

BUCKEYE BOYS STATE

Trustee and Commissioners Meeting

October 16, 2021 – Department Headquarters - Delaware
Minutes

The Fall Trustees Meeting of American Legion Buckeye Boys State was called to order by President Ronald Chapman at 10:00 am, at the American Legion Department of Ohio Headquarters, Delaware, Ohio with a Salute to the Colors, Pledge of Allegiance led by 1st Vice President David Ridenour and Invocation by 2nd Vice President Melissa Fowle.

Trustees Present: President Ronald Chapman, 1st Vice President David Ridenour, 2nd Vice President Melissa Fowle, Secretary Mark Weldon, Director James Koppin, Bart Arndt, Dennis Asselage, Jack Forster, Richard Gallaher, Jim Hoessle, William Hoff, Terry Kaufman, Charles Kvochick, David Lofy, John Looker, Steve Masowick, George Monroe, William Pennell, Richard Schuck, Bruce Tolle, Rodger Wiant, Gerald White, Douglas Whitney, Paul Wiehe, Nathan Winkleman.

Commissioners Present: Gary Cox, Malcolm Glasgow, Patric Leedom, Kevin Motter.

Consultants Present: Gary Bishop, John Coffield, Kevin Dunn, Todd Gerber, Grant Grace, Mike Leone, Luther Liggett, Jr., Nick Miller, Steve Scherer, Tom Worley.

Staff: Christie White

Guests: Robert Clark, William Dittebrand, Steve Ervin, Brian Fowle, Thayne Gray, John Life, Dennis Morrison, Stan Oren, Jason Pennell, Roy Terry, Michael Kemerer, Sgt Bryon Cook-OSP.

Reading of minutes from the annual meeting: June 17, 2021

Mark Weldon

Roger Friend made the motion to dispense with reading of the minutes and approve them as submitted, with a minor correction. Bruce Tolle seconded.

MOTION PASSED

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Sgt. Bryon Cook

Sgt Bryon Cook greeted all and said they're working on new ideas to improve for the coming year.

Personnel Report:

2nd Vice President Fowle

A. Trustee Resignations
None

B. Commissioner Applications/Resignations
1. Roy Terry

Roger Friend made the motion to accept the application, subject to attendance at the 2022 Program. Bruce Tolle seconded. **MOTION PASSED**

C. 2021 Program Attendance Evaluations

a. Did Not Attend- Robert Barhorst, Dave Cobb, Shawn Cook, Vivian Duffy, Conner Evans, Frank Morrow, Jason Pennell, Paul Sands.

b. Attended- The following who attended the 2021 program were positively reviewed by their respective section heads.

i. Robert Clark- Bob Schmitt

Bill Pennell made the motion to approve the application. Gary Cox seconded. **MOTION PASSED**

ii. William Dittebrand- Bob Schmitt

Bart Arndt made the motion to approve the application. John Looker seconded. **MOTION PASSED**

iii. Steve Ervin- Mike Jordan

John Looker made the motion to approve the application. Gary Cox seconded. **MOTION PASSED**

iv. Brian Fowle- Richard Schuck

Bill Pennell made the motion to approve the application. Roger Friend seconded. **MOTION PASSED**

v. John Life- Jim Starr

Mark Weldon made the motion to approve the application. Rodger Wiant seconded. **MOTION PASSED**

vi. Dennis Morrison- Richard Schuck

Richard Schuck made the motion to approve the application. Paul Wiehe seconded. **MOTION PASSED**

vii. Joe Navarre- Jim Hoessle

Jim Hoessle made the motion to approve the application. Bruce Tolle seconded. **MOTION PASSED**

viii. Stan Oren- Bob Schmitt/Charlie Kvochick

Charles Kvochick made the motion to approve the application. Bill Pennell seconded. **MOTION PASSED**

D. Consultant Applications- 2021 Program Attendance Evaluations

1. Thayne Gray- Paul Wiehe
Paul Wiehe made the motion to approve the application. George Monroe seconded. **MOTION PASSED**
2. Richard Ching-Richard Schuck
Richard Schuck made the motion to approve the application. Bill Pennell seconded. **MOTION PASSED**
3. Michael Kemerer- new application
Melissa Fowle made the motion to accept the application, pending attendance at the 2022 Program. Gary Cox seconded. **MOTION PASSED**

Appointment of Samsung Scholarship Committee:

President Chapman

- A. Mike Leone
- B. Ron Chapman- Chairman
- C. Steve Scherer

Paul Wiehe made the motion to approve the committee. John Looker seconded.

MOTION PASSED

Appointment of Hall of Fame Committee

President Chapman

- A. Darell Bishop- Chairman
- B. John Looker
- C. Bill Strong

Richard Schuck made the motion to approve the committee. Paul Wiehe seconded.

MOTION PASSED

Appointment of Boys Nation Selection Committee

President Chapman

- A. Dave Ridenour, Chairman
- B. Jon Turney
- C. Mark Weldon
- D. Dan Favreau

George Monroe made a motion to add Nate Winkleman as alternate member. Roger Friend seconded.

MOTION PASSED

Richard Schuck made the motion to approve the committee as amended. Bill Pennell seconded.

MOTION PASSED

Dates for 2022 Boys State:

Director Koppin

- A. The Spring meetings will be April 8th & 9th, 2022.
- B. The 2022 program will be conducted June 12th-19th, 2022.

Director's Report:

Director Koppin

- A. Establish 2022 enrollment fee

Director Koppin recommended keeping the fee at \$300.00.

Bill Pennell made the motion to establish the \$300.00 fee. Jim Hoessle seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED

B. National Americanism Conference

Director Koppin reported that he, Ron Chapman, David Ridenour, Melissa Fowle and Christie White attended this year. The program was run differently from the past due a new person running the conference.

Melissa Fowle noted that we should explore electronic banking as other programs do.

Ron Chapman advised that there will be substantial changes Samsung Scholarship procedures. What they're proposing may result in fewer applications for the scholarship. He also said there was a lot of emphasis on virtual orientations. In that line, Missouri is leading the way for going paperless. They put every document any delegate would need on a small flash drive that looks similar to a credit card, and mail it to every delegate. We may go that route going forward.

Dave Ridenour thought we should do more exploration of on-line orientation as other programs are moving to. Some states that do on-line orientations were able to track attendance and correlate a relationship between non-attendance and no-shows. California cautioned that because the boys & girls programs are not considered to be "equal", the laws there may prohibit them from going into the schools to promote the programs.

Melissa spoke about a program that had a communication tool to maintain contact with delegates.

Director noted that all the states are more than willing to cooperate and assist each other, so if any of these ideas are something we want to pursue, we'll get plenty of help.

Doug Whitney expressed concern over the amount of private information we collect on staff and delegates, and how secure it is. Jim Koppin said the medical forms are kept for five years, then shredded. Other staff information, including all the forms, is shredded at the conclusion of each program. Computerized delegate information is properly secured.

President Chapman noted that 14 states did not have programs last year, including all the states that border Ohio.

C. 2021 Program Critique

Director Koppin noted that we had fewer boys, but those who attended were very motivated. No discipline problems hit the office.

Jim said the program went off well, especially given some of the obstacles we had to navigate. The blood drive collected 176 pints, the largest amount they ever received in their service area.

The street work is completed. We will not have Ogden Hall. Miami Inn should still be available to us.

E. 2022-2025 Program Shirts

The Director reported that the Executive Board recommended adopting a charcoal gray staff polo shirt for next year, with a pocket. Christie displayed the sample. Jim inquired as to interest in having them personalized with your name embroidered. For those who may want it, we'll check on additional cost that the recipient may have to pay. We intend to give everyone two shirts.

Jim Forster made the motion to approve the charcoal gray shirt with pockets. Melissa Fowle seconded. **MOTION PASSED**

Melissa Fowle reported that she saw Kay Vaughan this week. Kay provided Melissa a plethora of shirts and hats from Jim, all cleaned. They are on the table outside of Christie's office for anyone who can use them.

2022 Program Administration:

President Chapman

A. On-line application status

Christie and Evan are going to modify the system so that the QR code forms are mailed immediately once she receives the enrollment forms, with payment, from the local post. This will insure that Post chairmen receive the sheets much sooner than previously.

B. Miami University site issues- Housing (Grant Grace)

Grant advised that the counseling staff is working on housing changes. Next year we will have all operations in North and East quads. We are losing Ogden Hall for City & County offices, so new areas will have to be arranged. It should be possible to have staff housed closer to their work areas if we want to do that. There were no major site issues last year.

The street construction in Oxford has been completed.

C. Administration (Jerry White/ Mark Weldon)

Mark stressed to make sure the staff forms are completed legibly. He also suggested remembering to submit updated forms if information changes, such as medical policy numbers on medical forms.

Section Head reports:

1. Elections – Melissa Fowle

Melissa is still seeking people to be city advisors. She explained the responsibility this involves. Elections are good to go.

2. State Government and Visitation – Bob Schmitt/Chris Ballard
Tom Worley said there were no known issues last year. Bob Schmitt assured the president that they'll be up and running.
3. Campaign Headquarters – Leroy Brinkhoff/Mike Bodie
Grant said it went well last year. Mike Bodie has informed Grant that they are looking at ways to digitize the process.
4. County Government– Paul Wiehe/Steve Peltier
Paul Wiehe said he and his staff are working on getting the next program ready. They are planning some cooperative ideas between city and county. Thayne Gray is working on adding more emphasis on open records and Ohio Sunshine law.
5. City Government –Dick Schuck
Dick Schuck advised that City Government had a good year. They are working on transitioning to a new process that will be more educational and involve working with county and state government sections to resolve issues. He also noted that last year he began allowing delegates to their use cell phones for work purposes. That worked well.
6. Recreation – Bob Marino/Jim Starr
John Life reported that they solicited suggestions last year from delegates for ways to improve recreational activities and find some that will be more popular with the boys. They didn't really care about volley ball. One suggestion was to have e-sports.
7. School Boards – Mike Jordan/John Singleton
President Chapman relayed from the Executive Board meeting that Mike Jordan said they need more help from people actually knowledgeable about school board operations.
8. Courts – Kevin Dunn/Nick Selvaggio
Kevin Dunn reports they are looking at a number of revisions that they hope to be able to announce at the Spring meeting. One idea is to incorporate more presentations remotely. Last year they cut the Bar Exam to two sessions, with a rolling start to better accommodate delegate schedules. There is need to supply the students better preparatory material for exams.
9. Legislative – Nate Winkleman/ Rodger Wiant
Nate and Rodger said everything went well. They don't anticipate making any changes next year.
10. Bank & Realty – Jim Hoessle
Jim Hoessle going to try to bring in a couple of speakers again. He has had inquiries about a satellite bank. He's not sure how that would work, but they probably do it. He would like

to have more information about electronic banking.

11. Utilities – Darell Bishop

Bill Hoff, speaking for Darrell said they want to keep the same number of delegates as in 2021. The number worked well last year.

12. Hetuck – Jesse Thomas/Bill Strong

Grant said Jesse got a lot of video footage last year, and were doing a lot more with the big screen at the evening assemblies.

13. Chief Counselor – Grant Grace

Grant noted there were very few discipline issues last year. He thinks the boys were so happy to be somewhere that they were more than willing to follow the rules. He also said we had no covid cases occur during the program, and credited the staff and students for following the guidelines.

14. Administration – Jerry White/Mark Weldon

Jerry White reminded that all the forms we need from staff are in your packet. Mark Weldon stressed that the waiver forms for the background check must contain legible date of birth and social security numbers or the check cannot be done. You cannot attend if the background check is not completed.

Jim Koppin said to check all the contact information forms in your packet and let the office know of any corrections.

15. Band – Jeff Jordan/ Dierre Upshaw

No report.

16. Mini Mall – Charlie Kvochick

Charlie said they had good year, even with the lower number of delegates. They had some new items that sold well. Credit card sales were very good. One change last year was to put the laundry credit on the room key, rather than issue a separate card.

16. Public Relations – Bill Strong/ Steve Oechsle

No report.

17. Computer Support – **Rick Gallaher**

Rick noted that the purpose of the section is to help you with the program. Section heads need notify him of any need changes as early as possible. Some materials are only available through the network.

18. “No Shows” – Steve Scherer

Steve called 18 or 20 homes. Out of those, only seven were genuine no-shows.

16. Hall of Fame Report
No report

Darell Bishop

Program Planning Committee Report:

Mark Weldon/Sgt. Cook

Mark reported that the committee met on September 12th. The focus of the meeting was on three topics. The first was the matter of getting the QR codes out sooner to the posts. That issue has been handled.

The second issue, which has been a topic of discussion for a while, is to have a short promotional video available to give the schools so that they will have something dynamic to try to generate interest. Director Koppin has received a couple of requests for this from schools he has spoken with. Jesse Thomas has prepared a 30 second spot with a lot of action scenes and quick cuts, but he needs feedback as to how effective it is, and any suggestions for changes. We won't be able to play the video at the Trustee meeting, but Christie will email everybody a link to the video. You will not be able to find it with a Youtube search.

The third, and longest, discussion concerned outreach to underserved inner city schools to try to increase both overall numbers and the amount of minority participation. One major obstacle is the lack of Posts within the major cities to work with the schools. Sgt. Bryon Cook from the State Patrol and Chris Ballard have been joined the committee. They are going to organize a team, probably including John Buycks and Chas Wiederhold, to do a pilot outreach effort in the Cincinnati area to get into the schools. The approach will include using community groups to try reaching potential candidates. If this works, we hope to expand it to all the major Ohio cities. Sgt. Cook and Chris set an ambitious goal of recruiting fifty students.

Sgt. Cook said the goal is to reach a number of minority groups, not just African American. This aligns with his duties recruiting for the Highway Patrol. He hopes using other groups to reach potential delegates will be productive and make our work easier.

Suggestions for Daily Schedule:

President Chapman

Director Koppin noted that it is very difficult to adjust the schedule once we're at the program. Let him or Christie know of any changes as early as possible

Jim stated that at the National Conference one program reported eliminating one of the evening assemblies to have a work night to make more educational time available to the students. He's just putting this for consideration. Suggestion was made to have counselors survey the delegates while they're at the program and get their reaction to the idea.

Good of the Program:

President Chapman

Bill Pennell suggested that the Department see what can be done about better signage for Department, maybe from State Highway Department.

Grant Grace reported counselor Nick Vogt has been working on a website for delegates to use for sharing information and communicating in the program. This had previously been hosted by a friend of Nick's, but it is now necessary to pay to have it hosted. Grant requested we approve the expenditure of up to \$500.00 for hosting and other expenses for the site.

Rick Gallaher made the motion to approve the expenditure. Bill Pennell seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED

Dave Lofy said Post 202 had both a boy and a girl go to the Boys Nation and Girls Nation. They both thank us for the opportunity, and are very appreciative.

Dick Schuck noted that last year we didn't shoot the cannon due to rain. Maybe it's time to retire it for a couple of reasons, one being liability and the other the increasing difficulty of managing it. Executive Board has voted to eliminate the cannon from the program. We may use a rifle firing squad instead, with minimal logistics issues.

Grant Grace reported on the status of the Miami University contract negotiations. He and Director Koppin decided to make the first proposal, and suggested keeping the fee at the current fixed \$270.00 per delegate for ten years. To their surprise Miami immediately agreed because they are committed to making Miami the permanent home for Buckeye Boys State.

The actual cost to house a delegate is \$400.00, so the University is actually subsidizing \$130.00. To offset this cost, the contract will include the forming of a joint committee to try to find sources for outside funding, such as the state legislature or private donors. Any funds received in excess of the \$130.00 University subsidy will go directly to the Boys State program.

Director Koppin advised that once the lawyers have finalized the language, we will conduct a mail vote of the Trustees to approve and then the Director and Department Adjutant will have to sign the contract.

Sick Call:

President Chapman

Jesse Thomas's mother died yesterday.

Bill Strong has serious lung issues and cannot move around very much.

Bob Schmitt will be having major back surgery in two weeks.

Terry Estep fell and aggravated an old injury, resulting in a lot of pain.

Dave Cobb is in the hospital with pneumonia and lost a lot of weight.

Cards are being circulated for all to sign for the above members.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55pm following a benediction by Melissa Fowle and salute to the colors.