



The ALA Girls State Gazette Volume I

76th Session of ALAGMGS, June 2019



How I Went from being on the Sidelines to Running for Governor?

By Riley Ochs

When I came to Girls State I had all intentions of just sitting back and not running for any office positions, but little did I know that I would be running for Governor. I'm not the most outspoken person around people that I am not very familiar with, so when I arrived on Saturday, I was so nervous and wasn't having a good time, but that all changed in a very short amount of time.

After a few hours of being with my Town, it felt as though I've known most of them for way longer than those short few hours. Every single girl at Girls State is so kind and supportive.

By Sunday morning, I felt more comfortable and was having a much better time, but I was still set on not running for any of the bigger positions. Fast forward to the party convention, and no one from my party was running for governor. This is when the kind, supportive, and lovely Girl Staters pushed a few of us to step outside of our comfort zones and run for office. At first, I was still set on not running, but then it all clicked. Why not step out of my comfort zone? Why not try something new? And that is just what I did along with a few other women. I don't know how the primaries will turn out, but I'm glad that I stepped out of my comfort zone and ran for governor.

The History of the Poppy

By: Sophia Tedesco, Alexis Kouwenhoven, and Brenna LaDuc



Beginning 1924, the American Legion started to distribute Poppies as part of a national program. During the distribution time, the American Legion Auxiliary also asks for donations in return for the poppies. Every year on May 24th people wear a poppy to commemorate the veterans of World War One.

Poppies became popular after the poem "In Flanders Fields" By John McCrae, which was written as he served on the front lines. After World War One, soil enriched with Lyme from battle sprouted red Poppies in both Belgium and France, that represent the bloodshed in battle.

Poppy flowers have been used since 1921 to remember people who passed away in war. The poppy became the official flower of the American Legion in 1920. Poppy flowers have been used to honor our veterans since, and will as long as America stays strong.

Counselor Profile: The Leaders of Cayia

Meet Liz!



Age: 18

Hometown: Sudbury, Vermont

Alumna of: Mount Saint Joseph Academy

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Peppermint

Favorite Girls' State Memory: "Running for Speaker of the House but losing. Then running for Auditor, then losing. But finally, winning the Model Citizen Award."

Dream Job: Physician's Assistant



Meet Mary!

Age: 18

Hometown: Jericho, Vermont

Alumna of: Rice Memorial High School

Favorite Ice Cream Flavor: Ben and Jerry's Coconut Seven Layer Bar

Favorite Girls' State Memory: "Welcoming girls from the town of Cayia for the 2019-2020 session."

Dream Job: Pediatrician

Cafe Convos

By Maggie Sides, Kate Gruendling, Jordyn Howard

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State! Just two days in and anything and everything seems to be going on at once. Between multiple panels, town meetings, and campaigning and cheering, our days seem hectic from the first sound of the town criers in the early morning to the last sound of our counselors exclaiming, "Lights Out!" at night. However, it is important we stick the important conversations, ladies: food. From day one's dinner, it seems everyone has an opinion on what is the go-to grub at mealtimes. So we decided to make this official. Get ready 76th session of ALAGMGS, it's time for your very first edition of Cafe Convos.

We traveled around various towns and activities, asking fellow citizens on these dire questions. The results are shocking.

Just from our own newspaper/bloggging room, the answers showed extreme diversity. The first lucky interviewee, Alison L. from Coutts, immediately opted for the mint chocolate ice cream. I believe her and Cayia's own Morgan M. would have a lot in common, as she loves some good MCC as well. We had some more sweet teeth present as Tiernan's Jessica T. AND Carolynn L. chose desserts as their number one nourishment. However, as we ventured on, we found some answers to remember. Tiernan's Maya A. surprised us when she chose salad, way to go Maya! Additionally, Cayia's Austin B. raved about the steak served night numero uno. While the enthusiasm is loved, we had to go for the chicken ourselves, sorry Austin! Tiernan's Riley O. was unable to name a fav food, unfortunately it was not because she loved it all too much. Hopefully that will change as this week progresses.

Now if this was not enough to entertain your busy minds, do not fret. We also got the scoop on your favorite counselors and American Legion Auxiliary Members! Cora F., running Tiernan, just loves that s'mores ice cream. Make sure you Tiernan's are brushing at night! Also, our dear director Kaylie Flannigan graciously stopped on her way out the door to inform us she was near tears over the vegan ravioli and was extremely appreciative of the Chef who whipped them up. Last, but certainly not least, Aly Duncanson, had no choice but to go for those steam veggies.

Do not forget ladies to say thank you to the chefs who keep us fed with delicious food, and remember to let us know your own personal scoop!

The Real Life Vermont Officials of the Girl's State Government

By Austin Bruno

Governor- The current governor of Vermont is Phil Scott. He was born in the city of Barre, Vermont and is a graduate of the University of Vermont. Governor Scott has a significant amount of experience in politics. To start, he started his career serving in the Vermont Senate for over 10 years, he was then elected as Lieutenant Governor in 2010. Currently, Phil Scott is the Vermont State Governor and a Republican. Some issues that he is known to represent, are job approval, education, and taxes.

Lt. Governor- The current Lieutenant Governor of Vermont is David Zuckerman. He is originally from Brookline, Massachusetts, and is also a graduate of the University of Vermont. He is known as part of the progressive party. He previously served in the House of Representatives and was part of many committees including; Natural Resources, Energy Committee, and, Agriculture Committee. He then went on to serve on the Vermont State Senate. While on the Senate, he participated in many bills, such as minimum wage and renewable energy. David Zuckermann was elected as Lieutenant Governor in 2016 and was endorsed by the previous presidential candidate Bernie Sanders.

Secretary of State- The current Secretary of State for Vermont is James C. Condos. He was born in Orange, New Jersey, but has lived most of his life in Vermont. He is also a graduate of the University of Vermont. He spent eight years of his political career on the Vermont State Senate, and was the chair of various committees. In 2010, Condos won Secretary of State by one vote.

Attorney General- The current Attorney General of Vermont is T.J. Donovan. He was born in Burlington, Vermont, and attended Merrimack College. He was elected as a Democratic Secretary of State for Vermont in 2016 with more than 50% of the vote.

Auditor- The current auditor of Vermont is Doug Hoffer. He was born in New Rochelle, New York, and is a club golf champion. He attended Williams College. In 2012, he was elected as Vermont State Auditor as a Progressive Democrat.

Treasurer- The current Vermont State Treasurer is Elizabeth Pearce. She is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire and she currently lives in Barre, Vermont. She was honored as one of the 10 most notable women in the Newspaper, The Bond Buyer. She was elected the Vermont State Treasurer in 2016.

Accepting Failure to Become Stronger

By: Austin Bruno

As a prospective delegate of the Vermont American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program, I was optimistic that I would walk in and win everything because of the excitement and drive that I had. I walked in believing that if you just had the passion, you could accomplish anything, and be accepted into any office. Right off the bat, I ran to be head chairperson of the Federalist Party. I was inexperienced, so in my 20 second candidate speech, I was speechless. Before I got here, I knew that I wanted to be a lawyer at American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State, and I was very determined to get that position. Unfortunately, to my surprise, I lost both of the town official positions. I was only half a day in, and the expectation that I had for my American Legion Green Mountain Girls State experience had changed. I was still really excited and honored to be here, but now I had to figure out the goals that I had for myself the week. I received a call from my grandmother, who is an American Legion Auxiliary Girls State alumni. She said that you were chosen for this and you should attend it to the fullest, so you should go all out and run for governor. That is exactly what I did. At first, I was a little hesitant because of the responsibility, but I wanted to be proud of myself for trying my hardest here and I learned that your goals for something don't always have to stay exactly as they were planned. I genuinely enjoyed the experience of making posters, campaigning, and making speeches. Losing

previously to positions I really wanted, made me more optimistic and appreciative of being able to run for governor. Win or lose, running for the state official of governor, is an amazing opportunity that I will cherish for a lifetime.

Honor

By Anna Senesac

Whether you are lacing your combat boots,
Or raising a flag.
Accentuating a war effort,
Or supporting your dad.

We are one as a nation
Through the good and the bad.
So respect all of the veterans,
Consider the experiences they've had.

Ask the simple question:
"How are you?"
And take into account
The traumatic events they've lived through.

Provide for those
With nothing to come home to,
And befriend the lost souls
Who appear subdued.

They cared for our nation
With dignity and courage,
So that life back at home
Could thrive and flourish.

Yet people walk by the veterans
On the street--malnourished.
It is our job as American citizens
To make sure their lives are refurbished.

We must honor and recognize
All those who have served,
As well as those who are serving:
Grant them all the honor they deserve.

The Meaning of American Legion Auxiliary Girls State

By Bailey Sevigny and Abigail Williams

When most people see the green shirts, they wonder what they logo means. What is American Legion Auxiliary Girls State? What do you do at American Legion Auxiliary Girls State? With 16,000 girls participating nationwide, American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is one of the most respected experiences to date. Founded in 1937, American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is a week long experience with the goal of girls interacting with the most accomplished girls in the state. They engage in local and state legislative and political infrastructures, they build a family with the entire camp and American Legion Auxiliary members, and learn valuable leadership skills they are able to utilize throughout their lives. They run for state and town positions such as Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Moderator, Select Board.

Best known as a summer leadership and citizenship program, American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is sponsored by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary for high school juniors. As a participant, each citizen is divided up into towns named after past American Legion Auxiliary Department Presidents. Each citizen is taught about the importance of the poppy symbol of remembrance and welfare for war veterans. They learn about the significance of each fold in the flag, what each star and stripe represents, and the history of how it came to be. They learn how to post and retrieve the colors each day and how to fold it to respect the importance of the flag.

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is a great program for women who are passionate about politics, government, military branches. If presented the opportunity, go for it!

American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State Articles

ByCarolynn Lafontaine

What we have done!

It is the 25th hour of American Legion Auxiliary Green Mountain Girls State, since arriving yesterday at 1, and we have learned names, created towns, established our running positions, attended panels and meetings, and strengthened our cheering for between buildings (Tiernan). In our four towns we have named the Town Clerk, Treasurer, Moderator, and declared our Town Crier, each by anonymous, democratic voting. Within our towns we have discussed the importance of our roles to each other as well as what it means to run in the larger race. We have listened to an American Legion Auxiliary panel, a college discussion, and Party Politics information, where questions have been answered by our lovely counselors, staff, and guests.

A look to the future-

In the next week we are sure to keep busy: the larger campaign will continue with much enthusiasm, there will be ceremonies honoring military members, veterans, and their sacrifice and families. Tuesday is the general election and our Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor will be announced. We finish ALA Girls State strong with our State

House day and the infamous Skit Night on Wednesday. Thursday is the last day we will be woken up by our Town Crier.

Getting to Know the New Girl's State Director

By Morgan Marckres, Maya Asher, Lauren Flewelling, and Alessandra Magg

We sat down and interviewed the one and only director of American Legion Auxiliary Girls State, Kaylie Flannigan.

What is the difference between living in Vermont and living in New York City?

Kaylie first talked about her experience with transportation. She appreciated how convenient NYC was because the train ran for 24 hours and she didn't have to have a car. She also mentioned that there were more vegan options in NYC and how nice it was to be able to order delivery to her apartment.

Tell us an anecdote from your college years.

Kaylie had two roommates her freshman year at Simmons University and graduated in 2016. One of her roommates was great but she was annoyed by her roommate's habit for singing opera in the morning and having friends over unexpectedly. At the end of the year, they had the option to untriple and when it came time to tell their roommate they wanted to kick her out, Kaylie had lost her voice so the task was left to her more pleasant roommate.

What inspired you to become a director?

Kaylie described how there wasn't a pivotal moment where she decided she wanted to be a director but she found herself coming back to Girl's State year after year to work as a counselor. When the last director stepped down, she decided that it was her turn to step up and take over the role.

As a new director, what are you trying to bring to the program?

Kaylie laid out her goals of wanted to bring stability to the program and have everything run smoothly. She also wanted to make sure that everyone was comfortable and had a good time. Another one of her goals was to bring more people into the program.

What are the parallels between being the Girl's State director and being a flight attendant?

Kaylie talked about how in both positions you meet new people every day but the procedures are the same each time.

What were you most nervous about coming in?

Kaylie was mostly nervous about people not liking her and feeling like the program was unorganized.

What was your favorite memory from when you were in Girl's State?

Kaylie talked about how her favorite part of her time at Girl's State was the skit night where her town used their bedsheets as togas and performed an interpretative dance. She mentioned how she was crying and gasping for air because she was laughing so hard.

Thank you Kaylie for being such a great director. We can't wait to spend the rest of the week with you. You're doing a great job!