



# State of the Boys

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## Caucuses and Conventions Oh My

Super Tuesday came to the 2022 Session of MN Boys State with a flurry of activity. (Image #1: Elected delegates and alternates of the city of Winona hard at work) (Image #2: Delegates from both Winona and Saint Cloud collaborating on their party platforms.)



## St. Paul Develops an Identity

*Aidan Busse, St. Paul*

The American Legion Boys State had a triumphant beginning as more than 200 boys arrived at St. John's University, ready to begin the experience. Few, however, knew what awaited them there. Some had come with friends, others had made friends quickly, but many were entirely on their own. Upon their first meeting at the dormitories, the citizens made shy introductions, some bolder than others. Overall, the energy was tense and the boys' nerves were palpable. By the time they had been split into their cities, small groups had formed. Some individuals discovered they were like-minded and stuck close to one another, forming groups of three or four. They held real conversations now. The lukewarm beginning had made way for a friendlier environment. Still, as the 25 citizens of the city of St. Paul entered their city room for the first time, they did so as individuals. They were each an independent person, barely united by the name of their city. *Continued on Page #2*

## Minneapolis Minute

*Isaac Wirth, Minneapolis*

The election for Minneapolis' city government was held on Monday, June 13, 2022. Starting off with City Council, Cole Peterson, RJ Haas III, Torii Overas, and Isaac Wirth were all elected. A run-off election for the fifth position on the council was held between Samuel Hosch and Gavin Quam, with Hosch pulling the win.

Our elected treasurer is now Geo Morris and Minneapolis City Clerk is AJ Miller. Finally, the highest office in the city, the mayor's office, was won by Isaac Israel. After becoming mayor Israel immediately began making appointments, including nominating his two past mayoral candidate rivals onto his team.

Following the election results, each Boys State member was given a political party, as a Federalist or Nationalist. All those elected in the city election happen to all be Nationalists with exception of Israel and Wirth.

Those who had formed groups sat together. Those who hadn't sat far from one another. After some time, the back two rows of seats were completely filled and the initial buzz of conversation died away leaving the room in silence. The councilors decided it was time to break the ice. They asked a simple question—what is each citizen's favorite breakfast food was. This simple question was the key to unlocking something great. It all started when one St. Paul delegate responded that his favorite cereal was Cinnamon Toast Crunch and was met with resounding agreement. The ice was broken. The citizens had found common ground in cereal. Some time later, after being educated on the Parliamentary Procedure, after electing a City Clerk, and after setting up their sports teams, the city of St. Paul made its first ordinance: that Cinnamon Toast Crunch would be the city's official breakfast cereal. It didn't stop there. For the rest of the evening, the delegates decided on a city anthem, a mascot, an official dance, and more. They built traditions from the ground up. Yes, this was all done for fun, but it was also extremely important. The city of St. Paul created an identity for itself. The citizens, strangers to one another, found common ground and founded the symbols of their city upon it. St. Paul is more than just a name now. It means something to its citizens and, with city elections, party divisions, and more political strain on the horizon this meaning, this identity, will become more important than ever. Yesterday 25 individuals may have entered that city room, but they left as the city of St. Paul.



## **Duluth Scoop: Early Unrest in Zenith City?**

*Austin Clennon, Duluth*

After making quick work of his campaigning, it's no surprise to anyone that Will Spargo was elected mayor of Duluth. He has made impressive headway in his first couple of days, but his methods of leadership have left the delegates of Duluth unsatisfied. Some are saying he and his city council have methodically edged out the voice of the people, while others are sitting idly by. While Mayor Spargo holds office as of right now, he plans to move on to county or state office. Things move fast in Boys State, so these upset delegates may have a chance to change things, and soon.

## **Rochester Column**

*George Peltier, Rochester*

City elections were all very close races yesterday. In Rochester, a committee was chosen to determine the election rules as they saw fit. The results were that mayoral candidates had 1 minute 30 seconds of speaking time, all councilmen and treasurer positions were allowed a minute of speaking time, and votes were announced by the city clerk. The city clerk (Emmett Wolf) was announced as our mayor. He decided to use a weak mayoral system to give more voice to his constituents in the council. Then all the city council members and the mayor focused on appointments and vacated/ unfilled positions in the city. The mayor and councilmen voted on appointments blindly in front of the city. Appointments were volunteer-based and then voted. Candidates had 30 seconds to quickly pitch why they were fit for the position. Tonight there will be party county elections for state nominations.

## Another Day in St. Cloud

*Eric Chen, St. Cloud*

It's Day 2 of Boys State, and the political game is heating up in St. Cloud. As promised in yesterday's article, we have the results of yesterday's elections. In the highly heated mayoral race, Ben Ertl was successful in his campaign for mayor of St. Cloud. Along with him, members of the city council were also elected, including Michael Rascher, Matthew Scherber, Buay Koak, Eric Chen, and Val Coppo.



(Ben Ertl, Mayor of St. Cloud)

Also on the topic of politics, political parties were initiated at Boys State today. Similar to the real United States, there are two political parties present. However, instead of the Republicans and the Democrats, Boys State has the Nationalists and the Federalists. Students today met with other members of their respective political parties and discussed which issues their parties wanted to stand for. These include standings on real-world issues like gun control and crime rates, as well as Boys State issues like the abolition of calisthenics. *Continued on Page #4*



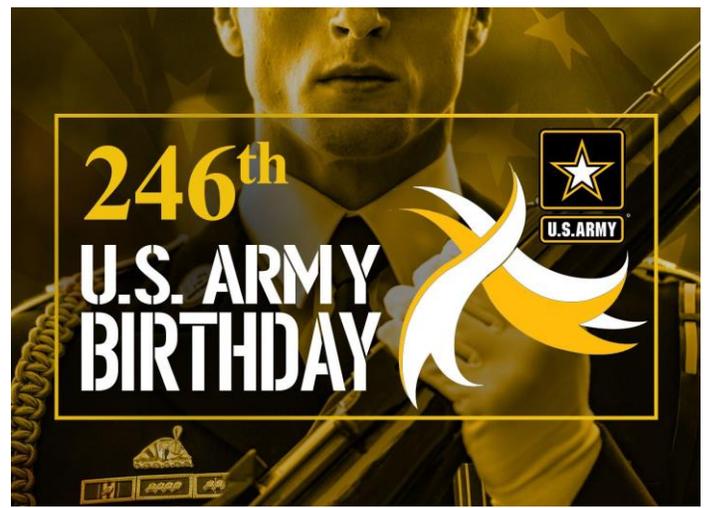
(The members of the St. Cloud Nationalist party gathering to discuss their planks.)



## Duluth Campaigning Off to a Bang!

*Austin Clennon, Duluth*

When people say that Boys State goes by fast, they certainly aren't kidding. Having arrived just yesterday, the delegates of Duluth are already hard at work building their campaigns for tonight's city elections. These candidates have been hustling around making some great first impressions and establishing connections with their peers. Though nobody knows for sure who will win these elections, I think it's safe to say that the great city of Duluth is in good hands.



The students will be running for county and state positions tomorrow. Things will get extremely heated when the entirety of Boys State has to compete for governor, lieutenant governor, and other executive positions. Stay tuned!



## A Newcomer Arises

With city caucuses and county conventions well underway, a clearer picture of what Rock County will be is taking shape. As new ideas have arisen, so have new politicians. Newcomer Nathaniel Janssen was elected chairman of the Federalist Party at the city and county level and has quickly assembled a passionate following. With state elections just around the corner and Rock County rallying behind him, he looks to be a prime candidate for the state office of his choosing.



## Flag Retirement

*Reece Sundberg, St. Cloud*

On Tuesday, June 14, 2022, we as Minnesota Boys State 2022 took some time out of our day, and recognized what the proper procedures and relocations were for retiring the American Flag while following all of the rules of the Flag Code and being respectful and honoring our current and fallen soldiers. The informational group that came in today called themselves “40 and 8.” You might think that this was kind of an odd name to call themselves. But you couldn’t be further from the truth. The reason they call themselves this is that, during wartimes in France in World War 1, otherwise known as the Great War, American soldiers were transported to their locations by train. To reduce fuel costs, improve efficiency, and get as many supplies to a place at one time, they would pack these train cars to the brim. The “40” refers to the number of men it takes to fill a train car, while the “8” represents the number of horses it takes to fill a train car. “40 and 8” also have another meaning. The other reason they chose this name was to pay respects to their fallen soldiers, friends, and brothers. I thought this was a great assembly. Not just because of how informational it was and how well they treated the American flag, but how it taught us how and where to properly give a send-off to one of the most respected and well-recognized pieces of fabric in the whole world. *Continued on Page 5*

## Boys State: First Impressions/First Day

*Landon, Winona*

The morning started early with calisthenics, and soon after was the rush to the extensive breakfast buffet. After followed our city meetings which consisted of developing our city positions such as mayor and city council. Later in the morning came our city pictures which went relatively smoothly. Then came schools of instruction which first consisted of the basics of Parliamentary Procedure which is the guidelines for running meetings and keeping them in order. Along with the process of making a motion and the six important steps. After a brief break, we continued with schools of instruction and began our next topic of local government.

Local government was a relatively familiar topic, but we did learn some particular rules that applied to local government such as the Dillion Rule. The commissioner has the final say at the county level. Then, before lunch, we had an amazing speech by the St. Paul Councilor Adam Logeman that really put perspective on a lot of things in life. Lunch came which was another massive and delicious course. Schools of instruction followed the lunch period and continued about flag etiquette and other governmental structures. *Continued on Page 5*

*Flag Retirement continued*

As you may know, the day that the Flag Retirement assembly happened, and the day that I am writing this, is Flag Day. Flag Day is a very important day that was created in 1916 under Woodrow Wilson for the effect of having a day to honor our flag and those who fought for it while protecting our freedoms, liberating others, and giving a beacon of hope to not only us who have the privilege to live in the United States of America, but also to those in other countries that don't get to have the same opportunities as us.

*First impressions continued*

We had a small free period before athletics in which Winona got hosed and lost all three sports, except the chance we got from singing and won. Then came the city elections which decided our numerous city positions. The daily quiz was slightly rough as the average score for our city was 12.83.

Following was a local government panel from St. Cloud and Stearns County that talked about their experiences in government. Then the evening ended with a city meeting of the new appointees and taps to conclude the night.

