

Happy New Year...2016!!!

- **Number of events students can compete at State Leadership Conference.** As each region finishes up their regionals it is important to be prepared to start registering for State Leadership Conference. Registration is OPEN as of today! **Each student is allowed to compete in 3 events of which 2 can be team events. They may also compete in an unlimited number of open events.** The registration window for state is now open for those schools who have completed regional competitions. **Simply go to <http://www.registermychapter.com/bpamem/>.** I will be sending out guidelines (Advisor Update for SLC) on Wednesday, January 6, 2016.
- **Welcome MSU-Northern.** I am excited to announce that MSU-Northern has established a BPA Post-Secondary Chapter. We are so excited to have them on board!!! Our Post Secondary student membership is growing and I hope to keep adding post secondary members and post secondary institutions as well.
- **BPA Cares Social Media Award** is our way of encouraging members to be actively involved with their chapters and with social media. The next event to help qualify chapters for the award is our second Tweet-a-Thon, scheduled for **January 4-5**. We will be tweeting for 24 hours straight, starting at 8 pm eastern time, and would love to have your members interact with us! All they need to do is respond to our tweets or tweet us questions/comments, @National_BPA.
- **TIME CAPSULE ITEM.** I am still looking for items for Montana to include in the time capsule at the 50th celebration of BPA, if you have an old program, pin, photographs, DVD...thing that you think would be a great item to put in time capsule to represent Montana, please send my way.
- **Digital Media Production**, we provide information to assist students in the creation of their promotional productions. This year, students had to obtain the permission of the Visit Orlando site to access their Media Gallery. Once some students were granted access, there were questions concerning the ability to edit videos available on the Image Gallery site. Sarah Welsh at Visit Orlando has granted our students permission to edit the videos for their promotional videos.
- **Deadlines to Remember:**
 - State Officer Team Winter Meetings, January 24-25, Billings, MT
 - Registration for BPA Leadership Conference opens today, January 4, 2016
 - Deadline to nominate 2016 MT Advisor of the year is January 31, 2016
 - Competitive events Presubmission for SLC is February 5, 2016
 - Judged events Presubmission for SLC is February 5, 2016.
 - Statesman Torch Award Online resumes to be submitted by February 5, 2016
 - BPA Scholarship Applications must be postmarked by February 5, 2016
 - Applications for 2016-17 State Officer Candidates is February 5, 2016

- Internship applications for SLC are due February 5, 2016
- Montana Silver Star Awards due on February 19, 2016
- Montana BPA Member Recruiter Applications due on February 19, 2016
- **Note from Vickie at National Office on Release Forms.** National BPA has received questions concerning whether or not **Release Forms** must be typed. We specifically indicate on the Individual and Team Entry Forms that they must be typed; however, we do not have that wording on the Release Forms (even though on Page 13 of the ML and S/PS WSAPs it indicates that any handwritten forms, excluding signatures, are not acceptable and will not be awarded specification points). While I know this is a contradiction, it is, in my opinion, unrealistic to ask students to get the Release forms typed, especially when they are out filming and they may not know the person they would like to use in their project. I think it would be difficult, if not possible, to get a form back if we asked the person to type it and then return it to us. I think that in some instances trying to get the form back from classmates could be problematic with the busy schedules everyone has, as well. I do think the handwritten forms must be legible but I am of the opinion that trying to get them typed is extremely difficult.
- **Accommodations for State Leadership Conference**
 - *Holiday Inn Grand Montana*
 - [1-406-248-7701](tel:14062487701)
 - Rate: Standard rooms \$90.00 plus tax, Tower rooms \$110 plus tax
 - *Billings Hotel & Convention Center*
[406-259-7286](tel:4062597286) Group Code BPA16
 - RATE: \$89.00 plus current taxes
- **CURRENT REGISTRATION NUMBERS.** Student Members: 1577 Advisors: 111 Total MT Members 1688-----You can still register!!!
- **REGIONAL NUMBERS:** The registration numbers per region are as follows: Region 1: 151, Region 2: 108, Region 3: 342, Region 4: 185, Region 5: 141, Region 6, 334: Region 7: 165 and Region 8: 254.

•Wishing you all the best in 2016, I am excited for all the BPA activities.

Lisa

