



John Luke Saake  
Redwood Christian High School  
Assemblyman for the City of Carson

To the members of American Legion Post 649,

Thank you for the opportunity to attend Boys' State. I had a wonderful time learning about the various functions of government on the local and state levels.

I arrived early Saturday morning to a well-organized sign in. Upon receiving all that was necessary for the week, my lanyard, my polo, and my trusty blue book, I went up to my room. I was in the city of Carson in Haley County located in the Sierra dorms on the third floor. I went back to the main lawn to meet people, and got engaged in a large game of Ultimate Frisbee. Around 11 o'clock, the orientation began, where we learned about the ins and outs of the week, as well as how we were allowed to campaign and run for office. Following the orientation, we had lunch, and then went to our first city meeting. We then took the Bar Exam, which I unfortunately did not pass, missing the cut by a couple of points. Following the exam, it was rec time, followed by dinner, before we went down to the University Union for for the opening program. We then returned for city meetings, where we received our philobucks and delegates running for city council filed their petitions for candidacy.

On Sunday, we started off with city meetings and pictures, followed by religious services. After another city meeting where candidates gave their speeches, we engaged in our first vote. After lunch, we were notified of our elected council, and they were sworn in to office, and ran the city meetings from then on. Then came county meetings, and those running for county offices filed their petitions for candidacy. That night, we had our first party meetings, which was my first experience with anything of

that caliber. We had been placed into two political parties, half were the Federalists, and the other half, including me, were Whigs. We elected a Party Chairman and a Party Secretary, and gave donations to the campaign efforts.

On Monday, I filed for the office of State Assembly for the city of Carson after the elections of our County Supervisors. After filling out all the paperwork, getting my signatures, and checking everything over, I submitted my application to run for State Assembly. I found out later that day that I was the only Whig running for Assembly, but was up against two Federalists. I prepared my speech, and got to work campaigning. I purchased paper with my Philobucks, and place campaign posters in our town. I managed to get elected to the Assembly, doing well in the primary election and tying for first in the general election. The Assembly was called into secession on Wednesday afternoon, and we set to work electing the speaker, majority/minority leaders and whips. Unfortunately, the Federalists had the majority in the Assembly by a large margin, but a large number of the bills were voted on unanimously.

Wednesday night was the Educational and Career Opportunity night. We got to hear from various colleges, as well as all branches of the US Armed Forces. We also heard from public safety departments and the Sons of the American Legion. Thursday night, was the Jamboree, where other delegates got to show their talents and perform for the rest of us.

Thursday was also the day where we got to go to the State Capitol. We received recognition from our Assemblymen and Senators. For the Boys State Senators and Assemblymen, we were allowed to go into the State Assembly, sit at the desks, and hear from various members of our state government. It was very interesting to learn about how the political parties interact on a state level compared to a federal level.

Friday was the final day for Boys' State, and a very busy one for the Assembly. We passed multiple bills from the Senate, until we learned of the Governor pocket vetoing a bill that had passed almost unanimously in both the Senate and Assembly. Long story short, he vetoed the bill about

Veteran's benefits and we overrode his veto with over 2/3 majority in the Assembly and Senate. The Governor had upset us quite a bit, so we sent articles of impeachment to the Senate for imposing martial law on one of the cities. The Senate heard the trial later that night, where the Governor was found not guilty because he had not officially signed the document of martial law. The night ended with the closing program, where we learned the winners of model city and model county. Our best finish was Haley County finishing third in the model county rankings. After that, Boys' State was over, as more than half of the delegates left, and the rest of us departed Saturday morning.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend Boys' State 2014. It was an enriching experience that gave me a new perspective on how our government operates.

Sincerely,

John Luke Saake  
Redwood Christian High School  
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