

Texas Tidbits—3/26/18

Howdy, Texas!

Round up time!



National Leadership Conference: We are looking forward to the National Leadership Conference, May 9-13 in Grapevine, Texas. The NLC program and announcements are posted online. Specific Texas items will be shared on www.texasbpa.com under the Conference tab.

- ✓ **Move-Ups--**Deadline for announcing move-ups will be Wednesday, March 28. This will give qualifiers time to get their projects submitted in time for the pre-submit deadline. If you have cancellations, please email me immediately so that I can notify the next alternate. We want as many Texas qualifiers as possible to get a shot at being on stage in Dallas. If you have already submitted an invoice, you can create a new invoice for any member or guest who is attending. You can also contact Jonathan Smith at jsmith@bpa.org if you need to edit your hotel arrangements.
- ✓ **Texas deals**—It is a requirement for members to stay at the conference hotel; however, if you are within a 50-mile radius, you can contact Jonathan Smith to delete the reservation for you. Also, if your school might be available to assist us Wednesday afternoon with conference registration setup, please let me know. Do not forget your tax-exempt form to be exempt from state tax on your hotel rooms. And, finally, for those members who have Six Flags Season Passes, we do have a special deal that will allow you to pay for a bus ticket only. Not sure on pricing just yet but glad we can make that an option for our students.
- ✓ **Deadlines--No joke!** --April 1st may be April Fool's day and happen to fall on Easter Sunday, but we are not fooling around about this date. Remember, it's Eastern Standard Time so our deadline for Registration, competition registration and pre-submits will be April 1, 10:59 pm TEXAS TIME. Quibbling about minutes or being upset because you timed out while uploading will not matter. Please submit early. You have had plenty of time to update your projects. Do not risk getting a zero for your tech score by waiting until the last minute. As always, I'll be up on submission night to assist as needed.
- ✓ **Torch Awards**--If you are submitting for your Ambassador award, be sure that you have edited your items to be in complete sentences. This is a change from prior years that required all items to begin with an action verb. Advisors, please encourage students to submit prior to April 1 so that they have time to edit the resumes and resubmit by the deadline. Resumes that are not in the correct format or that are missing items will be rejected. Remember, advisors must SUBMIT the resume for Ambassador or it will not be eligible for review. Also, don't forget that the deadline is Eastern Standard Time. That means 10:59 pm Texas time!
- ✓ **Pre-submits**--Please follow directions to submit your projects on page 22-25 in the WSAP. If you submit in the wrong format, if you submit the wrong file, or if your submission has an error, I cannot help you! Please be sure that your links are current and that files are saved to an online system that is not blocked by a firewall. I recommend sharing the file and testing it in various locations to be sure that it loads. The time is set and the pre-submit system will close at 10:59 pm Texas time.
- ✓ **Texas at NLC**—If you are a first-time attendee or if you are a veteran, you need to know that Texas is a big deal at NLC. We are the loudest, the proudest and the most fun! Join the Texas delegation as we sit together at the Opening Session. Look for the Texas Officer Team with the Texas flags. Wave them high and show your Texas pride. Keep your flags to bring them again to the Awards Session on Saturday. Throughout the conference, if you see the Texas Officers or anyone from Texas, be sure to

give them a big smile and “Howdy!” and watch how people respond. It makes for a fun conference and a great way to encourage all Texas members. We are TEXAS! That means showing your Texas charm and being kind and friendly to everyone you meet.

- ✓ **Arrival**—Registration will be sorted by school. Be sure to have copies of your paid registration or you may end up waiting in the Finance line to take care of your bills. Please take the time to double check the items in your packet. Please note that there are many events on Wednesday for your students to attend. Open events, Exhibitor Showcase and BPA University sessions from Adobe, Social Assurity and Certiport are being offered before the Opening Session.
- ✓ **Texas Notes for NLC**--Texas will be housed at the Gaylord Texan in Grapevine. Keep sharing your photos and posts as you prepare for NLC with your chapter #bpaallday. Find Big Hank or #LiLHank in the lobby of the Gaylord Texan and take a chapter photo. Don't miss out on the BPA University, Leadership Academy, National Intern program, National Day of Service, the Alumni Scavenger Hunt and all the great photo opportunities during the conference.
- ✓ **Parking Information for Gaylord Texan**--Overnight self-parking for car/truck/SUV is available in the Gaylord Texan Parking Garage for \$14.30, and valet parking is \$31.00. Please reserve BUS PARKING by completing this form: <https://tinyurl.com/TXNLCbusparking> Motor coach/bus parking is available at the Marshalling Yard/Lot R for \$75.00 per day. Drivers can be picked-up/dropped-off by the Security Dispatch team, who can be reached at 817-778-2480. Download the Gaylord Texan Property Map and the Parking Lot Map. For those traveling by motor coach/bus and staying at the Gaylord Texan, bus staging is located at the "Tour Lobby" for drop-off/pick-up. For those traveling by car and staying at the Gaylord Texan, utilize the "Motor Lobby" for drop-off/pick-up. For those traveling by motor coach/bus, but not staying at the hotel, utilize the "Convention Center Circle Drive" for drop-off/pick-up daily. For Sunday departures, due to limited space, the staging area will be used for active loading only. You must call your driver to the "Tour Lobby" when your entire chapter is ready to board.
- ✓ **Texan Swearing In**--Stop by our Texas booth at NLC to swear in and earn your Honorary Texan pin and visit our Officer Team as we welcome everyone Texas-style!
- ✓ **Texas State Meeting**--Wednesday, May 9, 10:00-11:00 pm Grapevine Ballroom C. Networking and meeting people from other states is one of the highlights of NLC. Don't miss our Texas state meeting to get your trading pins. Each registered member and advisor will get a set of Texas trading pins. Additional pins can be pre-ordered here and can be paid for at the meeting (cash or checks only). Additional pins will be available for sale while supplies last. <https://tinyurl.com/2018TXPins> If you miss the Texas meeting and need to arrange for pin pickup, please contact Diana Weber via text. Pins that are not picked up by Thursday at noon will be available for sale. We will also have some “vintage” pins from prior years if you would like to purchase those as well.
- ✓ **Texas Hoedown**--Friday, May 11, 6:30pm-10:30pm, Gaylord Texan, Longhorn B-D. Don't miss this Texas-sized party!
- ✓ **NLC Dress Code Reminder**--We want to continue to stress the importance of the NLC Dress Code and ask that you please take the time to provide information and one last reminder to students, advisors and chaperones about following the NLC Dress Code. The complete description and overview of the NLC Dress Code can be found online at: <http://www.bpa.org/nlc/dresscode>.
**Note: Remember that while in Texas a nice pair of dress boots are considered dress shoes, at NLC this will not be allowed. Dress shoes are required. Also, ladies, please be aware of your skirt length and be sure that you have dress shoes. You may want to have comfortable shoes to wear to and from your event and change before your presentation. Shoes complete the look but can kill your feet. It is

important to note that members not dressed in required attire will not be allowed to participate in any session or any competitive event. In addition, members not adhering to the Professional Dress Code will not be allowed on stage. Please be sure to go over the NLC Dress Code with your students, advisors and chaperones now and in the days leading up to packing for and arriving in Orlando. It is never easy to have to turn a student away because they are not following the NLC Dress Code. Please be proactive! Share, discuss and remind NLC attendees of the dress code in advance of May 10 to ensure that everyone attending NLC can participate in all sessions and competitive events.

- ✓ **NLC Advisor Assignments**—Please take the time to review your NLC assignment. You will be responsible for attending these duty assignments at NLC. If you are having someone substitute for you in your assignment, please have them sign you in and add their own name as well. At the end of the conference, Nationals will send out an attendance report showing those advisors who did not report for their duty. This is your responsibility at the conference and we cannot have a successful conference without your help. I will be following up with those on the list and contacting administrators as required.
- ✓ **Scheduling**—If you need to reschedule a competition for your students, please stop by HQ. You will need State Advisor approval to reschedule any event. Valid reasons for a schedule change include: deleting or subbing a team member, cancelling an event, a contest conflict, illness or other personal reasons. If you have Intern assignments that need to be adjusted, please stop by the Intern desk.
- ✓ **Judges**—Finally, we are still in need of judges. As a Secondary advisor, you are welcome to assist as a judge for ML or PS. We would really appreciate you signing up your chaperones and parents in attendance as well. We will have a table setup at registration for any on-site sign ups and so you can volunteer to fill in. There are always cancellations so the more volunteers we have, the better! We want to be sure that our students have a full set of judges to make this the best NLC yet. You can sign up directly on <http://www.bpa.org/nlc/judges>

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you with your chapters or if you have any questions. Best of luck to you and your students as you prepare for the National Leadership Conference. I will be serving as the Texas “hostess with the mostest” and will be in and out of HQ. As always, if you need anything, shoot me an email or a text and I’ll get back to you.

Sincerely,

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