

THE TISL TIMES

The Official Newsletter of the 44th General Assembly

Tonight's Schedule

6:00: PIZZA!

7:00: 4th Legislative Session

8:30: Joint Session



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AMC3 Improvements Lead to 70% Proficiency Increase, says chief clerk

The 44th General Assembly of TISL opening session announced improvements made to the Appellate Moot Court Collegiate Challenge (AMC3).



Caleb Butler, chief clerk, listed these improvements as an “updated scoring system and backup scoring system, penalties for interrupted sessions, updated laws and procedures, and an enlarged staff.”

The scoring system formulas have been reapportioned, double-checked, and approved by the Supreme Court. Butler finds this an asset to the program, as it is more “accurate and accessible.”

An original staff of five clerks has now increased to total nine, some who now hold leadership roles. On staff now include an extra duty clerk and assistant clerk.

The improvements have led to a 70% increase allowing the program to function at a more successful court level.

Butler hopes to expand the attorney general office, create an assistant attorney general, increase the clerks by ten-twelve fold, and to have better suited accommodations.

A more stimulating goal of Butler’s is to see AMC3 be added to other southern states or see the program become year long.

-Kiah McIsaac

Legislators Push for P.E. Requirements

To the students who spent high school dreading the push-up test, timed mile, and endless games of dodgeball: meet TISL Bill 48. This bill would create mandatory “curriculum requirements specifically physical education and wellness courses.”

Currently, physical education and wellness is not a priority in Tennessee high schools, with only 1.5 credits of P.E. required to graduate.

Consequently, the obesity rate in Tennessee now rests at a disturbing 30.2, making Tennessee the fourth most obese state in the nation.

With the implementation of this bill, students would be required to take one physical education and wellness course per year, including outside activities such as marching band, athletics, and ROTC.

In order for this bill to be effective, students must learn the discipline of staying healthy.

“It is truly a subject of personal discipline,” Logan Brasher, student at Union University and sponsor of the bill, explained.

-Ali Swee

New Lobbying Firm Has Ambitious Goals

Tennessee Libertarians Lobby for Free-Market

The 2013 TISL General Assembly welcomes a brand new lobbying firm this year. The Executive Council created the Tennessee Libertarians this summer and chose Rhodes College student Elliot Young to be the CEO of the new firm.

According to Young, The Tennessee Libertarians “really believe in helping people to help themselves and while not infringing on other people physically. I think we’re also motivated by a desire for the people to be free from intimidation or intimidating things like government wiretaps and privacy violations.”

Furthermore, Young stated that The Tennessee Libertarians see the free market as the “single greatest poverty reduction mechanism.”

To support those values, The Tennessee Libertarians plan to do as much as possible to “increase people’s choices and to decrease the amount in which government is involved in people’s lives.”



Firm CEO Elliot Young

With those goals in mind, Young stated that his organization will be opposing several bills related to the minimum wage, including TISL Bills 21, 41, and 81, all of which establish a minimum wage in Tennessee at a higher wage than the federal minimum wage.

When asked about bills his organization supports, Young spoke extensively about TISL Bill 87, which would allow dispensing opticians to sell glasses to customers with pre-existing prescriptions.

Although Young only specifically mentioned four bills, a quick flip through his notebook reveals many, many bills towards which The Tennessee Libertarians plan to direct their attention – an ambitious effort for a firm with only one lobbyist.

-Chandler Schneider