

THE TISL TIMES

The Official Newsletter of the 44th General Assembly

Today's Schedule

12:00 Joint Session



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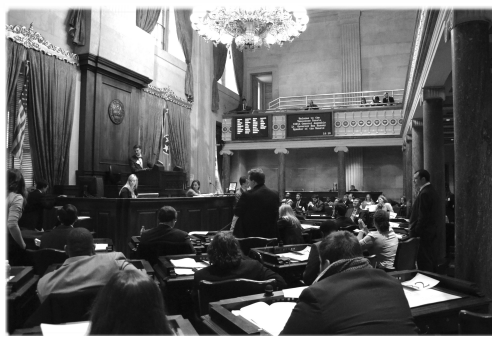
First Year Delegate Wins EC Position

Rep. Wareham becomes 45th Speaker Pro Tempore

Shortly after winning the election for the position of Speaker Pro Tempore, Jolie-Grace Wareham greets me with a relieved smile, a sigh, and the words “I can breathe now.” The first-year Rhodes College delegate and Lombard, Illinois native secured her position after a close election, including a run-off with Rep. Adrienne Dooly.

When asked why she wanted the position of Speaker Pro Tem, Wareham stated that she thoroughly enjoyed the leadership role of Education Committee Chair and that this seemed like the next step.

As Speaker Pro Tem, Wareham’s plans include instituting more workshops and practice meetings across the state in the months leading up to the General Assembly, connecting with similar organizations in other states, and to lessen the gap between members of the actual Tennessee General Assembly and TISL.



And future political goals for Wareham? The new Speaker Pro Tem. Stated, “If TISL would have me, I would love to take on other roles in the TISL EC.”

-Chandler Schneider

Take a Moment to Reflect

A Letter from the Editor

Scandals have been whispered. Law suits filed. Campaign promises made. Voting promises broken.

As one delegate and EC candidate accurately told me, “TISL isn’t mock-government. It’s mock-politics.”

On the car ride home, I know we will all be staring out the window, puzzled by the under workings of the weekend.

Elections weren’t just randomly decided. They were carefully crafted, with attention directed to specific delegations.

Senators didn’t just decide how to vote based on the arguments on the floor. Lobbyists and politicians-in-training worked the halls, targeting specific voters with handshakes, not just facts.

You have been given invaluable insight into the world of politics—a more realistic version of government than *House of Cards*.

So as you journey back to your nook of Tennessee, just take a minute to reflect on whose footsteps you have been walking in.

TISL has produced countless incredible leaders. What direction will we take this great state?

-Caroline Ponseti
Editor-in-Chief

Behind Every Passing Bill is a Passing Lobbyist

In the offices of the Senate and House of Representatives, bills are discussed, debated, and denied. Beyond the mahogany podium, the lobbyists remain unnoticed as they take notes on their supporting bills or whisper connections in the shadows.

These elite men and women play the persuasion game, especially when faced with counter oppositions. Amber Sherman, pro-labor, doesn’t allow that to deter her. Once she sets a goal in mind, “I get that goal accomplished.”

To first year lobbyist, Aislinn O’Leary, you need to be flexible when talking to someone, so you can “switch on a dime” while maintaining respectful patience. Second years Amber Sherman and Liz Tunstal also agree that being a people person is everything: you cannot be afraid to talk to someone.

Tunstal claims that as lobbyist it’s an experience every day, because you get to people watch, “take the heart of the person,” and “willingness to go the extra mile.”

-Kiah McIsaac

NSA Scandal Inspires TISL Bill

This summer, the media exploded with the controversy over the NSA scandal, garnering criticism from both the left and the right. Edward Snowden became a household name as people across the nation watched his journey unfold, ultimately ending with his asylum in Russia.

Just as the commotion surrounding this scandal finally died down, TISL Bill 33 emerged on the House floor. This bill aims to prevent the use of electronic evidence without a warrant. Furthermore, citizens would be allowed to request the records, in order to know what surveillance had been gathered. If the state does not comply with this request, they would be fined \$50,000, taken out of the state government’s yearly budget. This would act as an incentive for the government to comply with these regulations.

TISL bill 33 passed with a large majority.

-Ali Swee

