

Advisors' Update

Barbara Trent, State Advisor

January 26, 2010

Regional Competitive Events

Most of you have completed regional testing and are eager to register your event winners for state competition. CEAC reps or competitive events coordinators are reminded to send the regional contest list to me. Your list should include all students who testes. I must report the numbers to National. It also enables me to contact the next eligible contestant when someone is unable to attend SLC.

Membership Deadline

According to our posted Calendar of Activities, **February 1** is the deadline for membership registration for students to be eligible for state competition. **February 15** is the national-eligibility deadline. I will download a report of current members on February 1 to verify that all state contestants are members.

Students should not have competed at the regional level if membership dues were not paid. I realize that there is not a good vehicle in place for CEAC to monitor this. If, for some reason, a chapter has not paid its membership dues, that task should be taken care of immediately. Please let me know if your chapter is taking care of membership at the last minute so that your students are state-eligible.

Tentative SLC Schedule

Thursday, March 18, 2010

9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:30 a.m.	Judged Event Administrators
9:30 a.m.	Photo Lab Opens
10:30 a.m.	Judges' Brunch
10:30	Opening General Session
11:30 a.m.	Competitive Events Begin
7:30 p.m.	Statesman Award Reception
9:30 p.m.	Dance and Entertainment
Midnight	Curfew

Friday, March 19

9:30 a.m.	Buses begin leaving for Vets
11:00 a.m.	Awards Ceremony Veterans Memorial Auditorium
2:00 p.m.	National Contestants' Test Review

A complete schedule of contest times will be available by mid-February.

State Leadership Conference Registration

Development of an online registration system for SLC has proven to be a challenge, but the site is now ready. I will ask a few of you to complete a test run this week, and if all goes well, the site will be active on Monday, February 1.

Online registration should eliminate the misspelling of names, etc., because the data you enter will go directly to the database from which name tags will be printed. Data will not be re-entered after you submit your registration. In reality that means that I am passing the buck to the local advisor. However you enter a student's name is the way it will appear on his or her name tag. After the registration deadline of **February 19** has passed, we will be able to assign judged contest appointment times, and you will have a much better idea of your students' schedules when you arrive at the conference.

Once your registration has been submitted, you will not be able to change anything. So be sure that you have everything in order before you click the *Submit* button. After you have submitted your registration, all corrections (such as additions or deletions) must be sent to Sheri Ketaneh (Sheri.Ketaneh@ode.state.oh.us). Step-by step registration instructions will be posted before the registration becomes active.

Registration is \$45 for each SLC attendee. Hotel rooms per person are Single \$140, Double \$72, Triple \$52, and Quad \$42.

Prejudged Events

March 4 is the deadline for submitting prejudged contest materials. A complete list of events that are prejudged and the items that must be submitted is on the websites. Entry and documentation forms are also available as a Word or PDF document.

The deadline is not flexible. I have told contest judges that they will I will overnight materials to them on Friday, March 5, so that they have sufficient time to evaluate the technical components of the entries. Review the requirements to ensure that all required components are included in your submission.

National Officer Candidate Screening

State Officer Candidates who placed in the top one-third at State Officer Screening are eligible to screen to become a National Officer Candidate. Ohio Association President Sarah Crist is the current National Historian. Sarah will be pleased to answer questions from students who are eligible to screen. Just use Sarah's e-mail link on the OhioBPA site.

National Officer Screening will be **February 19**, from 1–3 p.m., at the Hyatt Place Columbus/Worthington. When the application is received, candidates will be given a specific interview time. Ohio can send two candidates to campaign at the National Leadership Conference in Anaheim in May.

Diplomat and Statesman Awards

The online Torch Awards program does not have a provision for the CEAC rep or designee to approve the Diplomat Awards. I have sent the competitive events coordinators and CEAC reps a file that identifies by region members who have earned the requisite number of points for the Diplomat Award. At this point, I must approve your students for the diplomat as well as the Statesman. Before I can approve either award, the local advisor must review and submit the student's résumé. I have to rely on the advisor's assessment of whether the activity meets the criteria.

In order for students to receive their Statesman award at the State Leadership Conference, the local advisor must approve the students' activities no later than **March 12**. This will ensure that certificates and pins are available at the Statesman Awards Reception on Thursday evening. Let me know if you need assistance with entering or approving résumés.

Scholarship

The Ohio Association will present four scholarships of \$1,000 each at the State Leadership Conference. The application packet is available on both websites. Applications are due no later than **February 4**. Scholarship applications will be prejudged and the top ten applicants will be interviewed at SLC.

Encourage your qualified students to apply for both the state and national BPA scholarships. Other scholarship opportunities are described on the National BPA site. Encourage your students to participate in the *We Seed Challenge* which includes paid internships as well as scholarships.

Special Olympics

Very few contribution forms have been submitted for this year. A Regional Competition graph is posted on www.OhioBPA.org. You should report contributions made to local SO organizations as well as to the state organization. Report everything that your chapter has done since the 2009 SLC. Remember that any Special Olympics event at which students volunteer or to which you make contributions should be reported. The school and the region with the highest contributions will receive a plaque at the Awards Ceremony.

We will again collect contributions at SLC to include in the total for each region. CEAC reps should identify the individual who will represent his or her region in the Parade of Regions at the Awards Ceremony. This was a new event at last year's SLC. And the current officers plan to make it an even more impressive event this year. Jordan Wilcox, State Historian, is coordinating that event. Watch for updates and requests from Jordan.

Exemplary Chapter

Does your chapter meet the criteria for the Exemplary Chapter Award or the Professional Cup? The Ohio Association received the National Professional Cup last year because so many Ohio Chapters participated in Torch Awards and in National's Special Recognition Awards.

There were a few changes at the National level and the *Ohio Chapter Award of Excellence Guidelines* has been updated accordingly. The updated document is available on both websites. Each chapter that meets the specified criteria will receive a plaque at SLC. The Ohio Professional Cup will be awarded to the chapter with the highest composite score.

Submissions for any of the National Special Recognition Awards must be submitted electronically (new requirement). For this year, Ohio submissions can be in either format.

State Advisor's Note

I appreciate your patience in getting the OhioBPA site updated. It still needs work, and Mr. Friedman and I appreciate comments on the changes and suggestions for further improvement. At this point items are still being posted to the ODE site as well. The two sites will be integrated as soon as possible.