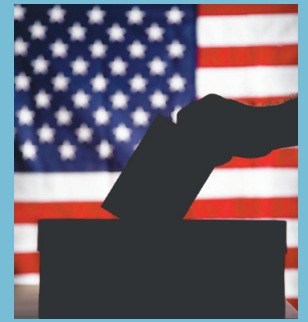


# BALLOT BOX BULLETIN

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF KIDS VOTING USA MAY 2011



## KV Alaska presents Effective Citizenship Award

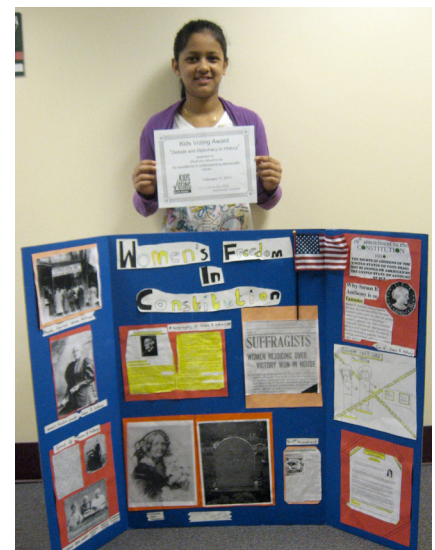
Two years ago the Kids Voting North Alaska Board of Directors, in an attempt to better highlight programs that promote civic responsibility in Fairbanks, Alaska, created the Effective Citizenship Award. This honor, which is awarded during the Fairbanks History Day Fair ceremony, serves the dual purpose of raising awareness of the Kids Voting program while acknowledging the recipients' understanding of the essential elements of our democratic society, a goal shared by both groups. The board provides a cash award to the best novice (grades 4-5), junior (grades 6-8), and best senior (grades 9-12) entry. To further encourage student participation, the Kids Voting Board also presents a cash award to the teacher who guided each of the winning students. This year the board received twice as many entries as the previous year.

In the novice division, winner Shahiba Bhattari, initially was unsure of what topic to research, but she knew she wanted to find out more about American history and her adopted country. One year and three months ago, she and her parents said good-bye to their native Nepal, and Shahiba started school at North Pole Elementary in North Pole, Alaska. When her teacher Mat Wade gave her the opportunity to choose any topic to research for her History Day project, she was inspired by the freedom afforded in the selection process. Initially, her research proceeded slowly until she discovered Susan B. Anthony. Shahiba was immediately drawn to Anthony's confidence in the justness of women's rights and her resulting demand for full equality. Shahiba's exhibit, "Women's Suffrage," highlights Anthony's groundbreaking efforts in initiating the long-enduring struggle for women's enfranchisement.

In the junior division, Louieza Donellan and Marina Perez, best friends in Dwayne Eager's 8th grade class at Ryan Middle School, chose to research the Women's Movement. In choosing a topic, Louieza, who originally hails from the Philippines, and Marina, who was living previously in Puerto Rico, like Shahiba, wanted to learn more about their new home. In researching women's history, the two friends were shocked to discover that at one time, women could not own property or have their own bank accounts. But, as edifying as studying about the women's struggle for equality was, the greater lesson came as the two partners learned to work through disagreements and to accept each other's views. Throughout this project, both students came to admire Susan B. Anthony's courage and to understand the value of voting, a responsibility many Americans ignore or under value. As Marina emphatically stated during this interview, "I want to vote!"

At the high school level, Sara Nichols, a 15 year old sophomore in Sean Genson's World History class at West Valley High School, captured the Senior Division's Effective Citizenship award with her website that examines the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Initially, Sara came to choose her topic after randomly pulling a book off a cart supplied by the West Valley librarian Janet Madsen, who has played an integral role in assisting students during the research phase of their History Day projects. Once engaged, Sara's research changed her thinking about voting in a profound way. Before, she took voting for granted. After, with a greater knowledge of the struggle African-Americans endured to earn the franchise during the civil rights movement, Sara understands the primacy of voting to the democratic experience.

The Effective Citizenship Award established by the Kids Voting Board two years ago has done much to coordinate the shared focus of both Kids Voting and National History Day. As seen in the accomplishments of the students receiving this award, this honor clearly illustrates an understanding of the role that each person plays in a democratic society and highlights the vital importance of each citizen exercising their duty to vote.



# KV Central Ohio - Youth Council Member Introduces Secretary of State

At a recent statewide League of Women Voters event, KV Youth Council member, Holly Wickham, introduced Ohio Secretary of State, Jon Husted, to the assembled crowd.

Wickham and five other Youth Council members spent the day learning about civil discourse in the political arena, state budget problems, and new initiatives from the Secretary of State's office.

In her introduction of Sec. Husted, Wickham took the opportunity to put in a major plug for the KV Central Ohio Youth Council. She described to the league members how Youth Council had broadened her horizons and made her much more aware of her political role in the community, in addition to making her a much more politically active person. She also credits her experience this year on Youth Council with making her more committed to being an active citizen and with seeing how important the youth vote is.



Top Picture (from the left): Secretary of State, Jon Husted & Holly Wickham

Bottom Picture (from the left): Jake Marburger, Zach Davidson, Jacob Coate, Sec. Husted, Brit-tany Bower, Holly Wickham & Nate Zimpher



## ★ May ★ Educator of the Month

KVUSA is pleased to announce that **Rae Harriot White** is the May Educator of the Month. Ms. White is the Coordinator for Curriculum and Human Resources at the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools in Gahanna, Ohio. She began her association with KV in 2000 as a representative of one of the original participating school districts when the Central Ohio program began. From that first year, White has been a strong advocate within her district for the program, holding workshops for district teachers to share curriculum materials, facilitating student participation in Kids Voting elections each year, recruiting and transporting students to the annual Youth Summit and serving on the KVCO Education Advisory Board. "To teachers in Gahanna, White is the face of Kids Voting Central Ohio," said Jane McMeekin, Education Coordinator, Kids Voting Central Ohio.



Kids Voting USA truly appreciates the work and passion Rae Harriot White demonstrates for our program.

*Don't forget to follow KVUSA on facebook and twitter!!*



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KVUSA is managed by **KPA.**



## Kids Voting USA Book Club

Join KVUSA Affiliates in the KVUSA Book Club. We will pick one book per month and discuss on the KVUSA Book Club Discussion Board (log into the new website to post to the discussion board).

**May 2011**

**Book Title:** Uncharitable

**Author:** Dan Pallotta ([http://www.uncharitable.net/about\\_author.html](http://www.uncharitable.net/about_author.html))

**Website:** <http://www.uncharitable.net/>

**Cost:** Amazon - \$16; Kindle - \$10.00. *Uncharitable* is available in most University and public libraries. (Amazon Link: <http://www.amazon.com/Uncharitable-Restraints-Nonprofits-Contemporary-Perspectives/dp/1584659556>)

**About:** *Uncharitable* is for students, philanthropists, nonprofit executives, institutional funders, donors, and anyone who cares about the great causes of our time.

It ventures where no other book on the nonprofit sector has dared to go. Where other well-intended books suggest ways to improve performance within the existing nonprofit paradigm, *Uncharitable* argues that the paradigm itself is the problem, and calls into question our fundamental canons about charity. Its insurgent thesis is that society's nonprofit ethic undermines our ability to eradicate great problems, and, ironically, puts charity at a severe disadvantage to the for-profit sector at every level.

We have two rule books; one for charity, and one for everything else. This economic apartheid denies charity the powerful tools of capitalism, while everyone else is permitted to use them without restraint. This all occurs in the name of charity, but it is a charity whose principal benefit flows to the for-profit sector.

**More Info:**

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***“Building a Stronger Affiliate Community”***