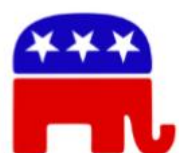


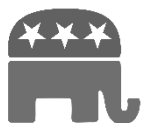
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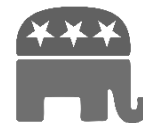
Teenage Republicans

2014-2015, looking back

# South Dakota Teenage Republicans



## Newsletter



Summer Special Edition!

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### 2014-2015, A Year to Remember

RAPID CITY— It is not great to look back. All of our lives, we have been told to look forward, to concentrate on the future, not on the past. But when you have had a year such as this past year of the South Dakota Teenage Republicans, it is only appropriate to be looking back. Many have said that this past year was one that will not be soon forgotten.

In 2014-2015, the South Dakota Teenage Republicans moved forward in great leaps. The year started in great motion immediately after the 2014 Leadership camp closed. After they returned home from camp, the newly elected Executive Board got to work to have a great year for the TARs all across the state. In addition to that, the rest of the Teenage Republicans got to work on the 2014 election. All across the state, TARs could be seen making phone calls, walking door to door, and doing other campaigning. Several TARs were able to attend the

South Dakota State Fair in Huron. There they were able to sit at the Republican booth and spend some time together.

September proved very good to the Teenage Republicans as they had a very successful TARs in Action event. The group in attendance was able to enjoy a great weekend in Sioux Falls doing various campaigning. They were also able to attend the Tea Lincoln Day Dinner.

The Republicans had a great 2014 Election, having a clean sweep of all Republican statewide elected officials.

Several of the Teenage Republicans were able to join in the celebration at the Governor's

Inaugural Ball in January. There, they could be seen working the coat check and enjoying the night of celebration.

After the Inauguration, the work began in preparation for the TAR's Teen Mock Legislator.

In March, the group of TARs got back together in Pierre for the Mock Legislator. There a huge group of teenagers from all across the state met to enjoy a great evening of games and fun, then spend the next day debating and passing/killing bills in the state Capitol.

*"LOOKING BACK"*

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#### This Newsletter features:

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Words from your Executive Board pg. 3

Words from your TARs Advisor pg. 4

Favorite TARs Moments pg. 5

*Photo: TARs Leadership Camp, 2013*



## *Words from your 2014-2015 TARs Executive Board:*

### **Chairman, Jordan Blades**

This year was a special year for me, and TAR camp is a special week for me every year. TARS is what you make it, whether you're a State Chairman or a first year camper, and that's what makes this so group so great. TARS can just be fun with friends, or it can be countless hours on a campaign or in the Capitol Building in Pierre. Either way, TARS has given myself and plenty of other Teens opportunities that they could not have anywhere else. I was very impressed by the actions and dedication of the board this year. I'm very optimistic for the future of TARS because I know no matter who is in what office after this week, the club will be in good hands. I'm excited to see the incoming board work and get out our incredible message out to even more people and leave them with the same wonderful experiences that I've had, because the memories I've made with TARS are memories that I will carry with me forever.

### **Vice Chairwoman, Audrey Cope**

To see our generation take charge is one thing, but seeing it create a picture of change is another. A huge thank you goes out to all of you guys for giving this past year you're all and coming back to enjoy a week that will hopefully carry over into many years to come. This year we were fortunate to have a hardworking board who stayed committed to what they promised, and that's what I truly believe gives Teenage Republicans its luster. To every single one of you who came back to camp as a veteran, came as a newbie, helped with a fair or parade, checked coats at the Inauguration, rode Go-Carts in Sioux Falls, debated bills as a newfound legislator, or even showed up to just have fun, YOU are what makes this place so special and YOU are why we keep coming back, year after every single year.

### **Secretary, Corbin Olson**

What a year this has been! I believe that a lot has happened in this past year to make TARs a better organization. I would like to thank you all for supporting me as your secretary, and giving me the absolute privilege to serve you. I hope that you all have enjoyed this past year of reading my newsletters, as I have enjoyed every minute that I spent constructing them. I truly believe that TARs is a special organization that has the ability to totally change a person. I am eternally grateful to Audrey Cope, who introduced me to TARs, and also to each member of TARs who make this the fantastic organization that it is. As I look back, I am amazed with my fellow board members in each thing that they have accomplished this year. I would also like to thank them for being incredible to work with. Again, thank you all for a fantastic 2014-2015, and here's to 2015-2016!

### **Treasurer, Nick Johnson**

Having the chance to serve on a board such as this was a privilege, and I envy those who get to serve as board members next year and I regret not trying to serve earlier. I'm glad that I was able to participate in this level, even though it was only for a short time. I got to watch people transform, for better and for worse under pressure and I believe that this will prepare me for more challenging situations in the future. I'm proud of the work we did this year, and especially proud of how, with the help of the rest of the board, I was able to raise the TAR account to well over double its previous balance. Thank you for all of the good times, and I hope to be back in a few years to counsel all of you.

## **2014-2015 SD TARs Executive Board**

### **Chair**

Jordan Blades, Sioux Falls

### **Vice Chair**

Audrey Cope, Rapid City

### **Secretary**

Corbin Olson, Rapid City

### **Treasurer**

Nick Johnson, Mitchell

### **District 1 Reps**

Jack Gibbon  
Grace Wittenberg

### **District 2 Reps**

Sierra Crater  
Amanda Halsey

### **District 3 Reps**

Emily Dreeszen  
Sydney Powers

### **District 4 Reps:**

Emily Muirhead  
Jill Swanson

### **District 5 Reps**

Cecily Fogarty  
Gretchen Zachariahs

***"Thank you for the privilege  
of serving you this year!"***

## *Words from your TARs Advisor:*

*“TARs is such an incredible opportunity. Some see it as a week-long experience, others as a four or five year engagement during their teen years. This year's camp counselors have made me realize it's much more than that, though. It's been decades since Bonnie, Dave, and Tony were campers, but here they are, donating a week of their time to a cause that still means so much to them. They realize the importance of staying engaged and helping to provide opportunities for young people to be a part of the political process.”*

-Dusty Johnson, SD TARs Advisor

Dusty, on behalf of the entire board, and the entire organization for that matter... Thank you for your countless hours of dedication to our organization. We know that it would not be the same without you. Thank you for everything that you have done in this past year as well as previous years to build this organization into the beautiful club that it is today. You are an incredible role model and inspiration to each and every one of us, and you continue to inspire us with your sometimes goofy, relatable personality. From the most sincere bone in each of our bodies...



## **THANK YOU**

*A HUGE “Thank You” as well to all of our amazing counselors who give up their time to make this organization as great as it could possibly be! We would definitely not be where we are today without you.*

### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2:**

All too soon, the fun came to an end, and the TARs said goodbye until they were able to meet again in the summertime for their big Leadership Camp. TARs from all across the state have been looking forward to this big event for weeks. Posts could be seen on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter about people's

excitement for the big week, including countdowns to the big day. Finally the day has come where the South Dakota Teenage Republicans are able to convene again and enjoy great times and a lot of laughs with everyone in attendance.

Yes, this past year has flown by. Without even realizing it, we are back to where we were exactly

one year ago, retiring a group of seniors from TAR's, welcoming a new group of young blood, and electing a new panel of Board Members. This has indeed been a very successful year, and all are looking forward to the next with the greatest amount of excitement.

*By Corbin Olson*



## *"What was your favorite TARs moment this past year?"*

*"Working at the Republican booth at the State Fair with the executive board and hanging out together afterwards and receiving outstanding Representative award at this year's mock ☺."*

Jill Swanson, Pukwana

*"I enjoyed my suspension of the male vote on the abortion bill. Also the small sermon Smalls (Troy) put on the night before the mock (legislator)."*

-Louis Melhaff, Pierre

*"My favorite memory from TARs was hiking up the mountain to the top and looking down over the camp."*

-Patrick Powers, Brookings

*"The mock legislative session in Pierre. It was fun getting to see and meet new faces, seeing people that I hadn't seen since the last TAR camp, and debate the always hilarious, yet sometimes serious bills."*

-Austin "Caputa" Nelson, Caputa

*"Meeting all the new people, throwing Chase in the creek, the bus rides, and playing Mafia ☺"*

-Taylor Small, Brandon

*"My favorite things were meeting all of these great people, listening to speakers, and walking around campaigning."*

-Tara Droppers, Tripp

*"Meeting the crew at my first teen mock legislator."*

-Isabel Blume, Redfield

*"Ballin' it up at mock legislator with the crew all night long"*

Katie Swanson, Pukwana

*"It may sound strange, but my favorite camp memory is from two years ago. It was a rainy night. I sat in cabin 6 listening to David Kranz strum the guitar, Carl mess with his walkie talkie, and the rain outside pattering on the cabin roof."*

Troy Small, Brandon

*"My favorite memory was probably making a big chain of people in the lazy river at Watiki."*

Sydney Powers, Brookings

*"Teen mock."*

-Levi Kessler, Aberdeen

*"My favorite memory from the past 365 days of a wonderful TAR year would have to be meeting the one and only Shantel Krebs who is a great inspiration and person to look up to, also attending my first TARs in Action, which was amazing! Thank you everyone for a TARTastic year!"*

-Jack Gibbon, Rapid City

*"My favorite memory from last year was realizing that these next couple years of camp I get to be a role model with my friends that I've experienced camp with since day one. We get to give advice to first years and welcome them to the wonderful organization of TARs. We get to share our memories that we continue to make as we grow up. That was a special memory because I, as well as my friends, got to experience this memory together!"*

-Olivia Rasmussen, Viborg

