

Get to know your First Year officers



PO Claudia Hubbard



Pro-Tem Libba Lamberth



Floor Leader Emily Zecha

If you could eat lunch with any celebrity dead or alive who would it be and why?

"DJ Khaled so I can find out some more major keys." Claudia Hubbard, 16, is a sophomore at Saint James School in Montgomery.

"I would eat lunch with John Lennon, because I would want a private concert." Libba Lamberth, 15, is a freshman at St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile.

"Paula Dean, so she will cook the lunch for me." Emily Zecha, 18, is a senior at Davidson High School in Mobile.

First Year actually knows what they are doing

By Ashleigh Long and Kayleigh Hand
TomorrowTODAY staff writers

While the stereotype may be freshmen are quiet and reserved, this year's First-Year delegates handle debate with professionalism and kindness and reserve their right to be noticed.

They connect well with the bills by using personal experiences to show their point of view. The delegates do not hesitate to raise their placards and jump into heated debates. Even though many bills touch on delicate topics that challenge others' morals or opinions, this did not stop First-

Year participants. Some in First Year said they have learned what makes a valid argument and how to present it. Others learned how to respectfully debate bills that bring up many different opinions. Overall, the delegates are growing through their new experiences. The First Year officers

have taught them proper parliamentary procedure, as well as helped them season their debate skills. Based on what we've seen of First Year delegates – besides always forgetting their placards – the future of Alabama's government is in good hands.



PHOTOS BY AMELIA BLAIR / Montgomery - Brew Tech

Sen. Addison Smith, Mobile - St. Paul's Episcopal School, debates in the Senate.

Chambers fill with debate

By Anna May, Ashleigh Long, Kayleigh Hand and LaShana Estes
TomorrowTODAY writers

Many bills debated during this year's Youth Legislature session focused on topics that greatly affect our state, and even nation.

With five bills in the First Year chambers solely devoted to the topic, drug and alcohol use is easily one of the main focuses this year. Just like the actual government, Youth Leg delegates proposed laws for drones. Another trending topic is the need for Alabama live a healthier lifestyle. From bills that suggest a ban on soft drinks to requiring 20 minutes of physical activity



India Richardson accepts the First Year Best Bill award.

for children K-12.

House delegates, who raised their placards to speak for and against, didn't seem to want the debate to stop. Extensions were made on multiple bills. A bill that generated much debate Saturday in the Senate was SB46 by Sen. Bailey Whetter from Spain Park High School in Hoover.

The Senate voted to require the state to hire and decide where local police officers work.

- BEST SENATE BEST BILL**
SB47, the Prisoner Protection Act, by Justin Clay, Hoover - Spain Park, increases corrections officer standards, increases corrections officer pay, requires corrections officer rotation and introduces more difficult inspections for officers to pass.
- BEST HOUSE BEST BILL**
HB34 by Sean Shelley-Tremblay, Mobile - Davidson, requires all designated first responders, within six months of enactment, to carry and administer the opioid antagonist naloxone to combat acute opiate overdoses.
- FIRST YEAR BEST BILL**
FYB14 by India Richardson, Montgomery - Brew Tech, legalizes a state lottery in Alabama.

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Ambassadors bring different perspective to Alabama

By Meagan Holloway-Ragland
TomorrowTODAY writer

Visiting out-of-state ambassadors from other Youth in Government programs traveled to Montgomery to experience the 68th Annual Alabama Youth Legislature conference. Here they discuss how Alabama's conference differs from theirs.

MISSOURI's Youth Gov. Patty O'Brien
It's more relaxed here. There is a difference in caliber in debate, and a different mindset here. Plus, there's no Supreme Court during the Judicial Conference. I love the people, the friendliness, seeing old friends and meeting new ones. My favorite thing about the Alabama conference is the food. I love Southern food and the Southern hospitality.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH LONG / Vestavia Hills
Some of the visiting ambassadors: From left, Minnesota Head Judge Hayden Schutt, Minnesota Media Director Mikaela Blount, Kentucky's U.N. Secretary General Peyton Kidwell and Missouri Gov. Patty O'Brien.

KENTUCKY's Secretary General of United Nations Peyton Kidwell
The line of debate is different. It's more open for discussion, more casual, smaller and more intimate. The governor does a lot more too. Everyone's really nice. Southern food is great, for sure. It's like Kentucky, but it's a different kind of Southern there. I like hearing new perspectives and expanding my horizons.

MINNESOTA's head judge, Hayden Schutt
In Minnesota, we don't clap when a person of high position enters the chamber. I love the weather here. I know this isn't the normal weather, but it's great. Plus, everyone here is so polite, and presents their ideas without offending anyone. Meeting new people is the best part about this conference.



2016 media staff

Back row (left to right): Anna May, Pike Liberal Arts-Troy; Mollie Boutwell, LAMP - Montgomery; Eden Higgs, Pike Liberal Arts - Troy; Sydney Stone, St. James - Montgomery; Ashleigh Long, Vestavia Hills; Daisy Bruce, Pike Liberal Arts - Troy; Unique Simpson, Spain Park - Hoover; Hollis Floyd, Pike Liberal Arts - Troy. Front row (left to right): Ashtyn Cross, LAMP - Montgomery; Anna Claire Bullard, St. James - Montgomery; Caroline Kirk, Pike Liberal Arts - Troy; LaShana Estes, Cherokee County Student Y-Club; Amelia Blair, Brew Tech - Montgomery; Meagan Holloway-Ragland, LAMP - Montgomery; Kayleigh Hand, Cherokee County Y-Club.