Salvete omnes! It is my pleasure to invite you to CARCER MMXXIII. After two years of virtual state certamen tournaments, this year we are returning to an entirely live event. CARCER (the California Regional Certamen Rounds) is our principle competitive certamen event of the year and serves as the qualifying rounds for teams to advance to the semi-final and final rounds at the state convention at Miramonte High School in Orinda on March 31st and April 1st.

CARCER will take place on Saturday, February 25th, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Miramonte High School (750 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563) in the north and Loyola High School (1901 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 9006) in the south. Students will all play three rounds consecutively and no lunch will be served.

Schools can register up to TWO teams of four students at each level (MS1, MS2, MS3, HS1, HS2, HS3, HSAdv). Teams may include more than four members, but substitutions can only be made between rounds. Please note that the top nine teams at each level will advance to the semi-final rounds, but only one team from each school can advance to the semi-final rounds in each level. If you have additional students, please encourage them to come as a wildcard team. In order to fill the bracket and keep the competition fair we are always in need of wildcard teams at various levels.

All teams that compete competitively at CARCER must be attending convention. It is not fair to give a spot in the semi-final round to a team that will not be there. If you do have a team or teams that cannot attend convention, they are encouraged to register as a wildcard team.

Registration for CARCER is done through the CJCL's online database, just like the SCRAM, Ludi and Convention registrations. In order to register go to https://n344.fmphost.com/fmi/webdb#CJCL-Database and use the account name ‘CAJCL’ and the password ‘753BC’. You will then need to select your school and enter the access code you were given to register your chapter (or for Ludi, SCRAM, or Convention). Once you login you will see the CARCER registration button on the right. Please note that in order to register you must be CJCL members in good standing. The deadline to register is February 13th, 2023.

We are always in need of additional readers so if you have multiple Latin teachers at your school we need everyone to plan on attending. Please also check with retired Latin teachers and other potential readers (e.g. college professors) that you may know.

We also need everyone to make sure that your certamen machines are in working order and please do not forget to register them and bring them to CARCER. During the pandemic the maker of the QuizWizard retired, but the NJCL has contracted with a new company to do repairs and make new machines. If you need your machine serviced or would like to order a machine, go to: https://www.njcl.org/Teachers/certamen-machines. Please note that there is currently a six month lead time on new machines.

Students will be allowed use to blank scratch paper during all rounds but competitors should bring their own paper and pencils.

The following documents are available on the CJCL website:
1. Certamen rules
2. Guidelines by Latin Level
3. Certamen sources Please read these documents, especially the Certamen Rules. These documents can also help you to determine in what level your students should compete. If your students will form a combined team they must compete at the higher level: e.g. a combined team of HS-1/HS-2 students will compete as HS-2.

My thanks to Teri Kawamata and Fred Muth for hosting CARCER South and Matt Davis for hosting CARCER North.

Pax,
Brian Briggs
CAJCL Certamen Chair