

Good Morning/Afternoon Madam President and membership,

I wanted to give a brief report regarding SB 363 and where we are currently at. As many of you know, SB363 passed the Senate and Assembly in California and was signed into law on November 18, 2021. As we knew it would, we had already begun communications with The American Legion Boys State leadership.

As you know, the bill requires that our programs be “significantly similar” – which encompasses the following –

- \*Boys and Girls State need to have the same number of delegates in each program,
- \*Boys and Girls State programs need to be in better alignment of each other,
- \*Boys and Girls State mission statements need to be in line with each other,
- \*Boys and Girls State should provide similar access to government officials,
- \*Pupils who do not identify as either male or female, or who do not identify with their assigned gender at birth, are allowed to participate in either conference.
- \*Boys and Girls State must begin following this bill on January 1, 2023.

Therefore, there is a team of our leadership staff (ALA GS Committee, plus some of our key Counseling Staff, and the BS Staff as well as some of their key counseling staff), that have been working together to put all of the above into effect. I don't need to tell you the details, but we are geared up to have this completed by our session in 2023.

In communications with Claremont-McKenna regarding our session for June 2022, we found out that they are having construction and cannot accommodate us until the middle of July – which does not work for our timeline. Therefore, I reached out to other colleges in the south without any luck.

So, the move north will take place this year as I have successfully started communications with UC Davis and Sacramento State. It has been a slow process due to the pandemic, and the ever-changing CDC rules aren't helping. However, we have received a rough estimate with UCD and have a zoom scheduled with Sac State this coming week to discuss our needs.

As you all know, any kind of move costs money, and with rising costs, it is almost inevitable that we will have to raise prices next year (but that has not been decided as of yet). Things to think about –

- \*Insurance prices have increased,
- \*We will need buses to get to and from the capital,
- \*Background checks and SAM training is mandatory annually for ALL volunteers,

\*COVID regulations as mandated by each facility – testing prior to session, daily temperature, etc., etc.

\*Increased staffing (Counselors, Assistant counselors and City Mom's) as most college's are now mandating 1 adult per every 10 minors.

I know there will be other costs associated – storage in Sacramento versus So. Cal; Security – if we have to pay for it; and more.

As Allyn stated, we are planning on June 26<sup>th</sup> - July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. At this point, both colleges have availability that week.

In closing, as we get more information, it will get passed on to you. Boys State and Girls State leadership are working diligently on making these changes, so please be patient. This is definitely a new process for all of us.

Thank you!