

The Roundtable

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Beware the Ides of March

Youth in Government Learn How It Works. Or Doesn't.

Three young women wrote bills, argued in their favor and saw them pass – or fail – during the recent YMCA-sponsored “Youth in Government – Legislative, Judicial, Media” conference in Augusta. Ellie MacMillan, Zoe Ellingwood and Mackenzie Thompson described, during Thursday’s meeting, the legislative process they learned as they practiced with other students in the roles of legislators and committees.

The three-day conference worked within the guidelines of a mock government, with all parts of the government represented. Ms. MacMillan, a junior at Bangor High School, served on the Criminal Justice Committee that was able to get five of seven of their bills passed.



The trio learned about “left” and “right” and the challenges such leanings present to legislators. Ms. Thompson, a senior at BHS, responded to a question about the current college admissions scandal saying that parents need to let their children take charge of their own lives. “The parent who is a doctor will force his or her child into attending medical school when they may want to do something else,” she said.



Ms. Thompson wrote two bills, one of which caused controversy among the 200 attendees. She proposed establishing a sanctuary in Lewiston and the county for immigrants. The bill did not pass, but it was nominated in the “best bill” category. Another bill that did pass proposed banning smoking in cars in which there are young children passengers.

Responding to a question about “Civics” courses and if they still exist, Ms. Ellingwood, a senior at Hampden Academy, said that those students interested in



government can go outside the school, as the Youth in Government group did, to learn about democracy.

The trio gained a quick immersion experience in fundraising, collecting \$700 in five days. “We are going to start fundraising now for next year,” Ms. Thompson said.

Overall, 100 bills were submitted. One of them proposed building a 90-foot high Santa in Aroostook County. It passed.

Two Lisa’s, Three Ken’s and Now Two Chris’s

We formally welcomed **Christopher Swift** into the membership today. We shall call him “Christopher” to distinguish him from **Chris Hatch**, who is our now-next-to-newest member.

Caroline King drew no blood, but reminded us of the Red Cross Blood Drive on March 29. She needs more volunteers and 28 more people to sign up to give blood. If not enough participate, the drive will have to be cancelled. Volunteers are needed between the hours of noon and 6 pm at the 24:7 Church in the Bangor Mall.

Caroline attended PETS training last week (Presidents-Elect Training Seminar). She returned stuffed with ideas and a beautiful Rotary backpack.

Lisa Wahlstrom promoted business card ads for the *All That Jazz* program booklet. If you placed an ad in previous books, you need not submit a new card. Ads cost \$50.

Ken Huhn is in charge of the larger ads, available at \$250, \$500 or more.

The Membership Committee is creating a “spreading-the-word” about Rotary. **Pudge Harrison** met with members of the Old Town Rotary and Bangor Noon Rotary. The “Lunch and Learn” event with business owners with five or more employees will help identify potential new members for all our clubs. Pudge also extolled the excitement growing in the Harrison/**Townsend** families for their trip to Mexico next week.

In addition to the three Interact members who presented the Youth in Government program, two other Interact members attended, for which **David Zelz** gave a Happy \$. New member Christopher won the weekly drawing that he donated to the Polio Plus project.

Les Myers March 14, 2019

