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KYG 2020 Steering Committee

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KYG Conference Speaker: Kyle Willkom

By Harmony Perry, 2020 KYG Conference Reporter

Kyle Willkom, is the 2020 KYG Conference keynote speaker.

Mr. Willkom is a musical artist and a two-time author. He shares a message of positivity through comedy and music, often with these two items combined. His mission statement is to help teens become the best they can be and to spread happiness through small acts of kindness.

Mr. Willkom loves his job and enjoys the chance to travel.

He has spoken in 46 different states, Idaho became the 47th.

Mr. Willkom has spoken for many different youth organizations including The National FFA Organization (FFA), Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), National Association of Student Councils and many more.

One tool that Mr. Willkom uses is the H.E.R.O. challenge. The acronym H.E.R.O. stands for; Help, Engage, Respond, and Own your power. The idea behind it is to do one positive thing for someone else every day. This positivity will spread and the result of this ripple effect may never be fully seen. Another tool that Mr. Willkom uses is the saying, "Nothing happens unless something moves." He shared a personal experience where this saying was fully applied. Mr. Willkom attended Marquette University, while there he wanted to be the walk-on for the basketball team. The first step was just to show up for tryouts. That is what moved and because of this first step, he got the position. This is just one example of Mr. Willkom's style of using personal experiences and humor to illustrate life lessons. The core of Mr. Willkom's presentation is to do small things, watch your life improve, and share happiness with others. Something as simple as smiling bigger or standing taller makes a difference.

His speech at the Friday night dinner resounded with the Know Your Government delegation. One moment the audience is laughing at a joke or story, then when Mr. Willkom showed the bigger picture and critical information in the comic stories, the speech resonated. The points Mr. Willkom made are easy to apply in everyday life. So, take up the

H.E.R.O. challenge, and spread positivity and remember, "Nothing happens unless something moves."



Judicial Workshop – In Depth

By Maya Engledow, 2020 KYG Conference Reporter

What does KYG mean? Know Your Government. KYG is a three-day conference where delegates from the four 4-H come and participate in either a legislative track or judicial track. In the Legislative track you are assigned to a bill and you discuss the bill in your assigned group. In the Judicial track there are six different groups of delegates that get to participate in a mock trial. In both the Judicial and Legislative tracks we have third year Steering Committee members that interviewed their position to serve in either the judicial, legislative, or reporter tracks. The third year members that are selected to be part of the Judicial track get to be judges. This year we have six different groups that will try to crack the case. The mock trial is an imitation trial, a simulation of lower trial courts. On Tuesday October 1, 2019 four students got into an altercation on their way back to KYG High School after track practice. At one point of the altercation one of the students fell off the curb, got his foot caught in the sewer gate, and struck his head on a sidewalk curb as well. According to officer Brown, the students involved are Dakota Johnson, Skyler Walker, Logan King and Blake Griffin. The altercation started by Logan tripping into Skyler. Skyler was found unconscious at the scene by officer Sawyer Brown. There are two witnesses, Casey Lawrence and Johnnie Smith. Logan King is being charged with aggravated battery, a felony. Aggravated battery is when the offender causes great bodily harm or permanent disability. According to Skyler's parent, Regan Walker, Skyler sustained a brain bleed and has a traumatic brain injury. If Logan is found guilty of aggravated battery, he will be sentenced according to the youth judges at KYG. This trial of Logan King can unfold different ways throughout each six trials. The outcome will be different depending on interaction with the judges, and what side the judges find most convincing. Mock trials are such a fun and interactive activity that can prepare future judicial members for the future!



Bill 111: Veterans Health Coverage

By Cody Dulin, 2020 KYG Conference Reporter

One of the hot topics in politics lately has been veterans' health coverage. At KYG I talked to Hannah White, who has written a new proposed bill that addresses how we protect those who protect us. "I want to fight for something that the veterans should be getting." She believes that all veterans, past and present should get free healthcare coverage in return for their services to our country. In fact the fines from VA healthcare towards the recipients is partially put back into the benefits program and by eliminating payment, taxes will have to be raised in order to compensate for this bill's action.

This bill also addresses the fact that those who've risked their lives for our country and have come back with substantial physical or mental injuries tend to have an extremely long wait and many never get help because of insurance. Through this bill, all payment for healthcare coverage will be eliminated for all veterans as a repayment for their service. The United States Veteran Affairs hospitals are overcrowded and understaffed. "The goal of the hiring money was to address a simple math problem. The number of veterans coming to the VA has shot up in recent years, and the number of medical staff has not kept pace," NPR, January 31, 2017. Miss White's bill addresses the fact that many current and former military have a long wait time to see doctors and to get medications.

This bill will not be eliminating pre-existing coverage but adding to them and improving an already successful system. This bill was discussed and it passed. We do not know how bills like this will work in real government only that those on the KYG legislative track have had interesting arguments about this bill. This bill will affect KYG participants, it will affect how they think when they are putting in their vote years on from now.

Editor's note: this bill passed.



KYG PROJECT HELP ZOOM SESSIONS

If you attended the 2020 KYG conference and have questions about completing your record books please attend the Zoom help sessions scheduled in **June!** One of the on-going goals set by the KYG steering committee was to provide encouragement and guidance to increase the number of KYG projects completed.

Contact your County Extension office for additional information.

Bill 222: Death Penalty

By: Harmony Perry, 2020 KYG Conference Reporter

Should the death penalty process be sped up? This question is addressed in Bill 222: The Usage of the Death Penalty. This bill looks to reduce the use of taxpayer dollars in keeping people on death row for long periods of time. In addition, the bill will examine what felonies are punishable by the death penalty.

The bill's author, Logan Boehm, chose this bill because he felt that the people on death row use resources that could be used elsewhere. The money saved would remain in the justice system. "The aim is to reduce the amount of taxpayer dollars spent on inmates for extended periods of time" said Boehm.

Currently, in the United States, there are 2,639 prisoners on Death Row. Thus far in 2020 nationwide, three people on death row have been executed. For these men, the average time they spent on death row was around 17 years. It costs approximately \$740,000 for one person to spend life in prison. On the other hand, it costs about 1.26 million dollars to execute someone (Amnesty International). This bill seeks to categorize the felonies that are punishable by death and include murder, arson that results in a fatality, sexual offenses, bodily harm of another that incurs \$50,000 of damage, acts of terrorism, and treason. These felonies are listed in the bill by Mr. Boehm for purpose of this bill. Death penalty cases are complex and the process includes special jury and specialized attorneys. The court wants to ensure the accused guilty, many different DNA tests are ordered, this process is more specialized and more expensive. This leads to longer amounts of time in prison for the guilty and increased health care costs for prisoners awaiting the death penalty. The topics in this bill are issues our society is currently discussion.

Editor's note: this bill passed.



Bill 333: Do Idaho High Schools Need an Agricultural Education?

By: John Kinder, KYG 2020 Conference Reporter

What if agriculture education was a core class in your high school? Bill 333 is proposing that all high schools in Idaho must have an agriculture education graduation requirement. Thus making agriculture education a core credit requirement. Harley Coburn created this bill because she very passionate about agricultural education. Harley fears that people who are not agriculturally educated will not understand where their food comes from, how it is grown, harvested, processed, and eventually placed in local grocery stores. When I interviewed Harley she said, "I enjoy my Ag classes. I want the public to be educated in Ag so they know where their food comes from."

In an Ag class you get a better understanding of the decisions made by farmers and ranchers with regards to production practices as well as the ability to identify what is a sound practices versus animal abuse. Agricultural classes provide students with life skills and an introduction to business practices.

There are some pros and cons about having agriculture as a core class in Idaho high schools. Elective and core classes are both required to graduate high school. The core credit requirements for Idaho are 4 years of English, 3 years of math, 3 years of science, 2 years of history and 1 semester of economics. In addition to the requirement issue there is a fiscal impact as well. School districts would need to make budget adjustments to provide a salary for the instructor. In addition, there are significant expenses affiliated with the establishment and upkeep of ag-based classrooms.

Lobbyists are tasked with weighing the significance of having Ag Education on high school transcripts. Will it provide an edge to help students getting accepted to post-secondary institutions?

Editor's note: this bill passed.

Bill 444: The Definition of Life and Death

By: Ady Perkes, 2020 KYG Conference Reporter

Bill 444, presented by Zoe Taub, presents a definition of life and death and poses a poignant question. When is a person legally pronounced dead? Brain death is the loss of brain function, but that is a very vague meaning. Bill creator, Zoe Taub, knows that brain death is a very controversial and important topic. She feels that there is a disconnection between the medical world and the legal world. She understands the legal importance of knowing a black and white definition of life and death and hopes that the delegates debating her bill can also understand that. After someone is legally dead, their will stands for them. This means that someone's written will is what legally applies to what needs to be done with them. If they are an organ donor, their organs can be removed after brain death is proclaimed. Organ donation is only viable for a certain amount of time after death, and knowing when they are legally dead is important in working quickly to save those organs. There will be no discussion and dispute between legislation and physicians in this sense.

This bill will clearly define the difference between life and death. It is not a law that can be acted upon, but instead helps other, future laws to be more detailed. It can give an understanding to families and physicians, of the options for patients. As of now, there is a law in order called the Uniform Determination of Death Act, that states that determination of death is "an individual who has sustained either (1) irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions, or (2) irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brain stem, is dead." This law is accepted by all fifty states. However, this is the only law that relates to defining brain death in Idaho.

The bill, as of now, defines life as people in a vegetative state who show brain activity and have a possibility of regaining consciousness, as stated by a board-certified doctor. A vegetative state is different than brain death. A person who is assumed to be in a vegetative state has impaired brain function, but can still do basic survival techniques. They will be in an indefinite sleep but may wake up at times. They can breathe on their own, digest foods, and respond to stimuli including pain and loud noises. Therefore, if they can do these things, and are in a vegetative state, they are assumed alive.

The bill defines death as not recovering respiration for ten minutes, inability to breathe on one's own, and an absence of brain activity. The physician or executor can then act upon the patient and family's behalf. Organ donation can begin as well. However, the family does have the option to keep their loved one on life support.

Editor's note: This bill passed.



Bill 555: Raising Babies in Prison

By: Heather Hall, 2020 KYG Conference Reporter

Bill 555: Raising Babies in Prison addresses mothers who are incarcerated before giving birth. Payton Andrews presented this bill because she believes that mothers should raise their own children. The state's foster care system lacks resources to accommodate the volume of children who are brought into foster care. Passing this bill aims to reduce the number of children unnecessarily placed into foster care.

There are nine facilities in the United States that allow mothers to take care of their newborns while finishing their sentences. The cost of participating in this program is less compared to the cost of raising a child through foster care. There are cost savings from not placing a child into several foster homes, lawyer fees and court costs.

Inmates would have to meet the program qualifications. The mother can not have committed a serious crime in the government's eye. If a serious crime is committed then when the child is born they will be sent to foster care. The sentence for the crime needs to be less than five years. In addition, the father must not be on the birth record. Otherwise, the child can be with the mother until they are 18 months old, then returns to their father. Between 5% and 10% of women enter their sentence pregnant, thus approximately 2,000 children annually born in prison.

Mothers would be housed in a cell while their child is housed in a nursery. A certified nurse would provide care for the child while the mother completes her sentence. Sentence requirements would include headcounts, cell checks, and any prescribed doctor orders.

Having a program like this provides incarcerated women an opportunity to bond with their children. There are pros and cons to this, and everyone should give thought to this topic, of course without any bias thought.

Editor's note: this bill failed.



Bill 777: Legalizing Euthanasia

By Ady Perkes, 2020 KYG Conference Reporter

Bill 777 addresses the legalization of euthanasia in Idaho. This proposed law and related Death with Dignity Laws are very controversial topics. There polarizing viewpoints on this bill be it from a patient, their families, ethical, religious, and political standpoints. One might say that physician-assisted suicide is suicide. Some consider it murder.

Ashlyn Walker, the bill creator has personal ties to this bill. She is passionate about this topic because she had a family member who was terminally ill. She recognized that her family member was suffering a slow and painful death and didn't think that it was fair. Ashlyn has researched this topic and has completed school projects on it. She is excited for delegates to revise the bill and see what positions they take on the case.

Several states and countries have variations of this law. The newest states to enact a law relating to this topic were Maine and New Jersey. Maine's laws refer to what is known as Death with Dignity. That is, when a terminally ill person is under physician care, they can voluntarily take medication that will end their life or can have it administered.

The bill refers to terminally ill patients or patients who are in an irreversible coma in the state of Idaho. It is only for patients who are legal citizens of Idaho, are eighteen years of age or older, and have a life expectancy of less than six months. Euthanasian would be administered three months after the request. It can only be given if the patient is officially terminally ill by two different physicians.

Editor's note: This bill passed.



KNOW YOUR GOVERNMENT

2020 Word Search

I	O	L	N	E	E	U	R	O	N	E	V	O	G
O	E	O	U	I	S	U	O	F	B	U	S	R	L
F	G	I	S	L	L	I	S	T	N	N	I	E	E
F	R	S	O	I	E	C	O	E	M	O	O	P	G
I	E	G	S	S	A	T	U	B	M	O	C	O	I
C	E	I	E	S	O	G	O	N	O	A	T	R	S
E	L	L	E	T	I	M	G	H	N	A	G	T	L
R	D	O	R	R	A	G	A	L	F	G	N	E	A
S	E	C	V	A	L	T	A	V	O	R	D	R	T
D	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	I	D	A	H	O	O
A	M	R	S	P	R	E	S	I	D	E	N	T	R
N	F	C	G	O	V	E	R	N	M	E	N	T	T
C	U	C	A	L	E	E	J	U	D	G	E	O	E
E	N	S	E	T	C	A	P	I	T	A	L	E	S

HOTEL
GOVERNMENT
CLOVER
FLAG
GOVERNOR
CASE
CAPITAL
LEGISLATOR
OFFICERS
FRIENDS
PRESIDENT
FUN
STATE
BUS
REPORTER
GAMES
BOISE
JUDGE
DANCE
IDAHO

4-H Alumni: In Idaho Legislature

By Mackenzie Malson, 2020 KYG Conference Reporter

4-H empowers youth with many life skills, as well as countless memories and lessons. These can all help create leaders. 4-H teaches members about respect, responsibility, accountability, and countless other character traits. In addition, 4-H projects such as, government, personal finance, market and breeding livestock, cooking,, gardening, sewing, leadership, photography, entrepreneurship, and many others, help 4-H members learn more about the world. These projects provide valuable skills such as teamwork and other lessons that are more specific to the project. 4-H alumni can accomplish great things!



Every year on President's Day, Idaho 4-H members gather at the Know Your Government Conference KYG in Boise. The 2020 Conference is held February 15-17. 4-H members will learn about the state's legislative and judicial branches of government and make connections with other youth from across the state. On the final day of the event, a breakfast is hosted at the conference with judges, legislators, and other state leaders in attendance. The legislative breakfast (one of my favorite parts of KYG) made me wonder, "How many of Idaho's current legislators are 4-H alumni?"

It turns out that Idaho's Legislature is full of former 4-H'ers. Out of the 34 responses I received from Senators and Representatives in our state, 14 of them are former 4-H members. Those who and not former 4-H members said that they believe in the program and support it however they can, including pushing their own children to join and serve as 4-H volunteers. Many people in the statehouse are active supporters of KYG.

I interviewed Laurie Lickley, a former 4-H member and Representative in the Idaho State House from District 25 and asked her about her involvement in the 4-H program and Know Your Government. I asked her why she thought KYG was an important opportunity for 4-H members to attend. Lickley passionately responded by explaining how KYG is really important for youth because "it gives them an understanding of the three branches of government, and it teaches the importance of being involved in public policy and other civic activities." She added "KYG teaches youth that they are no different than the elected officials in our government and that if they want to pursue a place in government then they can."

Former 4-H members have gone on to have success in life and become elected officials in the Idaho legislature and help serve our beautiful state. 4-H and Know Your Government are two extremely beneficial programs that teach our youth about leadership, government, and empower them to make our world a better place. These things all lead back to the 4-H pledge which states, "I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty my hands to larger service, and my health to better living for my club, my community, my country and my world."

THANK YOU

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