Dear IPDA colleagues,

I hope everyone had a great holiday!  We are only 2 months away from our National Tournament and Convention, coming up March 27-29, 2015 in Boise, Idaho.  Your hosts at Boise State University are hard at work preparing for our arrival.   Here are some specific items for your consideration:

1.       Hotel – please book as soon as you can.  The block will cut-off on Feb. 26.   You can book rooms at <http://www.hiexpress.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=ex&localeCode=en&regionCode=1&hotelCode=BOIDT&_PMID=99801505&GPC=IPD>   Use the code IPD.

2.       BSU is trying to set up a shuttle service between the campus and the tournament hotel.  Please email Jeff Stoppenhagen jstoppen@u.boisestate.edu directly if your squad will make use of this service.  This is a heck of an offer, but let's not have someone set up and pay for a service nobody uses.  Give Jeff your BEST information.

3.       Your program will be asked to vote on the 2015 Coach of the Year.  Balloting should open on Feb. 15th.  Be thinking of who your nominations will be and/or your choices for this award.  Further information will follow as we get closer to the Feb 15th date.

4.       Some tournament reminders:

                a.       Please check the IPDA website for division qualifications before entering your students to the National competition.  We have a number of new programs from the Northwest that may not be familiar with the IPDA definition of a novice is that the student be enrolled at the institution they are representing and may not  “…..have competed in ten debate tournaments in any capacity at any level in any combination (e.g., high school or college; novice, junior or open, CX, Policy,Value, NDT, CEDA, Parliamentary, NFA, L-D, etc.).

                b.      Please review the qualifications for the Varsity and Professional divisions as well.

                c.       Please send your topic ideas (specific wording or general areas) to me as soon as you can.  It is never too early to start setting up panels of topics.

                d.     If you know of a program/school interested in attending Nationals this year, feel free to forward this email to them.   Let’s not assume that everyone has joined the IPDA listserv.  Let's keep spreading the word about IPDA having Nats in the Northwest!

5.       Submissions for scholarly papers to be reviewed for the IPDA Journal should be sent directly to Chris Duerringer at Christopher.Duerringer@csulb.edu.   That call for manuscripts just went out today.  If you want to be considered for a Convention presentation slot then let Chris know and he will advise me when the paper is blind-reviewed and approved.  After a paper is approved, then I can reserve a room for your presentation.

That’s it for now.  I will continue to send reminders during the next few weeks to help make your attendance at the IPDA National Convention and Championship Tournament educational and enjoyable.

Thank you for your support of IPDA,

M Jarzabek

IPDA Managing Director