

Ty Bottoms elected as Governor

RCMS excels at KYA 2001

By Josh Blair, KYA Media Corps

It was a history-making event for Rockcastle County Middle School this year at the Kentucky Youth Assembly, Ty Bottoms, an eighth grader at RCMS, was elected Governor of KYA. Although we have had several Governor candidates in the past, Ty has the distinction of being the first candidate elected from Rockcastle County. He will serve as the Junior KYA Governor during 2002 and lead next year's conference. It is a great honor to have the Governor from our school and we know that Ty will be a tremendous representative of our Y-Club, our school and our county.

Ty was not our only candidate at this year's KYA. Allison Carter, also an eighth grader at RCMS, ran for the State KYA Leadership Team on the first night of the Assembly. After her election, Allison served as Senate President during the remainder of KYA. As President of the Senate, she served as the presiding officer in the joint sessions, presided over the Senate, and also have the authority to cast the final vote in case of a tie. Serving as her President Pro-Tem was another RCMS student, Rachel Killen. Several of the state YMCA staff and other advisors commented that Allison and Rachel were two of the best leaders of the Senate that they had ever observed.

As usual, the RCMS Y-Club returned home with many other awards. Heather Hopkins received,

one of 10 Outstanding Speaker awards. Bill authors, Danielle Arnold, Jessica Asher, Ashley Bullock and Heather Hopkins received a certificate of recognition for creativity and relevance to Kentucky with their bill concerning school attendance. Their bill, which was assigned to the House of Representatives, was "An act to require all person receiving public assistance to make their children attend school regularly."

All 52-student delegates from RCMS were active participants at KYA this year. Our lobbyists, Morgan Kincer and Drew Davidson, did a superb job lobbying for the bills from RCMS. Their intent speeches which they gave at the beginning of debates in the Senate and House of Representatives were extremely persuasive and much credit should be given to Morgan and Drew for their influence on the Assembly's voting or the RCMS bills. Megan Anderkin served with Governor Caitlin McQueen as a member of her cabinet. Megan's connection with the other cabinet members was a great plus for Ty as it gave her an opportunity to meet students from other schools and campaign for Ty. Advocates Ashley Dollins and Victoria Clinton represented RCMS in the Judicial Program. They were assigned a bill that was submitted by a school at a previous KYA conference and had to debate the constitutionality of that bill

before the Supreme Court. Ashley and Victoria spent many hours after the close of the Assembly preparing their case.

Each year, RCMS bill authors spend many hours preparing their bills. Our sixth grader Premier authors this year were Jessica Cummins, Daniel Myers, Zachary Miller and John Mark Davis, whose bill was entitled, "An act to require Little League coaches and officials to be certified in First Aid and CPR annually." Anna Reynolds, Meredith Robinson, Rachel Wright and Jerica Poynter represented a bill before the House titled, "An act to require schools in Kentucky to develop or revise emergency plans to include bullet drills or drop drills." Meanwhile, over the Senate, Megan Griffin, Ainsley Bussell, Joshua Nation and Justin Lear were presenting their bill, "An act to require all college freshmen in Kentucky to receive the meningococcal vaccine."

Before we left the KYA, all the Y-Clubs across the Commonwealth received a letter from Mrs. Judi Patton, Kentucky's First Lady asking us to participate in a program called "Judi's Treasure Chest."

We collected school and art supplies, which will be given to children who are the victims of abuse and are placed in foster homes. As usual, our students responded to the call and donated items and money. We would especially like to thank Danny Clark, one of our seventh graders, who donated his pencil collection to "Judi's Treasure Chest."

All in all, it was a great year at KYA for Rockcastle County Middle School. I have enjoyed covering KYA as a member of the Media Corps. It was an honor to be chosen to interview our Governor, Caitlin McQueen, and to work on the KYA newspaper with the other reporters. I am looking forward to next year's Assembly.



Megan Griffin, Ashley Dollins, Justin Lear and Daniel Myers show some of the items which students donated to "Judi's Treasure Chest", a program initiated by First Lady Mrs. Judi Patton for children who are victims of abuse.



Danielle Arnold, Heather Hopkins, Jessica Asher and Ashley Bullock received a certificate of recognition for their bill at KYA 2001.



RCMS Legislators, Martin Abney and Krystal Farthing, work on speeches to give in favor of RCMS bills at KYA 2001.



Ty Bottoms is pictured with the gavel he received following his election as Governor of the Kentucky Youth Assembly.



7th Grade Bill Authors Josh Nation, Justin Lear, Ainsley Bussell, Megan Griffin present a bill before a KYA combined committee in the Capitol Annex.



Lobbyist Morgan Kincer delivers an intense speech for one of RCMS' bills.



As Allison Carter, top right, President of the Senate and Rachel Killen, top left, President Pro-Tem, RCMS bill authors Jerica Poynter, Rachel Wright, Anna Reynolds and Meredith Robinson wait to present their bill before the KYA Senate in the Old Capitol.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Western Rockcastle Water Association
10:00 a.m. Thursday, January 3, 2002
A public meeting will take place at 10:00 a.m. EST on January 3, 2002 at Western Rockcastle Water Association office at 135 Highway 150 for the purpose of providing general information to the public regarding the proposed Western Rockcastle Water System Improvements project. The public is invited to attend and comment on such issues as economic and environmental impacts, service area, alternatives to the project or any other pertinent issues.

Merry Christmas

Mink's Garbage

would like to take this time to wish all of our customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We have been very pleased to serve you for the past nine months of 2001.

For 2002, we hope to give you the best of service and hope you will tell a neighbor or a friend about our service.

Anyone who reads this and would like to have trash or garbage service we will do our best to give you the best of services, please call us at 256-0068.



Season's GREETINGS To You!

from

Rockcastle Circuit Court Clerk
Teresa Vanzant



Teresa Amis, Liza York, Crystal Griffin, Joyce Houk, Pat Brown, Teresa Vanzant, Chief Deputy Clerk Brenda McKnight, Renita Blanton

Closed Dec. 22 - Dec. 25 and Dec. 29 - Jan. 1st