

Texas Tidbits—9-1-16

Welcome Back, Texas BPA!

Our national theme this year is, “Spread Your Wings.” We hope that your chapters will encourage members to grow and take the chances needed to soar!

I hope that your school year is getting off to a great start. You are probably getting geared up to jump into your BPA activities for the year. As you get started, I wanted to share a few things to look forward to this coming year.



- 1) It's a new year and we have a new vision for Business Professionals of America. This summer, the National Board of Trustees adopted a new mission statement and a new vision statement for BPA.
New Mission Statement: The mission of Business Professionals of America is to contribute to the preparation of global professionals through the advancement of leadership, citizenship, academic, and technological skills.
New Corporate Vision Statement: To be an innovator in Career and Technical Education, providing our members with opportunities for growth through education, competition, community service, and personal development.
- 2) September 1st is the scheduled release date for the updated WSAP (Workplace Skills Assessment Program). This is the guidebook for competitions and topics for this membership year. Be ready with your chapter login information so that you can download it and check it out. If you have forgotten your login information or need to edit it as a new teacher coming in as a replacement, please let me know.
- 3) Contest changes—Middle level will add Administrative Support Team to their list of events this year. Last year, we piloted Promotional Photography as a virtual contest with great success. This will be a virtual event offered this year. In place of the Fair-Trade Challenge, we will be offering a new virtual event, Start-Up Enterprise Team, which will allow students to work together to build a new business. This change will allow for more flexibility as far as the types of businesses and services that can be offered. A new open event will be piloted, Accounting Mathematics. Finally, piloted at the Post-Secondary level will be a Medical Billing and Coding Contest. I have already expressed an interest in expanding this contest to the Secondary level and hope that we will be able to bring that on next year.
- 4) Changes at the National Center—Vickie Thomas stepped down as the Director of Education at National BPA on July 31st. Dustin Deevers will be the new Director of Education and Vickie Thomas will remain on staff as Assistant Director of Education. This is a very dedicated partnership and will continue to keep our contests relevant and innovative.
- 5) New Texas Website Design—We are in the process of redesigning our website (www.texasbpa.com) to make it easier to navigate. We are working towards a more mobile-friendly format. Our goal is to update the format and improve navigation.
- 6) News from Nationals—We will be continuing the Member Certification Series and the Advisor Certification Series. This is a great opportunity to learn more about BPA and we would like to see more Texas members and advisors certify this year. We have partnered with Next Step Academy and we will be offering short courses with digital badges and certifications that can be earned during the year. They are finalizing the formats and courses that will be spotlighted and we will be featuring them in The

Source. Remember that there are webinars that are offered that provide great information for you and your students. They are archived on the National website so you can view them at your leisure.

- 7) News from the Texas Officer Team—I was able to meet the Officer Team this year at their Leadership Camp in New Braunfels. Our Officer Coordinator, Susan McKrell, has done an excellent job of working with these young people and I can say with confidence that we have a strong leadership team in place to help us this year. Special thanks to Dana Tarter and Robin Goff for their roles in assisting at Officer Camp this year. The officer team is dedicated to helping YOU with anything that you need. Please put their talents to use. They have chosen to spotlight the BPA Cares program this year so look for details to follow about how Texas can become more involved at the local level. They will be extending a challenge for you to market your programs and service and we hope to stay connected this year via social media and other items. Details will follow about their other initiatives.
- 8) Focus on social media—When I attended the State Advisor meeting this summer, I realized that Texas is leading the pack in terms of our website, our use of technology for our competitions and our use of TWOPPY and social media. We want to continue to grow our following with social media and will be launching a campaign to have all of our students stay connected to Texas and National BPA news.
- 9) Membership—Membership is OPEN! Go online and register your members. I am excited that we have chartered many new chapters already and more coming in every day. Please share your experience and help our new chapters as they join us. Let's grow our membership so Texas can boast the highest membership increase this year!
- 10) Virtual Chapters—Texas is one of the few states to offer a Virtual Middle Level, Virtual Secondary and Virtual Post-Secondary option for our students. We are hoping that our virtual chapters will provide opportunity for those students from private, charter or home school settings. Or, it may be for those students who will not have BPA at their school this year. We did have several virtual chapter students participate and win at State and Nationals last year. If you have recent grads or surrounding schools that might be interested in staying active in BPA, please let me know.

More news will follow about changes after our Board and Regional Advisors meeting in September. I'll be sure to keep you in the loop. In the meantime, let me know how I can help you this year. Thanks so much for all that you do to get BPA off to a great start.

Dates to remember:

Regional Leadership Conferences—one of the last three weekends in January (deadlines vary)

State Leadership Conference—Dallas Sheraton, March 1-4, 2017

National Leadership Conference—Orlando, Florida (Dolphin/Swan), May 10-14, 2017

Let's make it a great year,

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