

# BUCKEYE BOYS STATE

## Trustee and Commissioners Meeting

October 12, 2024 – Department Headquarters - Delaware  
Agenda Topics

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The Fall Trustees and Commissioners Meeting of American Legion Buckeye Boys State was called to order by President Steve Masowick at 10:00 am, at the American Legion Department of Ohio Headquarters, Delaware, Ohio, with a Salute to the Colors, and the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by Melissa Fowle

**Trustees Present:** President Steve Masowick, 1st Vice President Robert Schmitt, 2nd Vice President John Looker, Secretary Mark Weldon (PP), Director James Koppin (PP), Bart Arndt, Leroy Brinkhoff, David Burnett, Robert Clark, Gary Cox, Jr., William Dittebrand, Steve Ervin, Brian Fowle, Melissa Fowle (PP), Richard Gallaher, Malcolm Glasgow, William Hoff, Charlie Kvochick, John Life, David Lofy, Dennis Morrison, Kevin Motter, Stanley Oren, William Pennell(PP), David Ridenour (PP), Richard Schuck (PP), James Starr, Bruce Tolle, Gerald White (PP), Rodger Wiant, Paul Wiehe (PP), Jean Wilson, Nathan Winkleman, Richard Zulch (PP).

**Commissioners Present:** Frank Barnes, Al Buxton, Bryan Holden, Judy Johnson, Andrew Klingler, John Loudermilk, Jacob Marx, Frank Navarre, Kenneth Parsons, Roy Terry.

**Consultants Present:** Timothy Conway, Grant Grace, Jeff Jordan, Ryan Lee, Mike Leone, Scott Palider, Greg Peel, Nick Selvaggio, Jon Turney, Dierre Upshaw, John Vrzal, Andrew Wentz, Tom Worley.

**Staff:** Christie White

**Guests:** Joseph Ball, Matthew Chamberlain, William Drexler, William Lindsay, Alex Rowen, Tyler Rowen, Brad Martin, Bruce Nixon, John Robbins (Post 24, Dist 11).

### **Staff that joined Post Everlasting**

Director Koppin

Terry Estep  
Karl Wettlaufer

### **Ohio State Highway Patrol**

Christie White reported that Sgt. Weeks will be the OIC for the detail this year. We will have at least four troopers on the detail.

### **Personnel Report**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Looker

A. Trustee Resignations  
None

B. Trustee Recommendations

Director Koppin noted that the following Commissioners have met the requirements to moved up to Trustee:

Joe Navarre

Gary Cox, Jr. moved to appoint Frank “Joe” Navarre to the Trustee group expiring in 2025. Kevin Motter seconded the motion.

**PASSED**

Andrew Klingler

Bill Pennell moved to appoint Andrew to the Trustee group expiring in 2027. David Ridenour seconded the motion. **PASSED**

Al Buxton 2027

Paul Wiehe moved to appoint Al to the Trustee group expiring in 2027. Bart Arndt seconded the motion. **PASSED**

C. Commissioner Applications

a. John Betterson

Bob Schmitt moved to accept the application pending attendance at the 2025 program. He will be unassigned. Dick Zulch seconded. **PASSED**

b. Brendan Tisher

Bob Schmitt moved to accept the application pending attendance at the 2025 program. He will be assigned to State Government. Nate Winkleman seconded the motion. **PASSED**

c. Chase Adams

Bart Arndt moved to table this application until the Spring meeting. Dennis Morrison seconded the motion. **PASSED**

d. Dean Boyers

David Ridenour moved to accept the application pending attendance at the 2025 program. He will be assigned to County Government. Dick Zulch seconded the motion. **PASSED**

e. Brent Worner

Rodger Wiant moved to approve the application pending attendance at the 2025 program. He will be unassigned. Bill Dittebrand seconded. **PASSED**

D. 2024 Program Attendance Evaluations- Commissioners

a. Did not attend- Conner Evans, David Taylor, David Wiles

b. Attended-

i. Joseph Ball

Bob Schmitt moved to accept Joseph as a Commissioner, assigned to State Government. Melissa Fowle seconded. **PASSED**

ii. William Lindsay- Bill Pennell

Nate Winkleman moved to accept William as a Commissioner assigned to the Legislature. Malcolm Glasgow seconded. **PASSED**

iii. Jerry Perry- Richard Gallaher

Rick Gallaher moved to accept Jerry as a Commissioner assigned to Computer Support. Charlie Kvochick seconded. **PASSED**

iv. Alex Rowen- Bob Schmitt

Bob Schmitt moved to accept Alex as a Commissioner assigned to State Government. Gary Cox, Jr., seconded. **PASSED**

v. William Drexler- Darell Bishop

William did not attend the 2024 program.

vi. Sharon McClain- Charlie Kvochick

Charlie Kvochick moved to accept Sharon as a Commissioner assigned to the Mini Mall. Gary Cox, Jr. seconded. **PASSED**

vii. Alfred Stark-  
Bill Pennell moved to accept Alfred (Chip) as a Commissioner. Chip worked in the Legislature. Dennis Morrison seconded. **PASSED**

viii. Bruce Nixon-  
Needs to attend the 2025 program and work in a section. He visited two days in 2024.

ix. Bill Jackson-  
Bill Pennell moved to accept Bill as a Commissioner. Bill worked in the Legislature. Dennis Morrison seconded. **PASSED**

**E. Consultant Applications**

a. Matthew Old  
Paul Wiehe moved to fully accept Matthew as a Consultant assigned to County Government. Al Buxton seconded. **PASSED**

b. Nicholas Hoessle  
Judy Johnson moved to fully accept Nicholas as a Consultant assigned to County Government. Melissa Fowle seconded. **PASSED**

**F. 2024 Program Attendance Evaluations- Consultants**

a. Attended-  
i. Tyler Rowen- Paul Wiehe  
Paul Wiehe moved to fully accept Tyler as a Consultant assigned to County Government. Rodger Wiant seconded. **PASSED**  
ii. Matthew Chamberlain- Kevin Dunn  
Gary Cox, Jr. moved to fully accept Matthew as a Consultant assigned to Court Section. Rodger Wiant seconded. **PASSED**

**Appointment of Samsung Scholarship Committee**

President Masowick

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

Charlie Kvochick moved to approve the committed. Dick Zulch seconded. **PASSED**

**Appointment of Hall of Fame Committee**

President Masowick

- A. Darell Bishop- Chairman
- B. John Looker
- C. Jeff Jordan

Bob Schmitt moved to table until the Spring meeting. David Ridenour seconded. **PASSED**

**Appointment of Boys Nation Selection Committee**

President Masowick

- A. Dave Ridenour, Chairman
- B. John Turney
- C. ~~Mark Weldon~~
- D. Dan Favreau
- E. Nate Winkleman

Mark Weldon has resigned from the committee. Bill Pennell moved to approve the rest of the committee members. John Life seconded. **PASSED**

### **Dates for 2025 Boys State**

Director Koppin

- A. April 11<sup>th</sup>&12<sup>th</sup>, 2025- Spring Meeting
- B. June 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2025- 2025 Program

### **Director's Report**

Director Koppin

- A. Establish 2025 enrollment fee  
Bill Pennell moved to retain the \$300.00 enrollment fee. Paul Wiehe seconded. **PASSED**
- B. National Americanism Conference  
Director Koppin, Christie White, President Steve Masowick, VP Bob Schmitt, VP John Looker and David Ridenour attended the conference last month.

Steve Masowick noted that some programs are set up to sell merchandise on-line throughout the year and asked if we have looked at doing this. So far we have not due to logistical issues.

Bob Schmitt remarked that North Carolina, as usual , talked up their production values but had little to say about the educational aspect of their program. They only have an election process, but no government. Bob did observe that Missouri has a very active and innovative program.

John Looker said that everyone at the conference was very eager and committed to their programs.

Dave Ridenour commented on the Friday presentation by National Judge Advocate Mark Seavy. As in the past, Mark stressed the importance of background checks for everyone eighteen or over who is at the program. This would include delegates also. The Ohio Boys Nation delegates ranked with one being good and one not good (85<sup>th</sup> in program).

Christie White said there was more use of emphasis on breakout sessions this year. She reiterated that every adult age eighteen or over must have a background check before they can attend.

Jim Koppin encouraged all staff to attend if they can and are interested (but this will be at your own expense). He feels there is still too much emphasis and time spent on Boys Nation rather than the state programs. He felt he got the most benefit from the Saturday afternoon breakout sessions.

### **C. 2024 Program Critique**

Director Koppin noted that the move of headquarters to Miami Inn went smoothly, but we won't be going back there. HQ may be back in Psychology for 2025. The buildings on the East quad will be available for sectional work spaces, but not for residential purposes because of renovations. We don't know where we will be housing our staff. Millett arena construction is on-going, but we may at least have the wide sidewalks back.

Grant Grace reported on the results of the survey of 2024 delegates. We had an overall response rate of 60%, which is quite good. Delegates gave the program an overall rating of 4.5 out of 5. Ratings of the individual sections and staff were similar. 99.4% of the delegates did attend an orientation. The majority said that the orientation made them more likely to want to attend.

### **2025 Program Administration**

President Masowick

A. Administration (Jerry White/ Mark Weldon)

Jerry mentioned that the Missouri program visitors last year were very impressed with our program. They were especially struck by number of Legionnaires that participate directly in our program. Our National Vice-Commander visitor from Georgia had said he was compiling a list of best practices he observed during his visits to several programs. So far that has not appeared. Jerry called National to inquire if there had been such a list submitted, but has heard nothing back.

Mark reminded everyone of the importance of completely and accurately filling out their information sheets, especially their arrival and departure dates.

## **Section Head reports**

### **Elections** – Melissa Fowle/Brian Fowle

Melissa thanked Brian for filling in for her during her president year, as well as all others who helped.

### **State Government and Visitation** – Bob Schmitt/Chris Ballard

Bob Schmitt noted they survived the first year without Dan Willis. This year will be a transition period as they work on moving the section leadership from Bob to Chris Ballard.

### **Campaign Headquarters** – Leroy Brinkhoff/Mike Bodie

Leroy noted that the Consultants have taken over and are doing a great job.

### **County Government**– Paul Wiehe

Thanks to the staff, the section survived Steve Peltier's sudden passing. Matt Old came in to assist. He held a one hour meeting with the rest of the staff which resulted in everyone being on the same page and working together. This will also be a transition year for County government as the torch gets passed from Paul to Al Buxton.

### **City Government**–Dick Schuck/Dick Zulch

Dick Schuck said everything is going doing well. He printed out next year's forms while on site last year, which means less work for Christie. Dick Zulch said that Magdy from Bowling Green is recovering well from his accident, but is badly scarred.

### **Recreation** – Jim Starr

Jim thanked all who assisted him last year.

### **School Boards** – Mike Jordan/John Turney

John Turney said they had a great year. They made some changes to improve the educational content by adding demographic profiles to the various school boards.

### **Courts** – Kevin Dunn/Nick Selvaggio

Nick Selvaggio said the partnerships with the other sections are going well. They are trying to minimize the impacts of court operations on the other sections. Let them know if there is any way they can help your section.

### **Legislative** – Bill Pennell/ Nate Winkleman

Bill Pennell said they had a phenomenal year. He again reiterated that Nate Winkleman and Rodger Wiant really carry the section.

Bank & Realty – Jim Hoessle/Brent Beeker

No report.

Utilities – Darell Bishop/William Hoff

No report.

Hetuck – Jerry White/Jesse Thomas

No report.

Chief Counselor – Grant Grace/Matt Brown

Grant noted that Legionnaire involvement in the cities is extremely important and impactful to the delegates. All changes last year went well. Counselor training was updated last year to focus on leadership and management. No major issues occurred during the program.

Band – Jeff Jordan/ Dierre Upshaw

Jeff said they had a good program in 2024. There were 20 more band members than we had in 2023. Jeff had invited the Miami band director to talk to the delegates about playing for a college band. Bowling Green Director John Watters also came down to talk the the delegates. BG now second largest band in country. Under his leadership the Bowling Green band went from about 90 to over 400 members, and is now the second largest college band in the country.

As always, he and Dierre are looking at new music. The band played 60 different songs during the week. Jeff also reported that that the BBS SALSquadron is raising funds to purchase new bass drums. The drums we have date from Pete Deweese.

Mini Mall – Charlie Kvochick/Tim Conway

Charlie reported another good year, though they did not exceed last year's sales.

Public Relations – Jerry White/Steve Oechsle

Jerry reported that the Office of Social Media is promoting over 6 different social media sites. To help manage and promote these sites they are requesting approval to spend \$504.99 to purchase subscriptions to management software as follow:

- Buffer \$360.00
- Buffer additional 1 month account \$72.00
- Flickr \$72.99

David Ridenour moved to approve the expenditure. Al Buxton seconded. **PASSED**

John Vrzal presented a preview of the proposed revamp for the BBS web site.

Computer Support – Rick Gallaher/Evan Anderson

Rick said it was a good year as always. Let him know needs of your computer needs ASAP, but before April.

“No Shows” – John Garvey/Steve Scherer

Garvey and Scherer didn't show up!

## **Hall of Fame Report**

Darell Bishop

No report

## **Delegate Increase Planning Committee Report**

Mark Weldon

Mark reported that committee members involved in education are looking into how to get information from the ACT and SAT test organizations to identify high performing students and marketing the program directly to their parents. This is something the Missouri program is doing that we learned about during their visit. Steve Scherer has also suggested getting information on students who sign up for AP Government and History tests.

We also identified a need for a large, colorful eye catching poster with QR codes to be displayed in schools to generate interest. We are going to try to have a short recruiting video made featuring the band, and marketing through the band directors.

We are also planning to target students in the various career centers throughout the state. These students are often missed because we only go into their home schools, but they are not there. Following this meeting there will be a brief meeting for District chairmen to implement this idea.

## **Suggestions for Daily Schedule**

President Masowick/Director Koppin

Jim Koppin asked to be notified if you have any information on staff members who we haven't seen for quite a while. Especially inform us if you know someone who does not want to continue on staff.

## **Good of the Program**

President Masowick

President Steve Masowick discussed the progress of discussions with the Department finance committee on use of Boys State funds to offset some of the administrative costs of the program. He and the officers are suggesting we offer to give the Department of Ohio \$5,000.00 per year, with the condition that funds can only be released with written consent signed by the President and Director of Buckeye Boys State. Bill Pennell moved to authorize the President to make this proposal. Steve Ervin seconded. **PASSED**

Christie White reported that we were recognized at the National Convention for having the best Americanism Program. She displayed the large trophy that we were awarded.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President John Looker expressed his thanks to Paul Wiehe for getting him involved in the program.

Bob Schmitt recognized and thanked the State Government staff for their work this year.

Grant Grace reported that Todd Gerber picked up six new colleges for the college fair at a conference he attended.

Melissa Fowle noted that the Delegate's Closet needs smaller sized suits or jackets, under size 34. Suspenders can also be used

Dick Zulch said he needs ONLY cotton flags for the flag disposal ceremony. They are the only ones that can be legally burned.

## **Sick Call**

President Masowick

Judge Old has esophageal cancer and is starting chemotherapy

Terry Kaufman had a leg amputated above the knee. He is hoping to be at the program next year.

Patric Leedom is dealing with a lot of health problems.

Jim Morris has been undergoing radiation for a couple of types of cancer.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:18pm following a benediction from 1<sup>st</sup> VP Bob Schmitt, and a salute to the colors.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Mark Weldon**  
**Secretary**