Convention – What’s all the Fuss About?

You run down the stairs, frantically glaring at the walls. “What is this madness?!” you might scream into the crowd. “Where are they all coming from?!” is another valid question. All these campaign posters that seemed to magically appear overnight? It’s just another sign that Election Season is once again in full swing at Analy High School.

Held annually at Analy since the 1970’s, Convention is one of those traditions that Analy students look forward to every year. From the campaign posters plastered around school (some witty and creative, and others admittedly bland), to delegates around school discussing whether they should dress as racecar drivers or corn farmers, the topic of Convention has recently captivated students and staff at Analy.

It’s rare to see students so interested in politics and elections, but that’s essentially what Convention is—the election of the Associated Student Body (ASB) President, Vice President, Business Manager, and Rally Commissioners for next year. The process begins when students from each social studies class are nominated and elected to be delegates at Convention. Each class will then select a US state to represent, and on the day of Convention, delegates must wear attire representative of their chosen state. Last year, delegates were seen dressed as surfers, cowboys, and someone even wore a Statue of Liberty costume! A word of advice: Go ALL OUT on your costume (while still abiding by school dress codes). You’ll be the envy of all your friends, and there’ll even be a costume contest at Convention.

On the day of Convention (March 15th), delegates must arrive on time, since every minute of the jam-packed day has been meticulously planned out. Check-in at the Large Gym begins at 7:30am, and at 8:00, the exciting day of Convention officially begins!

This year, we have an extraordinary number of candidates, which should prove to be exciting and eventful. All candidates will have ample time to speak to the delegation about why they are most suited for their respective jobs, and the delegation will have multiple opportunities to ask questions about the candidates.

Throughout Convention, we also have multiple caucuses scheduled. During caucuses, delegates may write notes to any other person on the Convention floor (another delegate or candidate), and have the Runners (messengers) deliver the message. You may also write a question for the candidates, which will be delivered to the Review Panel and judged to see if it is an appropriate question to ask the candidates.

With so many candidates this year, there will also be live debates between the two presidential candidates and three vice-presidential candidates, each led by our debate facilitator, Luke Lindenbusch. This will give the delegation another opportunity to learn more about each candidate and how they plan to lead the school once elected into office. During the all-school assembly after 4th period (when the entire student body sits in at Convention for an hour), all the candidates will give their speeches, and the rally commissioners will present their promotional videos.
After the all-school assembly, the delegation will be able to enjoy a Pasta King lunch for half-an-hour. Food selections include pesto and marinara pasta, fresh French bread, refreshments, and dessert. If you’re still hungry after one serving, you can even go back for seconds, as long as you use the same plate!

Every year at Convention, a keynote motivational speaker is also invited to work with the delegation on leadership principles and skills. This Convention, Yahya Bakkar will be making an appearance at Analy! We decided to have Yahya speak to the delegation only this year. He will be giving two main presentations; the goal of both will be to inspire Convention attendees to get more out of life by becoming influential leaders who will leave a lasting impact.

The delegation’s most important responsibility comes to light during the waning hours of Convention. It is finally time to vote! Each state will be called up to the voting booths (constructed by Woodshop) to cast their votes for the candidates each delegate believes will represent the school the best next year. Each delegate vote will count as two votes. For students who are not delegates, the general election will be held at the beginning of all 5th period classes, and these votes will only count as one vote.

Once all the votes are collected, Leadership students will be working away counting (and recounting for accuracy) all the ballots. In order for a candidate to win, he/she must have more votes than the opposition. A winner will be announced by 4pm, so if you are a delegate and stay for Convention clean-up (highly recommended), you might get to hear who the winners are! All winners will be sworn in the week after Spring Break at a lunchtime rally in the Quad, and their term will officially begin on the day after the last day of the school year.

While the planning and organizing of Convention falls on the responsibility of the current ASB Vice President, Convention would not be possible without the cooperation and help of everyone involved.

Thank you all for continuing the unique tradition of Convention at Analy!

See you at Convention!

David Hua, ASB Vice President 2012-2013