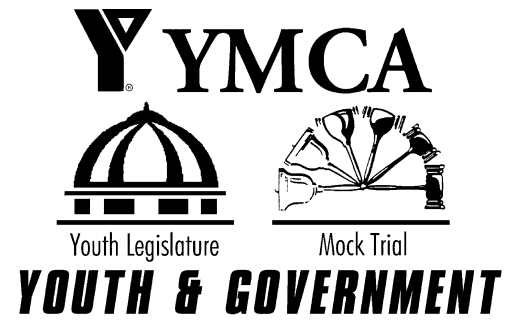


Capitol Quarterly



The YMCA Youth & Government Newsletter

June 2005

Edited By: Sarah Rosenthal, YMCA Youth and Government Program Coordinator

Washington's University Prep Comes in 10th place at the Mock Trial National Competition!

The University Prep Mock Trial Team put on an amazing show at the state competition in March, taking first place for the first time in the school's history. The students were well prepared when they showed up at the Thurston County Courthouse and dazzled audiences with both their knowledge of the case and their ability to make it come alive through their representation of characters and circumstances.

When they moved on to represent Washington at the national competition in Charlotte, NC their hard work and dedication won them 10th place overall and gave the rest of the nation a taste of the amazing things the youth of our state have to offer.



University Prep accepts their State Champion trophy

Washington Takes It's First Delegation to the Conference On National Affairs!



Jon Medler, Robert Baxter, and Quinn Tomlin prepare for CONA.

Five delegates from around the state are preparing to be ambassadors for the state of Washington at this year's YMCA Youth Conference On National Affairs (CONA). Students from Youth & Government Programs around the nation will converge in Blue Ridge, NC to discuss current issues concerning our nation, as well as international topics.

The students participating are:

Alex Mech, Bellingham
Robert Baxter, Sammamish
Laura Zulliger, Seattle
Jon Medler, Stevenson
Quinn Tomlin, Walla Walla

The conference is taking place from July 2—8, so keep your eyes and ears open for news on this exciting new program. For more information on CONA you can check out our website at www.youthandgovernment.org.

Board Update

Program Events

YOUTH LEGISLATURE PROCLAMATION SIGNING

This year's Governor's Breakfast and Proclamation Signing, brought a record number of program participants, volunteers, and supporters to the Rotunda of the Legislative building in February. In addition to the signing of the proclamation by Governor Christine Gregoire, Youth Governor Joe Jenkins, and Secretary of State Sam Reed, both Governor Gregoire and Governor Jenkins inspired audiences with remarks about the importance of civic engagement and the opportunities that the Youth Legislature Program provides for the youth of Washington.



Scott Washburn (COO of Greater Seattle YMCA), Youth Governor Joe Jenkins, and Jeanne Cushman (first female Youth Governor of Washington State)

GOVERNOR'S CABINET RECEPTION

The 2005 Governor's cabinet reception was held this year in the State Reception Room of the Legislative Building directly before the opening session of the 58th Youth Legislature. This small gathering was an opportunity to recognize those program supporters that go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that Youth & Government programs continue to reach the students of our state. It also gave supporters a venue to meet youth leadership and to see, first hand, how their support is benefiting the lives of young people.

Meet Our Board



Enid Layes shaking hands with Secretary of State Sam Reed during the Proclamation Signing.

ENID LAYES

Enid is a respected Washington State government relations consultant with extensive background in association management, coalition issue management, political education, and political advocacy. She has worked with several statewide business associations, private companies, and educational institutions – and has been a leader in collaborative efforts with organized labor, local governments, environmental organizations, and state agencies. Enid is a veteran of dozens of policy debates, from health care reform and unemployment insurance to the growth management act and transportation funding.

Combined with a strong commitment to the development of good public policy, Enid brings twenty-five years of experience and leadership to special interest groups who seek to fully understand the legislative process, develop achievable public policy objectives, or become effective political advocates.

She is currently President of Blue Skies, a consulting firm specializing in public policy facilitation and political education services.

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* ALUMNI OF THE YOUTH
AND GOVERNMENT
PROGRAM

YMCA YOUTH & GOVERNMENT ALUMNI MESSAGE



Jim Bricker, Alumni 1952 Clover Park High School
(PEMCO Financial Services, Government Affairs)

It was called the Youth Legislature when I participated twice during the early 1950s. Memories of those experiences are still with me.

Since I have spent most of the past four decades involved in the public policy arena, there is a "chicken & egg" question: Was my participation in the Youth Legislature a significant motivation to pursue a public career, or was I already inclined toward that direction, so that attending the Youth Legislature became just a natural next step?

Regardless, the experiences gained from participation in the Youth Legislature were deeply meaningful. Learning to network and collaborate with new acquaintances made the transition easier from the school environment to the real world.

Four of us (from Olympia, Renton, Walla Walla and Clover Park high schools) developed a friendship through learning parliamentary skills and political strategies to accomplish the passage or defeat of legislation. "Defeat" of your proposal is not failure. The legislative process only fails when a wide range of ideas are not considered. Sometimes "defeat" is the best public policy result.

All four of us went on to have extensive careers influencing the public policy process. One was elected to different public offices many times.

To find an idea for legislation I sought out a local legislator who latter became the Attorney General. He coached me on a tax issue to benefit schools. At that time a tax measure was an unusual issue for the Youth Legislature. During our Session I was visited by then current Superintendent of Public Instruction Pearl Wannamaker, who was curious about "my bill."

There is also a social aspect to the Youth Legislature. In that era, I was one of the few student representatives that drove to Olympia. So I drove our Youth Governor and our escorts to the Governor's Ball at the old Olympia recreation hall on 4th Avenue where the Olympian newspaper is currently published. His escort for the evening was the daughter of Governor Arthur Langlie. When we returned to the Mansion we found the front door was locked. No State Patrol officers guarded the Mansion as they do now. There we were, throwing stones at an upper window trying to wake her brother, when her mother opened the front door. She was gracious; we were petrified.

Current Youth & Government sessions also build lasting and meaningful friendships.

Regardless of whether you choose public service, you will, because of the Youth & Government experience, be better prepared to assist and influence the communities in which you live and work.



Join Us In Supporting Washington's Inaugural Delegation to the Conference On National Affairs!

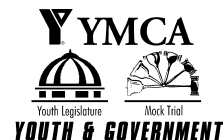
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Clip and mail to:

YMCA Youth & Government
P.O. Box 193
Olympia, WA 98507

Thank You!

DEMOCRACY MUST BE LEARNED BY EACH GENERATION!



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Questions? Give us a call!
We'd love to hear from you!