



# State of the Boys



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## Boys State welcomes present, past governors

### Pawlenty encourages public service

Tom Mealey, Minneapolis



Gov. Tim Pawlenty

On Wednesday morning, Boys State received a visit from a very special guest, Gov. Tim Pawlenty. The governor was in Marshall to swear in a new judge, and he was kind enough to take a half hour to address Boys State as well as take a few group photos.

Before Pawlenty gave his address, attorney Ron Schutz, who was with the governor, gave a short address about the judicial branch and its importance, echoing Justice Paul Anderson's address from the night before. He explained that the judiciary branch is vital because of how it provides checks and balances as well as a method of resolving disputes peaceably.

*Pawlenty continued on page 6*

### Education high on Quie's list

By Alan Thompson, St. Paul



Al Quie

Albert Quie is a former governor of Minnesota, having served from January 1, 1979 until January 3, 1983. Although it was climactic to have our current governor precede him, Quie's views on many issues and governmental policies are useful and interesting to consider as well.

Quie was raised on a dairy farm. He definitely knew that he did not want to farm — but wanted to be involved in politics. One main theme weaving its way through his talk was education. "If you want to become politically involved, become educated."

A questioner asked his opinion on No Child Left Behind (NCLB), and Quie immediately said it was an

*Quie continued on page 6*

## Compromising principles led to bad consequences for speaker

By Sam Stemper, St. Peter and Steven Kurtz, Mankato

Last night, the boys were lucky to host a very special guest: Hank Shea. An incredibly accomplished lawyer, Shea lists among his credentials a position as Senior Distinguished Fellow at the University of St. Thomas School of Law and a position as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota for 18 years. He is currently a special assistant in the same office.

It was another individual who captured the attention of the Boys



Hank Shea, left, and Steve Rondstedt

Staters: Steve Rondstedt, a "white collar criminal" who was prosecuted for embezzlement by Shea in 2003, and now travels with him to tell his story to future law students. Rondstedt's story began in Minnesota, as he grew up in Brooklyn Park. He

was a high achiever in high school, participating in band, captaining cross country, swimming, and track teams, and also being named valedictorian of his class. He attended St. Olaf College and Hamline University, respectively, on his way to a law degree.

Rondstedt's law career began smoothly until an issue arose that eventually led to the disbanding of the law firm. After selling his first home and temporarily living with his wife in an apartment, Rondstedt asked his partner in the firm for a

*Shea continued on page 5*

## Federalists at a glance

### Candidates

Governor: David Stern  
 Hometown: Rosemount  
 Boys State city: Minneapolis

Lt. Governor: Evan Blazevic  
 Hometown: Duluth  
 Boys State city: St. Peter

Attorney General: RJ Kreyer  
 Hometown: Eagen  
 Boys State city: Anoka

Secretary of State: Luke Hutchison  
 Hometown: Shoreview  
 Boys State city: Clara City

State Auditor: Kevin Wagner  
 Hometown: St. Paul  
 Boys State city: Mankato

Chief Justice: Peter Miller  
 Hometown: Waite Park  
 Boys State city: Minneapolis



David Stern

Associate Justice: Luis Guittart  
 Hometown: Lakeville  
 Boys State city: St. Peter

Associate Justice: Chris Sanders  
 Hometown: Marshall  
 Boys State city: Hibbing

### Platform

#### Environmental

Increase alternative fuel source research  
 Higher standards for greenhouse gases

Tax incentives for 'going green'  
 Increase conservation-ist standards

#### Transportation

Raise revenue to renovate state infrastructure

#### Health care

Increase funding  
 Increase accessibility and programs

#### Education

Increase funding in Minnesota and pursue a more organized education system

#### Agriculture

Divert subsidies to smaller farms and family businesses

#### Veterans Affairs

Support veterans with increased funding  
 Dynamic/responsive system for psychological disorders

#### Funding

Increase taxes on 'sin' products

## Nationalists at a glance

### Candidates

Governor: Tom Sawatzke  
 Hometown: Monticello  
 Boys State city: St. Paul

Lt. Governor: Rommel Lee  
 Hometown: Champlain  
 Boys State city: Duluth

Attorney General: Joe Novak  
 Hometown: Lakeville  
 Boys State city: Winona

Secretary of State: Bernie Prigge  
 Hometown: Roseville  
 Boys State city: Hibbing

State Auditor: Sam Stemper  
 Hometown: Richfield  
 Boys State city: St. Peter

Chief Justice: Sam Farmer-Lies  
 Hometown: Belle Plaine



Tom Sawatzke

Boys State city: St. Cloud

Associate Justice: Nate Klair  
 Hometown: Coon Rapids  
 Boys State city: Hibbing

Associate Justice: Jon Juni  
 Hometown: Willmar  
 Boys State city: Stillwater

### Platform

#### Environmental

Improve renewable resources

#### Transportation

Maintain quality standards of roads

#### Social

Community service for unemployed citizens on welfare

Harsher punishment for sex offenders

Crack down on illegal immigration, particularly for corporations hiring illegals

Universal health care for youths under age 18

#### Government

Two-term limit for governor

#### Education

Set up a committee to oversee curriculum and performance

Repeal "No Child Left Behind"

Program to promote ESL programs for non-English speaking citizens

Middle school progress evaluation testing

Increased funding across the board, especially for rural and inner-city schools

#### Economy

Keep jobs in Minnesota

#### Science

Support for stem cell research, except for embryonic stem cell research

## Voorhees creates Boys State online voting system

By Bjorn Bernston, Clara City

On Monday evening, Boys State, for the first time in 60 years of existence, experienced a full implementation of an online voting system.

Behind this effort was Will Voorhees, the webmaster for Boys State. Voorhees became involved with Boys State due to a unique connection. Director Mike Bredeck was his counselor at Lac Qui Parle Valley High School. Voorhees attended the program and at the urging of Bredeck, designed a basic Web site for Boys State and came back the subsequent year as a city counselor. He went on to the University of Minnesota, where he graduated in May with a degree in computer science.

Dating back to high school, Voorhees has had an interest in computers. He cites the new electronic



Webmaster Will Voorhees

voting system as one manifestation of that interest. The system was developed over several years by Voorhees in tandem with his University of Minnesota advisor and the Technology Committee at Boys State. In 2007 the system was used by two cities in a trial run. The software worked well enough that a full “beta

run” was warranted this year. Of the “beta run,” Voorhees said the process worked “amazingly well.” Looking forward, there are high expectations for the system. Southwest Minnesota State University has integrated the code into two courses in the computer science department. These courses will center around the code with the intent of making the software more full-featured and graphically rich. Furthermore, the idea of releasing the code to other Boys State programs around the country has been floated. These affiliated programs would be able to modify the code and tailor it to their specific needs. Voorhees stated that he would appreciate feedback not only on the voting system, but also on the Web site, which he encourages everyone to visit and register as an alumni: [www.MNboysstate.org](http://www.MNboysstate.org).

## Schwan executive addresses Boys State participants

By Vong Pha, Austin

During the Wednesday morning at Boy’s State, Mark Jansen gave a truly appealing presentation. This isn’t just any ordinary assembly, but one that got everyone’s taste buds running. Yes, Jansen did talk about himself and the company that he works for. Jansen is the president of a frozen food division for a global food company.

This company is the Schwan Food Company. What it does is distribute food to local stores such as Cub Foods, Rainbow Foods, and many more. On certain occasions the Schwan Food Company delivers food to certain places. One for example is the Boy’s State program. The citizens at Boy’s State have been blessed with ice cream treats this week, compliment of the Schwan

Food Company.

The Schwan Food Company provides more products than just ice cream. Many people have probably consumed at least one of their products. Jansen and his company also have the Red Baron and Freschetta pizza brands. The company also has dessert brands such as Edward’s and Mrs. Smith’s.

Jansen also gave a brilliant speech to hopefully guide the 2008 Boy’s State citizens. Having been one of those citizens 23 years ago, Jansen had quite some experiences and tips to share from his list he calls “Life Lessons.”

One of his quotes stated that people needed to be led. Not led as in being given commands, but led as in being clarified as to what they are suppose to do. Another tip that Jansen gave has been repeatedly

stated for numerous years: set high goals and expectations. Jansen encouraged Boys State citizens to make a “life list.” He mentioned that by writing goals down, they are going to be achieved more naturally.

A few minutes after the presentation was given I got the chance to talk to Mr. Jansen. It was pretty exciting talking to a n executive like him.

**Q:** How did you begin your career?

**A:** Jansen began working in General Mills as a marketer. He worked on the Betty Crocker merchandise.

**Q:** What are your thoughts on the Boy’s State Program?

**A:** The program is a fantastic program for building leadership and teamwork.

*Jansen continued on page 6*

## Convention: An interesting, educational process

By Steven Kurtz, Mankato

As a non-voting delegate, I had a pretty decent view of what occurred during the state convention for the Federalist party. Day one was fairly chaotic, as few were used to the proper procedures for making motions and passing amendments. Controversy abounded concerning the party platform, especially on the topic of mass transit.

On day two of the convention, all of the major nominations for office were determined through fairly peaceful voting. Counties worked hard to convince others to stand behind their candidate of choice, and many were successful in that endeavor. Chaos once again ensued when business once again turned to the topic of the party platform. After a change in leadership, correct procedure ensured that debates and disagreements were dealt with in a somewhat calm manner. Eventually, the platform was passed, and the 2008 Federalist State Convention was adjourned. Much was accomplished over the two days, and time will tell how the results affect the outcome of future elections.



*Federalists got things going on the first day.*

Heading into the state convention, I really had no idea how Robert's Rules of Order worked, and never understood what politicians go through in order to get things done. The things I learned while watching the state convention will help me throughout the rest of Boys State and perhaps in other settings where formal procedure and knowledge of things such as caucusing, debating, and convincing public speaking are required.

*Ice Cream Treats are provided to  
Minnesota American Legion Boys State  
attendees courtesy of:*



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return of the equity he had placed in the firm to keep it afloat. His partner assured him that he would get the money, but when the time came, Rondestvedt was informed that the money was not there. Panicking, he turned to the only place he felt he could: the firm's trust account. The constant flow of money in and out made it safe to secretly take a small amount. He knew that it was a compromise of his ideals, but he only intended the 'loan' to be a one-time thing. Unfortunately, his life spiraled out of control.

Rondestvedt left his firm and began practicing privately, representing working-class people, often injured and in need of financial aid. His clients trusted him and came to him for investment advice. What the clients didn't know was that the investments were going straight into Rondestvedt's bank account. To cope with the guilt, Rondestvedt turned to alcohol, developing a serious problem.

Late in 2003, overwhelmed with the magnitude of his situation, Rondestvedt contemplated taking his own life in return for a hefty life insurance policy. After prayer, he decided that instead of suicide, he had to take responsibility for his actions and face the consequences head on. He met with the state bar,

along with Shea and an FBI agent, confessing and accounting for all of his wrongdoings. After pleading guilty in federal court, Rondestvedt was forced to give up his house and many other assets to pay for restitution. In August 2004 he was sentenced to 46 months in a federal prison camp in South Dakota. He was sent to a halfway house after 29 months, and later, home confinement. He is now serving three years of probation.

Rondestvedt's faith sustained him during his sentence, helping him to be able to forgive himself for what he had done. He imparted valuable advice to the Boys Staters, warning against compromising one's ideals even slightly, as it will most likely lead to more compromises and extreme consequences. Shea also noted, "When faced with a tough ethical decision, ask yourself how your decision would look on the front page of the next morning's newspaper, then do the right thing, do something of which you can be proud."

The Boys Staters were very grateful to Shea and Rondestvedt for coming and sharing their story. Several Boys Staters commended Rondestvedt for his courage and they received a lengthy standing ovation. Hopefully the wisdom they shared will help us to make ethical decisions in our future.

**Wednesday  
athletic  
results**

**Softball winners**

Duluth, Hibbing, Austin, Clara City, St. Paul, Minneapolis; Mankato and Winona tied, each team gets half a point.

**Volleyball winners**

St. Cloud, St. Peter, Winona, Austin, Clara City, St. Paul, Stillwater.

**Basketball winners**

Duluth, Mankato, Rochester, St. Peter, St. Paul, Moorhead, Stillwater.

**Twins pound Nationals**

The Minnesota Twins defeated the Washington Nationals 11-2 on Wednesday night to once again reach the .500 mark with a record of 36-36 on the season. The Twins have now defeated the Nationals two nights in a row and will go for the three game sweep tonight in the friendly confines of the Metrodome.

The Twins were able to score 11 runs despite the fact that they did not get any help from the long ball. The Twins instead were able to score 11 runs on 13 base hits with the only extra-base hits coming from a pair of doubles by shortstop Brendan Harris and left fielder Delmon Young. The biggest night at the plate was delivered by first baseman Justin Morneau who went 2-4, driving in three runs.

Besides scoring eleven runs, the Twins were also helped out by a very good pitching performance by starter Kevin Slowey, who only gave up one run in six innings of work. The bullpen was solid once Slowey's night was finished, only surrendering one run in three innings.

**On the menu ...**

**Thursday, June 19**

Dinner: Baked chicken, garlic mashed potatoes w/gravy, corn dogs, carrots

**Friday, June 20**

Breakfast: French toast, scrambled eggs w/diced ham

Lunch: Tacos w/toppings bar, pasta w/alfredo & spaghetti sauce

Dinner: Chicken patty, hot dogs, mac & cheese, baked beans.

*State of the Boys contributors  
this issue:*

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*Pawlenty continued from page 1*

The focus of Gov. Pawlenty's address was public service and its importance in today's society. He first explained that through his experience, he has found that material possessions aren't what matter, but what really matters is what one does in life, the services that one performs for society. Everyone has a talent or some ability that they can apply to public service, whether it be as simple as helping a new student at school or the ultimate service, fighting for one's country. Whatever it may be, public service is a great way to help one's community, state, and nation.

Pawlenty ended his address by quoting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., saying, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

I had a chance to talk to the governor as he was heading out, and I asked him about how the rising oil prices, how it will affect the state of Minnesota as a whole, and how he envisions solving the problem. The governor said are two areas of the problem: nonrenewable energy and renewable energy. The nonrenewable energy problem is one of supply and demand, and oil prices will decline when we can get more supply. As far as renewable energy goes, the governor wants to expand research on the matter and the development of alternative fuels. Overall, he thinks it will be a great challenge, but one that we will be able to solve in time.

*Jansen continued from page 3*

**Q:** What do you think are the best attributes of a leader?

**A:** Well, the first has got to be integrity. There are leaders that can't lead. Also, they have to have passion for it. A leader must have his goals set on something great, and be able to listen well.

**Q:** What are your views on making mistakes?

**A:** Mistakes happen all the time. I make mistakes too, but I just look on forward and focus on the future.

*Quie continued from page 1*

overall failure, but acknowledged that it had value in setting standards and monitoring progress.

Another piece of wisdom was that of monetary appropriations. He said too often other items have a greater priority within the federal budget.

A special interest was sparked in me, and others, as this man educated us about government and his views. He was elected as a Republican, and was a member of the Minnesota Senate from 1955-1958.

Quie gave his opinion on other areas of education. He stated that research has shown large classes aren't working. Another unique point to Quie is the belief that "every child, through eight years, should learn about the location where one parent is." An example given was that of taking the child to work.

Quie believes in the family unit. "When we break that naturalness (man, woman and child) we're going to have serious problems." This resonates back to education as he believes schools are not solely the problem with education. A main concern of Quie's is that of the role of parents in a child's life. He used information about the Quie Amendment to emphasize the need for parental involvement and listening to adult conversations to motivate younger children to read.

Though it was intriguing to hear his thoughts on education, perhaps the most valuable yet basic information provided by Quie was about the role of each branch of government and how they interact politically. He stated that while the Legislature develops public policy and the judiciary handles disputes, the executive branch at the state level holds it all together and follows through.

As many of our speakers have said, including Quie, all here at Boys State have the potential to make a difference. Whether you feel the state convention isn't running properly, or disagree with your party's platform, you have to do what you can to work cohesively with others, thus allowing you to develop useful leadership skills in the future. Albert Quie is a living example.

Politics is essential for our democracy. Our political party system, though at times frustrating, allows us to live in a society where we pride ourselves on our freedom and rights. An essential lesson that Quie has taught us is that improved education is necessary in order for our democracy to maintain itself, as well as working cooperatively with the other party for a common goal.

For more information and photos, go to the Web site: [www.MNboysstate.org](http://www.MNboysstate.org)