

# JAM DANCE TEAMS

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER, JANUARY 2013

Dear JAM Members,

Happy 2013! It's crazy how fast the season approaches and then before you know it, it's half over! We hope your holiday break was relaxing and you were able to spend time with family and friends.

This month, dance team really heats up! JAM has 57 meets scheduled in January. Twenty-four Saturday invitationals will keep everyone very busy and many conference championships will keep teams extra competitive. We are looking forward to seeing the progression of teams and routines throughout this crucial month.

Here's to a happy and healthy 2013!

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.



## Mid-Season Post-Meet Survey Feedback

The JAM Scheduling Team has implemented a new way of collecting feedback regarding our organization. After each JAM-scheduled meet, we have sent meet coordinators a link to a quick, online post-meet survey. The mid-season survey results follow:

### Question 1: How well did the JAM Scheduling Team communicate with you?

Extremely well - 52.2%  
Very well - 43.5%  
Moderately well - 4.3%  
Slightly well - 0%  
Not well at all - 0%

### Question 2: How well did the Superior Judge communicate with you?

Extremely well - 69.6%  
Very well - 30.4%  
Moderately well - 0%  
Slightly well - 0%  
Not well at all - 0%

### Question 3: How effective is JAM in providing quality, professional officials?

Extremely effective: 34.8%  
Very effective: 65.2%  
Moderately effective: 0%  
Slightly effective: 0%  
Not effective at all: 0%

### Question 4: How effective is JAM in providing accurate and consistent score sheet feedback to teams?

Extremely effective: 34.8%  
Very effective: 56.5%  
Moderately effective: 8.7%  
Slightly effective: 0%  
Not effective at all: 0%

### Question 5: Overall, how satisfied were you with your last experience with JAM?

Extremely satisfied: 65.2%  
Very satisfied: 34.8%  
Moderately satisfied: 0%  
Slightly satisfied: 0%  
Not satisfied at all: 0%

### Question 6: How likely are you to use JAM again?

Extremely likely: 73.9%  
Very likely: 26.1%  
Moderately likely: 0%  
Slightly likely: 0%  
Not likely at all: 0%

### Question 7: How likely are you to recommend JAM to others?

Extremely likely: 65.2%  
Very likely: 34.8%  
Moderately likely: 0%  
Slightly likely: 0%  
Not likely at all: 0%

### Additional comments:

"I have only ever hired JAM officials and probably always will."

**Tiffany Boozier, Meet Coordinator, Apple Valley**

"JAM was very friendly and helpful in planning my first meet as a coach."

**Molly-Jean Bott, Coach, Coon Rapids**

"Our Superior Judge was great. The process of scheduling was very easy and quick. Thank you so much for helping make our meet run smoothly."

**Kelly Campbell, Coach, Hayfield**

"The JAM officials are very professional and well-trained. The Scheduling Team kept me in the loop and I knew everything that was happening."

**Emmett Keenan, Activities Director, St. Cloud Cathedral**

"When I called the Superior Judge the day before the meet about a team adding, she was more than happy to work with me, arranging the necessary items to include the last minute team. We had issues with the tabulator that the team hired (not JAM) and the Superior Judge went above and beyond to ensure consistency and accuracy of scores. Very thankful to have her there! Thank you!"

**Hillary Hood, Coach, Bemidji**

"We had a great experience with JAM. The officials and Superior Judge were all very friendly, patient and responsive with the process for our first invite. Thank you JAM for a great competition day!"

**Kristin Luth, Coach, Edina**

## JAM and Your Taxes

By Sara Hordyk Portner, CPA

Several members ask each year about those pesky W-9 forms that schools ask us to fill out, as well as if the fees that we receive as officials need to be claimed on our tax returns. Here's the scoop...

Business and individuals who pay fees to non-employee individuals or businesses (other than corporations) for services performed must track those recipients' identification numbers and the amounts of those payments. If the total amounts paid to any one individual or business exceed \$600 in a calendar year, a 1099 form must be issued to the recipient and copied to the IRS so that the taxing authorities can match those payments to the recipients' returns as proof of income.

So does that mean that our fees are taxable? Not necessarily...since most likely we are performing our officiating services without the intent to make a profit. The IRS classifies these types of activities as hobbies (www.irs.gov, FS 2008-23, June 2008). When an individual engages in a hobby, there is no significant investment or intent to profit from the activity. If expenses are incurred to generate some of the receipts from the hobby ("income"), then those expenses can be deducted from the receipts but only to reduce the net receipt to \$0. In other words, an individual cannot use expenses that exceed the hobby in order to generate a loss and claim a tax write off.

Expenses that we typically have are mileage, which is subject to IRS limits, and supplies such as pens, paper, etc. Simply saving the receipts from any items that you purchase for officiating and keeping track of your mileage are easy ways to document the expenses for this activity. Just in case you do receive a formal 1099 form, you may then have expenses that you can use to offset any income that you may need to claim.

Have additional taxing questions? The CPA Referral Service from the MN Society of CPAs (www.mncpa.org) can match you with a local CPA who specializes in individual tax and can help you file your tax forms correctly – and maybe even save you some extra hard-earned money!

### PLEASE NOTE:

*The information in this article should not be used in any actual transaction without the advice and guidance of a professional tax advisor or CPA who is familiar with all the facts relevant to your situation.*

*Although the information contained here is presented in good faith and believed to be correct, it is general in nature and is not intended as tax advice. Furthermore, the information contained herein may not be applicable to or suitable for the individuals' specific circumstances or needs and may require consideration of other matters.*

## MSHSL Schedules & Ratings

Don't forget to add the varsity teams you judged to your schedule on the MSHSL website! The MSHSL uses these lists, among other criteria, to help identify which officials are best suited to judge each class at the State Tournament in February.

Also, remember to rate the schools after each meet. This information is used by the MSHSL as a way to gather feedback about the sportsmanship and conduct of athletes, coaches and spectators, as well as a way to identify opportunities or accomplishments for particular events.

Please make sure you are staying current with your schedule and ratings on the MSHSL Officials' Corner. Thanks!

## Save the Date

**February 1** - JAM Core Group Application Deadline

**February 2** - Section Meets

**February 9** - Section Meets

**February 15** - State Jazz Tournament

**February 16** - State Kick Tournament

**March 2** - JAM General Membership Meeting

Don't forget to make your hotel reservations for the State Tournament if you plan on staying near the Target Center! Downtown hotels fill up very fast with the influx of teams and fans reserving blocks of rooms this month!

## In the Spotlight

Get to know JAM judge:  
**MELISSA (FEIDT) JERECZEK**



**Resides In:** Blaine, MN

**Occupation/Company:** I work in customer service at Satin Stitches and I also bartend at The Tavern.

**JAM Member Since:** 2008

**Q: Tell us a little about your dance background.**

A: I started dancing at age 2 and trained for 13 years at Stage Door. I was a four year member and captain of my dance team at Totino-Grace High School. After graduation, I spent three seasons as a cheerleader for the Minnesota Vikings.

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

A: It was a great way for me to stay active in the dance team world after I had retired from dancing. When something has been a part of your life for as long as you can remember, you have to find some way to stay involved.

**Q: What are your interests and hobbies?**

A: I love to read and play with our two dogs, Winston and Mabel. I am going back to school this January to pursue a degree in Apparel Design, so I like to sketch, read fashion and bridal magazines, and watch YouTube sewing tutorials!

**Q: Tell us about a favorite dance that you performed or costume you wore. How old were you?**

A: My junior year, my duet partner Joe and I danced to "Kissing You" from Romeo and Juliet. The song is so beautiful and it was a very powerful and emotional dance to perform. There was even a choreographed kiss in it. It was always my Mom's favorite dance, too.

**Q: What is your ideal vacation spot?**

A: Anywhere warm, with a beach, and a fruity cocktail! My husband Josh and I recently went to Playa Mujeres on our honeymoon. It had everything on my list!

## 2012-2013 Meets Scheduled with JAM, Page 1

01-01-13

Date	Day	Site	Time	Type
1/5/13	Saturday	Belle Plaine	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/5/13	Saturday	Blaine	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/5/13	Saturday	Robbinsdale Cooper	1:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/5/13	Saturday	Winona	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/7/13	Monday	BBE	6:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/7/13	Monday	Big Lake	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
1/7/13	Monday	New London-Spicer	7:00 p.m.	Quad Meet
1/7/13	Monday	Pierz	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
1/8/13	Tuesday	New Ulm Cathedral	7:00 p.m.	Dual Meet
1/8/13	Tuesday	Rochester Mayo	7:30 p.m.	Triangular
1/8/13	Tuesday	Sauk Rapids-Rice	6:30 p.m.	All-Area Meet
1/10/13	Thursday	Albany	6:30 p.m.	Conference Meet
1/10/13	Thursday	Delano	6:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
1/10/13	Thursday	Edina	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
1/11/13	Friday	Norwood-Young America	7:30 p.m.	Conference Meet
1/12/13	Saturday	Hawley	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/12/13	Saturday	Lakeville South	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/12/13	Saturday	Maple Grove	11:00 a.m.	Conference Championship
1/12/13	Saturday	Marshall	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/12/13	Saturday	Minnetonka	9:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/12/13	Saturday	Rochester Century	11:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/12/13	Saturday	ROCORI	11:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/12/13	Saturday	Waconia	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/14/13	Monday	Melrose	7:00 p.m.	Mini Invitational
1/15/13	Tuesday	Annandale	7:00 p.m.	Dual Meet
1/16/13	Wednesday	Cretin-Derham Hall	6:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/17/13	Thursday	Hopkins	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
1/17/13	Thursday	Mayer Lutheran	7:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/18/13	Friday	Crosby-Ironton	7:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/18/13	Friday	St. Cloud Apollo	7:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/19/13	Saturday	Farmington	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/19/13	Saturday	Mayer Lutheran	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/19/13	Saturday	Mound Westonka	1:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/19/13	Saturday	Pelican Rapids	11:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/19/13	Saturday	PEM	12:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/19/13	Saturday	Rochester Century	12:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/19/13	Saturday	Rogers	1:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/19/13	Saturday	Superior, WI	12:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/19/13	Saturday	Totino-Grace	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/19/13	Saturday	Wayzata	9:30 a.m.	Invitational
1/19/13	Saturday	YME	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/21/13	Monday	ACGC	7:30 p.m.	Dual Meet
1/24/13	Thursday	Becker	6:30 p.m.	Conference Championship

Date	Day	Site	Time	Type
1/24/13	Thursday	BOLD	6:30 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/25/13	Friday	Alexandria	7:00 p.m.	Mini Invitational
1/25/13	Friday	Cannon Falls	6:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/26/13	Saturday	Dover-Eyota	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/26/13	Saturday	Eastview	7:00 p.m.	Showcase
1/26/13	Saturday	GFW	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/26/13	Saturday	MACCRAY	12:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/26/13	Saturday	Mounds View	8:30 a.m.	Invitational
1/26/13	Saturday	New London-Spicer	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/26/13	Saturday	Prior Lake	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/26/13	Saturday	Simley	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/26/13	Saturday	Target Center - WOW Sports	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/31/13	Thursday	ACGC	7:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/31/13	Thursday	Cannon Falls	7:00 p.m.	Mini Invitational
2/1/13	Friday	Lakeview	6:45 p.m.	Invitational
2/2/13	Saturday	Hawley	TBD	Section 4A
2/2/13	Saturday	Sartell	12:00 p.m.	Section 4AA
2/2/13	Saturday	Waconia	TBD	Section 3AA
2/2/13	Saturday	Wayzata	TBD	Section 2AAA
2/9/13	Saturday	Aitkin	TBD	Section 2A
2/9/13	Saturday	Dover-Eyota	TBD	Section 1A
2/9/13	Saturday	Faribault	TBD	Section 1AA
2/9/13	Saturday	Montevideo	12:00 p.m.	Section 3A
2/9/13	Saturday	North Branch	TBD	Section 2AA

**Member News**



**EMPLOYMENT**

**Lauren Jenkins**, was recently named RAW Minnesota Makeup Artist of the Year for 2012. The judging was based on submitted photos, professionalism and a live competition. The photo below shows Lauren preparing a model for the live competition.



**New things in your life?**

Email us to be included in the next membership newsletter!



**BABIES**

**Jennifer Brehm** is expecting her second child. She is due on May 28.

**2012-2013 JAM Scheduling Statistics**

**Regular Season:**

- 110: Meets Requested
- 951: Total Officiating Positions
- 600: Judge Positions
- 150: Tabulator Positions
- 202: Kick Counter/Timer Positions

**Post Season:**

- 9: Section Meets Requested
- 94: Total Officiating Positions
- 64: Judge Positions
- 14: Tabulator Positions
- 16: Kick Counter/Timer Positions

**KUDOS KORNER**

A very special shout out to JAM veteran member, **Terri Mason**, who recently handled a very difficult tab room situation with finesse and tenacity. The tabulator was hired by the host school and after the meet when Terri went to verify the judges' scores, she noticed the tabulation of the entire invitational was done incorrectly. Terri and the other officials worked intently for nearly two hours to create the proper tabulation results for the meet. The host school told JAM that Terri "went above and beyond" to rectify the situation. Way to go, Terri!