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Statewide Officers

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Important Dates

State Convention
April 11-12, 2019
YMCA of the Rockies

National Convention
July 26-31, 2019
North Dakota State Uni Fargo, ND
what do know about

CONVENTION

There have been a few changes for convention this year so this is everything you need to know.
All Olympika, speech, and costume events will be walk-up. You just need to show up, put your name down, and compete.

Sequestering is no longer required for Certamen, so make sure you know when you compete.
Swimming events take place in the morning before participants have access to their rooms, so make sure to bring a towel and a bag to put the wet suit into if you’re competing.
All electronic devices seen during testing will be confiscated until the end of the session.

The Bazaar is only open some of the time, so make sure to check the schedule and find a time to get a duck, t-shirt, or snack. It also only accepts cash.
As Convention is held at the YMCA of the Rockies, COJCL members have access to the activities presented by the YMCA. In the past, these activities have included roller skating, mini golf, the game room, and the library. This area has great views of the Rocky Mountains and several short walks in the general area. Just walking around the YMCA, one could see elk, deer, and moose (for the lucky few). Exploring the area will lead you to wonderful views of the mountains and surrounding landscape. In these activities, we ask students to be respectful of the landscape and the YMCA workers.

Medusa of Athens, a breathtaking beauty, wise and pure, chose to become a priestess in the temple of Athena. Athena smiled upon Medusa. From the depths of the sea, Poseidon also smiled upon Medusa, not as Athena had, with benevolent kindness, but with the smile of a hawk circling its prey. In the night, he struck, and, with Medusa, defiled the temple of Athena. Athena watched with building fury; a fury that poured out in fiery rage as Poseidon boasted of his exploits. Her temple had been defiled, and her godly prowess threatened. The only way to restabilize her power was Olympian justice, vengeance, but Athena could not punish Poseidon. The god of the sea, brother of Zeus, Poseidon was untouchable. As long as Zeus stood behind him, and Zeus would never
condemn his brother, or any other god, for mistreating and defiling a mortal woman, Poseidon was untouchable. Athena, wisest of the Olympians, was troubled because he temple had been defiled and someone needed to be punished.

“Punish the woman” advised Hera, her voice dripping with the bitterness of a million years of unsatisfactory justice.

“Punish the woman” called Zeus, the invulnerable king of the gods perched upon his mountain throne.

“Punish the woman” growled Ares, his hands dripping with the blood of a thousand warriors.

“Punish the woman” laughed Poseidon, safe in the watery depths.

And so, Athena decided to punish Medusa, but the cleverest of the Olympians still sought justice for her priestess. Cunningly, like a snake, Athena began to scheme.

“Where does a woman's value lie?” She asked the Olympians.

“Her beauty” whispered Zeus, wallowing in every memory of mortal women he possessed.

“Her beauty” replied Aphrodite, the most foolish and vain goddess.

“Her beauty” laughed Dionysus form his halls of debauchery.

Athena laughed to, a quiet content sound of a woman who has found a foothold, and an escape. The wise goddess descended on Medusa and stole her beauty, and stole the beauty of her sisters as well. The final measure of Athena's punishment was a curse; any man who looked upon Medusa’s face would turn to stone. The cruelest punishment and the perfect defense against unwanted attention. Medusa, and her sisters, now gorgons, were left on an island alone, alone and safe.

Many men, mortal heroes, sought to kill the cursed women, the monstrous gorgons, and claim glory for their conquest, but the sharp teeth and tough skin of the sisters and Medusa’s petrifying gaze stopped all who tried. Then came Perseus.

A mortal hero, son of Zeus. Perseus’s mother was to be forcibly married to a cruel king. Perseus had been ordered to kill the gorgon Medusa for the sake of his mother. All were sure he would die.

“Your monster will not kill my son” bellowed the irresponsible Zeus who had, through all the suffering of Perseus’s mother, done nothing, “I will not allow it.”

Athena could not disobey Zeus, nor could she idly allow an innocent woman and her faithful son to suffer, so, with the help of Hermes, the kindest and most gentle of the gods, she prepared Perseus for his task.

On that fateful day, she ensured that Medusa’s sisters would be sleeping so they would be safe from Perseus, and he safe from them. Athena observed carefully as Perseus slayed Medusa. She watched as he rescued Andromeda from the hands of Poseidon’s beast using the head of a woman the sea god had once loved. Finally, Perseus returned home, and, using the gorgons head, rescued his mother.

A soon as seemed prudent, Athena appeared and took the head. Medusa would not be a trophy for a hero to claim. Instead, the wise goddess pressed the face of the terrible Medusa into her shield. Armies trembled before her and her terrifying Aegis. And so the legacy of Medusa was not that of beauty nor defilement; it was not the legacy of a monster or a trophy. The final purpose of Medusa was a protector of her beloved Athena, a shield.
GRATIAS TIBI AGO