



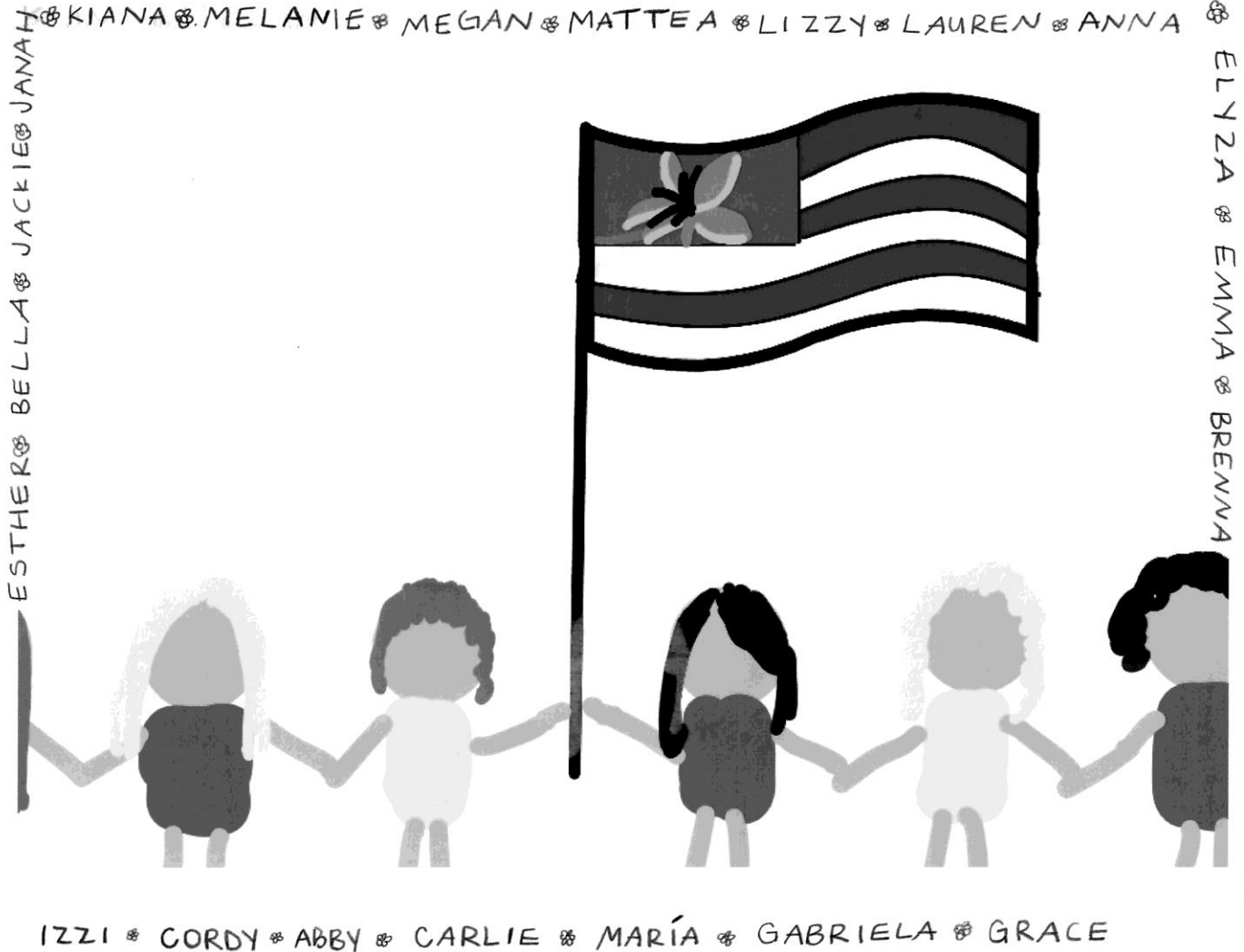
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
MINNESOTA

# Girls STATE

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# Moccasin

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Submitted by the City of Lily

## American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Governor Kate Kapsner Inaugural Address



Hi, I'm Kate Kapsner, the governor for Minnesota Girl State 2019. Firstly, I'd like to thank all of you for coming tonight. Thank you to the beautiful, intelligent girls that decided to take a week out of their summers to be here, representing their communities. Thank you to the parents who are here, thank you to those who drove hours to get here, and to those who came from just a few towns over. I think I can speak for everyone here when I say that we are so grateful you support us and our ambitions. I want to thank the leaders here for donating their time to help educate and empower us, the future leaders of Minnesota. In case you were unaware, none of the workers here get paid. They volunteered their precious time to come here and supervise us, keep us on task, and educate us on state level politics because they love our country and they do everything they can to help sustain the American dream and to encourage the next generation of females to carry on the ideals of our nation. They want to lift up the young women interested in politics, the brightest of the bright here in Minnesota, because they believe in us. They want to give us all the tools necessary to succeed, so that we can move forward with the knowledge we need to improve our state and our country. These women in front of me have unlimited potential. Each and every one of you has already done great things in your life, and I really look forward to seeing everything else you'll accomplish in your future. Most importantly I thank the American Legion Auxiliary for making this program possible. A special thanks to the unit in Osseo who sponsored me. Thank you for recognizing my ability and passion, and thank you for caring about the representation of women in our political system. The ALA has been educating and empowering women through the girls state and girls nation programs for 82 years now. They are passionate about instilling American values and teaching governmental policies. Their mission is to advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor the youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

This week I've certainly grown in my understanding of our state government through my peers, the assemblies, panels, and through practice. It's been so cool to meet other young women who are well-versed in politics and current events. Girls like Sophie and the other Girls Nation candidates, who have an incredible understanding of American history, or like my lieutenant governor, Bethany, who has the entire parliamentary procedure memorized. I was honestly very surprised about how much I didn't know coming into this week. We have had some incredible panelists who came and talked to us about their professional experiences in city, county, and state level politics as well as in the judicial system. Each panel was relevant to the topic that we discussed in the assembly,

and then we took part in a related government simulation later that day. I think the most important parts of this week were the party conventions where we got to hear what issues were important to different people and the solutions that people offered. To me, this experience was about learning the inner workings of our state government and getting to know how other educated women feel about the future of our state. It's really interesting to see what other girls are passionate about, and to hear from hundreds of girls with completely different backgrounds than my own. There are girls from all across the state, from small towns and big towns, single parent homes, starkly liberal or conservative cities, and it's been so cool to be able to understand all of their perspectives. We all bring something different to the table, and each and every one of those contributions is important because together, we exemplify the women of Minnesota. We are agents, advocating for the other women in our communities, and as a public agent for you lovely people, I want to be able to represent you well and fight for the issues you believe are important. Getting to know these girls this week I learned so much about prison reform, our education system, the lack of businesses in smaller towns, and arguably the most invaluable thing I got from this week were great friends. I came here thinking I would just stick with one of my best friends, Paige, from back home. However, we were assigned different dorms and different political parties so I was forced to branch out and make new connections. I became pretty close with the girls from my city, Elm, in particular my roommate, Emily, and campaign manager, Hannah. I am beyond honored that such reputable young women elected me for this position, but the most memorable moments of this week are going to be the conversations I had with a lot of these awesome girls. Whether they be the late night talks with my dorm, the girls that I talked to in passing or in the lunch line, a lot of those conversations will stick with me forever. It's crazy how close I feel to so many of you after only a few days. I'm already planning summer road trips to meet up with some of you guys who live ridiculously far away from me. Girls State has given me the confidence and the knowledge I need to be able to succeed in my future political career, but it's also given me something greater: lasting relationships. The note that I want to end on, the thing I want you to leave here thinking about is one of my favorite quotes from Gandhi that I think relates to a lot of what we've talked about this week: "Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization." Thank you.

**2019 Inauguration Speakers  
Minnesota Supreme Court Justice**



*The Honorable Lorie Gildae  
Former Girls State Participant*

**The American Legion Family  
Department of Minnesota**



*Department President  
Jean Walker*



*Department Commander  
Darrel Redeppening*



*The Sons of the American Legion  
Detachment Commander  
Shawn Davis*



*Honorary Department Junior President  
Harley Donnelly*

**American Legion Auxiliary  
Girls State Governor Kate Kapsner  
State of the State Address**

Madam speaker and President of the Senate, Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives and Minnesota Senate, Members of the Court, and my fellow constitutional officers, I thank you all for gathering here today. I'd like to remind all of you that it is not our duty to serve our party, it is our duty to serve the citizens of Minnesota. I kindly ask all of you to work together in passing legislation that will help improve our great state. 242 years ago, the stars and stripes became the official emblem of the United States, and the least we can do on this sacred day is build upon the ideals of freedom and democracy that they started. Let us unite in our desire to make Minnesota a better place, putting aside our parties and bringing forth the ideas that will benefit our citizens the most.

First I'd like to recognize the Federalist party's platform. One major focus has been the improvement of sexual education in Minnesota schools. Our public school system has continued to fail many students who seek to learn about safe sex, and the Federalist party is taking a stand against that. Another topic of discussion is providing welfare for veterans and their families. It is important to give back to those who sacrificed so much for our country. In addition, they discussed the need to encourage businesses and grow the economy of more rural areas, stressed the importance of environmental reform, and limiting government involvement with businesses and corporations. The Nationalist party addressed a wide range of environmental, health, and public safety concerns. The topics of preserving and protecting our natural resources such as the lakes and trees was a frequent topic of discussion. As a party, we would like to promote organizations advocating for renewable energy and environmental change. Prison reform and the assimilation and reintegration of ex-convicts back into society was a major concern. We discussed social issues such as the improvement of mental health care to all, including those who are homeless. And finally we talked about paid parental leave for both new mothers and fathers.

Today I want to hear from both parties. One thing I would like to hear more about is the push for economic growth in smaller rural communities. I'm interested to see the different ideas you all bring to the table, and how you think we can draw businesses to these more isolated communities. Another thing that sparks my interest is how we can work to preserve and protect our natural resources. Clearly we're recognized as a "cabin state" and that's because of our beautiful lakes and trees here in Minnesota. I want you to find plausible solutions to the issues regarding the degradation of our natural resources. The beauty of our land is a huge draw for people all over the nation, and it would be an awful shame if deforestation and the drainage of road salt into our lakes ruined that. The final topic that I would like to see discussed is paid parental leave. Generally, people had a lot to say on this subject, and even if we don't have a bill that can be enacted today, I think it is exceedingly important to continue this discussion bipartisanly. I want all of you to participate in the discussion of funding and specifics, so in the future we can work to pass legislation that will benefit all the new parents in Minnesota.

I look forward to hearing all you have to offer, and I sincerely hope that we can be productive and respectful on the floor in all we do today. I can't wait to see all the proposals we've worked on the last few days, and I would love to feel as if I am signing off on the betterment of Minnesota when those bills are placed in front of me later today. Good luck to all of you. Thank you.

## Laws

### Norway Pine County

1. Sing Happy Birthday to any citizen that has a birthday, specifically Kaleah.
2. Recycle all papers received at ALA MN Girls State 2019
3. Be kind and respectful to each other including at least one compliment per day.



City of Eagle



## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT STATE CAMPAINING AND ELECTIONS SO FAR?

Maya Tines, Bass

"I liked getting to help people with campaigning and having, like, real conversations with people."

Emily Matejka, Bass

"Connecting with many people from many platforms, sharing my ideas, and hearing their-- also, the cake Tuesday night!"

Megan Jensen, Walleye

"Getting to meet all my party and working in a larger setting"

KJ, Perch

"Meeting more of the party and seeing how we can act as a group"

Hannah Ehlers, Sunfish

"Choosing music -- I liked when someone said 'Anything Lizzo!'"

Addison Postal, Sunfish

Hearing everyone's opinions and listening to the discussions"



City of Cardinal





Sonja Nelson, Pheasant  
timekeepers:



Mary & Peggy



"Bob" Artist Anonymous



When someone says girls can't  
change the world

