



Bluebonnet

The official journal of American Legion Auxiliary Bluebonnet Girls State

Volume 9, Issue 1 – June 7, 2005

Arrival Day: Over 500 Take Part in 61st Session

By plane, chartered bus, and automobile, over 500 young women from all over Texas traveled to the Texas Lutheran University campus in Seguin to take part in the 61st session of Bluebonnet Girls State. Participants were organized into twelve "cities" with between 30 and 50 "citizens," and met their new counselors, roommates, and neighbors.

City A Amigas

Senior Counselor: Kate Frederick
Junior Counselor: Jenna Donnelly
Junior Counselor: Linda Santiago

City B Bumblebees

Senior Counselor: Catherine Boenig
Junior Counselor: Danielle Bartz
Junior Counselor: Lexie Hart

City D Divas

Senior Counselor: Renda Harper
Junior Counselor: Mauri Franke
Junior Counselor: Hannah Black

City E Eskimos

Senior Counselor: Kate Hartfield
Junior Counselor: Jessa Hollett
Junior Counselor: Sarah Urbanovsky

City F Flyers

Senior Counselor: Jennifer Pool
Junior Counselor: Ava Bastian
Junior Counselor: Shelle Nail

City G Goldfish

Senior Counselor: Samantha Ansley
Junior Counselor: Courtney Rice
Junior Counselor: Nancy Wallace

City H High Rollers

Senior Counselor: Kim Wratislaw
Junior Counselor: Carole Johnson
Junior Counselor: Aundrea Eichman

City I Idols

Senior Counselor: Jenny Denny
Junior Counselor: Cat Overman
Junior Counselor: Katie Zimmerman

City J Jalapeños

Senior Counselor: Kerry Hamilton Prater
Junior Counselor: Haylee Mills
Junior Counselor: Alicia Cardenas

City K Kisses

Senior Counselor: Laurel Fiske
Junior Counselor: Olivia Chilton
Junior Counselor: Erica Mooney

City L Lollipops

Senior Counselor: Anna Finn
Junior Counselor: Chelsea Bordovsky
Junior Counselor: Daniela Flores

City M Munchkins

Senior Counselor: Marty Hopkins
Junior Counselor: Madison Burns
Junior Counselor: Jo Leah Stiles



Volume 9, Issue 2 – June 9, 2005

Municipal Election Results

Each Girls State city is modeled on a real Texas community with a few humorous changes to make the assignment more fun. Citizens write their own municipal charter, and attempt to solve city problems including water shortages, pollution, illegal immigration, and population explosions.

City A Amigas (Council-Manager)

Population: 1,500,00

Region: South

Industry: Tourism, Agriculture

Mayor: Megan Rhodes, Council Place 1: Lani Thomison, Council Place 2: Jillian St. John, Council Place 3: Jodi Hicks, Council Place 4: Nicolette Portales, Treasurer: Si Li Tang, Attorney: _____, Tax Assessor/Collector: Vanessa Hill, Chief of Police: Kelly Coffman, Health Officer: Heidi Trynosky, Fire Chief: Melissa Reese, Municipal Judge: Erika Russell

City B Bumblebees (Council-Manager)

Population: 1,320,806

Region: Piney Woods

Industry: Timber

Mayor: Erin McGuff, Council Place 1: Nora Davidson, Council Place 2: Liz Cowan, Council Place 3: Jocelyn Rex, Council Place 4: Vanessa Rodriguez, Treasurer: Leanne Wiley, Attorney: Jessica Liu, Tax Assessor/Collector: Rita Chapa, Chief of Police: Victoria White, Health Officer: Lauren Dean, Fire Chief: Courtney Kovalcik, Municipal Judge: Connie Wong

City D Divas (Council-Manager)

Population: 5,078

Region: Central

Industry: Mining, Tourism

Mayor: Krystyn Kelley, Council Place 1: Bethany Nesbit, Council Place 2: Andrea Lanzen, Council Place 3: Kate Carroll, Council Place 4: Lori Garcia, Treasurer: Casey Clanton, Attorney: Erica Garcia, Tax Assessor/Collector: Krystal Stewart, Chief of Police: _____, Health Officer: Alicia Contreras, Fire Chief: Rebecca Giarranto, Municipal Judge: Dinorah De la Torre

City E Eskimos (Council-Manager)

Population: 5,048

Region: Central

Industry: Fishing

Mayor: Brenda Truett, Council Place 1: Kirsta Hoffman, Council Place 2: Megan Anderson, Council Place 3: Meredith Houston, Council Place 4: Lindsey Madrigal, Treasurer: Natalie Miller, Attorney: Angela Fields, Tax Assessor/Collector: Merritt Lange, Chief of Police: Robin Rosenthal, Health Officer: Abida Hasan, Fire Chief: Jessica Taplin, Municipal Judge: Jessica Cruz



Bluebonnet

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City F Flyers (Mayor-Council)

Population: 10,312

Region: South

Industry: Energy, Aviation

Mayor: Jessica Lewis, Council Place 1: Sarayu Adeni, Council Place 2: Angela Aufolerhaar, Council Place 3: Kim Miller, Council Place 4: Evelyn Brito, Council Place 5: Erin Campbell, Council Place 6: Danielle Boles, Treasurer: Alyssa Gonzalez, Attorney: Ana Hernandez, Tax Assessor/Collector: Kristi Burns, Chief of Police: Lori Saucedo, Health Officer: Wendy Whipkey, Fire Chief: Gwen Gerber, Municipal Judge:

City G Goldfish (Mayor-Council)

Population: 30,000

Region: Coastal

Industry: Energy, Mining, Tourism

Mayor: Lea Spencer, Council Place 1: Kasey Oden, Council Place 2: Heather Blizzard, Council Place 3: LillyAnn Ortiz, Council Place 4: Shanda Swallers, Attorney: Tami Warner, Tax Assessor/Collector: Emilee Wilson, Chief of Police: Tori Guerra, Health Officer/Fire Chief: Hannah Beavers, Municipal Judge: Lili Gomez

City H High Rollers (Mayor-Council)

Population: 32,000

Region: West

Industry: Tourism

Mayor: Chelsea Frazier, Council Place 1: Jill Squier, Council Place 2: Sarah Simmons, Council Place 3: Shara Hoffman, Council Place 4: Dinaaz Vadva, Council Place 5: Kelsey Bryan, Council Place 6: Domenica Nino, Treasurer: Kendale Rice, Attorney: Allison Atkinson, Tax Assessor/Collector: Genesis Sultemeir, Chief of Police: Beth Duvall, Health Officer: K. Iltis, Fire Chief: Tracy Gold, Municipal Judge: Bethany James

City I Idols (Council-Manager)

Population: 46,000

Region: Coastal

Industry: Energy, Entertainment

Mayor: Fran Leedy, Council Place 1: Jeannette Garcia, Council Place 2: Mallory Foster, Council Place 3: Mallory Motley, Council Place 4: Whitney Peacock, Council Place 5: Chelsea Clark, Treasurer: Lauren Diehm, Attorney: Heather Haberman, Tax Assessor/Collector: Belem Lopez, Chief of Police: Vanessa Nixon, Health Officer: Allie Booth, Fire Chief: Amanda Baumann, Municipal Judge: Julia Poritz

City J Jalapeños (Council-Manager)

Population: 65,412

Region: Central

Industry: Agriculture, Tourism

Mayor: Michelle Villareal, Council Place 1: Jackie Hancock, Council Place 2: Lauren Carlson, Council Place 3: LeaAndrea Lehde, Council Place 4: Jennifer Perry, Treasurer/Tax Assessor/Collector: Brittany DeSpain, Chief of Police: Leigh Sanchez, Attorney: Laurianne Balkum, Fire/Health Officer: Chinelo Ikpeama, Municipal Judge:



Bluebonnet

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City K Kisses (Mayor-Council)

Population: 100,684

Region: Coastal

Industry: Agriculture, Manufacturing, Tourism

Mayor: Victoria Sobczak, Council Place 1: Paige Kiecke, Council Place 2: Kristine Kelly, Council Place 3: Ramie Stewart, Council Place 4: Caitlyn Carnes, Treasurer: Vanessa Smith, Attorney: _____, Tax Assessor/Collector: Katherine Squier, Chief of Police: Michelle Pinson, Health Officer: Sharidon Henley, Fire Chief: Faith Wallis, Municipal Judge: Jennifer Brown

City L Lollipops (Council-Manager)

Population: 38,000

Region: Central

Industry: Tourism

Mayor: Katie Kelsey, Council Place 1: Zenaida Miranda, Council Place 2: Jessica Armstrong, Council Place 3: Cora Davis, Council Place 4: Erika Knowles, Treasurer/Tax Assessor/Collector: Elizabeth Carlin, Chief of Police: Ashley Hodges, Attorney: Edrica Boswell, Fire/Health Officer: Catlin Cermak, Municipal Judge: Natalie Haenen

City M Munchkins (Council-Manager)

Population: 1,000,000

Region: Central

Industry: Mining

Mayor: Lindsay Pannell, Council Place 1: Sadie Zapalac, Council Place 2: Laurie Garcia, Council Place 3: Beka Jones, Council Place 4: Ashley Thornton, Treasurer/Tax Assessor/Collector: Sarah Neumann, Chief of Police: Kristen Novak, Attorney: Emily Jacob, Fire Chief: Allison Ripple, Health Officer: Mikael Garces, Municipal Judge: Nicole Gucker

Floor Leaders Announced

Floor Leaders are distinguished positions in the legislature at Girls State. They are chosen by their respective presiding officers to serve as mentors for their fellow legislators. In the real world they are also spokespersons for their party and organize party strategy. The Senate Floor Leaders are Nationalist Jamie Luna and Federalist _____. House Floor Leaders are Nationalist Whitney Yang and Federalist Haley Kensing.

This year's legislative staff members are Speaker of the House Kelley Norton and President of the Senate Anna Beth White. They are assisted by Kathleen Casanova and Kelsie Hahn in the House, and Amanda Holloway and Malorie Snider in the Senate.



Bluebonnet

The official journal of American Legion Auxiliary Bluebonnet Girls State

Volume 9, Issue 3 – June 10, 2005

Political Party Convention Results

Because the Girls State program is entirely non-partisan, citizens operate with mock political parties, the National and the Federal Parties. They elected precinct, county and state party officials, and wrote their own party platforms. This year's party sponsors are Emily Woods (National Party) and Megan Dobbs (Federal Party).

FEDERAL PARTY OFFICERS

State Chair: April Lind
State Vice-Chair: Debra Lin
House Whip: Zoe Georgopoulos
Senate Whip: Emalee Harmon

COUNTY & PRECINCT CHAIRPERSONS

Friendship County: Hillary Gray
Precinct 1: Carrie Stewart
Precinct 2: Cassandra Coleman
Precinct 3: Kesten Kana
Chili County: Margaret Robes
Precinct 1: Jessica McElveen
Precinct 2: Ivory Collins
Precinct 3: Sophia Flores
Frances Goff County: Grace Koy
Precinct 1: Sarah Lang
Precinct 2: Elizabeth Nedry
Precinct 3: Summer Priest
Giant County: Sarah Harrison
Precinct 1: Kelly Caldwell
Precinct 2: Mary de Bie
Precinct 3: Crystal Soileau
Pecan County: Tara Kingsley
Precinct 1: Jackie Koch
Precinct 2: Ashley White
Precinct 3: Allison Friesen
Tejas County: Rebecca Martinez
Precinct 1: Hannah Brown
Precinct 2: Asmi Trivedi
Precinct 3: Nastashia Stokes

NATIONAL PARTY OFFICERS

State Chair: Melissa Brodie
State Vice-Chair: Marlana Salmon
House Whip: Lauren McCullough
Senate Whip: Caitlin Miller

COUNTY & PRECINCT CHAIRPERSONS

Friendship County: Nikki Therrell
Precinct 1: Elizabeth Harber
Precinct 2: Christina Rivera
Precinct 3: Julie Rmeili
Chili County: Sammantha Lay
Precinct 1: Brooke Russell
Precinct 2: Morgan Chambers
Precinct 3: Wendy Gonzales
Frances Goff County:
Precinct 1: Becky Fogal
Precinct 2:
Precinct 3: Lyndsey Kees
Giant County: Amanda Berkley
Precinct 1: Natalie Thomas
Precinct 2: Rachel Green
Precinct 3: Stephanie Miller
Pecan County: Megan Jo Koermecke
Precinct 1: Casey Merritt
Precinct 2: Leigh Ann Brown
Precinct 3:
Tejas County: Samantha Lau
Precinct 1: Alexis Budd
Precinct 2: Britney Metry
Precinct 3: Leah Joslin



Volume 9, Issue 4 – June 11, 2005

Harrington Elected Governor

Federal Party candidate Carrie Harrington of Lampasas was elected 2005 Bluebonnet Girls State Governor. She defeated Gigi Safazadeh of the National Party. Sophia Seiverth was elected Lt. Governor. Other winners were Gina Cardenas (Attorney General), Victoria Sharp (Comptroller of Public Accounts), Megan Schlichte (Commissioner of General Land), Samantha Berry (Agriculture Commissioner), Ginny Blecher (Railroad Commissioner), Sima Patel (Judge-Court of Criminal Appeals), and Tara Sloane (Chief Justice of Supreme Court). Jennifer Josefy and Megan Martin were elected District Judges, and Krissy Hendry and Johnna Gohmert were elected District Attorneys. A constitutional amendment providing for annual legislative sessions passed 296 to 194.

County Election Results

Friendship Commissioners Place 1: Amber Hollywood, Commissioners Place 2: Brook Sebesta, County Judge: Carolyn Tarrant, County Attorney: Stephanie Rivera, Tax Assessor/Collector: Mary Hinze, County Clerk: Stephanie Escobedo, Sheriff: _____, County Treasurer: Brandy Cisneros, Justice of the Peace Place 1: Laura Fuller, Justice of the Peace Place 2: Kortnie Porter

Chile Commissioners Place 1: Jennifer Hayne, Commissioners Place 2: Kate Cagle, County Judge: Courtney Shell, County Attorney: Jenni King, Tax Assessor/Collector: Ginny Benedict, County Clerk: Ashley Foradory, Sheriff: Colleen Irby, County Treasurer: Ashley Bures, Justice of the Peace Place 1: Claire Barrera, Justice of the Peace Place 2: Michael Heinrich

Frances Goff Commissioners Place 1: Jennifer Valencia, Commissioners Place 2: Keysha McCord, County Judge: Alyssa Gerbich, County Attorney: Rachel Mintz, Tax Assessor/Collector: Antrivia Powe, County Clerk: Hannah Lee, Sheriff: Savannah Williamson, County Treasurer: La Toya Jemerson, Justice of the Peace Place 1: Sarah Lang, Justice of the Peace Place 2: Angelica Landis

Giant Commissioners Place 1: Liz Morris, Commissioners Place 2: Aurbrey Hanath, County Judge: Clarissa Guerra, County Attorney: Molly Rogers, Tax Assessor/Collector: Tracey Perez, County Clerk: Taryn Morey, Sheriff: Alison Pruet, County Treasurer: Ashlea McCulloch, Justice of the Peace Place 1: Candice Pederson, Justice of the Peace Place 2: Katy Bumpus

Pecan Commissioners Place 1: Ingrid Feigenbaum, Commissioners Place 2: Ashley Lowe, County Judge: Lara Assaf, County Attorney: _____, Tax Assessor/Collector: Stacy Kirk, County Clerk: _____, Sheriff: Emily Tostado, County Treasurer: Jenny Cardenas, Justice of the Peace Place 1: Bethany Davidson, Justice of the Peace Place 2: Erin Stevenson

Tejas Commissioners Place 1: Max Bilyeu, Commissioners Place 2: Andria Plunk, County Judge: Jennifer White, County Attorney: Brenda Skaggs, Tax Assessor/Collector: Haley Harrison, County Clerk: Blaire Donnelly, Sheriff: Erika Metzler, County Treasurer: Sara Herrera, Justice of the Peace Place 1: Alyssa A. Ruiz, Justice of the Peace Place 2: Kristen Graham



Bluebonnet

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Volume 9, Issue 5 – June 13, 2005

Governor and Officials Inaugurated at Capitol

Today, citizens traveled to the State Capitol Building in Austin. The Girls State House of Representatives and Senate convened in the Texas legislative chambers.

Later, a joint session was held in the House of Representatives to inaugurate newly elected state officials. Former Girls State citizen (1960), the Honorable Bea Ann Smith, Justice, Third District Court of Appeals, conducted the oath of office. The guest speaker for the event was the Honorable Rick Perry, Governor, State of Texas.

Mrs. Vicki Pollard, President, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Texas, was escorted by Justice Smith. Other escorts included Justice Harriet O'Neill of the Supreme Court of Texas; Justice Mike Keasler of the Court of Criminal Appeals; Kay Molina representing Railroad Commissioner Victor Carrillo; Raette Smith Hearne representing Commissioner of Agriculture Susan Combs; Larry Laine representing Commissioner of the General Land Office Jerry Patterson; Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn; Attorney General Greg Abbott; Milton Rister representing Lt. Governor David Dewhurst.

After a picnic lunch on the Capitol grounds, citizens returned to Seguin. The evening concluded with a talent show and celebrations in each of the cities. Citizens who performed throughout the session include:

Jennifer Brown, Ashley Hodges, Laurie Garcia, Laurianne Balkum, Lauren Diehm, Samantha Lau, Chelsea Kerley, Beth Duvall, Brooke Russell, Lindsey Madrigal, Beka Jones, Mallory Foster, Vanessa Nixon, Zoe Georgopolous, Jennifer Butler, Jessica Faulk, Sara Scott, Megan Martin, Jennifer, Rebecca Counts, Rachel Stanfield, Brenda Truett, Kaylyn Howard, Kay Peter, Denise Hernandez, Mallory Gladstein, Sarah Jayne Stiles, Kris Breis, Abbie Pell, Katie Dugat, Casee Warren, Natalie Rodel, Kristen Novak, & Natasha Stokes, Erin McGuff & Carolyn Tarrant, Jodi Hicks & Shara Hoffman, Barbara Harrington & Amber Kent



Bluebonnet

The official journal of American Legion Auxiliary Bluebonnet Girls State

Volume 9, Issue 6 – June 14, 2005

Chen, Patel chosen for Girls Nation

Bluebonnet Girls State had the privilege of selecting two citizens to attend the Girls Nation program. Emily Chen and Khushbu Patel will represent Texas at Girls Nation in July. First alternate is Lauren McCullough, and second alternate is Andria Plunk. Three citizens were chosen “Outstanding Citizens of 2005” by their peers. They are Carrie Harrington, Gigi Safazadeh, and Sophia Seiverth.

Brenda Kay Truett was chosen as a Samsung American Legion Scholarship national finalist. She receives a \$1000 award and will join other finalists from around the country to compete for a \$20,000 scholarship. Samsung, in recognition of the sacrifice and commitment of United States servicemen and women who served in the Korean War, joined the American Legion to offer this educational opportunity to the descendants of wartime veterans.

Staff Volunteers Recognized

During closing assembly, Director Connie Bridges recognized the contributions of Bluebonnet Girls State’s nearly seventy staff members. They are unpaid volunteers, either former citizens or members of the American Legion Auxiliary. Those not mentioned previously include:

Director: Connie Bridges; Associate Directors: Ann Doan, Karen Miller-Rodriguez, Tracy Ohlendorf, Lori Swann, Mary Ellen Trahan; Education Coordinator: Melissa Boddie; Judicial Coordinator: Jessica Scott; Education Staff: Amber Elliott, Leigh Ann Leavell; Talent Chair: Phyllis Janke; Talent-Program Director: Stephanie McDonald; Bank: Martha Collis, Elaine Ginsburg, Robbi Ruppert; Office: Charlotte Toulouse, Pat Wanoreck; Nurses: Barbara Koricaneck, Carolyn Whitener; Store Manager: Bridget Trawhon; Store: Virginia Donnelly, Karen Hardin, Myra Hester; Transportation: Sharon Gavin; Webmaster: Echo Uribe