

Friends of Boys State

Spring Newsletter 2011



fobs.palmettoboysstate.com

Friends of Boys State Mission Statement

The Friends of Boys State (FOBS) is an organization that has been developed for the expressed purpose of supporting Palmetto Boys State and its related activities. Supporters of FOBS include PBS alumni, organizations, and businesses that recognize the impact the program has made and wish to support its continued development.

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Director's Report

If you are reading this letter, then you most likely have some connection with Palmetto Boys State. Either you attended Palmetto Boys State as a citizen, or maybe you had a son, brother, or spouse who attended. Whatever the reason, it is likely you have experienced or have been affected by the impact this one week has had on you or someone close to you.

Friends of Boys State was established in 1988, in part to make sure Palmetto Boys State can continue its tradition of excellence in fulfilling our mission statement:

TO TEACH:

the principles of the american governmental and political system.

TO INSPIRE:

a commitment towards the ideas of freedom and democracy.

TO CHALLENGE:

the next generation of Americans to discover the leader within.

Over the past 23 years, FOBS has been an invaluable part of keeping Palmetto Boys State at the top of the national boys state scene. Year in and year out, Palmetto Boys State is recognized as one of the top Boys State programs in the nation. Based on American Legion statistics as of 2010, Palmetto Boys State is the 5th largest program in the nation. However, taking into consideration our state's population compared with the 4 states ahead of us, Palmetto Boys State ranks number 1 in the nation in ratio of number of delegates to population. In addition, over the last 15 years, Palmetto Boys State is far and away the leader nationally in program growth, increasing the number of our delegates over that period of time by 180. Palmetto Boys State also has a very rich tradition of excellence among our Boys Nation delegates. Over the last 7 years, Palmetto Boys State has produced one President and 3 Vice Presidents of Boys Nation. Lastly, in 4 of the last 5 years, Palmetto Boys State has produced the national winner of the Samsung Scholarship, with each scholarship having a value of \$20,000.00.

The support of FOBS has played a significant roll in allowing Palmetto Boys State to maintain this level of excellence. But more than that, FOBS provides an opportunity for the Boys State "family" to give back to a program which has meant so much to so many, and has had such a positive influence on our state. Please consider supporting Palmetto Boys State through a tax deductible donation to FOBS. On behalf of the entire staff of Palmetto Boys State, we thank you for being a part of this great program.

Stephen Lewis

Palmetto Boys State Director

Boys Staters Earn College Scholarships

Palmetto Boys' State is a once in a lifetime opportunity and a great way for rising seniors in high school to spend a week in the summer. Participants have the opportunity to hone their leadership skills, learn more about government and politics, earn college credit, and have a great time doing it all. Participants also have the opportunity to earn scholarships.

Colleges throughout South Carolina and the United States are very familiar with Boys' State Program as 49 states sponsor these programs. In South Carolina we are particularly proud that we are among the largest Boys' State programs in the country with approximately 900 young men in attendance this summer. These outstanding young men have been selected to represent their school and community based on their academic achievements, leadership, good citizenship and character. Selection to attend Boys' State is indeed an honor and a strong signal to many colleges in South Carolina and beyond that the students in this program are outstanding prospects for college.

Currently ten South Carolina colleges have established scholarships to recognize Palmetto Boys' Staters. The awarded amounts range from \$1,000 to full tuition, room, and board. In addition, the Samsung Electronics Corporation funds a scholarship to be awarded during the week of Boys State. The state award for this scholarship is \$1,000 and that recipient is entered into a national competition for awards of \$20,000. It should be noted that the Palmetto Boys State finalist has been selected for the national award 4 out of the last 5 years. The Boys' State experience is something that looks impressive on college applications. In addition, attending Boys' State can help you fund a college education. For additional questions about the scholarship opportunities listed please contact the college representatives listed on the site available below.

***More information about each of these*
scholarship opportunities can be found by
visiting our website here:
[palmettoboysstate.com/assets/resources/
pbs_scholarships.pdf](http://palmettoboysstate.com/assets/resources/pbs_scholarships.pdf)**

**PBS
BY THE NUMBERS**

150

MORE CITIZENS
THAN 10 YEARS
AGO

5

RANK IN
POPULATION
AMONG OTHER
PROGRAMS

63

COUNSELORS

1

RANK IN TERMS
OF GROWTH
OVER LAST TEN
YEARS

65

STAFF MEMBERS

1157

COMBINED YEARS
OF SERVICE
FROM STAFF
& COUNSELORS

4

NUMBER OF
NATIONAL
SAMSUNG
SCHOLARSHIPS
WON BY CITIZENS
IN LAST 5 YEARS

Alumni Spotlight: Joe Erwin



ERWIN-PENLAND

A HILL, HOLLIDAY AGENCY

Joe Erwin is a 1975 graduate of Eastside High School in Greenville. At Eastside, he served as president of the student body his senior year. Joe went on to Clemson University and graduated in 1979 with a B.A. in Political Science.

Upon graduation from Clemson, Joe began his work in the advertising field locally in Greenville. In 1982, he joined a national advertising agency in New York, representing accounts such as Quincy's Family Steakhouse's and Corning Glass, to name a few. In 1986, Joe and his wife Gretchen purchased Penland Advertising in Greenville and re-named it Erwin-Penland. Erwin-Penland was joined three years later by fellow PBS Alum Allen Bosworth. Erwin-Penland grew from an agency with one account and one employee to an agency with nearly 300 employees and huge clients such as Verizon Wireless, Denny's, Fatz Café, Lockheed Martin and Bi-Lo Supermarkets.

Joe's passion for politics dates back to his years at Clemson where he volunteered for a number of political campaigns from the local to national level. In the 1980's and 1990's, Joe dedication to politics grew, campaigning

for S.C. Governor Jim Hodges, U.S. Senator Fritz Hollings and State Secretary of Education Inez Tenenbaum. He was elected Chairman of the S.C. Democratic Party in 2003 and completed his second term as chairman in 2007. During those years, Joe was instrumental in successfully securing two Democratic Presidential debates, one in Greenville and one in Orangeburg. The Orangeburg debate in 2007 was the first ever debate to be held at a historically black college or university.

Joe served as a counselor and a staff member with Palmetto Boys State until the late 1990's. Asked about what his Boys State experience has meant to him, Joe replied "It amazed me how much we could positively impact young men. Further, it was amazing to see and become a part of the camaraderie of the incredible staff, a group of spirited, hard working guys whose commitment to the ideals of the program never ceases to amaze me. Many of the people I admire most in life are friends I came to know on the staff of PBS."

The Palmetto Boys State Staff joins together to give Mr. Joe Erwin a Palmetto Boys State salute. "Saaaaa - lute!"

Levels of Giving to Friends of Boys State

- City Council Member (\$10)
- Mayor (\$25)
- House Representative (\$50)
- Senator (\$100)
- Lt. Governor (\$250)
- Governor (\$500)
- Supreme Court (\$500+)

FOBS is engaged in a fundraising effort to expand participation in Palmetto Boys State (PBS). Last year 900 young men attended. Many deserving young men never have the chance to attend PBS. High schools in towns without an active American Legion post or from less prosperous areas of South Carolina are unable to send young men to PBS. FOBS wants to bridge that gap and has set

the goal of making sure 1,000 of South Carolina's future leaders attend PBS every year, regardless of their financial means or the school they attend. We need your help. If PBS was meaningful to you and if you want to help someone less fortunate attend (who otherwise would not have the opportunity to attend PBS)

Please give generously by mailing this slip, along with donation to:

**FOBS
508 Holly Creek Drive
Anderson, SC 29621**