

YOUTH GAZETTE

Ohio-West Virginia YMC A
HI-Y Leadership Center
P.O. Box 239
Point Pleasant, WV 25550
(304) 675-5899
www.hi-y.org

"HI-Y's values of leadership, character and service are essential foundations of our government. I am confident that the activities of this weekend will be of great value to you and to the future of West Virginia..."

Joe Manchin III, Governor
State of West Virginia

A NEW BEGINNING

By: **Emily Batten**

Youth in Government began its 2009 Opening 2009 Session in the House Chamber of our stunning state capitol building. 188 high school students, along with 29 advisors and 10 HI-Y staff members and volunteers gathered together for the 51st year that Youth in Government has taken place. There was much on the agenda for the day.

Rick Staton, chairman of the West Virginia HI-Y Youth in Government, opened and led the ceremony. He introduced himself and explained to the attendees that he was from Mullins, West Virginia. He explained that Mullins is isolated due to the mountains; many of the inhabitants do not get out of the norm of today to explore the possibilities of tomorrow. The people who look above the mountains are known as "visionaries"; they have a vision of what they can become, what lies beyond the mountains, and they follow through with their dreams. In fact, the man who introduced cellular phone device technology was from Mullins as well. Staton explains that by following his vision – looking beyond the mountains – he was able to make something of his life.

The youth governor for 2009, Isaac Picklesimer, made a short welcome speech to the students attending Youth in Government. He then introduced the Governor's Cabinet which includes: Melanie Hussain- Secretary of the Economy, Jamie Reichert-Secretary of State, and Chelsea Westfall- Secretary of Health and Human Resources.



Natalie Tennant, WV Secretary of State, escorted by: Carly Stover, Jordan Leard, Sam Jones and Francesca Loretta.

Dylan Adams, Chief Justice, stressed the importance of respect for others, respect for the facilities and to have fun while learning more about West Virginia's government. Adams then introduced this year's Supreme Court Justices: Jessa Butler and Jaci Goodwin.

The Keynote Address was delivered by actual West Virginia Secretary of State, Natalie Tennant. She seemed very enthused about the Youth in Government program and process. Tennant helped to get students involved and interested by relating her speech to events that deal directly with students' lives.

Christine Keplinger from Tyler Consolidated High School honored the late Cecil Underwood. Underwood was the youngest and oldest Governor in the United States and was instrumental in establishing the Youth in Government program in 1958. A moment of silence was held to remember Underwood and then applause ensued to

2009

POINTS OF INTEREST

- A NEW BEGINNING
Emily Batten
- MEET YOUR CABINET
Tad Radcliffe
- FRESH FACES
Mackenzie Stapleton
- WHY RUN?
Tad Radcliffe
- QUOTES FROM YG
Rachael Fetty
- MOVIN' AND GROOVIN'
Ashley Bibbee
- PROTECTING CONSENTING MINORS
Gabrielle Mankin
- ANOTHER YEAR... ANOTHER GOVERNOR
Taylor Elkins

Other key notes of the 2009 Opening Session included prayer by Christine Keplinger, the Pledge of Allegiance led by Preston Hartman, and Ashley Champ represented the House while Chris Lewis represented the Senate for ascertaining a quorum. Rory Perry led the students in the oath of office. Rick Staton presented certificates of office to Senator Jessica Harvey, Delegate Taylor Wilson and Justice Jacob Leonard. The Civic Literacy Council and other guests were recognized. Staton then adjourned the joint session.

MEET YOUR CABINET

By: Tad Radcliffe



ISSAC PICKLESIMER

Governor

Williamson HS

- Has been involved in Hi-Y since 7th grade.
- His second year he decided that he wanted a higher position so he ran for governor.
- His role is to veto bills and help promote ones he doesn't like.

MELANIE HUSSAIN

Secretary of the Economy

Roane County HS

- She has been involved Hi-Y for four years
- She became interested in being the Secretary of the Economy because she enjoyed the bills and the senate.
- She supports participation in high school sports to count as a physical education credit.
- She doesn't support extending mental health therapists in secondary schools, the installment of geothermal heating/cooling system, or requiring all public high schools to have security personnel.

JAMIE REICHERT

Secretary of State

Westside HS

- She has been involved in Hi-Y for four years
- She supports providing a town center for small communities and mandatory physical education classes every year in highschool.
- She doesn't support drivers license trailer endorsement, presidents' day recognition, or allowing raising the tobacco age to twenty one.

CHELSEA WESTFALL

Secretary of Health and Human Resources

Ripley HS

- She has been involved in Hi-Y for three years
- She supports providing an alternative beverage choice with high school lunches, lowering West Virginia's gas tax, and requiring the DNR to use a percentage of its fees collected to go towards stream cleanup projects.
- She doesn't support providing toilet seat covers for schools, or establishing a proximity in which a person may house large animals.



FRESH FACES

By: Mackenzie Stapleton

YG has seen a spark of new interest this year. Five new delegations have joined us for our weekend in Charleston, West Virginia. New delegations include Independence, Christ Academy, Martinsburg, Parkersburg, and Robert C. Byrd High School.

Independence High School is in Coal City located in Raleigh County. Their delegation is advised by Mr. Nick Mouer. Delegation members include Baughn Mitchel, Alysia Chandler, Matthew Day, Kacey Brammer, Robery Runyoun, Randy Ducan, Kendra Mayes, and Allison Severt. When asked what they've learned so far, they all answered enthusiastically, "Don't wear heels!" From YG, they hope to learn to be more involved and have their voices heard throughout the state of West Virginia.

WHY RUN?

By: Tad Radcliffe

When Chaplain of the House candidate, Mackenzie Stapleton, is asked why she chooses to run for an office, to accept more responsibility in the Youth in Government program, she avidly explains, "I chose to run for Chaplain because I thought it would be a good experience to get up in front of people, and it had been mentioned as a good position by previous officers." Stapleton is a 2 year Hi-Y member hailing from Williamson High. She loves the program and says it has helped her to come out of her shell and meet people more easily. She highly recommends that people get involved and leave their comfort zones. She candidly says, "Just have fun!"

QUOTES FROM YG

By: Rachael Fetty

Allison Severt

Independence High School

"I've gotten a better understanding of our government, how it works, and why it's important to pay attention to it."

Darrell Lewis

Oak Hill High School

"I enjoy judging bills. It's a good experience debating with others."

Ashlee Filkins

Point Pleasant High School

"YG gives us the room for our own opinions while learning about the government."

Melanie Hussain

Roane County High School

"YG gives me the opportunity to not be oblivious to the structure of our government."

Jessa Butler

St. Mary's High School

"I love the atmosphere. No one is here to hurt or judge you. We're all here to make friends. It's such an open program."

Jon Pearson

Wahama High School

"I like being a lobbyist because I can express my opinion."

Jamie Reichert

Westside High School

"YG is like the quote, 'Give a man a fish and he will be fed for a day but you teach a man to fish and he will be fed for a lifetime.' If you tell someone about the government then they will learn from what you told them but put them in the government hands-on, they will have a lifetime of knowledge about our government."

Issac Picklesimer

Willamson High School

"Through Youth and Government, I learned to appreciate our government. Also, I learned how to be myself while making life-long friends."

MOVIN' AND GROOVIN'

By: Ashley Bibbee



Another year, another dance! Last night at the Embassy Suites the annual YG dance took place. The DJ was movin' and the kids were definitely groovin'. They danced to the YMCA, Electric Slide and many other super snazzy songs. All the kids were having such a terrific time that the room was burning up. After a while, the dance started to break off, but the partying didn't end there, many chilled in the dance room while others played cards, participated in original games, took a dive into the swimming pool or warmed up in the hot tub and sauna. Charlie ended the evening with a great clip from the movie "Mr. Holland's Opus".



PROTECTING CONSENTING MINORS

By: Gabrielle Mankin



Wirt County HS student and Hi-Y Legislative member, Courtney Butler's bill on Protecting Consenting Minors is an eye opener and an attention catcher.

"I thought [that] you had to be 18 before you could date anyone over the age of 18 years old, but after more research, I realized that in the state of West Virginia you only have to be 16 years old. I thought that was a bit

extreme." Butler comments.

Butler's bill stresses the importance of restriction on the age of which you are legally allowed to consent to sexual intercourse with someone over the age of 18. Butler believes that parents should be able to put age restrictions on their children's choice of boyfriends or girlfriends. What most motivated her to write this bill is the fact that she is 17 – a teenager herself – and the thought of being with someone more than 5 years older than her perturbed her.

Butler has a partner working on this bill with her, a student at Wirt County HS and Hi-Y legislative member, Emry Shears. Shears also agrees with Butler on this subject and the two of them have worked diligently on this bill. They both dearly hope that their bill gets passed.

ANOTHER YEAR, ANOTHER GOVERNOR... WHO WILL IT BE?

By: Taylor Elkins

JORDAN LOVEJOY

Jordon Lovejoy is currently a junior at Wyoming County High School. She has been involved with YG for three years and is running against Andrew Van Camp. Jordon is enthusiastic about being at YG, as well as running for Governor. She cares about the program and exudes joy for YG. Lovejoy says that, if elected, she wants to express how enjoyable YG is and what it is all about.



Isaac Picklesimer (pictured right) will soon be replaced by one of these great candidates.

ANDREW VANCAMP

Andrew VanCamp is also running for Governor. He is from Tyler County High School and has been involved with Hi-Y for three years. Like Lovejoy, VanCamp shares a love for this program. He wants to get more people involved, as attendance is down this year, and VanCamp would like to see growth in the program. Andrew also expresses how much he enjoys Camp Horseshoe, saying, "It will change your life!"

2009 West Virginia Youth in Government PRESS CORPS



FRONT ROW: Mackenzie Stapleton, Alex Macmadu (Editor), Emily Batten.
SECOND ROW: Taylor Elkins, Gabrielle Mankin.
THIRD ROW: Dreama Hewitt(Advisor), Rachael Fetty, Tad Radcliffe, Ashley Bibbee, Stephanie Poole (Advisor)