

June 10, 2025

The Mountaineer

PAGE 1



Federalists Race for Greatness

By Max Newman
Staff Reporter

With major political nominations being made tonight, the Federalist party hosted a caucus, with hopes of securing many seats in the house over the Nationalist party.

Torben Heinbockel, a candidate for the Federalist Chairman, detailed his plan for securing his spot over his competition. He stated that asking his peers what they specifically wanted to change in, not only West Virginia, but also the Boys State program, helped him

grasp what citizens truly desire.

Several of these opinions varied from critiques on the West Virginian education system, takes on the economy, and recommendations on improving the state as a whole.

After some deliberation, the Federalists ultimately chose Jackson Vanhooose to represent them as Chairman.

West Virginia Secretary of State Touches Base with Citizens

By Max Newman
Staff Reporter

Today, Secretary of State Kris Warner surprised Boys State citizens with a speech filled with words of encouragement and success. He encouraged the young men to participate in their state government by

emphasizing the importance of voting.

Warner detailed the story of Jennings Randolph, speaking on his efforts to lower the voting age to that of the drafting age at that time, which was 18 years of age. A story such as this highlighted the importance of not only being grateful for your rights, but to also use them. Finishing his speech, Warner promised to citizens that they would be free to list him as a reference in future applications, all while handing out his personal phone number to all 230+ ALMBS attendants.

June 10, 2025

The Mountaineer

PAGE 2



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 Gregory Guet

Counselor Spotlight:

Name: Wyatt Burns

Home County: Lewis

Year attended WVALMBS:

Citizen 2022, Staff

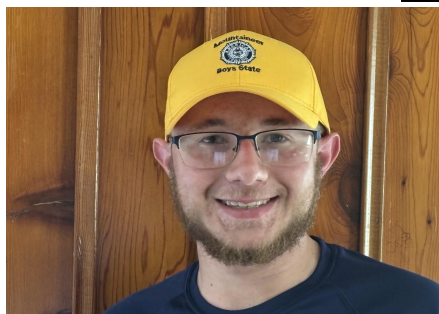
2023-present

Favorite thing about

 WVALMBS: Seeing the boys
 open up and "Get sucked
 into the machine,"

Career Path at WVALMBS:

Counselor



June 10, 2025

The Mountaineer

PAGE 3



This week in sports

Jackson Bowen, Sportswriter

Todd Morgan was interviewed on this week in sports at boys state "If the rain holds we'll have a good week," Morgan stated. He also told us that the kickball field was flooded this morning so sports are weather permitting. He stated that he is most excited for the tug of war because then the counselors get to get involved as well. When asked how he thinks the athletic body will do this year he said that every year it's very competitive and the boys always have a great time. As a message he wanted to put out he said that he's looking forward to participation and most importantly for everyone to have fun!



SPORTS SCORES

Basketball:

Kanawha- 11

[Marion- 18](#)

Randolph- 5

[Monroe-Webster- 19](#)

Panhandle- 12

[Lewis-Upshur- 13](#)**Volleyball:**[Kanawha- W](#)

Lewis-Upshur- L

[Marion- W](#)

Randolph- L

[Monroe-Webster- W](#)

Panhandle- L

Softball and Baseball:[Monroe-Webster- 24](#)

Kanawha- 6

[Randolph- 10](#)

Lewis-Upshur- 8

June 10, 2025

The Mountaineer

PAGE 4



Political Divisions Happen Quickly at ALMBS

By: Zachariah Nunley

Editor

At my first day of The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State, I was assigned a cottage and political party. As of my second day at ALMBS, a noticeable divide has manifested between both cottages and parties alike. While some other members of my cottage and I had joked about being at odds with other cottages or even amongst ourselves due to our political parties, serious competitive relationships have formed

between the campers of ALMBS. Not to slight any specific camper nor cottage, but it appears Kanawha had started the division. On day one, when practicing marching, Kanawha had some choice words in their cadence directed towards the other cottages, mine included. In response, my cottage decided to respond in kind. For a reason beyond me, other cottages were caught in our crossfire. I did not write our chants; do not blame me. The following snowball effect was every other cottage marching in our footsteps (pun intended), creating their own cadences to insult the others.

My favorite cadence aside, our own was Panhandle saying they were going to manhandle us.

The majority of my cottage, Marion, agreed to only support the politicians of Marion. Likewise, the same can be said of my political party, the Nationalists. At the Nationalists meetings, there appear to be two types of Nationalists: those who wish to collaborate with the Federalists and those who see them as competition. *I do* believe the parties should stand up for what they believe in, and personally *I do* believe in the stances of my party. However, I wonder if others of my party are prioritizing having more

June 10, 2025

The Mountaineer

PAGE 5



Nationalists in power (or
insulting the Federalists) above
electing competent leaders for
our state.

Regardless of the
direction this is headed, which
in all honesty I assume will
cease after elections, I am one
hundred percent along for the
ride. Whether the divide
weakens or tears this camp
apart, I cannot wait to
experience what the rest of
ALMBS has to offer. I am also
glad that I gave up politics to
become an editor.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

By Torben Heinbockel,
Citizen of Mountaineer Boys
State

After a long year of school as
a high school junior, I
welcome the chance to be in
an atmosphere that allows us
to engage in activities that
we are really excited about. I
like the varied career choices
and the many titles that we
had to choose from and, yes,
salaries and money do not
matter here.

On the way to camp, I was
still wondering what my
career path should be, but
now, that I have met new
people, heard about their
ambitions and plans, my
choice is clear. I want to run
for office at the state level
and give back to our
community, engaging all
citizens and moving Boys
State forward to an even
better place than ever before.
My dream is that our
legislative process generates
ideas that will be picked up
by the 'real' WV State
Legislature and become a
new statewide law. Another
passion of mine is music,
and that passion has found a
home during this week's
Boys State. I look forward to
being part of a choir and
playing in a band of
like-minded individuals
from across the state.

Many of us participated in a
Zoom orientation last week,
where we were introduced to
the principles of Boys State,
the structure of the week,
and what it means to be an
active, informed citizen. That
virtual introduction helped
set the stage, but stepping
foot on this historic ground
made it all real.

June 10, 2025



The Mountaineer

PAGE 6



Already it is clear that Mountaineer Boys State is not just a camp, it is a hands-on simulation of our democratic process. We will elect city and state officials, draft and debate laws, and serve in every branch of a mock government. The goal is simple but powerful: to teach the responsibilities of citizenship by living them.

As we begin this week together, one thing is obvious: this is more than just a summer experience. It is a place to grow as leaders, test our ideas, and contribute to something bigger than ourselves.

I look forward to the week which builds toward Saturday's Commencement Ceremony where our families will return to celebrate what we have achieved together.

To my fellow citizens: enjoy every conversation and take every opportunity to make this week matter.

How Did You Die?

Edmund Vance Cooke

Did you tackle that trouble
that came your way

With a resolute heart and
cheerful?

Or hide your face from the
light of day

With a craven soul and
fearful?

Oh, a trouble's a ton, or a
trouble's an ounce,

Or a trouble is what you
make it,

And it isn't the fact that
you're hurt that counts,

But only how did you take
it?

You are beaten to earth?
Well, well, what's that?

Come up with a smiling face.

It's nothing against you to
fall down flat,

But to lie there -- that's
disgrace.

The harder you're thrown,
why the higher you bounce;

Be proud of your blackened
eye!

It isn't the fact that you're
licked that counts,

It's how did you fight -- and
why?

And though you be done to
the death, what then?

If you battled the best you
could,

If you played your part in
the world of men,

Why, the Critic will call it
good.

Death comes with a crawl, or
comes with a pounce,

And whether he's slow or
spry,

It isn't the fact that you're
dead that counts,

But only how did you die?

June 10, 2025

The Mountaineer

PAGE 7



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THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Sponsorships are solicited year-round for the program.

Who foots the bill for Boys State? Who pays for the week of citizenship and fellowship enjoyed at West Virginia University Jackson's Mill? Who pays for the transportation, insurance, and administrative costs?" The American Legion Family, civic clubs, lodges, school booster clubs, and service organizations, as well as business firms, sponsor students to attend The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State. The American Legion Department of West Virginia pays for the administrative cost of the program.

Citizens of American Legion Mountaineer Boys State are selected by their high school staff and/or local American Legion Post.

Please be sure to write and thank your sponsor for enabling you to attend The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State by supplementing the cost of the program. If you don't know who that is, see Marie Burliegh in headquarters. The American Legion Mountaineer Boys State stationary and envelopes are available in Dorsey Center. There is also a box for outgoing mail in the Dorsey Center.

The American Legion Posts and ALMBS staff work throughout the year to recruit sponsorships to ensure a full program. It is request that when you return to your hometown and school you help spread the word to continue increasing enrollment. The best gift you can provide to the program is the gift of referring your friends and classmates to attend in the future.

Our goal is to have every high school and county in the State of West Virginia represented each year. Your help will make this possible.