January 20, 2016

WCTSMA Members,

As all of you start to gear up for the upcoming WCTSMA State Symposium/Competition this year in Tri-Cities, we would like to inform you of things to better prepare yourself and students for this year’s events. We, along with many others, have been working to improve upon our past successes. We have included the hotel information and the tentative schedule for your convenience. We hope to have a free ice skating social on Thursday evening similar to past years. All other forms and preparation materials for state can be viewed on the website.

First, the biggest change this year is that we will be removing the EPAC or interview from your varsity score. The EPAC will be optional and will be open to any students (Varsity or JV) maximum of 2 per school. The top 20 scores will be interviewed at state. Schools are not guaranteed to have students move on to the interview round. Interviews will be based on total score of the cover letter and resume as well as the application criteria. The EPAC will still be scored the same (50% cover letter/resume and 50% interview) and awards will be given similar to past years (top 3).

Second, we will be adding a new test to the varsity exams to replace the EPAC score. This test will test the student’s knowledge in Exercise Physiology. ACE Personal Training Manual 3rd edition will be the testing standard for this exam. The test preparation guidelines under Events & Activities/Test Standards will be posted on the website along with all other test preparation instructions (there may be slight changes in materials or directions that will be posted when available).

Third, we have gone through all the evaluations from last year (thank you for all your feedback) and have decided to add instructor sessions that you will receive CEU and WA clock hours for. In order to offset the cost of our Keynote speaker there will be a nominal $50 fee for all instructors. We currently have Jeff Utecht to offer a course on technology in the classroom. We are still looking for other topics for courses to offer. If you have suggestions please let us know!

Lastly, we as a board decided to recognize more students on their achievements at state. Starting this year we will be splitting the participating schools into two categories (large & small) based off of enrollment. The split will be decided closer to competition in order to try and create categories of equal size.

The hotel registration information offers three choices that are balanced between quality, location, and offerings. Please make sure to register under your school name as Larry will be managing the room blocks to ensure we serve our member’s needs. We may also contact you to verify need for number of rooms as some may register for too many initially and then cancel when not needed. You must stay at the competition hotel(s) on Friday night in order to compete.

In order to get a higher participation/response rate from schools we had asked for two student representatives and e-mails from each school with your membership. These two students would likely be your two student representatives for the Sports Medicine symposium meetings also. Larry has compiled those and this letter along with scholarship, instructor of the year, and other symposium information will also be sent to them.

The nearest due date is for student scholarships. Kathryn Yanuszeski is responsible for the collection and dissemination of these. We have chosen to offer four $500 scholarships this year of which all money comes through fundraising and sources outside of our association. **The due date for receiving by e-mail or postmarked is February 12th!**

Instructor of the year nominations will again be completed by the students and submitted ahead of time for evaluation. This will take some assistance for specific information by you as the instructor. We all know that your students think that you’re the best and will advocate for you, we are again giving them this opportunity.

Again, we want to stress that the WCTSMA is a state recognized CTSO, meaning that leadership is being reinforced throughout the year and is much more than just a competition. It’s embedded daily in our instruction and there are many opportunities for your students to take on leadership roles within your school and our association. The symposium gives your students many ways to model their leadership characteristics through student forum and poster presentations, individual testing, and student representative meetings. Please encourage your students to be active participants in these opportunities. Chris Hiatt has worked tirelessly with our state officers this year and they have represented us tremendously at state officer training, WA-ACTE, to OSPI leaders, to their fellow students at summer and winter leadership, and soon at legislative day. Please encourage your students to apply for the state officer positions and president for the upcoming year

We will also be looking for a Vice President to join the BOD starting after state. This position will matriculate into President after 2 years, for a 4 year commitment! If you are interested please contact Angela Bushmaker or Larry Howe for information.

The web page will be undergoing regular changes in the next 3 months, so please use this tool to better prepare yourself and students for the upcoming WCTSMA State Symposium/Competition. Thank you for all that you do with your students and as always, please let us know how we can be of help.

See you soon,