was held to honor sportsmanship, teamwork, and the powerful display of heart shown today. Although Vandenburg won, both teams were truly victorious for their perseverance, and all 15 of these gentlemen will most likely remember the match for a very long time.



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