

JAM DANCE TEAMS

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER, AUGUST 2012



Dear JAM Members,

Well, here we are in August already! Where does the summer go? Many of you are probably busy with back to school shopping and getting the kids ready for a new school year. Here at JAM, we've been working on getting everything ready for this year's training!

Included in this newsletter, you'll find important information regarding registration and annual training, as well as other dance team related news.

We want your feedback! Want information on a certain topic, want to recognize another member or have knowledge you'd like to share? Email us with your thoughts!

Happy August!
JAM Core Group

JAM MISSION STATEMENT:

JAM was formed for the purpose of promoting, training and increasing the number of quality dance team officials throughout the state of Minnesota. JAM subscribes to a four-fold mission: 1) To provide information and facilitate discussions between judges, coaches, activities directors and MSHSL. 2) To encourage standards of sportsmanships at meets and competitions. 3) To offer a mentoring program to new and/or inexperienced judges. 4) To maintain and support its quality judges and strive to increase our credibility as trained, knowledgeable professionals.

Registration Update

Registration is now open! We apologize that it took a little longer than anticipated to open registration. Because of the late start, we will extend the registration deadline to **September 30**.

Please visit our website to sign up online: www.jamdanceteams.org. Under Become a Member, choose the JAM Registration Form. Complete the online form. Then, print out the Payment Form and mail that, along with your payment, to Becky King.

Membership dues remain the same as last season:

Associate Level (General Training)	\$65
Qualifying Level (General Training)	\$85
Certified Level (General Training)	\$85
Certified Level (Veteran Training*)	\$95

*For members with 5+ years experience

A late fee of \$15 will be applied to any registrations received after September 30. Please see the Payment Form for JAM's returned check policy and refund policy.

Please email Becky at jamdanceteams@yahoo.com if you have any questions or concerns!

2012 Annual Training

Our training options this year include:

- **November 3**
Shakopee East Junior High School
1137 South Marschall Road
Shakopee, MN 55379
- **November 17**
Sauk Rapids-Rice High School
1835 Osauka Road
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Training will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. with sign-in starting at 8:00 a.m.

Remember that you must attend one of these training sessions. If you are unable to attend either training session, please contact a Core Group member as soon as possible.

Once you decide which session to attend, mark it on your calendar as we do not send out training reminders.

We will be changing some elements of training this year and we hope that you will find these changes beneficial to not only the association but to you as an official. We are excited to bring you new material and a new perspective on training!

New Rules Coordinator!

JAM is pleased to announce that the new MSHSL Rules Coordinator is none other than our current association President!

Katie Ohlund has been selected to serve as a MSHSL Rules Coordinator and will oversee the region of Southern Minnesota.

Rules Coordinators duties include:

- Annual meeting with representatives of the MSHSL and other Rules Coordinators to discuss sport specific rules and interpretations.
- Address questions regarding rules interpretations for both coaches and judges as needed.
- Act as a resource for coaches and judges in their assigned territories.

We are very proud that all four MSHSL Rules Coordinators are members of JAM. Other Rules Coordinators include Laura Berg Olsen, Missy Tutewohl and Lisa Hart.

CONTACT US

WEBSITE: www.jamdanceteams.org

FACEBOOK: JAM Dance Teams

CORE GROUP EMAIL:
jamdanceteams@yahoo.com

SCHEDULING TEAM EMAIL:
jamscheduler@yahoo.com

Drawing Inspiration from the Olympics

By Colleen Christensen

Pardon me if I begin speaking in a British accent. I have been in London for seventeen days this month. Well, not actually IN London, but I was thoroughly immersed in the Summer Olympic games.

After what seemed to be the 82nd water polo match, NBC suddenly cut to an indoor arena where I was introduced to my newest athletic obsession: rhythmic gymnastics.

If you've seen these amazing athletes, you know what I'm talking about. If you haven't, I strongly encourage you to immediately search the term on youtube. You will not be disappointed.

These rhythmic gymnasts were executing skills and turns that I have never seen performed before. Picture an extended scorpion flexibility move. Now picture it on releve with five rotations. Whoa.

I love the fact that the Olympics can bring sports like rhythmic gymnastics directly into our living rooms. While we are accustomed to dance team routines, it's refreshing to learn about a somewhat similar sport and appreciate its unique style and elements.

Each year, we wonder what the "new thing" in dance team will be. We see more and more complex turns sequences, but it's not often that we see a completely new turn style. Perhaps artistic athletes from around the world could serve as inspiration for our local dance teams.

I would encourage coaches and choreographers to explore artistry beyond the typical dance team scope. Think about the depth and creativity that can be added to a routine by incorporating elements from rhythmic gymnastics, synchronized swimming, marching bands, or even world cultures. The possibilities really are endless!

ALS Walk Reminder

Don't forget! The Walk to Defeat ALS is next month!

Please join fellow JAM member Kathy Furniss and her Kickin' Butt for Kathy team for this important cause.

Event Details

Date: September 22, 2012

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Thomson Reuters
610 Opperman Drive
Eagan, MN 55123

Visit the [Kickin Butt for Kathy website](#) for more information, to donate online or to join the team!

Connect with JAM Online!

Did you know that JAM's Facebook posts reached over 1,000 people last month? Don't miss out on JAM reminders, fun links and new photos - "Like" our Facebook page today!

We need you to help spread the word about our organization and the services we provide. If you see a post you like, please tell your friends by sharing it on your personal page.

Got photos with your JAM friends? Tag yourself and JAM Dance Teams in the photo to help us build our online photo albums. It's always nice to put a face with a name!

Find a cool dance website or an awesome non-MSHSL dance team video? Post the link on the JAM page so we can all enjoy.

However, remember to follow the JAM Code of Conduct and Social Media Policy - see page 4 for details.



In the Spotlight

Get to know JAM judge
(AND SCHEDULER):
SARA HORDYK PORTNER



Resides In: Savage, MN
Occupation/Company: Regional Controller for Adolfson & Peterson Construction

Q: Tell us a little about your dance background.

A: I am a former high school and college dance team member and also received a Minor in Dance from Minnesota State University-Mankato. As an adult, I have danced with two metro-area studios in ballet, tap and jazz, as well as taken classes from local arts programs and continue to take classes and perform.

Q: Why did you decide to become a MSHSL official?

A: Being a dance team official was an interest of mine even as a high school team member. Fortunately, during my college program I worked at a dance studio for my teaching practicum and saw a flyer to become a judge. That was 18 years ago, and I have been a judge ever since!

Q: What offices have you held on the JAM Core Group?

A: I previously served as JAM's President. I have also served on the MSHSL Officials' Advisory and Rules Committees. I was elected to the Core Group again this year to serve as Scheduling Director.

Q: What are your current interests and hobbies?

A: My life really revolves around my daughters and my career. As a single mom, I take my career very seriously since providing for my girls is my top priority. Juggling all of my interests (dance, motorcycles, travel, scrapbooking) is definitely challenging! The success of my career as a CPA in my profession - I am the former Chair of the Board of Directors for the MN Society of CPAs - and the construction industry - last year I was named one of Twin Cities Business' Top Women in Finance - really assists me in my role with JAM and as an official. I have to be objective, ethical, and have a high level of thinking to fulfill my responsibilities at work, as an official, and with JAM.

Q: What is your ideal vacation spot?

A: Anyplace that is hot and has a beach and pool is a perfect vacation spot. And preferably out of the country, since that forces me to turn off my cell phone and computer and enjoy!

Member News



WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

Melissa Feidt will marry Josh Jereczek on August 24.

Lauren Barnes and Joe Theobald are planning an October 6 wedding.

Kadee Johnson is engaged and will marry Charlie Hedstrom on May 8.

Misti Hines became recently engaged to Jake Swan and is planning a wedding on October 5.

Jenny Flake is newly engaged to Tim Charbonneau.



BABIES

Niki Strand gave birth to a baby girl, London Faith, on March 10.

Becky Blissenbach welcomed a son, Ethan James, on May 20. He joins big sisters Ella and Alivia.



EMPLOYMENT

Amanda Ballensky is now a jazz instructor for the St. Michael/Albertville Just For Kix youth dance program.

Melissa Bast will be joining the coaching staff of the Elk River dance team.

Jennifer Cassidy was promoted to Process Analyst at Target Corporation.

Katie Ohlund will resign her position at Thomson Reuters at the end of August to focus on her family, as well as teach youth dance classes full time.



SABBATICAL

The following official will be taking a one-year leave of absence from JAM:

Kate Bataglia

New things in your life?

Email us to be included in the next membership newsletter!

2012-2013 Scheduling Statistics (to date)

- 52: Officiating Dates Requested
- 394: Total Officiating Positions Requested
- 253: Judge Positions Requested
- 64: Tabulator Positions Requested
- 77: Kick Counter/Timer Positions Requested

2012-2013 Meets Scheduled with JAM

DATE	DAY	LOCATION	TIME	MEET TYPE
11/16/2012	Friday	Coon Rapids	7:00 pm	Conference Meet
11/17/2012	Saturday	Shakopee	10:00 am	Invitational
11/29/2012	Thursday	Hopkins	7:00 pm	Conference Meet
11/29/2012	Thursday	Holy Angels	TBA	Conference Meet
12/1/2012	Saturday	Chaska	TBA	Invitational
12/1/2012	Saturday	Detroit Lakes	12:00 pm	Invitational
12/3/2012	Monday	Monticello	7:00 pm	Conference Meet
12/3/2012	Monday	Osseo	7:00 pm	Conference Meet
12/8/2012	Saturday	Eastview	9:00 am	Invitational
12/8/2012	Saturday	Zumbrota-Mazeppa	11:00 am	Invitational
12/8/2012	Saturday	Fergus Falls	11:00 am	Invitational
12/8/2012	Saturday	Hutchinson	1:00 pm	Invitational
12/8/2012	Saturday	Target Center-WOW Sports	TBA	Invitational
12/10/2012	Monday	Blaine	7:00 pm	Conference Meet
12/13/2012	Thursday	Worthington	6:00 pm	Invitational
12/13/2012	Thursday	Wayzata	7:00 pm	Conference Meet
12/14/2012	Friday	Willmar	7:30 pm	Conference Meet
12/15/2012	Saturday	Lake City	12:00 pm	Invitational
12/15/2012	Saturday	BOLD	TBA	Invitational
12/15/2012	Saturday	Maple Grove	10:00 am	Invitational
12/15/2012	Saturday	Edina	12:00 pm	Invitational
12/15/2012	Saturday	Holy Angels	TBA	Invitational
12/17/2012	Monday	Anoka	7:00 pm	Conference Meet
12/18/2012	Tuesday	Chaska	TBA	Conference Meet
12/20/2012	Thursday	Jordan	7:30 pm	Conference Meet
12/21/2012	Friday	Rochester Century	7:30 pm	Triangular
1/5/2013	Saturday	Blaine	TBA	Invitational
1/7/2013	Monday	BBE	TBA	TBA
1/7/2013	Monday	Big Lake	7:00 pm	Conference Meet
1/7/2013	Monday	Pierz	7:00 pm	Conference Meet
1/8/2013	Tuesday	Sauk Rapids-Rice	6:30 pm	All-Area Meet
1/10/2013	Thursday	Edina	7:00 pm	Conference Meet
1/11/2013	Friday	Norwood-Young America	7:30pm	Conference Meet
1/12/2013	Saturday	Hawley	12:00 pm	Invitational
1/12/2013	Saturday	Rocori	11:00 am	Invitational
1/12/2013	Saturday	Marshall	10:00 am	Invitational
1/12/2013	Saturday	Maple Grove	10:00 am	Conference Meet
1/12/2013	Saturday	Minnetonka	TBA	Invitational
1/17/2013	Thursday	Hopkins	7:00 pm	Conference Meet
1/17/2013	Thursday	Mayer Lutheran	7:00 pm	Conference Championship
1/18/2013	Friday	St. Cloud Apollo	7:00 pm	Conference Championship
1/19/2013	Saturday	Wayzata	9:30 am	Invitational
1/19/2013	Saturday	Mound Westonka	1:00 pm	Conference Championship
1/19/2013	Saturday	Rogers	1:00 pm	Conference Championship
1/19/2013	Saturday	Rochester Century	12:00 pm	Conference Meet
1/19/2013	Saturday	Pelican Rapids	11:00 am	Invitational
1/21/2013	Monday	ACGC	7:30 pm	Dual Meet
1/24/2013	Thursday	Wabasso	TBA	Invitational
1/24/2013	Thursday	BOLD	6:30 pm	Conference Meet
1/26/2013	Saturday	MACCRAY	12:00 pm	Conference Championship
1/26/2013	Saturday	Dover-Eyota	12:00 pm	Invitational
1/31/2013	Thursday	ACGC	7:00 pm	Invitational
2/9/2013	Saturday	Dover-Eyota	TBA	Section 1A
2/9/2013	Saturday	Aitkin	TBA	Section 2A
2/9/2013	Saturday	Faribault	TBA	Section 1AA

JAM Social Media Policy

As we approach a new dance team season, it is important to remember and adhere to the JAM Social Media Policy. Throughout the competitive and post-competitive season, videos are uploaded to YouTube, updates are added to Facebook, and interviews, articles and results are posted on blogs. As officials, it is our responsibility to stay neutral and unbiased on these social media channels. Please take a moment to review our approach with social media.

Any and all comments said or written by a judge can (and will) be deemed the official view of ALL of the judges by dancers, coaches, administrators and the general public. Some repercussions of making comments on the Internet can include:

- It can appear that a judge has a preconceived idea or bias about teams and placements.
- Comments can be taken as offensive and hurtful.
- Comments are misconstrued and are seldom written or interpreted correctly.
- Most information that is interesting enough to post is confidential. Trust is broken with your colleagues when this occurs and can cause fractures in the dance team officiating community.
- Judges who comment on the Internet put our association leadership and the MSHSL in the position of defending the indefensible. These comments damage our credibility as a professional organization.

The Minnesota State High School League has deemed this kind of interaction with the general public as behavior unbecoming an official. The MSHSL, as well as JAM, have policies that officials will not make unauthorized comments to the media. Social media sites are included in these policies. It does not serve our mission to discuss issues that can be misunderstood and misconstrued on these platforms, especially by those who have very strong feelings about dance team. Judges lose the respect of the general public and the dance team community. Judges who would post these comments will ultimately lose the respect of their colleagues, and potentially suffer additional consequences regarding their association membership and/or their MSHSL registered status.

The statements below from the MSHSL Code of Ethics for Officials and the JAM Code of Conduct govern our behavior in regards to social media:

- I understand that my actions as an official must display decisions and behavior which teach students how to compete within the letter and spirit of the rules so that all competitors have the same fair chance for success.
- I will use respectful language at all times.
- I will be neutral and impartial.
- I will treat other officials with courtesy and support their decisions.
- I will uphold the honor, dignity, and humility of my role in all interactions with athletes, coaches, school administrators, colleagues, and the public.
- I will recognize that anything that may lead to a conflict of interest, either real or apparent, must be avoided. Actions that can compromise the perceived impartiality of judging must be avoided.

Keep in mind, if you visit these sites and just read these comments during the dance team season, you will put yourself in the untenable position of having to defend your impartiality - whether perceived or real. Additionally, if you visit these sites, you will be inundated with comments about what a poor job you did. It does not matter how the results turn out. It is a normal part of being an official. However, you have the power to control what you read and what you don't and you will find your officiating experience to be much more worthwhile and enjoyable, if you do not search out criticism.

Save the Date

- September 30** JAM Registration Deadline
- October 15** MSHSL Online Rules Meeting & Exam Available
- November 3** JAM Training - Shakopee East Junior High School
- November 6** MSHSL Online Rules Meeting & Exam Deadline
- November 17** JAM Training - Sauk Rapids/Rice High School
- December 1** MSHSL Application for State Consideration Deadline
- February 2** Section Meets
- February 9** Section Meets
- February 15** State Tournament
- February 16** State Tournament
- March 2** JAM General Membership Meeting



KUDOS KORNER

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has already registered with JAM for the upcoming season:

Bailey Aalfs, Jessamy Alto, Ashley Artman, Julie Bayerl, Becky Blissenbach, Deb Clapp, Colleen Christensen, Laura Christopherson, Carrie Coppock, Jody Delorit, Emily Dirksen, Tara Dolder, Jennifer Gilhoi, Heather Goldade, Karna Hay, Nicole Heide, Kadee Johnson, Kaelynn Kampa, Susan Kelley, Jennifer Kummer, Heather Lundgren, Erin Lutz, Terri Mason, Mariah McGill, Laura Berg Olsen, Susan Patist, Marisa Quesnell, Alison Rise, Rachael Rupp, Emily Schiesl, Allison Schultz, Laurie Schaust, Katie Smith, Jayme Smrstick, Stephanie Sorbel, Martha Speckel, Jenna Tomczik, Missy Tutewohl

Go ahead, tell on your friends!
We want to recognize those members who go above and beyond. Email us with your Kudos!