

Evergreen Boys State will be held at Warm Beach Conference Center in Stanwood, WA on June 16-22, 2024. We had our annual Board of Directors meeting on September 17th where we reviewed impacts from last years program and path forward for this year. We are working through processes with Department and National on direction going forward. We approved amending our bylaws to accommodate change but were advised by National to keep existing until the Department constitution and bylaws are reestablished. One of the main discussions was to combine our program with Girls State on a one-year trial basis. The Girls State Co-Director Jan Sperry was present and in agreement with this move. It was voted on and approved. Two weeks after this meeting the Evergreen Girls State committee voted to not participate in our program and not at Warm Beach. It was voted on and approved to allow increase the program cost to \$600 (\$300 Post/\$300 Student).

Recruiting this year will continue to be a challenge. New approaches were discussed. Questions were asked about offering a smaller scale program for minimal participants. The Director as well as several members of the program staff reiterated in order for the program to run the way it is designed and have an impact for the students it is important to continue to work toward increased participation. Program staff will be meeting in February to begin assignments and review for this year's program. The deposit for our Warm Beach agreement was brought up due to the lateness of payment last year. This year it was paid in December.

A presentation was given on roles and responsibilities, recruiting and the registration process. Additional training and support has been offered if requested. East side Chairman Mike Montaney continues to work with posts and chairman over there and West side Chairman Carol Reed offered give training at district level. To date no additional training or invites have been requested. Program information continues to be sent through weekly department newsletters. We have continued to put out information through social media, school mailings, and some posts. Marketing and resource materials for members and chairman have been updated on the EBS website. We have also been contacted by and reached out to several schools and local leaders who are aware of or attended the program in the past and interested in helping share information. We will be participating in the WACA in Yakima on 16-17 March. We are on stand-by for the WCSA conference.

We remain positive that we can reach our goal of 125 this year. We had representatives at the majority of the District Fall Conferences and have spoken at additional meetings through Zoom. To date while we only have about 20 students confirmed (same as where we were last year), over the past few weeks we have been receiving several invites to attend school programs, meet in person, several posts and districts have reached out with appointments scheduled in the schools and several continue to plan and reach out for brochures. We encourage everyone to reach out to local schools, (public, private, tribal and home), local youth programs (JROTC, scouting, key clubs, church, etc) and other organizations or programs you are involved with to promote Boys and Girls State. We can get there but need everyone's help.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Morea
Department Chairman
Evergreen Boys State