



# MBS & MGS LEADER



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## STEELE TO ACCEPT LEHR CHAIR

Politician Michael Steele will accept the 35th annual George W. Lehr Memorial Speaker's Chair on Monday night at Hyland Arena.

Steele served as lieutenant governor of Maryland from 2003-07, then he was the chair of the Republican National Committee from 2009-11. He is the first African American to hold either position.

Born in 1958, Steele received a bachelor's degree in international studies from Johns Hopkins University. Ten years later, he received his Juris Doctor from Georgetown Law School.

From 1991-97, Steele worked as a corporate securities associate

at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton, an international law firm in Washington, D.C. He departed the firm to start the Steele Group, a business and legal consulting firm.

Steele joined the Republican Party and was the chairman of the Prince George's County Republican Central Committee. The Maryland Republican Party named him as the 1995 Republican Man of the Year and he served as a delegate at the 2000 Republican National Convention. Later that year, he was elected chairman of the Maryland Republican Party, becoming the first African American to be elected chairman of a state Republican Party.

Elected as Maryland's lieutenant governor in November 2002, Steele's priorities included reforming the state's Minority Business Enterprise program, improving the quality of Maryland's public education system, expanding economic development in the state and fostering cooperation between government and faith-based organizations to help those in need.

Steele lost to Ben Cardin in the 2006 election for U.S. Senate, but two years later he won elec-



STEELE

tion for chairman of the Republican National Committee. Under Steele's leadership, the RNC broke fundraising records, raising more than \$198 million during the 2010 Congressional election. Republicans won 63 seats in the House of Representatives, the party's biggest pickup since 1938.

After serving as chairman, Steele became a political analyst at MSNBC. He has appeared on "Meet the Press," "Face the Nation," HBO's "Real Time with Bill Maher" and Comedy Central's "The Daily Show." He has also written on law, business and politics and hosts "The Michael Steele Podcast."

The Lehr Chair was estab-

lished during 1988 as part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Missouri Boys State program. The Chair honors the late George W. Lehr, former Missouri state auditor, who attended MBS in his youth and continued to support the program during his public life. The Chair is designed to bring notable names in public service to each MBS session to interact with participants.

Past Lehr Chair recipients include elected officials, political consultants, journalists and authors such as Karl Rove, David Axelrod, Bob Woodward, Bob Costas, James Carville, Mike Huckabee and Missouri's own Kit Bond, John Ashcroft and Jay Nixon.

## Greetings from the American Legion

*Come out of this week with better knowledge of democracy*

BY MARK CLARK  
COMMANDER, MISSOURI DEPARTMENT  
AMERICAN LEGION

Many honors go with being department commander of the American Legion, and perhaps the greatest of all is to have the pleasure of welcoming 850 outstanding young men from our great state of Missouri to the campus of the Lindenwood University in St. Charles for a full week of training and participating in one of the greatest Americanism programs ever devised by any organization.

The American Legion, an organization of war veterans banded together for "God and Country," takes great pride — nationwide — in its chosen Boys State program.

Like many other programs of the Legion, such as the High School Oratorical Contest, Legion Baseball, Scouting and so on, the Boys State program has a definite purpose, and that is to demonstrate true democracy.

In fact, the slogan of American Legion Boys State is "Democracy Depends on Me."

While you are today an outstanding American youth, I am certain you will stand a little taller, feel more proud to be an American and even take a greater interest in your community after having attended Boys State.

It is my sincere hope you will  
PLEASE SEE **LEGION**, P. 4

## An incredible journey



Fireworks light the sky during the State Fair at last year's Missouri Boys State/Missouri Girls State session. The MBS/MGS State Fair will take place Thursday night at Lindenwood University's Hunter Stadium.

## Use week as chance to learn something new

BY SHERIDAN MIRES  
DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT,  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY OF MISSOURI

On behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary of Missouri, I want to welcome 715 outstanding young women to the 82nd session of ALA Missouri Girls State.

The Girls State program, first presented in 1937, is one of the most respected and coveted experiential learning programs presented in the United States. Auxiliary units in all 50 states — plus Washington, D.C. — proudly host ALA Girls State, an amazing week of learning focused on responsible citizenship and love for God and country. The program epitomizes the ALA's mission to honor those who have brought us our freedom through our enduring commitment to develop young women as future leaders grounded in patriotism and Americanism.

You have been selected to attend MGS because you demonstrate leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty and service in your schools and community.

Girls State is a fast-paced, interactive program of campaigning, debating, voting and electing mock local and state leaders. You will be immersed into learning about the political process from dedicated volunteers, making sure the program's non-partisan governmental, patriotic and civic objectives are carried out with intense learning along with some fun.

My hope for you this week is you become more knowledgeable of the democratic process and how our republic form of government works at the state and national levels. In addition, I hope you develop leadership skills and confidence, which gives young women a lasting foundation for success, both personally and professionally.

MGS citizens join the ranks of approximately 16,000 young women participating in ALA Girls State programs across the nation this summer. While you may feel overwhelmed upon arrival or at other times this week, know that nearly every participant has felt the same. The beauty

PLEASE SEE **AUXILIARY**, P. 4

## Give your all, make the most of this week

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the exciting and historic 84th session of the American Legion Missouri Boys State — our third session taking place at Lindenwood University. Countless hours have gone into planning a tremendous week alongside our sister program, the American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State.

MBS draws together the best and the brightest high school juniors and helps lead them down the path of individual success and leadership through doing, not just learning. Using our democratic system as a basis, MBS equips you to construct your own state, utilizing the core values that hold



BRAD LEAR  
MISSOURI  
BOYS STATE  
DIRECTOR

true in our everyday lives. MBS teaches the need for competition, the value of public office and the strength of the individual voice and vote. By reinforcing these basic American ideals, MBS helps you shape the future.

To fully realize these ideals and make the most of your week in St.

Charles, you must be willing to participate, starting now.

MBS moves quickly and demands your participation every day, in every meeting, every class session and every assembly. Jump in and stay involved throughout the week.

If you become involved at the beginning, the rest of the week becomes a series of logical events centered around the organization of two political parties and the elections of officials at the city, county and state levels of government.

Because Boys State will last only one week, I urge you to actively seek any office or opportunity that becomes available to you. To have

conducted a campaign, held an office or participated actively in the court system at Boys State will leave a lasting impression on you that can never be gained in any classroom.

You will participate in this very intense week of activities with 850 Missouri Boys State citizens from across the state, plus 715 citizens learning similar lessons at ALA MGS. The opportunity for you to befriend neighbors from across the state will be a lasting part of the experience awaiting you this week. I hope you will seek out and become better acquainted with your fellow Boys Staters and staff. Your exposure to differing backgrounds and the unique outlook of those partic-

ipating are an important part of the Boys State experience.

You also have the opportunity to learn from speakers who developed their leadership skills in diverse careers such as the military, government, journalism, business, law and more. Give these speakers your attention and you will surely find lessons you can apply to your life now and in the future.

Like you, I came to Boys State when I was in high school, not knowing what to expect. Certainly for me, it was a week that shaped my lifetime. My goal this week is to make sure you can say the same when you depart in only eight short days.



EDITORIALS

# Legionnaires deserve credit

This will be an exciting week. Rallies. Elections. Speakers. It might be easy to get caught up in all the activities and forget who brought us this “Week to Shape a Lifetime.”

The American Legion has spent valuable time and money to make Missouri Boys State a week to remember. Through programs such as this, Legionnaires help rekindle patriotism and leadership; they help inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; they help promote democracy. In short, they help each of us become better Americans.

Though it would be impossible to show our appreciation in a monetary way, there are ways to give thanks. The most obvious way is to talk with one of the Legionnaires who is giving up his or her time this week to be with you. Let him or her know what you think of the program and what its impact on you has been.

Perhaps a better way to show appreciation, however, is to make the most of your time here at Boys State. Get involved in as many activities as possible. Actions are more powerful than words, so join the newspaper or the color guard and show the Legion your appreciation through high spirits and goodwill toward others.

Thank you, Legionnaires, for all you’ve done.

# From the past

One of the most prominent complaints among the concerned youth of today is the general apathy that exists toward them. I am proud to say that we at Missouri Boys State are privileged to have a group of fine, concerned men with a willing desire to help the youth of our nation.

Each of us owes our counselors a hearty thanks for their advice, encouragement, leadership and general presence. In many ways, a counselor is a security blanket; we know we can turn to him when we face an unexpected situation and count on him to help us.

Each of these men has devoted himself to our service. He has left his home and his family to give himself freely for the benefit of the citizens at Missouri Boys State. We know that because of men like him we have gained much which should contribute to ourselves and our nation.

However, it is my hope that in some way the counselors have contributed to themselves as a result of their efforts here. Perhaps we can repay these men by exercising similar concern when we have become a few years older.

**MORRIS KEARSE**, EDITORIAL & SPECIAL EDITOR  
(REPRINTED FROM THE LAST ISSUE OF THE LEADER DURING THE 30TH MBS SESSION, 1969)

# Advice from a past citizen

Dear citizens,

Toward the end of my sophomore year in high school, I had received notice I had been selected as a delegate for the upcoming session of Missouri Girls State. I was ecstatic yet terrified, and as the months slowly ticked by, I found my anticipation and eagerness to be a part of the event growing ever lastingly.

I will admit I was very skeptical about attending, even though I had already had some time to ponder my options, and as the week crept closer, my anxieties began to overtake my excitement.

I was seriously considering faking an illness or breaking a limb just to have an excuse to stay home. That would have been the worst decision I’ve ever made.

Ladies, this week will be the best of your life. You will walk in terrified and alone, and leave with dozens of new Snapchat friends and a deep-rooted feeling of empowerment and unity.

Every girl here is going through the same internal struggle of identity and is simply looking for a niche to fall into. If you are the girl that is normally on the outside of the conversation, jump in and express your opinions and your ideas.

Nobody here knows your reputation or your past mistakes. Nobody is going to judge you for the clothes you wear or the way you look. Because together, we stand as women, and that is what makes us powerful.

## A word from our sponsors

# Take advantage of this incredible opportunity

To the future leaders of tomorrow,

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of you on your remarkable achievement in being selected for Missouri Boys State and ALA Missouri Girls State. It is an honor to acknowledge your dedication and commitment to this prestigious program, and I commend you for the hard work and enthusiasm you will demonstrate throughout this experience.

Participating in Boys State and Girls State is not only a significant accomplishment, but it also holds great value in the eyes of employers and colleges alike. The skills and knowledge you will gain during this program are highly regarded in various academic and professional settings. Your involvement in the programs demonstrates your leadership potential, critical thinking abilities and commitment to civic engagement, qualities employers and college admissions officers actively seek.

This unique experience is an incredible opportunity for personal growth and development. As you transition into the real world, I encourage you to carry the lessons and experiences from Boys State and Girls State with you. The skills you will acquire, such as teamwork, effective communication and problem-solving, will undoubtedly serve as valuable assets in your future endeavors. Embrace the confidence and leadership potential the programs have instilled in you, and let it guide you toward personal and professional success.

I also want to take a moment to remind you to cherish every moment of this journey. The friendships you will

form, the challenges you will overcome and the memories you will create will forever hold a special place in your heart. Appreciate the unique camaraderie and the diverse perspectives shared by your fellow participants, as these connections will continue to shape your life long after the programs conclude.

Finally, I urge you to never stop learning. Embrace a mindset of continuous growth and seek opportunities to expand your knowledge and skills. The world is constantly evolving, and as leaders, it is our responsibility to adapt and stay ahead of the curve. Continue to challenge yourself, explore new horizons and seize every chance to broaden your understanding of the world around you.

Once again, congratulations on your exceptional achievement at Boys State and Girls State. You have shown great dedication, leadership and potential, and I have no doubt you will continue to make a positive impact in your communities and beyond. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors and I am excited to see the great things you will accomplish.

At Central Bank, we’re proud to support Missouri Boys State and ALA Missouri Girls State and the possibilities they provide for your future. Enjoy this moment of celebration. May your journey toward personal and professional fulfillment be filled with joy, growth and endless opportunities.

Warmest regards,

**MARSHALL ABNEY**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
CENTRAL BANK, WARRENSBURG

# It’s your chance to play critical role in larger team

Dear students,

Welcome to the Missouri Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State leadership program. Andy’s Frozen Custard is delighted and proud to continue our partnership for the second year, supporting the best of the best Missouri high school students and your quest to become the future leaders of America.

My parents started this business in 1986 as a small, single frozen custard stand in Osage Beach. Their goal was simple: To make people happy by serving the best frozen treats with the finest freshest ingredients and to serve each one with a smile. Through the years, Andy’s has blossomed into 150-plus stores in 15 states and we continue to grow. A lot has changed since we began, but one thing never did: Our commitment to family, community, hard work and supporting our employees to become the best they can be while making and serving the “World’s Finest Frozen Custard.”

Through our evolution from one store to a multi-unit concept generating \$160 million in sales annually, I have come to realize there are multiple opportunities to apply specialized skills within the framework of just about any organization. As a matter of fact, some of the most successful CEOs of the past 50 years — including

Michael Dell of Dell Technologies, Lloyd Blankfein of Goldman Sachs and Jeff Bezos of Amazon — learned early skills in the hospitality and restaurant industry. Andy’s relies on accountants, attorneys, graphic designers, procurement specialists, marketers, multi-unit operators and so much more. Each role is important, and each role contributes to our success.

If I had one piece of advice to impart, it would be to approach every job you do with equal levels of importance and commitment. Take pride in every step of the way toward whatever your goal is and understand you are playing a critical role in the overall success of a larger team. Never underestimate the power or value of hard work. Always remember there are meaningful lessons to learn at each stage, so stay open to new ideas and always keep learning.

If you follow these simple guidelines, your path to success will be swift and sure. We are so proud of all you have accomplished so far and know you will continue to do great things.

Enjoy this week and remember, we are always ready with a sweet treat to top off your day with a smile.

**ANDY KUNTZ**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
ANDY’S FROZEN CUSTARD



# City counselors serve ... you

The city counselors of the various cities of Missouri Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State put in their entire time for the benefit of citizens. They are worthy of your confidence and stand ready to assist you in any and every way.

Do not hesitate to go to them with any problem you may have. They are on the job day and night. They live with you. They sleep with you. They eat with you. Together, with the citizens of Boys State and Girls State, these city counselors make the programs what they are. They are on the job to see that each citizen gets everything possible out of the session. When in doubt, take it to the city counselor.

MBS NEWSWIRE

## 2023 Awards

**Citizen of the Week**  
Andrew Puthumana, Kansas City

**Boys Nation Delegates**  
Aidan Hearney, Hermann  
Andrew Puthumana, Kansas City

**Harry S Truman Model City Award**  
Lewis City

**Jerry L. Litton Model County Award**  
Barton County

**Man in the Arena – Vogel Family Scholarship**  
Khang Nhat Lam, Chesterfield

**Samsung Legion Scholarship**  
Alexander Rice, Maryville

**Charles Mickey Scholarship**  
Trent Siemens, Cleveland

**Lindenwood Citizen Leadership Scholarship**  
Oakland Morrison, Fair Grove

**Lindenwood Citizen Board of Trustees Scholarship**  
John Holt, Camdenton

**Vogel Family Spirit of Service Grant**  
Liam Arnzen, Cape Girardeau  
Evan Canis, Chesterfield  
Thomas Fatka, Warrensburg  
Luke Kaiser, Chesterfield  
Sarvesh Palaniappan, O’Fallon

**Justin W. Stephan Public Service Award**  
Weysan Dun

**Outstanding Participation Awards**

**Athlete of the Week**  
Easton Haslag, Loose Creek

**Attorney of the Week**  
Luke Richey, Cape Girardeau

**Businessman of the Week**  
Aidan Seymour, Kansas City

**City Clerk of the Week**  
Mingjun Feng, Nixa

**Firefighter of the Week**  
Dennis Gamble, Riverside

**Journalists of the Week**  
John Fiene, Ballwin (TV)  
Trey Lintner, Jackson (Podcast)  
Xavier Wilson, St. Louis (Newspaper)

**Judge of the Week**  
Andrew Wepener, Hume

**Legislative Staffer of the Week**  
Kenny Barnard, East Lynne

**Lobbyist of the Week**  
Mason Cochran, Perryville

**Outstanding Business**  
Chengle Lele Qian, Joplin

**Public Safety Officer of the Week**  
Preston Brown, Smithton

**Senator of the Week**  
Dominick Lawson, Belton

**State Executive of the Week**  
Jacob Schelp, Columbia

**Treasurer of the Week**  
Ariel Vanegas, Independence

MGS NEWSWIRE

## 2023 Awards

**Citizen of the Week**  
Emma Crutchfield

**Girls Nation Delegates**  
Ysabela Olsen, Avery Smith  
Alternates: Emily Yang, Natalee Shipley

**Outstanding Political Citizen**  
Emmalyn Burnett

**ALA Junior Member of the Year**  
Danika Jelenik

**Statewide Elected Officials**  
Gov. Claire Gwak  
Lt. Gov. Caroline Leonard  
Secretary of State Katie Bernicky  
State Auditor Mckelvey McDaniel  
Attorney General Allison Zhang  
State Treasurer Grace Edney

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**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND FEATURED GUESTS**

**Anthony Robles**  
**Saturday, June 22, 2024**  
**Scheidegger Theatre (Missouri Boys State)**  
 Anthony Robles was a three-time All-American wrestler at Arizona State who, despite being born with only one leg, won the NCAA Division I national championship at 125 pounds in 2011. He received the "Best Wrestler of the National Tournament" award and the "Jimmy V Perseverance" award at the 2011 ESPY Awards. In 2013, President Barack Obama appointed Robles to the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition.

**Missouri Supreme Court Justices**  
**Kelly Broniec, Robin Ransom, Mary Russell**  
**Sunday, June 23, 2024**  
**Scheidegger Theatre (Missouri Girls State)**  
 Kelly Broniec, Robin Ransom and Mary Russell will hold a Women of the Missouri Supreme Court Panel Discussion, with Megan Phillips, president of the Missouri Bar, serving as moderator. Russell is the chief justice of the Missouri Supreme Court, serving her second two-year term at that position. She was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2004, then was retained in office in the 2006 and 2018 general elections. She previously served as a judge on the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District from 1995-2004. She received a bachelor's degree from Truman State University in 1980 and a Juris Doctor from the University of Missouri School of Law in 1983. Ransom was appointed to the Supreme Court in 2021, then was retained in office in the 2022 general election. She previously served as a judge on the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District from 2019-21, and she was a judge for the 22nd Judicial Circuit (St. Louis city) from 2002-19, first as a family court commissioner (2002-08) and then as a circuit judge (2008-19). She received a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University in 1988 and a Juris Doctor from the University of Missouri Law School in 1991. Broniec was appointed to the Supreme Court in September 2023. She previously served on the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District from 2020-23, and prior to that, she was the Montgomery County associate circuit judge from 2006-20, winning re-election in 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018. She received a bachelor's degree from William Woods College and a Juris Doctor from the University of Missouri School of Law.

**Sarah Hurwitz**  
**Sunday, June 23, 2024**  
**Hyland Arena (Joint Assembly)**  
 Sarah Hurwitz was a senior speechwriter for President Barack Obama from 2009-10 and the head speechwriter for First Lady Michelle Obama from 2010-17. A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, she started her career as an intern in Vice President Al Gore's speechwriting office in 1998. Prior to becoming a speechwriter for the Obamas, she served as the chief speechwriter on Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign. After leaving the White House, Hurwitz became a Fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University in 2017. She is also the author of a book titled "Here All Along: Finding Meaning,

Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life – In Judaism (After Finally Choosing to Look There).

**Michael Steele**  
**Monday, June 24, 2024**  
**Hyland Arena (Joint Assembly)**  
 Michael Steele served as lieutenant governor of Maryland from 2003-07, then he was the chair of the Republican National Committee from 2009-11. He is the first African American to hold either position. As lieutenant governor, Steele's priorities included reforming the state's Minority Business Enterprise program, improving the quality of Maryland's public education system, expanding economic development in the state and fostering cooperation between government and faith-based organizations to help those in need. As chairman of the RNC, Steele helped the party break fundraising records, raising more than \$198 million during the 2010 Congressional election.

**Missouri Gov. Mike Parson**  
**Tuesday, June 25, 2024**  
**Scheidegger Theatre (Missouri Boys State)**  
 Mike Parson was sworn in as Missouri's 57th governor June 1, 2018 and was re-elected in 2020. Prior to that, he was elected as Missouri's lieutenant governor in 2016. Parson served as the sheriff of Polk County from 1993-2004, then he moved onto the Missouri General Assembly, first as a member of the House of Representatives from 2005-11 and then the state Senate from 2011-17. As governor, Parson and his administration have achieved historic bipartisan progress on workforce development and infrastructure through programs like Missouri One Start, Fast Track, MoExcels and the transportation cost-share program.

**Mara Liasson**  
**Tuesday, June 25, 2024**  
**Hyland Arena (Joint Assembly)**  
 Mara Liasson is the national political correspondent for National Public Radio (NPR) and is a contributor to Fox News Channel. Liasson joined NPR in 1985 as a general assignment reporter and newscaster, covering Congress and serving as the White House correspondent during all eight years of President Bill Clinton's administration. She joined Fox in 1997 as a panelist on Special Report with Brett Baier and Fox News Sunday, Fox Broadcasting Company's public affairs program that airs each Sunday morning. Liasson earned a bachelor's degree from Brown University.

**Sarah Kellogg and Rachel Lippmann**  
**Wednesday, June 26, 2024**  
**Scheidegger Theatre (Missouri Girls State)**  
 Sarah Kellogg is the Missouri statehouse and politics reporter for St. Louis Public Radio, a position she has held since August 2021. Prior to covering the statehouse, Kellogg worked as a morning host and state politics for 89.1-FM KUAR in Little Rock, Ark., where she covered Arkansas legislative sessions and state-wide and city politics from November 2018 to August 2021. Kellogg received a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri. Rachel Lippmann covers courts, public safety and city politics for St. Louis

Public Radio, where she has worked since 2008. Prior to that, she worked for two years in Lansing, covering the Michigan Capitol and state politics. She received a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University and a master's degree in public affairs from the University of Illinois-Springfield.

**Missouri Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe**  
**Wednesday, June 26, 2024**  
**Scheidegger Theatre (Missouri Boys State)**  
 Mike Kehoe will visit Missouri Boys State to deliver an address and announce the results of the MBS primary election. Kehoe was appointed lieutenant governor of Missouri by Gov. Mike Parson in June 2018. Kehoe previously served as state senator of Missouri's 6th District since he was first elected in 2010 and re-elected in 2014. Before running for state Senate, Kehoe was appointed by former Gov. Matt Blunt to the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission, where he served from May 2005 to July 2009. In May 2023, Kehoe announced he was joining the 2024 race for Missouri governor.

**Missouri state Rep. Donna Baringer**  
**Wednesday, June 26, 2024**  
**Scheidegger Theatre (Missouri Girls State)**  
 Donna Baringer represents Missouri's 82nd district in St. Louis, a position she has held since 2017. Now in her fourth term in the Missouri House of Representatives, Baringer serves on joint committees for government accountability and legislative research. Prior to that, she served 14 years as a City of St. Louis Alderman in the 16th Ward. Baringer received a bachelor's degree from Maryville University and a master's degree from Lindenwood University.

**Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft**  
**Thursday, June 27, 2024**  
**Scheidegger Theatre (Missouri Boys State)**  
 Jay Ashcroft will visit Missouri Boys State to deliver an address and announce the results of the MBS statewide election. Ashcroft was elected Missouri's 40th secretary of state in 2016. He received a bachelor's degree from Missouri University of Science and Technology. Ashcroft then taught engineering technology courses at St. Louis Community College. While teaching, Ashcroft attended the Saint Louis University School of Law and practiced law for eight years in St. Louis County prior to his election as secretary of state. In April 2023, Ashcroft announced he was joining the 2024 race for Missouri governor.

**Missouri state Sens. John Rizzo, Caleb Rowden**  
**Thursday, June 27, 2024**  
**Scheidegger Theatre (Missouri Boys State)**  
 Missouri state Sens. John Rizzo and Caleb Rowden are speaking as part of a joint assembly of the Missouri Boys State General Assembly. Rizzo is in his second term serving Missouri's 11th District. He currently serves as the Minority Floor Leader. Rizzo, a Democrat, was elected in 2010 to the Missouri House of Representatives, where he served as the Minority Whip for four years, before being elected to the state Senate in 2016. Prior to state office,

Rizzo served as the 11th Ward Committeeman for Jackson County. Rowden is in his second term serving Missouri's 19th District. He currently serves as the President Pro Tem. Rowden, a Republican, was elected in 2012 to the Missouri House of Representatives, where he served for two terms before being elected to the state Senate in 2016. Prior to becoming the President Pro Tem, Rowden was the Senate Majority Floor Leader from 2019-22.

**Holly Page**  
**Thursday, June 27, 2024**  
**Hyland Arena (Missouri Girls State)**  
 Holly Page is the co-founder and national spokeswoman for No Labels, a political organization that has a mission to support centrism and bipartisanship by seeking to give voice to the "commonsense majority." Page has worked with leading political and advocacy organizations of both political parties, serving as the executive vice president of the Democratic Leadership Council from 1994-2008. Prior to that, Page was the director of the National Finance Council of the Democratic National Committee from 1992-94 and was the Western State Deputy Finance Director of the Bill Clinton for President Committee. Page studied political science at San Francisco State University.

**Herb Kohn**  
**Friday, June 28, 2024**  
**Scheidegger Theatre (Missouri Girls State)**  
**Scheidegger Theatre (Missouri Boys State)**  
 Herb Kohn will speak to assemblies for MGS in the morning and MBS in the evening. Kohn is the founder of Herb Kohn Mediation LLC, which specializes in settling business and commercial disputes. He was previously a senior counsel at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner Law Firm in Kansas City. Kohn attended Missouri Boys State in 1955 and was elected lieutenant governor during that session. He joined the MBS staff and became director and dean of counselors. Kohn is a lifetime member of the Executive Committee of the MBS Board of Directors and was inducted into the MBS Hall of Fame in 1988. Kohn was instrumental in the creation of the A.B. Weyer Memorial Trust (now the Missouri Boys State Memorial Trust). Kohn and his family escaped from Nazi Germany when he was a boy, then emigrated to the United States.

**Hon. Rebecca Navarro-McKelvey**  
**Friday, June 28, 2024**  
**Scheidegger Theatre (Missouri Girls State)**  
 Rebecca Navarro-McKelvey was appointed to the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District in December 2023, becoming the first judge from St. Charles County to hold that honor since 1850. Prior to that, Navarro-McKelvey was elected in 2016 as an associate circuit judge for the 11th Judicial Circuit in St. Charles County, then won election as the circuit judge of that same judicial circuit in 2020. Before becoming a judge, she worked in the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office as a prosecutor, then in St. Charles County as a chief legal counsel and as a prosecutor. Navarro-McKelvey received a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri, then earned a Juris Doctor from the MU School of Law.

# Schools of instruction a highlight of programs

All citizens will participate in specialized courses of instruction during their week at Missouri Boys State and Missouri Girls State. They may choose to attend one of the following schools of instruction: Campaigning and Political Operations, Commerce, Education, International Affairs, Journalism and Media, Law, Law Enforcement and Public Safety, Legislative and Executive Policy and Local Government and Policy. The staff for each school of instruction is comprised of real-life professionals and experts in their respective fields. As the week progresses, citizens use this specialized instruction to design, enact and evaluate their own municipal, county and state government operations. Citizens also have the opportunity to earn college credit from Lindenwood University for their studies after successfully participating in the program and passing an examination Friday afternoon.

**CAMPAIGNING AND POLITICAL OPERATIONS**

The Campaigning and Political Operations School teaches campaigning strategies, how to use the media as a persuasive tool, how to deliver interesting and convincing speeches and how to create positive perceptions in the general public. This school is also responsible for analyzing the annual Public Opinion Poll, which identifies the issues important to citizens. The school is designed for political party leaders, candidates seeking statewide office, campaign managers, political consultants and anyone else interested in learning more about how to successfully navigate the political process.

**COMMERCE**

The Commerce School serves as the main economic engine at MBS and MGS. Citizens learn the basic characteristics and operations of an interdependent economy, how businesses function within the economy and how the intersection of private and governmental interests impacts the economy and those operating within it. Members of the Chamber of Commerce — citizens who are required to attend this school — work with other governmental entities and agencies across MBS and MGS to create and sustain the conditions needed for a robust economy that serves both public and private interests.

**EDUCATION**

The Education School is for citizens interested in education and educational policy and examines the activities of teachers, administrators, school boards, legislators and others with direct and indirect interests in our educational systems. The school is taught by education professionals, such as current teachers and administrators, and is particularly well-suited for citizens interested in becoming educators at the elementary, secondary and postsecondary levels in the future. Key issues discussed include the fundamentals of education and the structure and role of educational systems in today's world.

**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

The International Affairs School centers on foreign affairs, including diplomacy and global politics. With emphasis on United States foreign policy and our increasingly globalized world, citizens who attend this school learn

from professionals working in an array of areas, such as trade associations, federal and state governmental entities and private organizations. Key issues discussed include the United States' role on the global stage and the current and future status of entities like the United Nations and the World Trade Organization.

**JOURNALISM AND MEDIA**

The Journalism and Media School serves as the main media apparatus at MBS and MGS. Citizens discuss newsgathering and news writing, the role of the media in politics, journalism ethics and evaluating news and bias. Citizens will get to utilize three different media: newspaper, podcast and TV, where they get hands-on training by professionals in each field by creating daily newspapers, podcasts and TV broadcasts in authentic studios.

**LAW**

The Law School is designed like a college-level law school, teaching basic trial procedure, criminal law, legal pleadings and civil actions. Any aspiring lawyer or judge must attend this school, and citizens are required to pass the Bar Exam in order to practice law, just like in the real world. The citizens who attend this school eventually run the court system, which consists of municipal and county courts along with the Supreme Court.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

The Law Enforcement at Public Safety School gives citizens a look at the day-to-day activities of public safety professionals, such as the Missouri State Highway Patrol and



the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The school is taught by members of the Patrol, which has had a longtime affiliation with MBS and MGS. Topics will include aspects of crime prevention and investigation, the responsibilities of a law enforcement official and providing for the public's safety. Citizens will be trained in procedures to protect civil liberties during arrest and trial, which they will apply when elected or appointed to law enforcement positions. They will be updated on the latest methods of work used by various public safety agencies around Missouri and the U.S.

**LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE POLICY**

The Legislative and Executive Policy School is for citizens elected to the MBS and MGS House of Representatives and Senate, appointed to state-level positions by the governor, those interested in lobbying or those who want to learn how the legislative system works. All members of the House of Representatives and the Sen-

ate, along with most state-level appointed officials, are required to attend this school. Citizens learn the processes needed to draft and pass bills and resolutions, including parliamentary procedure, and how to work between branches of government to identify and address policy priorities.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND POLICY**

The Local Government and Policy School focuses on how democracy and citizenship work at the municipal level, with particular emphasis on city and county government. Topics discussed include the role of municipal government in the daily lives of the general public, especially in Missouri, and how municipal government officials can run effective cities and counties at MBS and MGS. Citizens elected or appointed to city and county positions, such as mayor or city clerk, benefit greatly from attending this school, which also helps city officials best position their city to win the coveted Harry S Truman Model City Award.



## Coming together as one state



Citizens of Missouri Boys State and Missouri Girls State listen to U.S. Sen. Eric Schmitt during a joint assembly in last year's session at Hyland Arena. There will be three joint assemblies next week featuring guest speakers: Speechwriter Sarah Hurwitz on Sunday, former Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele on Monday and political journalist Mara Liasson on Tuesday.

## Dean of counselors offers challenges for 2024 Missouri Boys State session

As you begin your week's stay during the 84th session of Missouri Boys State, you will find your first — and in my opinion, your most important — contact will be with your City Counselor and your Assistant City Counselors.



**NICK EBERT**  
MISSOURI BOYS STATE DEAN OF COUNSELORS

These counselors, all of whom previously attended MBS, will be available to you at all times. They are ready, willing and able to guide you and help you in every way. Whether you need help finding where to file to run for office or advice on being away from loved ones for a week, our counseling staff is your greatest resource.

Although they will not conduct a campaign for you or help you gain an advantage against an opponent, they certainly will counsel and advise you in every way possible. The sole responsibility of the counselors is to do everything in their power to ensure you, the citizens, are exposed to every facet of Boys

State, and thus are able to participate in each and every activity to the fullest extent. I believe you will find they are extremely well qualified to fulfill their roles.

I would also ask you remember you are but one of many citizens under the supervision of your City Counselor and Assistant City Counselors, and it therefore would be unfair to ask them to spend a disproportionate amount of time with any one citizen, either for purposes of achievement or discipline.

By the week's end, I am certain you will have genuine and high regard for these men who helped facilitate your experience this week.

You are also your greatest resource this week. During the

week you are here, your efforts should be devoted entirely to the betterment of MBS. Think creatively about how you will serve your MBS city, county and state. It is your responsibility, as stated in your oath, that you will be faithful in your discharge of duty in the citizenship you have assumed this week.

Through the experience you have here as a citizen, you will learn the responsibilities of the citizen, not only in MBS, but also within any state in the Union. The lessons you learn, both about civil government and your own leadership, will apply long after you leave St. Charles.

I hope you will find the experience you bring to MBS will serve you while you are here and help you connect with your fellow citizens. Similarly, I hope the lessons and practical experience you gain this week will shape the person you become in your final year of high school and into adulthood, which brings much responsibility.

## Governors extend welcome to citizens

*Don't rest on your laurels, constantly strive to do your best this week*



**JOHN HOLT**  
MISSOURI BOYS STATE GOVERNOR

As Missouri Boys State governor, I extend to each of you a sincere welcome. You are privileged to be part of this unique citizenship training program.

You were selected to attend the 84th MBS session because you are leaders in your school and in your community.

Like you, I came to MBS when I was in high school, with little idea of what to expect.

Certainly for me, it was a week that shaped my lifetime.

Now let me offer some words of advice: Don't rest on your laurels. Only by constantly striving for the top can you go home knowing you contributed fully to the 2024 MBS session.

If you win every election this week, it won't be hard to leave St. Charles with a positive attitude about what you accomplished here. But that probably will not happen. If you are as active as you should be, you will not win every election.

And if you lose an election early on? Well, you can take one of two attitudes. You can do nothing

except sit back and criticize, or you can set new goals and work to attain them.

It is a difficult lesson to learn, especially when you have campaigned hard and still do not come out on top. But success is not always measured by winning or losing.

Those who have a successful week will be those who set realistic goals for themselves, and do everything they can to attain them. They will meet challenges enthusiastically and with a new spirit.

And in the face of defeat, they will realize the contributions they have made and be proud of themselves. Success is failure turned inside out. It is the mark of people such as John Glenn, the Wright brothers and Abraham Lincoln.

Though these people all suffered setbacks and defeats at some point during their lives, who could call them failures?

I wish you the best of luck in the week ahead, and let us strive together to make this the best MBS session ever.

*Step out of your shell and seize the opportunities in front of you*



**CLAIRE GWAK**  
ALA MISSOURI GIRLS STATE GOVERNOR

As your governor for the 2024 American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State session, let me first congratulate and welcome you to the best week of your life.

This week will be one filled with wonderful memories, as long as you are willing to step out of your shell and seize the opportunities in front of you.

The best piece of advice I can give you is to not let any early

"defeats" keep you from trying again. Maybe you weren't voted mayor of your city because you were meant to win a seat in the House of Representatives, or maybe you are destined to be governor. You are the one who will set the pace for your week.

I hope you have the best week as I did in my citizen year and I can't wait to see you all thrive in this environment.

Welcome to the Best State in the Land!

## Auxiliary: Venture out of your comfort zone

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

of the program is each of these 16,000 Girls State citizens is new to the program and trying her best each day.

Use this as an opportunity to try something new, learn about a new idea or different perspective or venture out of your usual comfort zone. Girls State may help you identify your strengths, expand your knowledge, and connect with a new friend. Remember your leadership is important, and you are here because people in your home community recognize your potential. Please find support in your counselors and fellow citizens as you navigate this new experience.

Ultimately, my goal this week is you become knowledgeable

stewards of freedom, democracy, and patriotism. Moreover, I hope the learning, experience, memories and friendships you develop in the next week at MGS last a lifetime.

Finally, I want to extend a special thank you to MGS citizens who made a donation to the Veterans Community Project that serves homeless and at-risk veterans during registration as part of the ALA MGS annual service project. The ALA appreciates your support of our servicemen and servicewomen. I hope you also take time to learn more about the work of the ALA and even join your local unit when you return home at the end of your time here at Lindenwood University.

Have a wonderful week of learning and fun!

## Political parties shaped by those willing to seize the opportunity

Although you just arrived at Missouri Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Missouri Girls State, imagine next Saturday. You are nearing the end of the program, a week that has undoubtedly shaped your lifetime. You have elected city councilmembers, mayors, county commissioners, state legislators and even a governor. It sounds incredible that in one week, you will have built an entirely functional 51st state.

In order to get there, however, you first have to create a successful political party. Soon you will learn about the political process and campaigning, and now is the time to get involved. Generally, political parties are organizations that bring together like-minded people to form platforms detailing the party's stances on key issues. Voters

will often make decisions based on these platforms, including when they are voting candidates into office and deciding which parties to support financially.

What is unique about MBS and ALA MGS is your political party assignment is random and not based on any real-life political affiliations. Your party can be representative of the majority and you will learn to compromise in order to protect everyone's interests, not just those of a few. Your political party can be as big as you want. It can define a stance on several issues or choose a specific few.

The issues you discuss as part of the political conversation this week will begin at the local level. As former U.S. Speaker of the House Tip O'Neill said, "all politics is local," so in your city wards you will begin

defining what issues are important and what policies need to be put in place to allow your fellow citizens to have a better week.

All of this will culminate in a state party platform, which your candidates for office will use to share their vision for how the next crop of citizens will be welcomed to an even better program.

Next Saturday, do not think back to today wishing you had rolled up your sleeves and taken an active role in choosing the important issues and the citizens who will fight to make them part of the conversation. Whether it is raising money for your party, drafting speeches to share its message, running a campaign or seeking public office, there is a role waiting for you in the political process at MBS and ALA MGS.

## Legion: Week to remember

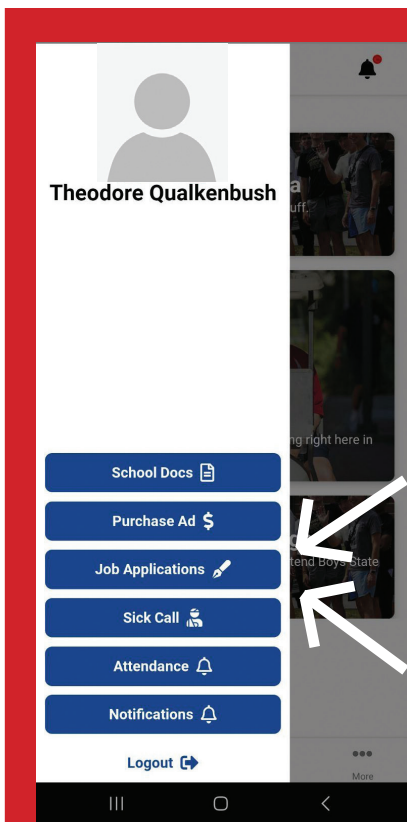
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return to your homes with a better knowledge of democracy, how it works, what it means and certainly with a knowledge of its worth to you and our nation.

I bid you welcome in the name of nearly 27,000 Legionnaires across the state of Missouri, and I sincerely hope your week here will be remembered as the greatest week of your lifetime.

Although Boys State is designed to teach government and politics, I believe you will find the personal interaction with young leaders from around the state to be a very rewarding part of our program.

My goal this week is to make sure your experience at Boys State is one you will always remember.



# HELP WANTED

## POSITIONS IN MEDIA MANAGEMENT MUST BE FILLED!



Youth leadership in Missouri has a new home.

Citizens interested in applying for one of the top management positions with the MBS & MGS Leader newspaper, the TV Broadcast or the Podcast can do so on the app. Just tap on the profile icon in the top-left corner of the app (or swipe right on the home page) and then tap on "Job Applications." Applications must be completed by THE END OF BREAKFAST SUNDAY.

Finalists will be interviewed by the staff of the Journalism and Media School. Only the top three positions on the newspaper, podcast and television station are being filled prior to the first session of the Journalism and Media School. Anyone attending the school will automatically participate in these media areas.