

JAM DANCE TEAMS

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER, JULY 2012



Dear JAM Members,

We hope you are enjoying summer so far! Even though the competitive dance team season is still a few months off, the JAM Core Group is busy planning and preparing for what is sure to be the best season yet!

We strive to improve the communication between the Core Group and the members, as well as with the dance team community. To aide in this, you can expect to receive a monthly newsletter full of important updates, fun tidbits and relevant articles.

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 July!
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.

2012-2013 Core Group

At the General Membership Meeting in April, new Core Group members were nominated and selected. The 2012-2013 Core Group and their roles include:

Stacy Abel

- MSHSL/Team Liaison
- New Member & Mentoring Team
- JAM Gear
- Librarian/Historian

Amanda Ballensky

- Recruitment
- Superior Judge Liaison
- Member News

Lauren Barnes

- Webmaster
- Media Specialist

Colleen Christensen

- Scheduling Team - Advertising & Public Relations
- Newsletters

Becky King

- Secretary
- Registration

Katie Ohlund

- President

Sara Hordyk Portner

- Scheduling Team - Director of Scheduling

Emily Puza

- Treasurer
- New Member & Mentoring Team

Meet the Scheduling Team

We all know there is more than one judging association available for host schools to choose from now. In an effort to better serve our members and meet coordinators and market our organization, we have divided our scheduler role into two positions.

The Scheduling Team consists of Sara Hordyk Portner and Colleen Christensen.

Colleen will act as the "front-end" of the scheduling team. She will proactively communicate with host schools, activities directors and coaches in an effort to solicit more meets for JAM. She will gather all meet details prior to actually scheduling officials. She will also be the one to email the meet information to the Superior Judge.

Sara will be the "behind-the-scenes" guru of scheduling. She will put together the puzzle and ensure that members are assigned in the best possible capacity. She will manage conflicts of interest, minimum number of meet requirements for post-season assignments and overall member availability.

We are excited to take our scheduling service to the next level and hope that you experience a smooth transition this season!

Registration Update

We know many of you are anxious to register for the upcoming season. Our registration typically begins on July 1.

We have confirmed that one training session will be held on November 17 at Sauk Rapids/Rice High School. We are waiting for date and location confirmation from our possible metro training site. Please bear with us as we finalize training information.

As soon as we have the final information set, you will receive an email stating that registration is open. We expect to have this available by the end of the month.

Once registration is open, click the registration tab on our website: www.jamdanceteams.org.

CONTACT US

WEBSITE: www.jamdanceteams.org

FACEBOOK: JAM Dance Teams

CORE GROUP EMAIL:
jamdanceteams@yahoo.com

SCHEDULING TEAM EMAIL:
jamscheduler@yahoo.com

MSHSL Promotional Level Program for Officials

A new pilot program for officials will be established this year, which will be great for MSHSL officials and all sports programs.

Below are the levels, as initially planned by MSHSL:

- **Level I**
New Officials; official with less than six years experience (once basic registration requirements are met)
- **Level II**
Officials with 6 or more years of experience
- **Level III**
Officials who have officiated at the State Tournament within the past 10 years

First, remember that this is a “pilot” program for this year, meaning adjustments will be made as the program is implemented. Also remember that the MSHSL can and will look at individual circumstances if necessary. Finally, all officials are eligible to work at the State Tournament in 2012-13 and new requirements will begin in 2013-14.

Placements for winter sports will be announced in October. If you have questions specifically about your placement, please contact Laura Berg Olsen via email at laurabergolsen@juno.com.

The Question of Difficulty

By Laura Berg Olsen

“WHERE’S THE LIST?” You know, the list that tells us what is difficult and what will give teams the greatest amount of difficulty points? WHAT?! There isn’t a list?

Judges are asked this question on a regular basis. Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending on how you look at it, there isn’t a list. I say “depending on how you look at it” because if teams choreograph from a checklist, i.e., Fan Kicks (check); Cork-screw Kicks (check); Hinge Kicks (check), they might miss out on the opportunity to creatively add in difficulty that ISN’T on a checklist.

From a training perspective, JAM trains that certain kicks may be harder than other kicks (full fan harder than a straight kick), however, we also don’t use a “list” but rather principles of WHAT can add difficulty. For example, a series of kicks rotating the direction of the hips or opening and closing hip placement, i.e., fan kick, reverse fan, side kick, cross kick, cross hinge, straight hinge, side hinge, etc., will add difficulty versus a series of right side kicks. These principles can be found in the score sheet and allow for creative interpretation.

So use the scoresheet as a guide and remember to look for the added extras that can increase the difficulty points!

Officiating Fees

Host schools all pay the same fee structure. Schools that are not in the Metro Athletic Directors Officials Fees Committee (MADOFC) conference must also pay mileage in addition to the officiating fee.

MADOFC governs the following conferences:

- Classic Suburban
- Lake
- Minneapolis City
- Mississippi 8
- Missota
- MN Christian Alliance
- North Suburban
- Northwest Suburban
- South Suburban
- St. Paul City
- Suburban East
- Tri Metro

Officiating fees are based on the total number of routines performed at the meet (single or dual sided).

NUMBER OF ROUTINES	SUPERIOR JUDGE	JUDGE & TAB	KCT
2	\$43.00	\$37.00	\$18.50
3-4	\$53.00	\$42.00	\$21.00
5-10	\$68.00	\$52.00	\$26.00
11-15	\$76.00	\$58.00	\$29.00
16-20	\$89.00	\$68.00	\$34.00
21-25	\$96.00	\$73.00	\$36.50
26-30	\$103.00	\$78.00	\$39.00
31-40	\$116.00	\$88.00	\$44.00
41-50	\$136.00	\$104.00	\$52.00
51-60	\$150.00	\$114.00	\$57.00
61-70	\$169.00	\$124.00	\$62.00
71-80	\$197.00	\$145.00	\$72.50
81-90	\$225.00	\$165.00	\$82.50
91-100	\$253.00	\$186.00	\$93.00
101+	Determined on a meet-by-meet basis		
Sections	\$150.00	\$110.00	\$55.00

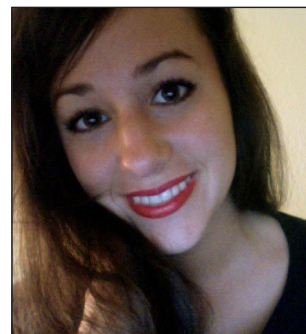
Mileage fees are based on round-trip mileage. Mileage is paid to the driver only.

ROUND TRIP MILES	MILEAGE FEE
0-50	\$0.00
51-100	\$10.00
101-150	\$20.00
151-200	\$30.00
201-250	\$40.00
251-300	\$50.00
301+	\$60.00



In the Spotlight

Get to know JAM judge:
LAUREN JENKINS



Hometown: Minnetonka, MN
Current City: Minnetonka, MN
Occupation/Company: Professional Makeup Artist
High Fashion/Film/TV, Dance Instructor

Q: Tell us a little about your dance background.

A: As a young girl, I was involved in jazz, tap, ballet and musical theater. I instantly fell in love with dance. With 22 years of dance experience, I trained at Summit School of Dance and later finished my competition career at Larkin Dance Studio. As a seventh grader, I danced on the varsity squad at Benilde-St. Margaret’s. I graduated with a BFA in Dance from Loyola Marymount University Los Angeles. It was at LMU where I grew to love the art of dance, along with the performance quality in its individual form. Being exposed to various elements of dance, such as Dance of Africa, Music for Dance, Dance Production and Kinesiology introduced a new appreciation for the creative process.

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

A: After moving back from Los Angeles, I wanted to share my dance critique and knowledge with the MSHSL community. By becoming a MSHSL official I can apply these skills with the athletes, coaches, and colleagues.

Q: What are your current interests and hobbies?

A: I absolutely love being outdoors. The cold winters don’t stop me from going outside. I love trying new outdoor activities and get a breath of fresh air. Yoga is a large part of my life as well.

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

A: If I had to choose a favorite costume it would be the one I wore when I was three years old. The song was “Hippity Hoppity Frog” and it was a tap routine. It was the first costume I wore on stage and was green with sequins and ruffles with matching tap shoe bows.

Q: What is your ideal vacation spot?

A: It would have to be Croatia, along the coast. I have a friend who is from the area and always talks about how lovely it is. There is something about a place where you can walk everywhere, see turquoise water and taste new flavors that is very intriguing.

Member News



WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

Nicole Langdahl married Justin Heide on May 5.
Tricia Ehrenberg will marry Adam Cunningham on November 3.
Jenna Forbrook will become Jenna Quick on December 1.



BABIES

Nicole Elliott had a daughter, Ruby Anna, on September 24.
Laura (Munn) Crowley welcomed a son, Westin Douglas, on May 1.
Alison Schultz gave birth to twin boys, Owen Andrew and Aaron Joseph, on May 18.
Stacy Abel also welcomed twin sons, Aidyn Jack and Owen Michael, on May 30.
Melissa Long had a baby girl, Lola Grayce, on June 4.
Amy Rath is expecting baby #3 this November.
Melanie Schmidt is expecting twins in early December.



MOVES

Lauren Cochran moved to Omaha, NE.
Colleen Christensen moved back to St. Louis Park.
Emily Puza built a new home in Waconia.



EMPLOYMENT

Colleen Christensen is now the Marketing Director for Nani Nalu Beachwear Boutique in Edina.
Sara Hordyk Portner is now employed at Adolfsen & Peterson Construction as the Regional Controller of the Midwest Division.



SABBATICAL

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

Laura Crowley, Tricia Ehrenberg, Jenna Forbrook, Melanie Schmidt



RETIREMENT

The following officials have chosen to retire from judging. We are very sad to see each one of you go and truly appreciate your dedication to our sport and association. Thank you for your service to JAM!

Lauren Cochran - 3 Years
Stephanie Malone - 10 Years
Lois Wagner - 4 Years

New things in your life?

Email us to be included in the next membership newsletter!

2012-2013 Meets Scheduled with JAM

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

Kickin Butt for Kathy

As many of you are aware, longtime JAM member Kathy Furniss was diagnosed with ALS last year. JAM members were invited to participate in the Walk to Defeat ALS to support Kathy's team, Kickin Butt for Kathy.



We encourage you to participate again this year. The more walkers, the merrier and the better for the mission of The ALS Association. Your participation in the walk will make a difference in the lives of those affected by Lou Gehrig's disease. The money raised will help The ALS Association lead global research, assist people with ALS, fund multidisciplinary certified clinical care centers, and foster government partnerships. Each dollar contributed will make a difference! The Association builds hope and enhances quality of life while aggressively searching for new treatments and a cure.

Please join Kathy and her team at the Walk to Defeat ALS or make a donation to support their efforts.

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!

Save the Date

- TBA** JAM Registration Deadline
- TBA** JAM Training - Metro location
- October 15** MSHSL Online Rules Meeting & Exam Available
- 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

Go ahead, tell on your friends!

We want to recognize those members who go above and beyond. Email us with your Kudos!

Congratulations to the following members who were selected to officiate at the 2012 State Tournament:

Stacy Abel, Jill Achterkirch, Jodie Anderson, Amanda Ballensky, Lauren Barnes, Becky Blissenbach, Jennifer Cassidy, Deb Clapp, Becky King, Melissa Erp, Keri Gheller, Laura Harding, Lisa Hart, Allie Helgren, Susan Kelley, Jennifer Kummer, Nicole (Langdahl) Heide, Melissa Long, Stephanie Malone, Kim Meyer, Katie Ohlund, Susan Patist, Sara Portner, Emily Puza, Melanie Schmidt, Franzi Schneider-Krumpus, Jayme Smrstick, Bridget Tully