



Dept of Michigan
American Legion
Boys State Program
212 N. Verlinden Ave.
Lansing, Michigan 48915

Meeting Minutes, February 7, 2026

American Legion Department of Michigan Boys State

Meeting was held at Port Huron Double Tree Hilton in Ballroom 1

Meeting Opened at 0905 hrs.

Committee Members Present:

Mark Brejcha	Director
Jim Ellis	Zone 1
Wendy Retzlof	Zone 3
Tom Chernetski	Zone 5
Joe Blythe	Zone 2 Excused
Kevin Sherman	Zone 4 Excused

13 Guests

Quorum (Yes)

1. Reviewed the Top 3 Goals for 2026
 - a. Build the Team
 - b. Create an Alumni Association
 - c. Seek Financial Partnerships with the Legion Family

2. Minutes Read from January 20, 2026 Zoom meeting

Motion to accept minutes by Retzlof with correction from EMT to "First Aid Station", seconded by Chernetski. Motion Carried.

3. Video and slide presentation from Department Boys State Recruiting Slides highlighting information for promoting the program to schools.
4. Jim Ellis spoke on program expenses and Project \$1,776 initiative using hand-outs.

5. Projected list of Donors so far with Project \$1,776. Total \$18K+
6. Various videos were shown - "National Civics Report Card", promotional video on Badger Boys State.
7. A question from the gallery - "Will Boys and Girls State align with the same week next year?" We don't know.
8. Meeting adjourned at 1029 hrs.
9. Secondary Meeting took place at 1300hrs. Attendees: Brejcha, Ellis, Chernetski, Retzlof, and Mr. John Burke

M- Ellis
S- Cher

10. Incentive for delegates to complete on-line course at Hillsdale, Constitution 101 - Drawing for a laptop for college. *Passed*
11. Burke recommended the use of undergrads in the marketing department at Hillsdale to create a promotional video for Boys State. Will pursue information.
12. Choice for graduation speaker: Congressman John James or Hillsdale President Dr. Larry Arnn. Retzlof with pursue.
13. Chernetski is the point person for our community service project while in session which will be cleaning veterans headstones in local Hillsdale cemetery.

M- Ellis
S- Cher

14. Committee approved the Buddy Ticket program for the class of 2025 with an incentive to earn a Boys State hoodie (drawing) if they recruit a classmate in 2026. *Passed*

M- Ellis
S- Cher

15. Committee approved the expenditure of coins, cap pins, string backpacks, Boys Nation & Governor Graduation Sashes, Grad Chords, Lanyards, Pens, and Educational booklets. *Passed*

M- Ellis
S- Cher

16. Purchase of Election software with delegates voting with smartphones approved pending final review by Director Brejcha. *Passed*

17. 2nd Meeting adjourned, 1430hrs.

For God and Country,

Mark S. Brejcha

MARK S. BREJCHA
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M / Retzloff Budget

*2 / COOK student
to ADOPT
PASS*