



Michigan Boys State
Committee
Department Fall
Meeting Sept 26, 2025
Double Tree Hotel,
Battle Creek Michigan

Members Present: Chair: Wendy Retzloff, Joe Blythe, Tom Chernetski, Alternate Roger Deaton for Jim Ellis and Alternate Ken Miller for Kenneth Sherman.

Alternates: Ken Miller

Excused: Mark Brejcha, Jim Ellis

Absent: Kenneth Sherman, David Harrold

Program Coordinator: Ashley Zimmer

Boys State Volunteers: Past SAL Detachment Commander Jon Beeman,

Special Guests: PDC Brett Holt & Leading National Candidate John Bowman (plus 8)

Meeting Summary

Date: Friday, September 26, 2025

Call to Order: 9:15 AM

Quorum present

Adjourned at: 9:48 AM

Roll Call: Officers and Special guests, including Boys State Volunteers.

1. Special Guest Introduction

Leading Candidate for National Commander, John Bowman presented by NEC Brett Holt.

Mr. Bowman, who is a former Boys State attendee, served as Chairman for 13 years in Colorado and expressed his long-standing commitment and passion to the program.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

Minutes from the Zoom meeting held on September 3, 2025, approved as read without corrections.

3. Discussion on 2026 Boys State Program

Potential location: Hillsdale College.

Possible dates for program coinciding with the 2026 department summer conference discussed.

Old Business

2nd Department Vice Commander, Roger Deaton addressed need for more volunteers to assist with Boys State.

New Business

Discussed proposed vote to present to DEC on transition from Grand Valley to Hillsdale College.

NEC Brett Holt:

1. Addressed Boy's State program if held at Hillsdale College, there are no concerns regarding the College interjecting their views or policies onto the Boy's State Legion program. Concerns regarding Boys State and Hillsdale College were addressed to all attendees.
2. Also addressed Department financial budgets as it pertains to Boy's State: Boys State has historically been in the red with an estimated deficit of \$40K. Transitioning to Hillsdale College may reduce expenses.

2nd Vice Commander, Roger Deaton addressed possible scholarship discussions with Hillsdale College are ongoing to include multiple benefits.

Committee Member, Wendy Retzloff – addressed need for volunteers. Also Volunteers with medical backgrounds maintaining current medical certifications. Fundraising initiatives discussed, including potential revenue for Boy's State store, transportation and other needs.

Good of the Legion

SAL Past Detachment Commander, John Beeman addressed Boy's State Challenge Coins: Started with 40 coins, 11 coins left, generating \$290.00. Funds to be forwarded to Wanda for Boys State store.

Application process improvements discussed, including implementing a QR code (similar to Girls State). Roger Deaton will assist in advancing this initiative.

Transportation Updates: Committee Member, Tom Chenesski mentioned PDC John Mella will provide transport for one last year. Tom will assist with transportation discussions as Zone representative for the Upper Peninsula.

For God and Country,

Wendy L. Retzloff

Wendy Retzloff,
Boys State Committee
8th District Commander

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2/ Benson
to accept
pass



-Michigan Boys State
Committee
Department of Michigan
Fall Conference Sept 26,
2025
Double Tree Hotel,
Battle Creek Michigan

Members Present: Chairman: Mark Brejcha, Deputy Chair:
Jim Ellis, Wendy Retzloff, Joe Blythe, Tom Chernetski, Alt
Roger Deaton in place of Kenneth Sherman

Excused: Ken Miller,

Absent: Kenneth Sherman, David Harrold

Boys State Volunteers: Past SAL Detachment Commander Jon
Beeman,

Guests: None

Special Meeting Summary

Date: Friday, September 26, 2025

Special Meeting Called to Order: 1610 hours

Roll Call: Quorum present

Adjourned at: 1620 hours

Agenda Items:

1. Relocation of Boy's State Program

Motion: Recommendation to relocate the Boy's State Program from Grand Valley State University to
Hillsdale College.

Motion by: Tom Chernetski

Second by: Roger Deaton

Outcome: Passed

2. Acceptance of Electronic Applications

Motion: To accept electronic applications for Boy's State registration as an alternative method to paper
application for registration.

Moved by: Tom Chernetski

Seconded by: Joe Blythe

Outcome: Motion passed.

For God and Country,
Wendy L. Retzloff
Wendy L. Retzloff
Boys State Committee
8th District Commander

M/ Overholts
Z/ Tolbert

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PAS!