

Get to know your Senate officers



Lieutenant
Governor
William Chandler



President Pro-Temp
Skandan
Ananthasekar



Floor Leader
James Courtney



Assistant
Floor Leader
Rupa Palanki

If you were in the Miss America talent competition, what would your talent be?

First, I would make sure that Steve Harvey was not hosting. Secondly, my talent would be debating or playing soccer, maybe both at the same time.

William Chandler, 17, is a senior at The Montgomery Academy. His parents are Bill Chandler and Sarah Chandler..

My talent would be playing the guitar.

Skandan Ananthasekar, 16, is a junior at St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile. He is the son of Kalpuna and Ponum balam Ananththasekar.

My talent would be holding my breath for long periods of time. I am a competitive swimmer and can hold my breath for nearly four minutes. I think that this would go over well in the competition and would impress the judges.

James Courtney, 17, is a junior at St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile. He is the son of Jim and Katie Courtney.

My talent would be speed reading.

Rupa Palanki, 17, is a junior at W.P. Davidson High School in Mobile. She is the daughter of Subhadra and Srinivas Palanki..

Gov. outlines five points for making Your Youth Leg experience great

By Anna Claire Bullard
TomorrowToday Editor

At opening session this morning, Youth Gov. Noah McNelley explained five key points that will help make this weekend great.

First, always be confident. Even if you're not sure what you're doing, make sure you always appear confident. After all, confidence is key, he said.

The second point the governor made was to step out of your comfort zone. Youth Legislature is a great place to begin trying new things, he said.

The third point is to make friends. Youth in Government events are great for making new friends and meeting people from all over Alabama.

The fourth to let your voice be heard.

Last, but not least, Youth Legislature is a great opportunity to simply be yourself. While being yourself, you can be confident, step out of



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH LONG / Vestivia Hills

Delegates are sworn in after the opening ceremonies in the Alabama House chamber.

Go to alyig.org/blog

To learn why the 2017 Youth Leg officer candidates feel they are the best qualified for their jobs, go to alyig.org/blog. Read about their aspirations and listen to their comments during the Candidates' Forums to decide who will get your vote.

your comfort zone, make friends and let your voice be heard.

McNelley closed his speech by asking everyone to use the hashtag #alyig2016 for social

media posts for this conference. He also said he can't wait to see all the delegates excellbetter and to seeing you all in action! Have a great weekend!

Governor's Cabinet reveals plans for the 2016 session

By Eden Higgs and Hollis Floyd
TomorrowTODAY writers

The 22 members of the Governor's Cabinet advise Youth Gov. Noah McNelley, who is not allowed to debate during the conference. His Cabinet is his voice for the weekend. They debate for the bills McNelley supports.

Many were drawn to their positions because they wanted to give back to the Youth in Government program. Others want to play a more active role. Some like to work with people of different backgrounds. Human Resources Commissioner Claire Jones mentioned that she likes being able to speak on both the Senate and House floors. Labor Commissioner Ford Cleveland said the position allows him to persuade others to become active in debate. Revenue Commissioner Clayton Lawing hopes to help bridge the gap between delegates and officers. Lawing said each person has a voice, and he hopes to assist those voices in being heard.

The Cabinet members have strong feelings about certain bills. Some plan to support bills that will improve state funding and provide jobs. Tourism and Travel Director Olivia Westfall will



PHOTO BY AMELIA BLAIR / Brew Tech - Montgomery

Some Cabinet members pose with Gov. Noah McNelley in press room.

support "any bills that help boost the economy without burning a huge hole in government spending," she said. Some hope to pass bills that support the 2nd Amendment. Finance Director Kenya Harris is planning to support First Year Presiding Officer Claudia Hubbard's bill that would make it possible for 911 operators to receive text messages.



Labor Commissioner Ford Cleveland



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Dining choices for Saturday evening

Some amazing restaurants are within walking distance of the hotel!



Sa Za Serious Italian
Italian - 130-A Commerce St.
sazapizza.com
\$6-\$26: Walking Distance
Dress Code: Casual
Open until 11 p.m.



Wintzell's
Seafood - 105 Commerce St.
wintzelloysterhouse.com
\$7-\$24: Attached to Hotel
Dress Code: Nice Casual
Open until 11 p.m.



Dreamland
BBQ - 101 Tallapoosa St.
dreamlandbbq.com/montgomery
\$8-\$20 : Walking Distance
Dress Code: Casual
Open until 10 p.m.



Wasabi Japanese Cuisine
Sushi - 117 Coosa St.
\$11-\$30 : In Alley
Dress Code: Casual
Open until 11 p.m.



Railyard Brewing Co.
American/Gourmet Burgers
12 W. Jefferson Street
\$10-\$30: Walk 2 blocks
Dress Code: Casual
Open until 10 p.m.



Jalapeños in The Alley
Mexican - 130 Commerce St.
\$11-\$30 : Walking Distance
Dress Code: Casual
Open until 11 p.m.



Lek's Railroad Thai (& Sushi)
300B Water St. Union Station
thaiemeraldlek.com/Train/
\$10 - \$22: Walking Distance
Dress Code: Casual
Open until 10 p.m.