

NEWS RELEASE

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2009 AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA ANNOUNCES ELECTION RESULTS AND AWARDS

Watertown – (June 8, 2009) The 414 high school boys between their junior and senior years, who were delegates to the 67th Annual Session of The American Legion Boys State of South Dakota held their general election for state officers on Friday, June 5th. The candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor of both parties, Nationalist and Federalist, were subjected to questions during mid-morning assembly in the Johnson Fine Arts Center on the campus of Northern State University. All delegates returned to their respective cities prior to lunch to cast their ballots.

After lunch, election results were announced by Boys State Executive Officer Todd Otterberg of Spearfish.

Daniel Miller of Watertown, who will be a senior this year at Watertown High School was elected as Governor. Elected as Lt. Governor was Tyler Stenberg of Mobridge, a student at Mobridge High School. Both candidates were members of

the Federalist Party. Governor Miller and Lt. Governor Stenberg defeated Nationalist Party candidates Aaron Worlie of Conde and Samuel Miller of Vermillion.

Richard Marmorstein of Aberdeen and Zachary Schmidt of Watertown were selected as the two delegates to represent South Dakota at The American Legion Boys Nation in Washington, D.C. in July. Christopher Brockhoff of Winner and Daniel Swenson of Sioux Falls were selected as Alternates for Marmorstein and Schmidt, respectively.

Tyler Bolch of Lesterville was selected as the 2009 recipient of the Samsung, American Legion Scholarship of \$1,000. Bloch is now a national finalist and is eligible and entered into competition for an additional scholarship from The American Legion.

Other election results were Alexander Vargo of Rapid City for Attorney General; Reekah Delfanian of Brookings for Secretary of State; Sam Wilkens of Madison as State Auditor; Skyler Ericksen of Presho as State Treasurer; Rory Fenske of Rapid City as Commissioner of School and Public Lands. Elected as members of the Public Utilities Commission were Timothy Fountain of Sioux Falls, Wouter Hammink of Brookings and Gatlin Johnson of Groton.

In non-political elections, the delegates also elected six justices to serve on the Supreme Court. Elected as Supreme Court Justices were Bryce Kummer of Sioux Falls, Zachary Johnson of Sioux Falls, Spencer Gross of Huron, Daniel Swenson of Sioux Falls, Max Bunkers of Coleman and James Burkman of Barndon. James Burkman of Brandon was subsequently selected as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Charles Drapeaux of Aberdeen was selected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Jeffrey Trapp of Milbank was selected as the Nationalist Party

Chairman and Dale Svatos of Lake Andes was the Nationalist Party Keynote Speaker. The Federalist Party chose Patrick Brende of Sioux Falls as their Party Chairman and Zachary Schmidt of Watertown as their Keynote Speaker.

Samuel Miller of Vermillion captured the honors of Outstanding Speaker. Patrick Brende of Sioux Falls was selected as the Outstanding Boys State Citizen.

The Chandler L. Beach Memorial Scholarship, which recognizes the Boys State Delegate who best exemplifies the purpose of American Legion Boys State of South Dakota was awarded to Skyler Eriksen of Presho. Eriksen is also the recipient of the E. F. "Bud" Elkins Scholarship which is awarded each year to the boy elected as the State Treasurer.

Justin Bergeson of Hartford was selected as the Editor of the Boys State Daily Newspaper, the Sunshine Scribe.

U.S. Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin spoke to the delegates and responded to their questions during their first general assembly on Monday, June 1 and they heard from U.S. Senator John Thune during an assembly on Friday, June 5. Senator Thune also responded to questions from the group. State Senate Majority Leader Scott Heidepriem of Sioux Falls and State Senate Minority Leader Dave Knudson of Sioux Falls spoke during an assembly on "Politics Today" and responded to questions from the group on Wednesday, June 3.

American Legion Boys State of South Dakota was held on the campus of Northern State University in Aberdeen, June 1-6, 2009, under the direction of Boys State Director Tom Tyrrell of Garretson. Over 60 volunteer staff members from local, county and state government along with members of the SD Army

National Guard, colleges and universities, and associations in South Dakota assisted The American Legion in presenting the program.