

PNW Quizzing 2024-2025 Meet 3 Leadership Meeting Notes

Greetings fellow PNW Quizzing leaders.

In an effort to reduce the length of the leadership meeting at Meet 3, I've written up all my notes herein. I'll have a hardcopy available for each team organization at the meeting, and I'll also have a PDF available for download from:

- PDF: <https://pnwquizzing.org/downloads/2025-01-11.pdf>
- HTML: <https://pnwquizzing.org/downloads/2025-01-11.html>

If you have any questions or feedback about anything operational, please raise it in the leadership meeting or contact me after the meet:

- gryphon@pnwquizzing.org
- 206-406-7579

If you have any questions or feedback about anything related to governance or assets, please raise it in the leadership meeting or contact the PNW Quizzing Assets and Governance Board after the meet:

- Kristine Delamarter (kris1001@hotmail.com)
- Andrew Borden (jabberwocky415@gmail.com)
- Sharalyn Shafer (sharalyns@yahoo.com)

Season Updates

There's been a slight change to the season schedule: Meet 5's location has changed. See below for notes on the remainder of the season, but please remember that the most current information will always be on the PNW Quizzing web site. You can find the most current season schedule details, host contact information, and notes about the upcoming meet on the PNW Quizzing web site.

- Season Schedule: https://pnwquizzing.org/2024-2025_season/season_schedule.md
- User List: <https://pnwquizzing.org/user/list>
- Meet Data: https://pnwquizzing.org/tool/meet_data

Meet 4

Remnant Bible Quizzing (RBQ) will be hosting Meet 4 in Salem, Oregon.

- **Registration Deadline:** Saturday, February 1, 2025

- **Meet Date:** Saturday, February 15, 2025
- **Location:**
 - [Fruitland Community Church](#)
 - [6252 Fruitland Rd NE, Salem OR 97317](#)
- **Contact:** Christi Adams (christiana.adams@icloud.com)

Meet 5

Gig Harbor (GIG) will be hosting Meet 5 at Heart Church (*formerly Fox Island Alliance*) on Fox Island, Washington.

- **Registration Deadline:** Saturday, March 8, 2025
- **Meet Date:** Saturday, March 22, 2025
- **Location:**
 - [Heart Church](#)
 - [655 Sixth Ave, Fox Island WA 98333](#)
- **Contact:** Jenny Zecher (jennyaz@comcast.net)

Great West Invitational (GWI)

- **Dates:** Thursday-Sunday, April 10-13, 2025
- **Location:**
 - [Crowsnest Lake Bible Camp](#)
 - [Crowsnest Pass, Coleman, AB T0K 0M0, Canada](#)
- **Contact:**
 - Andrew Borden (jabberwocky415@gmail.com)
 - Sharalyn Shafer (sharalyns@yahoo.com)

GWI is often a phenomenal experience for quizzers who earn the privilege to participate. Please help Andrew evangelize GWI to your quizzers.

All quizzers are invited to participate in GWI; however, quizzers are required to demonstrate 50% material memorization by quoting to one or more adults (i.e. coaches, parents, etc.) half the material synonymously over any number of sittings.

Andrew is offering GWI coaching workshops this winter and spring for any quizzers intending to attend GWI. Quizzers are *not* required to pass the quoting bar prior to participating in the coaching workshops.

Historically, we've followed the following: Puget Sound quizzers typically collect at Alliance Bible Church in Covington, Washington starting at 8 AM. We travel east on I-90, making regular photo stops. We meet up with Oregon quizzers in Ritzville, Washington for lunch. Then we continue on together to Sandpoint, Idaho for an overnight stay in a reasonably-priced hotel. We continue into Canada the following morning, and we arrive at Crowsnest Camp around 3 PM Friday, give or take. Quizzing itself occurs Friday evening and all day Saturday. Saturday evening is a quizzer social time. Then Sunday we depart the Camp immediately after an early breakfast and travel

with minimal quick stops home.

We will need adult volunteers. At minimum, we need at least 2 male and 2 female adults. And it's extremely helpful to have multiple adults willing to drive.

Everyone will need either a US Passport or "enhanced" driver's license or a copy of their birth certificate plus a government-issued photo ID. In addition, quizzers will need a permission slip signed by their parents. Attendees should also pack a sleeping bag (and optionally a pillow) and towels plus money for meals not at the Camp and for miscellaneous shopping.

Championships

- **Dates:** Friday-Sunday, May 2-4, 2025
 - Arrive Friday for dinner followed by Quizzing that evening
 - Quizzing continues Saturday and concludes with finals and awards prior to dinner
- **Location:**
 - [Double K Retreat Center](#)
 - [620 Tall Timber Trail, Easton WA 98925](#)
- **Contact:**
 - Kristine Delamarter (kris1001@hotmail.com)
 - Sharalyn Shafer (sharalyns@yahoo.com)

For the last few season, we've hosted Championships at Double K Christian Retreat Center in Easton, Washington. It's been a huge hit with quizzers and adults alike.

- Teams may arrive any time Friday afternoon to get settled and enjoy the camp.
- We'll officially "start" the meet with a short set of introductions and announcements at 5:15 PM, then eat dinner at 5:30 PM.
- Quizzing will start after dinner and run for a couple hours or so.
- Breakfast Saturday is at 8 AM, after which we'll resume quizzing until lunch at noon.
- I'll try to build in breaks during the day so quizzers can enjoy the camp.
- We'll complete quizzing Saturday afternoon, followed by awards, then dinner and the much anticipated "Senior-Led Awards" at 5:30 PM.
- Teams are encouraged to consider staying over Saturday evening if able for additional fellowship time.

Although a majority of our time during the day will be invested in quizzing, the camp offers a wide variety of activities. There are forest trails to explore, a lake for swimming (*if it's not too cold*), options for mountain biking, a rock wall, paint ball, human foosball, sand pit volleyball, a gigantic space for Ultimate Frisbee, basketball, and a multitude of spaces for groups of quizzers to hang out and fellowship. I'll bring a couple chess boards.

One likely constraint this season is the number of available quiz rooms. We've typically run 3 rooms at Championships, which is sufficient to run 18 teams. However, we're quite a bit larger this season than recent past seasons. We had 27 teams participate at Meet 2. If we have anything close to that at Championships, we'll need to get creative about quiz rooms.

Fortunately, Double K does have some options. We could use the Warn and Bishop lobbies in addition to the Fireside, Cedar, and Cougar/Bear rooms.

For the time being, Championships is open to all teams. In the way-back times when PNW Quizzing regularly had 25+ teams, we limited participation at Championships to the top 18 teams. In this way, Championships was a reward quizzers earned. We could consider doing this for future season; however, there are many multi-order deep effects to consider. I figure the best course is to proceed as we previously planned for this season, then we can evaluate if we need or want to make changes for future seasons.

Do keep in mind (*and share with your local organization*) that the same logistical conditions will exist this year as the last 3 years. Those conditions are as follows:

- The registration deadline is, as usual, 2 weeks before the meet, *prior* to which teams must submit both quiz meet registration and camp usage reservation information (*including your housing preferences*) to Kristine and Sharalyn.
- Based on our camp usage information, the camp will pre-purchase ingredients for our meals and schedule staffing. Consequently, neither PNW Quizzing nor Double K can offer refunds after the registration deadline.
- There are some hosting limitations imposed by the camp which we will respect:
 - There will be a boys/men dorm building and a girls/women dorm building.
 - Each dorm room within each building has multiple bunk beds, typically enough to house 2 teams plus 2 adults.
 - There must be adults in each room.
- **Please don't bypass Kristine or Sharalyn and contact the camp directly regarding housing assignments or payments.** Kristine and Sharalyn will collect and coordinate all information from PNW Quizzing and provide that to the camp in a single, unified message.
- As usual, Sharalyn will prepare an invoice for your organization based on your registration and will handle payment collection.

International Open Championship (IOC 2025)

- **Dates:** Friday-Saturday, June 20-21, 2025
- **Location:** [Multnomah Holiness Camp](#)
- **Address:** [10801 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland OR 97266](#)
- **Contact:** Christi Adams (christiana.adams@icloud.com)

IOC 2025 is set to be the biggest and most fun IOC we've held to date. We'll be hosting teams from multiple programs including Nazarene and World Bible Quizzing teams, and from across the US and Canada.

The competition is strong but enjoyable, just like my coffee.

Quizzers can register in teams in whatever way they like, either from their local church or a mixed team from multiple churches. Or quizzers can elect to register solo and ask to be placed on a team with other solo quizzers.

Technology Notes

As a reminder, there are 4 “buckets” of technology we use for Quizzing:

1. PNW Quizzing web site at <https://pnwquizzing.org>
 - Always contains the most recent, up-to-date information about all PNW Quizzing activities and governance
 - Email contact information list
 - Users can self-select roles like: coach, parent, quizzier, official, etc.
 - Users can filter the contact information list for a set of roles
 - Meet registration tool (*and resulting meet data report*)
2. Christian Bible Quizzing (CBQ) web site at <https://cbqz.org>
 - Hosts the rule book, best practices, and governance notes
 - Maintains the meeting minutes for the CBQ organization
3. QuizSage web application at <https://quizzesage.org>
 - Quiz meet operation, including meet draw and schedule, roster, distribution, live scoreboards, and automated statistics reporting
 - Pick-up quiz and query drill tools coaches can use to run practice quizzes
 - Memorization tools quizzers and coaches can use to track and review verses memorized
 - Reference material generator
4. Lesser Magistrate (LM) trigger sets

QuizSage Bug at Meet 2 Fixed

I apologize for a QuizSage bug that resulted in some confusion and erroneous team-to-quiz assignments at Meet 2. The bug was entirely my fault. Combined with some late registration data changes, some I heard of only the morning of the meet, QuizSage data got messed up in some places in ugly ways. After the meet, I found and fixed the bug that caused all this, and I also cleaned up the Meet 2 data so that the statistics and quiz review all show what actually happened at the meet.

Here's what happened: Meet 2 had 50% more teams and 33% fewer Preliminary quizzes relative to the past meets in which we've used QuizSage. What this means practically is that the probability of team point ties in the Preliminary bracket were significantly higher, and thus we ended up with several ties. For the meet state page (which lists out the schedule sets), QuizSage sorts teams by points and assigns them locations. So 27th place by Preliminary points might be on the left in Auxiliary quiz 1, and 26st place might be center in Auxiliary quiz 5. But in the case where 27th place and 26th place are tied, QuizSage had no instructions on how to sort them. So like HAL9000, it started acting strange, randomly flipping tied teams whenever the state page reloaded. Bad, bad, bad.

To fix this, I told QuizSage to sort teams based on a deeper set of criteria than simply their team points:

1. Points average for Preliminary quizzes (*which is the limit of what QuizSage was doing before*)
2. Points sum for the Preliminary quizzes (*which probably won't make any difference, but QS will try this step anyway*)
3. Highest cumulative positions in Preliminary quizzes (*i.e. 1st + 3rd > 3rd + 2nd*)
4. Total bonus team points in Preliminary quizzes
5. Greater total number of quizzes > fewer total number of quizzes (*which for Prelims won't make any difference*)
6. Fewer total number of quizzers > more total number of quizzers

In theory, I would be shocked if any ties didn't get sorted by the end of step 4. However, in likely very rare cases where a tie still exists, I designed steps 5 and 6 to favor what would seem like the stronger of the 2 teams.

Part of the fallout of this bug was it resulted in 2 teams not getting an Auxiliary quiz and 2 other teams getting 2 Auxiliary quizzes (*instead of the 1 quiz each team was suppose to get*). This results in teams in Auxiliary not having a fair set of quizzes upon which to be evaluated for statistics purposes. So after much consideration, Andrew and I decided to weight the Auxiliary bracket at 0 for Meet 2. (*Normally, it's set at 50% this season, at least until we have a few meets of good full-meet data so we can consider adjustments based on that data.*)

Encourage Electronic Use of QuizSage

I've noticed a few folks printing out the meet state report and the type distribution page from QuizSage for use during the meet. You're of course free to do this if you want, but I recommend against it. Instead, I recommend using a smartphone and/or tablet. The reason being: Unfortunately, roster data can and does change after the registration deadline. And depending on the changes, it can become unavoidable for a whole draw to need to be rebuilt. So hardcopy schedules, distributions, and rosters can easily become deprecated. And if that happens after announcements, we don't have an easy way to communicate that to every participant and spectator at the meet.

Moreover, by using a smartphone and/or tablet, participants and spectators can get up-to-date statistics and meet state reports. And they can also view live scoreboards for each room.

Lesser Magistrate (LM) Trigger Sets

As a reminder: LMs are available to any team organization that needs them. Each team organization gets their first LM set for free. (*The costs are covered by a grant.*) And additional sets are available. Our cost per set is about \$90. And 501(c)3 tax deductible donations are welcomed and encouraged to help keep the grant for first sets funded indefinitely.

I also have a couple boxes full of spare parts. If you have failing Mark 1 triggers, I can replace them all with Mark 3 triggers, which are much more robust (*and look cooler too*).

To help prolong the useful life of your LM sets, please read and follow the best practices on the proper care and storage of LMs:

https://cbqz.org/CBQ_system/trigger_sets.md#onthepropercareandstorageoflms

PNW Quizzing Web Site

The PNW Quizzing web site is where you'll find the latest, up-to-date information on the region's active season. Please encourage all your quizzer parents to sign up for a user account. The biggest reason to do that is to maintain a shared contact list, which can be found at:

<https://pnwquizzing.org/user/list>

Also, the meet data page will provide you information about if the host organization is providing overnight housing and/or lunch:

https://pnwquizzing.org/tool/meet_data

Coaching Notes

I have some specific coaching notes to go over with you; but before that, I'd like to share with you an overall governing philosophy about coaching:

Coaches are unavoidably spiritual and practical mentors who need to exemplify the behaviors we want to encourage in our youth quizzers. We ask our youth quizzers to establish and maintain a routine memorization schedule, setting aside dedicated time every week to deeply focus on verses of Scripture, writing them on their hearts with as much attention to detail as possible, ideally verbatim with reference. It would be hypocritical of us adults to not devote an equivalent level of focus to our coaching responsibilities. As we hold youth quizzers accountable to high standards of professionalism, so should we hold ourselves accountable.

As coaches, we need to be reliable, proactive, trustworthy, encouraging, and practically helpful.

OK, now on to the specific coaching notes.

Meet Registration Process

To review, the meet registration process is as follows:

1. All coaches have access via the PNW Quizzing web site to the season schedule and meet registration forms, which become editable immediately after the preceding meet.
2. Coaches can edit and update their registration as often as they'd like after the preceding meet and before the registration deadline of the next meet.
3. The registration deadline for the next meet is 2 weeks prior to the next meet, at which point the registration form locks until after the meet.
4. Registration data can only be changed after the deadline by contacting the Coordinator.

Registration data is used to build the draw, schedule, and roster. It's also used by the host organization for housing and lunch planning purposes. It's the expectation that all coaches will

hold themselves accountable to ensure their registration data is *complete* and accurate *prior* to each deadline. If there are any questions, difficulties coaches encounter, or anticipated situations where a coach won't be able to ensure complete and accurate registration data is in the system before the deadline, coaches should raise these to the Coordinator **before** the registration deadline.

There may occur situations beyond a coach's control where changes become necessary after the deadline, such as a quizzzer becoming sick or a family emergency becoming the priority. Then, it's the expectation the coach will contact the Coordinator *as soon as possible* about these data changes. A coach can and should solicit from quizzers their intention to participate in the upcoming meet prior to the registration deadline; therefore, the only cases where a coach can't foresee and forestall post-deadline data changes are for unanticipated health, weather, or home/family crises.

(While there is an automated reminder email sent a week before each registration deadline, and occasionally a manual email from the Coordinator sent prior to the deadline, it is solely the responsibility of the coach to ensure his or her registration data is complete and accurate prior to each deadline. As a historical aside, I harken back to the mid-1990s. In that era, to register for a meet, you had to photocopy a registration form, fill it out by hand, then fax it to the Pacific Northwest church district office. This all had to be done 2 weeks prior to the meet. There were no reminders.)

To help encourage accountability to these expectations, I am considering asking coaches to publicly share their avoidable post-deadline registration changes with the assembly during meet announcements.

Hosting is a Burden; Let's Make it Light

Bible Quizzing can realistically only operate when there are team organizations willing to host meets. Hosts provide a facility to house meet operations, they handle room and event space setup, and they coordinate with the building's owners and build equipment's operators. Hosts may optionally offer overnight housing for away teams, and hosts optionally offer lunch on site. As PNW Quizzing participation grows, the necessity for overnight housing grows, and thus the burden for hosts increases.

To ensure sustainability of Quizzing operations over the long-term, we all need to do whatever we can to keep the burden on hosts as light as possible. To that end, please:

- Ensure your registration data is complete and accurate prior to the deadline
- When possible, avoid requiring housing and lunch stipulations
 - Certainly include notes about allergies, though
- Remind your quizzers that host-provided overnight housing is not a hotel
 - They should bring a sleeping bag, a towel, and optionally a pillow
 - They should be aware that a clean floor is a housing option; a bed is a luxury

Team Spirit and Evangelism

I'd like to encourage team spirit and evangelism through a variety of threads.

First, team uniforms. Often these are just custom t-shirts for the season. But whatever they are, they can be a wonderful way to foster esprit de corps. If you have or are developing team uniforms, please send me pictures. I'd love to build out a section on the web site with team uniforms and grow it season to season.

Second, photos and videos. Whatever photos and videos you have of Quizzing, either at meets, on the trips to or from meets, or at practices, I'd appreciate you sending me a copy or posting them online and sending me a link to them. I'd love to collect more of these and post them on our web site.

And third, awards. Please encourage all your teams to stay for (and cheer loudly at) meet awards. Some organizations have up to 8 hours of drive time ahead of them after the meet, but for those that don't have far to go, please stick around for awards. The presence of all your teams during awards, cheering (loudly) for those that have earned recognition, goes a long way in encouraging both the award recipients and non-recipients alike to memorize between meets.

Open Book Opportunities

After each meet, I invest some time analyzing the statistics, and I noticed something from Meet 2: Several quizzers from Meet 2 ended up getting 0s for the meet when they could have picked up points from open book opportunities. Picking up a point, even just 1 point for the meet, is better than nothing and can help spark additional motivation to study more between meets. And open book is often a gateway to that 1 point.

One of the easiest ways to pick up an open book point is through use of a Finish query list, which is nothing more than an alphabetically sorted list of all verses for the meet. This is especially true for "foreign" translations. For example, if you've memorized NIV and you're in a quiz with all-NIV quizzers, picking up a Finish from the ESV via open book is relatively easy. You can usually trigger on the third or fourth word reliably.

An easy way to generate this sort of Finish list is by using QuizSage's Reference Generator. Login to QuizSage, and then from the home page, click the "Reference Generator" link. Ensure the "Material Label/Description" covers the full material for the meet (all translations), and ensure the "Alphabetical Material from First Words" checkbox is checked. Then print the resulting generated document.

A team can share a single printed reference material. In fact, you can share a single reference across teams if you want.

Using QuizSage's Memorization Tools

Another note about preparation: Quizzers who use QuizSage's memorization tools score better at quiz meets than quizzers who don't. The 3 main tools are:

- Initial Memorization — for tracking verses memorized

- Memorization Review — for reviewing verses memorized
- Memory State — for reporting on verses memorized and to share memory state with others

Quizzers can share their memory states with their coaches, which provides the coach the ability to:

- Help keep their quizzers accountable for routine memorization
- Build pick-up quizzes based on material the quizzers at practice have memorized

Coaches Can Appeal

Remember, a coach can appeal a ruling just like a quizzier; however, with great power comes great responsibility. The purpose of appeals is not to be right nor become right but to determine what is right. The appeal process exists to improve rulings so they're accurate, objective, consistent, clear, and thereby fair. Ergo, appeals can be preceded by questions, requests for information, etc. without invalidating your ability to appeal.

As a coach, if you're unsure about something, please ask the QM. And if you notice something that you think is contrary to the rule book, please raise that with the QM.

Some useful documents for coaches to have bookmarked on your smartphone or tablet then are:

- CBQ Rule Book (https://cbqz.org/CBQ_system/rule_book.md)
- Magistrate Best Practices (https://cbqz.org/tenets/magistrate_best_practices.md)

Governance Updates

As a reminder, there are 2 governance organizations to consider for Quizzing. "PNW Quizzing" is the self-governing, self-instantiating regional organization currently covering the geography of Washington, Oregon, and Northern Idaho. "Christian Bible Quizzing" or CBQ is the international organization that "oversees and supports local and regional Quizzing operations internationally with the mission to encourage the most people to memorize the most verses of Scripture."

As PNW Quizzing grows, there will come a time (perhaps fast approaching) when it'll be practically valuable (for optimized missional outcomes) to split our single region up into separate regions, collaborating and occasionally even quizzing together, but typically running separate local season schedules. Even now, our vast geography may be a limiting factor to maximal outcomes. It would take nearly 20 hours to travel round trip from Post Falls, Idaho to Medford, Oregon.

PNW Quizzing

Recently, PNW Quizzing established a unique bank account and entirely separate ledger. These actions are the last steps in a fully independent PNW Quizzing. (Prior to this, PNW Quizzing was

operating under a parent ministry's umbrella.) We've also initiated an annual bookkeeping review cycle with an independent, external CPA. (If you have any questions about any of this or would like more details, please contact the Board.)

My primary evangelism focus for 2025 is to plant more Oregon team organizations in an effort to grow Oregon large enough that we can reasonably split PNW Quizzing into strong, self-supporting north and south regions. This will significantly reduce the sum commute hours required and associated costs for many of the meets. But I would love to still include in our season schedules the occasional "ultra-meet" with everyone.

I need your help evangelizing, though. If you know of anyone able to coach a team of even as small as 2 quizzers in a new locale somewhere in Oregon, please reach out to them and CC me. CBQ can provide new team organizations their first LM and all resources necessary to run practices.

And lastly: As some of you have noticed, I'm working to eventually exit from the role of regional Coordinator for PNW Quizzing, maybe sometime over the next couple years; perhaps slightly longer. But I'm not going to vanish. As long as I remain healthy enough to participate in Quizzing, I don't foresee ever leaving Quizzing; but I believe it's be better for PNW Quizzing to install new regional Coordinators from time to time than indefinitely languish under unchanging leadership. I look forward to when I can fully support the next regional Coordinator.

To this end, I'm working on automating, delegating, and/or eliminating everything I do as Coordinator. Some of things will migrate from the region to the international level. For example, I'd like to establish a training academy for quiz magistrates and coaches, which would best be placed at the CBQ level.

Christian Bible Quizzing

CBQ's bylaws require a semiannual General Assembly business meeting. The next one will be via Zoom and held on Thursday, February 6 starting at 6:00 PM PST. All such meets are open to anyone, though only Qualified Delegates may vote; however, routine attendance at these meetings is required to become a Qualified Delegate. This meeting should be quite short; mostly status updates and boilerplate votes.

If you're interested in attending, please sign up for a CBQ user account here:

https://cbqz.org/user/sign_up

Tax-Deductible Donations

And lastly, if you are able, please consider a donation to either "Pacific Northwest Bible Quizzing" and/or "Christian Bible Quizzing". Both are 501(c)3 organizations.