

# DIRECTORS' DIGEST

2015 | American Legion Auxiliary | Girls Nation

## Today's Schedule

Senate session

Bills signed by president

Inauguration

Talent show

Commencement

Dance party



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



## ALA Girls Nation 2015 is a Wrap

It's hard to believe that just a week ago we were excitedly getting ready for the girls to arrive. Here we are a week later and the girls have so much to be proud of. Each of YOU, as ALA Girls State directors, have so much to be proud of. They came to us unsure of what lay ahead confident only in their ability to be selected to attend ALA Girls Nation. They truly do transform during this week long immersion in the Federal government and in doing so they also transform each and every staff member that gets to work with them. It truly is the same magic that happens at each of your ALA Girls State programs, only the girls here come from different states, have different accents, catch phrases and are best of your best. For that we thank you! Keep doing what you are doing and know that what you do truly does make a difference! Without each of you, this program could not exist. The week is fast paced, the girls work hard and there are many amazing moments that one could say was the "best part" of ALA Girls Nation, yet when you look around the room at commencement, the variety of emotions reflected on their faces and the bonds between the girls is palpable.

That is hands down the best part of ALA Girls Nation/ ALA Girls State.

You can visit places, you can meet senators and even the "Leader of the Free World," but the bond the girls create when they attend ALA Girls State and ALA Girls Nation surpasses anything that you can do or see. That is why we all work so hard at what we do. That is why units hold fundraisers and save all year to send a girl to ALA Girls State. That is why you plan, prep, and plan some more to make your programs the best they can be. The transformation of girls is at the heart of what we do and that transformation is not always reflective in a bill or a resolution. Sometimes its merely reflected on their faces, in their heart or with a simple "thank you." We challenge you to ride the ALA Girls Nation wave with us and reach out to your senators. Encourage them to join the American Legion Auxiliary. We talked to them about e-units and the many ways they can get involved. Let's work together to use their emotion and use their renewed Americanism as a spark that might ignite their interest in the American Legion Auxiliary.

## ALA Girls Nation in Pictures

The end of the week brought more work in the senate as we brought more bills and resolutions to the floor. We also participated in a talent show, inauguration, commencement, candle lighting ceremony and had a dance/munchie party. Please enjoy our snapshots of the day and be sure to keep following us on social media to see pictures and information from our meeting with President Obama.



## Bill (SB) Resolution (SR), Dept.

## Pass/Fail

S.B. 7 To allow veterans the choice to treat service-connected illnesses through the Veterans Administration (VA) system or private healthcare providers who currently accept Medicare reimbursement, CT

Pass

S.B. 8 To reduce over-sentencing for nonviolent crimes, OK

Pass

S.B. 9 To equalize the incomes of men and women, OR

Fail

S.B. 10 To prohibit discriminatory practices on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation, TX

Pass

S.B. 11 To efficiently provide high-quality regional healthcare options to United States veterans, CA

Fail

S.B. 13 To enhance the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE) by increasing and promoting the frequency of sexual violence education for all institutions of higher education.

Pass with amendments

S.R. 4 Expressing the sense of the Senate that education should be a leading priority in the United States' agenda, MS

Pass

We hoped that you enjoyed our Daily Directors' Digests! We have tried to give you a glimpse of our daily happenings and show you pictures of the senators at work. We realize they aren't perfect, but the pace is fast and furious as we have to capture the moments throughout the day and then manage social media, edit blogs from citizens, write blogs of our own, and create this digest late into the night. Hence, it's 3:00 a.m. and we are just getting ready to send this email!

As with any new idea we know that it is a starting point and we welcome any feedback you may have regarding this digest as we begin planning for the 2016 ALA Girls Nation session. Please email Stacy at National Headquarters with any feedback you have at [spoca@alaforveterans.org](mailto:spoca@alaforveterans.org).

Love, your 2015 ALA Girls Nation public relations team!

L to R: Stacy, Dana, Kendall, and Carrie

