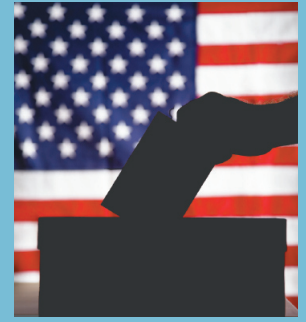


BALLOT BOX BULLETIN

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF KIDS VOTING USA JANUARY 2012



DATES TO REMEMBER

January 16th, 2012:

Educator of the Year Contest Ends

January 30th, 2012:

Deadline for Educator of the Month nominations & Ballot Box Bulletin articles

February 1st, 2012:

Making An Impact Contest Ends

February 6th, 2012:

KVUSA Board Meeting

February 28th, 2012:

Deadline for Educator of the Month nominations & Ballot Box Bulletin articles

March 1st, 2012:

Annual Requested Information Due

March 5th, 2012:

KVUSA Board Meeting

March 29th, 2012:

Engaging Today's Youth for Tomorrow's Civic Engagement Symposium & Luncheon

March 30th, 2012:

Deadline for Educator of the Month nominations & Ballot Box Bulletin articles

April 1st, 2012:

5% discount off Affiliate Dues Expires

Kids Voting Mecklenburg is now GenerationNation

The education-focus nonprofit (501c3) organization, founded in 1992, changed its name in December 2011 to better reflect the wide range of educational tools and learning opportunities it provides, and envisions, to positively impact K-12 students in the Charlotte area.

Programs educate and engage students in government, leadership and civic life. Current initiatives of GenerationNation include K-12 civic education and teacher trainings, Youth Civics, Youth Voice Leadership Alliance and the Kids Voting Mecklenburg election.



New Executive Director for Kids Voting South Dakota

The Chiesman Center for Democracy announced on December 22nd, 2011, Ms. Rebecca Andrew as the executive director of the Civic Education programs. Previously, Rebecca Andrew served as the program assistant for the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Center, the Strengthening Communities Fund and the Institute for Educational Leadership & Evaluation at the Chiesman Center for Democracy, Inc.

Prior to joining the Chiesman Center, she was the Black Hills coordinator for the nonprofit advocacy organization, South Dakota Voices for Children. She also served as the mental health coordinator and advocate with Youth and Family Services' Prenatal to Five Head Start Program. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Mankato State University, Mankato, Minnesota.

Major programs under Ms. Andrew's direction will include: Kids Voting South Dakota, South Dakota Project Citizen, South Dakota Youth Congress and South Dakota's We the People.

Kids Voting Mesa County Adds New Board Members

Rachel Nelson, Zoe Wright-Ray and Rebecca Spiess joined the Kids Voting Mesa County board recently. Rachel Nelson is a social studies teacher at Grand Mesa High School at Collbran Job Corps, and Zoe Wright-Ray is serving as the student member. Zoe is a sophomore at Grand Junction High School. Rebecca Spiess is the Undersheriff. Rebecca said she targeted Kids Voting because, "it is important to engage our youth early in the processes of good citizenship, civic responsibility and government."

OTHER NEWS

Engaging Today's Youth for Tomorrow's Civic Leadership Symposium Schedule

Thursday, March 29th, 2012

9am - 10am EST: The Future of Civic Engagement Panel - Representatives from other civic education orientated nonprofit organizations will share details about how your students can get involved in their programs locally.

10am - 10:15am EST: Break

10:15am - 10:45am EST: 6-8th grade Making an Impact Winners Presentation

10:45am - 11:15am EST: 9-12th grade Making an Impact Winners Presentation

11:15am - Noon EST: International Presentation on Civic Engagement

The best part about the symposium is that even though it will be held in Washington D.C., no one has to travel to DC to participate. The symposium is being broadcast live via Cisco Webex Technology. KVUSA will be distributing the URL link soon. Have your educators mark their calendars!!

Directly following the symposium, KVUSA is hosting a fundraiser luncheon. Mr. Mike McCurry, the former press secretary for Bill Clinton's administration and consultant for Public Strategies Washington, Inc, is the keynote speaker. Luncheon tickets may be purchased from the national office for \$125. Hotel rooms are available at the Hilton Garden Inn Washington, DC/U.S. Capitol. To make a reservation, please call 1-800-HILTONS and ask for the Kids Voting USA group rate of \$179 per night.

www.kidsvotingusa.org/EYT2012

January Educator of the Month

KVUSA is pleased to announce that **Kay Slone** is the January Educator of the Month. Ms. Slone is a social studies teacher at Eastmoor Academy, which is part of Kids Voting Central Ohio. As an AP government teacher in an urban Columbus City School, Kay has committed herself to teaching students how to find their voice in the political process. In addition to participating in the Youth at the Booth and Youth Summit programs, Kay's students attend city council meetings, candidate forums and neighborhood commission meetings. Kay's vision of the engaged, educated student matches the model provided by Kids Voting Central Ohio and Kids Voting USA. She tirelessly seeks out opportunities for her students to become involved in and knowledgeable about the political process.

Kids Voting USA truly appreciates the work and passion Ms. Kay Slone demonstrates for our program.

Kids Voting Postage Stamps

Kids Voting USA launched a Zazzle store on January 1st selling Kids Voting postage stamps. There are three Kids Voting USA stamps available to purchase and several affiliate stamps. All proceeds from the affiliate stamps will directly benefit the affiliates. Visit the Kids Voting USA zazzle store today!!

<http://www.zazzle.com/gifts?ch=kidsvotingusa>

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