

The Greiner Report

By Senator Sandra Greiner

January 17, 2013

The 85th Iowa General Assembly is off and running! Monday was spent with swearing in ceremonies and legislators getting settled into their desks and surroundings. Tuesday morning we heard Governor Terry Branstad's State of the State address and Wednesday morning we heard the State of the Judiciary from Chief Justice Cady. Organizational Committee meetings were held in the afternoons, so we should be ready to get down to business on the second week.

Emails are already rolling into legislator's email inboxes. During the interim I received many messages asking me to support the Popular Vote. Later in the year I received lots of messages asking me to support the legalization of medical marijuana. The topics of the messages this week centered on the Voluntary Water Quality Program proposed by the Dept. of Agriculture and the Dept. of Natural Resources. The number of messages I have received on this topic is astounding and it will be impossible to respond to them all.

There are several National Organizations who have purchased software that is embedded on their websites that allow people to contact their legislators via the organization's website. These messages are pretty easy to spot because the message is identical in each letter. When you've read one of them, you've read them all.

Gov. Terry E. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds announced this week they are inviting graduating seniors to apply to be a delegate to the 2013 National Youth Science Camp (NYSC). Two seniors from across the state will receive a full scholarship to exchange ideas with scientists and other professionals from the academic and corporate worlds at the camp, which will be held next summer in West Virginia. Students may nominate themselves or may be nominated by school administrators, teachers or parents to attend the three-week camp, which includes lectures and hands-on research projects presented by scientists from across the nation, overnight camping in the Monongahela National Forest, and a visit to Washington, D.C. Delegates must demonstrate academic achievement in science and potential for thoughtful scientific leadership.

The camp will be held near Bartow in the eastern mountains of West Virginia, within the Monongahela National Forest. The 2013 camp dates are June 26 to July 20.

Application forms are available at <http://2013.nysc.org/> and must be submitted directly to the Iowa Academy of Science as follows: Attention Marcy Seavey, NYSC, Iowa Academy of Science; 2607 Campus Street; Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0508.

Applications must be postmarked by Friday, Feb. 15. A selection committee from the Iowa Academy of Science and the Iowa Department of Education will review applications and select Iowa's two National Youth Science Camp delegates and up to four alternates. Delegates and alternates will be honored by

Iowa's scientific community at the 125th Annual Meeting of the Iowa Academy of Science at Simpson College on Friday, April 19.

Mail sent to me here at the Capitol should bear the zip code 50319. The switchboard phone number here in the Senate is: 515-281-3371. Legislator's email addresses have been changed from what it has been in previous years, so please make a note of this new email address: sandra.greiner@legis.iowa.gov