

# JAM DANCE TEAMS

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER 2012



Dear JAM Members,

Thank you all for attending the 2012 training sessions in Shakopee and Sauk Rapids this month! We are so lucky to be part of such an amazing group of women who all share the same decision to be dedicated to Minnesota high school dance team.

Collectively, we have over 725 years of dance team officiating experience! What a huge knowledge base to have at our fingertips! Don't be afraid to tap into this resource and use your fellow colleagues to help you become the best official you can be. Competitions have begun - the teams will be bringing their best to the dance floor; be sure to bring your best in the stands!

Happy November!  
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.

## JAM Helps Train Coaches

By Lisa Hart & Missy Tutewohl

On Saturday, October 27th, 2012, five JAM members took part in score sheet training for coaches at the MADT Coaches Convention that was held at Eastview High School. Jennifer Cassidy, Laura Harding, Lisa Hart, Sara Hordyk Portner and Missy Tutewohl represented JAM during the training.

The training was much like how JAM does score sheet training; a jazz or kick routine was shown, we all would score (within one minute) and then a couple questions, based on a particular area of the score sheet, were asked and the groups discussed amongst themselves. We would go around the table and say what score we gave in that particular area of the score sheet and then discuss.

It was an enlightening experience for all to get different, or in some instances the same, opinions or reasoning for scores. To actually be able to discuss categories, as a group of coaches and officials, in an educational setting, and how/what was seen and how/why a score was given was a great experience. It was nice to see, from an official's standpoint, the range of scores. At one table, the range for a certain category was between 6 and 10. Coaches had that "Aha moment" that yes, "Now I can see how that can happen." Coaches still don't like to see the range being that big and we as officials don't like to see that either. But it can happen.

It was a relaxed and enjoyable setting, and nice to be able to have open discussions and interact with coaches in this type of format. No pressure, preconceived notions, or conflict of interests to hinder or dampen the atmosphere. It was a fun and enjoyable experience. And, even though we were one official among 6-10 coaches, it felt like we were all one group, on the same page--wanting to give the team a score that was deserved. I think everyone went home with some new knowledge. The coaches really liked this training and would like to see it again at their MADT Coaches Convention. And, we liked it, too!

Thank you to MADT for inviting JAM officials to participate in this great event!

## Post-Meet Survey Sent to Meet Coordinators

New this year! After each meet scheduled with JAM, the Scheduling Team will be contacting meet coordinators for their participation in a quick, online survey.

We hope that this honest, anonymous feedback will provide insight into the communication, professionalism and overall impression of our organization. We will use the information obtained to make changes where necessary to better serve the needs of the dance team community and those that hire JAM.

## CONTACT US

WEBSITE: [www.jamdanceteams.org](http://www.jamdanceteams.org)

FACEBOOK: JAM Dance Teams

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## 2012 JAM Training Highlights

This month, JAM held its annual required training programs for all members. There were 71 attendees at Metro Training, held on November 3rd at Shakopee East Junior High. Sauk Rapids-Rice High School played host to 47 attendees two weeks later, on November 17th at Northern Training.

JAM's 2012-2013 membership is 118 members strong and includes 20 new members this year. Combined judging experience exceeds over 725 years. 100% of the membership are MSHSL officials, trained only on the MSHSL dance team score sheet using current Minnesota high school dance team routines.

Features of this year's trainings included professionalism and code of conduct, kick counting and timing training, small group



electronic and manual tabulation training, tally sheet and shorthand training, score sheet breakdown by category with detailed video dissection, scoring practice and discussion, Superior Judge and advanced score

sheet training, mini mentoring sessions, and live advanced technique demonstrators from the University of St. Thomas Dance Team.



JAM members Julie Bayerl, Jennifer Flake, Susan Kelley, Marisa Quesnell, Allison Schultz, Carrie Coppock, Jayme Smrstick, Susan Patist and Laura Berg Olsen were recognized for their years of service.



## In the Spotlight

Get to know JAM judge:  
**KAELYNN KAMPA**



**Resides In:** Sartell, MN  
**Occupation/Company:** Ambulatory Application Specialist, CentraCare Health System

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

A: I began to dance as a little girl. I trained at St. Cloud School of Dance and Gymnastics and at Just For Kix. In high school, I was on the dance team at Sauk Rapids-Rice for four years and held choreographer and captain roles. I also coached the Storm Dance Team for a year.

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

A: I loved being involved in Dance Team and was still very passionate about it. I wasn't ready to be only a spectator! Judging was the perfect opportunity to stay involved, learn more about the sport and it fit very well into my college schedule and now my career schedule. When I first started I had no idea how much I would fall in love with being an official!!

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

A: I love summer and spend most of my free time by the water, either boating, wakeboarding, surfing or just lounging by the pool. I love to spend time with my family and friends! And carpooling to dance team meets with Becky Blissenbach!

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

A: In second grade, I danced to the song "Escapade" by Janet Jackson. The costumes were black and purple and really sparkly. Ever since this dance, "Escapade" has been one of my all-time favorite songs!

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

A: It is my wish to someday eat and drink my way through Germany and Poland!

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

11-18-12

Date	Day	Site	Time	Type
11/16/12	Friday	Coon Rapids	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
11/17/12	Saturday	Shakopee	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
11/20/12	Tuesday	Hill-Murray	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
11/27/12	Tuesday	Burnsville	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
11/29/12	Thursday	Holy Angels	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
11/29/12	Thursday	Hopkins	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
11/29/12	Thursday	Irondale	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/1/12	Saturday	Apple Valley	9:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/1/12	Saturday	Chaska	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/1/12	Saturday	Detroit Lakes	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
12/3/12	Monday	Monticello	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/3/12	Monday	Osseo	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/3/12	Monday	Park	6:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/4/12	Tuesday	Eastview	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/4/12	Tuesday	South St. Paul	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/6/12	Thursday	Litchfield	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/6/12	Thursday	Rochester John Marshall	7:00 p.m.	Triangular
12/8/12	Saturday	Albany	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
12/8/12	Saturday	Benilde-St. Margaret's	11:00 a.m.	Catholic Jamboree
12/8/12	Saturday	Eastview	9:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/8/12	Saturday	Fergus Falls	11:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/8/12	Saturday	Hutchinson	1:00 p.m.	Invitational
12/8/12	Saturday	Lakeville North	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/8/12	Saturday	Zumbrota-Mazeppa	11:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/10/12	Monday	Blaine	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/10/12	Monday	PEM	6:00 p.m.	Triangular
12/11/12	Tuesday	St. Cloud Cathedral	6:30 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/11/12	Tuesday	New Ulm Cathedral	7:00 p.m.	Dual Meet
12/13/12	Thursday	Pine River-Backus	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/13/12	Thursday	Spring Lake Park	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/13/12	Thursday	Wayzata	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/13/12	Thursday	Worthington	6:00 p.m.	Invitational
12/14/12	Friday	Hopkins	7:00 p.m.	Mini Invitational
12/14/12	Friday	Willmar	7:30 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/15/12	Saturday	Apple Valley	TBD	Conference Championship
12/15/12	Saturday	Bemidji	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/15/12	Saturday	BOLD (location TBD)	TBD	Invitational
12/15/12	Saturday	Edina	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
12/15/12	Saturday	Fridley	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
12/15/12	Saturday	Holy Angels	9:30 a.m.	Invitational
12/15/12	Saturday	Lake City	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/15/12	Saturday	Maple Grove	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/17/12	Monday	Anoka	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet

## 2012-2013 Meets Scheduled with JAM, Page 2

11-18-12

Date	Day	Site	Time	Type
12/18/12	Tuesday	Chaska	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/20/12	Thursday	Albany	7:00 p.m.	Dual Meet
12/20/12	Thursday	Jordan	7:30 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/20/12	Thursday	New London-Spicer	8:00 p.m.	Dual Meet
12/21/12	Friday	Rochester Century	7:30 p.m.	Triangular
12/22/12	Saturday	Frazee	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/5/13	Saturday	Belle Plaine	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/5/13	Saturday	Blaine	TBD	Invitational
1/5/13	Saturday	Robbinsdale Cooper	1:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/5/13	Saturday	Tracy-Milroy-Balaton	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/5/13	Saturday	Winona	TBD	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 Century	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	TBD	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
1/16/13	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	TBD	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

Date	Day	Site	Time	Type
1/19/13	Saturday	Superior WI	12:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/19/13	Saturday	Wayzata	9:30 a.m.	Invitational
1/19/13	Saturday	Yellow Medicine East	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/26/13	Saturday	GFW	TBD	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
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

### 2012-2013 JAM Regular Season Scheduling Statistics 11-18-12

**109: Meets Requested**  
**940: Total Officiating Positions**  
**599: Judge Positions**  
**155: Tabulator Positions**  
**201: Kick Counter/Timer Positions**

### Save the Date

**December 1** - MSHSL Application for State Consideration Deadline  
**February 2 & 9** - Section Meets  
**February 15-16** - State Tournament  
**March 2** - JAM General Membership Meeting

### Member News



#### WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

**Jessamy Alto** became engaged to Jason Thomas on October 14. She is planning an August 17, 2013 wedding.

**Alissa Connolly** is now engaged to Mario Goessl. They are planning for a September 2013 wedding.

#### New things in your life?

Email us to be included in the next membership newsletter!



#### BABIES

**Stacy Abel** finally has both of her twin boys at home in St. Peter. Born in May, nearly three months early, Aidyn was released from the hospital on July 18 and Owen was welcomed home on October 19.

**Jennifer Gilhoi** is expecting her first child on May 31, 2013.



#### RETIREMENT

**Jill Achterkirch** has retired from judging. Here are some parting words from Jill:

*"With a heavy heart, I hang up my clipboard, butt pad and pack the old JAM bag away. I will miss everything about judging and MN Dance Teams....but most of all, the friendships I have acquired along the way. I will miss you all and please keep in touch."*