

Louisiana Commission on Civic Education

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MINUTES April 28, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. in the John J. Hainkel Room in the state capitol building, Baton Rouge, Louisiana by Vice-Chairman Beth Courtney.

ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll and the following was established:

Present

Dale Bayard, Chairman
Beth Courtney, Vice-Chairman
Fredell Butler
Jeanne Johnston (proxy for Senator Ben Nevers)
John Alexander
Jennifer Powers (proxy for Patrick Dobard)
Brenda Hodge
Camm Morton
Barry Erwin
Peggy Cotogno
Malcolm Myer
Lawrence Narcisse
Anita Sexton
Kathleen Randall
Terry C. Landry, Jr.
Richard Hartley

Absent

Representative Steve Carter
Robert Travis Scott
Senator Yvonne Dorsey
Ashley Herad
Rep. Austin Badon
Lou Munson
Stafford Palmieri
Pam Wagner

Staff Present:

Sherri Breaux
Cathy Ortego
Tammy Crain-Waldrop

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

Vice-Chair Beth Courtney introduced the new members of the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education. They are: Robert Travis Scott, who replaces Jim Brandt as the designee for the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana; Richard Hartley, who replaces Janet Pace as the Lieutenant Governor's designee and Terry C. Landry, Jr., who replaces Allen Semien as the designee for the NAACP.

Staff provided an updated list of members and asked that the commission review the information and advise staff of any corrections.

PRESENTATIONS

Representative Frank Hoffmann presented the "Civics in Action Award" to Sam Ingalls, who is a junior at Mandeville High School. He explained that Sam has moved around a lot because his dad is a coach for the New Orleans Saints. In spite of moving to Louisiana as a sophomore, he still managed to be elected sophomore class president. He pointed out that Sam has a 4.7 GPA. He listed several of his accomplishments and memberships and said that he was a well rounded young man who not only plays football but is a member of the jazz band. He summed up by reading what his teacher wrote about Sam. "I became aware of this young leader in my civics class when I asked the class to nominate someone alive today who might have been a founding father of the United States. I usually get the same names: Obama, George Bush, Oprah, Bill Gates, Clinton etc. This year I had more nominations for Sam Ingalls than Obama, George Bush, Oprah, Bill Gates, and Clinton all put together. I was intrigued. When I asked, 'Why Sam Ingalls?' The answer was always the same. They said, ' Because he is going to be the President of the United States some day.' "

Sam Ingalls addressed the commission by saying that he was honored to receive the award. He said that he and David Holmes belongs to a club called, "Youth and Government" and that he sees the need for the youth to be involved in the community and the state. He thanked his teacher, Mrs. Couvillion for nominating him and thanked his parents and family for support.

Beth Courtney congratulated Mr. Ingalls and said that it is wonderful to see such enthusiasm and involvement. She went on to say that she hopes that he sustains his interest in government and civic education and stays in Louisiana.

Chairman Dale Bayard asked Sherri Breaux to introduce the 2011 Louisiana Student of the Year.

Sherri Breaux introduced David Holmes, the Louisiana Student of the Year. She said that David is a senior at Baton Rouge High School where he serves as President of the Student Government Association. She said, "He currently has a 3.97 GPA and scored a 34 on the ACT. He is a National Merit Finalist, National Achievement Finalist, National Geographic Magazine Geography B State Finalist, attended American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation. He is a member of the All State Orchestra, Beta Club, National Honor Society. He volunteers at the church ministry and the nursing home ministry. David was one of our first members on the Legislative Youth Advisory Council. Last year he served as president

and this year he is a senior advisor to the group. He is an exceptional leader in every sense of the word. We are very proud to have him as the student of the year. He plans to major in business and attend law school specializing in corporate law. He plans to attend Vanderbilt University in the Fall."

David Holmes thanked Ms. Breaux for the flowerily introduction. He expressed his thanks to the education system in Louisiana and the people along the way who have helped him form the necessary skills and networks to allow him to succeed at the next level. He said he was very grateful to his parents, his entire family and all the administrators at his school.

David said that being associated with the Legislative Youth Advisory Council has been an incredible growth process for him. He explained that he was always involved in civics and was thankful for the opportunity. He asked the commission to remember that the council is there to work with them in all regards. He said, "The youth in the state are often left behind because of a lack of communication. Through the Louisiana Commission on Education, the Legislative Youth Advisory Council and other such student groups, we can come together to close the gap of communication. By doing so we would become a stronger state from top to bottom through all various demographics." He ended by saying that he was honored to appear before the committee.

Chairman Bayard congratulated Mr. Holmes for being an outstanding leader and thanked him for bringing so much creditability to public education in Louisiana.

Joining Mr. Bayard, in congratulating David Holmes, Fredell Butler said that he has known David and his family for years and he is an excellent representative for himself, his family and his state.

Denise Dowell made a presentation on Global Youth Service Day. She pointed out the following:

- The Global Youth Service Day was held on April 15 - 17, 2011 and was organized by Youth Service America.
- The sponsors were State Farm, United HealthCare, Disney, Sodexo and Corporation for National and Community Service. Learn and Serve America, Office of Lt. Governor was the lead agency.
- The agency partners who assisted with the planning and promotion were: Joe W. & Dorothy Dorsett Brown Fdn.; HOBY; LYAC; City Year; LA Charter School Association; LA FFA Association and LA 4-H.
- Lead Agency Partners were: LA School for the Visually Impaired; LA Campus Compact; Keep Louisiana Beautiful and Operation Reach and Teach America.
- Projects were registered at the www.gysd.org/ website.
- The initial goals: 600 youth involved in community service projects; spotlight the efforts of youth through media; encourage civic engagement and recognition of youth for their participation.
- Outreach Efforts: Governor's proclamation for GYSD; Letters to legislators, school superintendents from Lt. Governor; press release by Lt. Governor; Inclusion on Commission's Facebook page; Promotion by commission to national service program coordinators/directors and promotion by lead agency partners.
- Projects: 54 registered projects in 18 parishes which included: beautification, litter abatement,

- health fairs/childhood obesity awareness, recycling, nursing home visitations, gardening, arts awareness and environmental education sessions.
- Data Collection from 90% of responses from coordinators: 1,042 youth participants, 205 adult volunteers, 5.71 hours per volunteer, 8,701 total hours provided by all volunteers and new partnerships formed by commission and its lead agency partners.
 - Accomplishments: 20 bags of trash along with larger objects removed from the LSU lakes; 10 bags of garbage collected from the Tickfaw River; 342 energy efficient CFLs placed in 37 homes in New Orleans; 2,500 iris planted by the lagoon in Brechtel Park in New Orleans; 200 boxes of old paperwork were shredded for recycling; 300 students highlighted their artistic abilities to the community for arts awareness and 7 trees were planted in Legacy Park in Bossier.
 - Facebook, Twitter, and website postings were used to promote individual events.
 - Facebook and Twitter were used by LA Serve Commission to promote and to provide event updates.
 - News coverage by Fox 44 (Baton Rouge)

Ms. Dowell concluded her presentation by saying that, "Adult volunteers were inspired by the youth who donated their time to this project and the youth were inspired by the acknowledgment they received from the adults. Overall it was a good experience for all those involved. When the reporter for the LSU Agriculture Center observed one of the students putting on a booth about adaptations of animals that live in the wetlands, he commented that he had never seen young students so interested and engaged before! This is an event that should be continued, it is such a great experience for the kids! Since Louisiana Serve Commission is the lead agency, they are able to promote and implement the program." Ms. Dowell confirmed that the event will continue next year.

On behalf of the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education, Ms. Beth Courtney asked Ms. Dowell to let them know how they could assist in next year's event.

Malcom Myer asked if she would find out if the Joe W. & Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation would be open to sponsoring one of the activities for the Legislative Youth Advisory Council. Ms. Dowell agreed to look into the matter and advise the commission.

Mr. Richard Hartley commended Ms. Denise Dowell on her work with the Louisiana Serve Commission. He said that she is a strong advocate for civic education and everything good in schools. He praised her for her efforts.

APPROVAL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Kathleen Randall explained that this year there were twice as many applicants as the previous year. She explained in detail the application process. Afterwards she gave the recommendations of the Application Review Committee for the 2011- 2012 membership of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

The 2011-2012 Legislative Youth Advisory Council Members are as follows:

Nathan Babb, Baton Rouge Magnet High School; Alexa Babin, Byrd High School; Tucker Baker, Holy

Savior Menard Central High School; Cari Beth Barrett, Bolton High School; Austin Bordelon, Marksville High School; Maggie Conerly, Bolton High School; Chase Courville, Airline High School; Alexis Dominique, Westgate High School; Katie Henning, Alfred M. Barbe High School; Emma Hollenshead, Caddo Magnet High School; Sam Ingalls, Mandeville High School; Kathryn James, Mandeville High School; Robert Lancon, Highland Baptist Christian School; Jordan Lange, Erath High School; Tousley Leake, West Feliciana High School; Clare Messina, Cabrini High School; Emily Ryan, Marksville High School; Andrew Tan, Sterlington High School; Abby Tran, Helen Cox High School; Mary Beth Turner, C.E. Byrd High School and Anna Walton, C.E. Byrd High School.

The 2011-2012 Legislative Youth Advisory Council Alternates are as follows:

Brandon Atkins, Northlake Christian School; Sophie Boudreaux, Chalmette High School; Bethaney Charles, KIPP Renaissance High School; Katie Counts, West Monroe High School; Johnny Crain, Franklinton High School; Noelle Delhomme, Ascension Episcopal School; Eleanor Gilbert, Glenbrook School; Erin Hall, Natchitoches Central High School; Michael Hutchinson, McKinley Sr. High School; Debria Joe, Peabody Magnet High School; Meagan Johnson, Hackberry High School; Jahi Mackey, McKinley Sr. High School; Brandy Milliman, Catholic High School; Adrian Oudomrath, Westgate High School; Ariane Schaffer, Lusher Charter School; Sophie Seba, Parkview Baptist School and Madeline Wagnon, Captain Shreve High School.

The Commission accepted and approved the recommendations of the Application Committee.

DISCUSSION

There was some discussion concerning the Legislative Youth Advisory Council application being stamped incomplete if a student left out any part of the application. Malcolm Meyer made a motion to instruct staff that any incomplete applications for membership of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council will not be accepted or forwarded to the Application Committee. Barry Erwin second the motion. Brenda Hodge objected to the motion.

The secretary called the roll and the following was established:

Yea	Nay
Dale Bayard	John Alexander
Fredell Butler	Brenda Hodge
Peggy Cotogno	Jeanne Johnston (proxy for Senator Nevers)
Beth Courtney	Kathleen Randall
Jennifer Powers (proxy)	
Barry Erwin	
Camm Morton	
Malcolm Myer	
Lawrence Narcisse	
Richard Hartley	
Terry Landry, Jr.	
Anita Sexton	

The motion passed with 12 yeas and 4 nays. Therefore, the staff will be advised that any incomplete applications for membership of the Legislative Youth Advisory Council will not be accepted or forwarded to the Application Committee of the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education.

Barry Erwin gave each member of the council a Louisiana Fact Book 2011 that is published by the "Council For A Better Louisiana". He offered to make these booklets available to the Legislative Youth Advisory Council and any other organizations.

Chairman Bayard adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Dale Bayard, Chairman

October 26, 2011

Note: These minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman, Dale Bayard, at the October 26, 2011 commission meeting.