

Premier Boys State Committee 10 September 2022
Department Headquarters and via zoom

1007 Meeting called to order
Honor Flag - Pledge
Prayer

Roll Call

Present:

Christopher Benigno

Wayne Wagner

Derrick Stinson

Michael Vozar

Joseph McCraith

John B. Reece

Absent:

Martin Zonar

Paul Brown

Wayne Madson (excused)

Charles Mueth (excused)

Jeffrey Brown

James Talaska (excused)

Mac Meade

David Fever

Hsienjan Huang (excused)

Laimutis A. "Limey" Nargelenas (excused)

Treasurer's Report: Wayne Wagner provided the treasurers report. We were \$4,494 in the black from last session. This however was possible from two large donations of 5 and 10K we received. Without the donations we would not have stayed in the black. The overall balance sheet has \$34K in the bank. It was calculated that we need 500 citizens to cover the \$175 plus expenses we have during session to remain in the black next year. This is with keeping the fee to attend at \$300. Motion to approve by Stinson / Second by Vozar. Motion carried.

Chairman's Report: New board position moves were announced – John Reece moved to Vice Chairman. Carter Corsello and Jim Vahle are appointed on the board, filling two terms that ended. Jim Vahle is also the Assistant Director of Education under Joe McCraith. Both are six-year terms ending in 2028. Next year's appointments will get the board to the correct number per resolution.

Social Media: Chairman showed the present site and discussed updates. Chairman directed subjects updated by August 31st each year for the next years session. Graham Peck reported that they were active during the session. He is working on social media calendar and will share with Chairman by end of the month. The Alumni page is ready within the next week. There was discussion about listing prominent alumni of the program.

Director of Counselors, Chuck Runyard, reported he had a wrap up session of last session to always work on improvements. If we have a large population, we will need a larger staff. He was asked by a board member how counselors are screened. All are screened through company Youth Protects Sports. Board member said that is what is asked often when he is in schools recruiting and by parents. We do background checks and require molestation prevention class each year for each staff member.

Director of Education Joe McCraith reported the format last year went well with two days for each branch Electoral and Judicial. The downside was we didn't have enough kids.

McCraith Reporting on Boys Nation and other programs: both of our Boys Nation attendees did well. There are only six elected positions at Boys Nation. Julian was elected as a party chairman. That is an accomplishment and represented Illinois well. He reported that Missouri Boys State are not run by the Legion but rather run by past members and quotas are given to each district resulting in high participation. Discussion was that we are an American Legion program and will continue to work with our Legion posts.

Administrative Operations: John Reece reported that everything went well and expects the group he has in place will be able to close some of the loopholes that were identified. Admin staff should be stable for next year.

Sports Director: Johnathan Nave was absent. Discussion by attendees again expressed we should do E-sports (discussed since 2019) as that is what the kids are now familiar with and expect. The other sports should remain the same unless we expand significantly.

Alumni Association: It was discussed by members present about how there may be a donation drive, member assistance in recruiting, and perhaps an outing if it grows. We will see. Link to sign up is on the boy state web page.

All reports were moved to be approved by Joe McCraith and seconded by Derick Stinson. Motion carried.

Unfinished business:

Registration: There were seven kids registered so far for next session. This year, 75% of registrations occurred in May. We tell EIU our numbers on May 1st.

Online payments through PayPal. Discussion was whether we had the nonprofit rate. It was discussed we did have it at 2.89% + .49 per transaction. Therefore, if a registration is paid for by PayPal, we'd charge a convenience fee of at least \$6.46.

New Business:

Additional seminars: There was discussion that the ROTC confidence course was sorely under attended. We should make effort to direct attendance. It was pointed out that the police and ROTC and Governmental House/Senate all met at same time and there just wasn't enough kids. This hopefully will be overcome if we have high attendance next year.

Member Stinson asked if there was a video or CD for recruiting. Both the Department and boys state website will have a link to videos shortly. Department said they could have it posted by this evening.

Member Corsello proposed having a content creator contest during the session. This would accomplish two actions: provide a new program that reflects the interest of many

attendees and also identify those that may assist in developing content that is interesting and relevant to the target attendees. Carter will develop a proposal for the next meeting.

It was reported that yearbooks should be out in the next 45 days from now. All will get a digital copy as well as the paper copy. Wagner reported the cost of the yearbook is \$1,890 with 250 printed as budgeted. He would like to get the final bill before the August 31st cut off. It would eat into the 4.5k we as reported earlier.

Member Stinson asked about how to get Golden Tickets. He was directed to call Shandi and she should be able to provide reasonable numbers as requested.

Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1139hrs.