

JAM DANCE TEAMS

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 2012



Dear JAM Members,
Can you believe that winter competitive dance team season will be underway in a month? It's crazy how time flies! While the teams are getting back in the swing of things, here at JAM, it's time to focus on our own preparation and training for the season.

Use these weeks before competitions start to brush up on your knowledge of our sport: technique, trends and scoresheet criteria. Of course, we'll cover these things at training but the more personally prepared you are, the better!

We hope you have been enjoying these monthly member newsletters. If you have any feedback, please do not hesitate to let us know via email!

Happy September!
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.

Don't Forget to Register

Registration is open through **September 30**. If you haven't already registered, do so now to avoid paying a late fee!

New members are not charged a late fee and may sign up anytime before the first training session on November 3. If you know of someone who may be interested in joining JAM, please reach out and encourage them to become a part of our organization. It's always great to have new members!

To register online, visit our website at 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.

We can't wait to see you at training in November! This is sure to be the best season yet!

TRAINING DATES AND LOCATIONS:

November 3

Shakopee East Junior High School

November 17

Sauk Rapids-Rice High School

JAM Featured on Blog

The JAM Core Group recently had the opportunity to sit down with Minnesota High School Dance Team Online blog creator, Erin Kruesi.

It was a great chance to continue the progression of open communication between our association and the dance team community.

Erin and the Core Group talked about what it takes to be a JAM official, what's new for JAM this season and other topics of interest for her readers.

Be sure to check out the interview at <http://mnhsdanceteam.blogspot.com>.



Blog author Erin Kruesi and JAM Core Group members, L to R: Lauren Barnes, Amanda Ballensky, Erin Kruesi, Sara Hordyk Portner, Stacy Abel, Katie Ohlund, Becky King, Emily Puza, Colleen Christensen.

New Member Gathering

Members with 0-3 years experience are invited to JAM's annual New Member Gathering.

The purpose of this casual, low-key gathering is to meet other newer members and Core Group members prior to training and to work through the MSHSL Rules Exam together.

Please make sure you have watched the online MSHSL Rules Meeting prior to the gathering.

When: Friday, October 26

Where: Sara Hordyk Portner's home
4985 Aspen Drive, Savage, MN 55378

Time: 6:00-8:00pm

What to Bring: MSHSL Rules Book and Exam
Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Please RSVP to jamscheduler@yahoo.com by October 15.

CONTACT US

WEBSITE: www.jamdanceteams.org

FACEBOOK: JAM Dance Teams

CORE GROUP EMAIL:
jamdanceteams@yahoo.com

SCHEDULING TEAM EMAIL:
jamscheduler@yahoo.com

The State of Dance Team

MSHSL officials and coaches representing the various classes and areas of the state gathered at the Minnesota State High School League for a discussion around the "State of Dance Team." Although our two groups play very different roles in the sport, one theme resonated throughout the afternoon – we all share a devoted passion for dance.

The discussion started with thoughts about the great things in the sport: a high level of talent, rules that allow for an "even playing field" among all teams, avenues for training for both coaches and officials, increasing number of teams participating in the sport, and a fabulous, user-friendly tabulating system (designed by veteran JAM member Kim Meyer).

A good part of the afternoon was spent discussing the issues that the group felt were areas for improvement, such as: judging and scoring consistency, relations between officials and coaches, and adapting to different styles of jazz. Some other topics discussed included kick difficulty, practice safety along with increasing incidents of dancer injuries, rules, and training and education for parents and coaches.

Fortunately, the JAM Core Group met the same day as the MSHSL meeting and was able to discuss some of the issues voiced by the coaches.

WHAT WE HEARD:

Officials and coaches should have a mutual respect for each other and display common courtesy at competitions.

JAM'S RESPONSE:

At our annual professionalism training, JAM members will discuss how they can be more personable at meets while maintaining their impartial role. JAM officials will be encouraged to introduce themselves at competitions when the schedule allows, such as during the coaches meetings, and will be reminded to remain professional but personable while seated in the stands. JAM has a high standard for officials' professionalism and all JAM members are required to re-certify a Code of Conduct each year.

WHAT WE HEARD:

Competitions in greater Minnesota tend to have the same panel of judges, year after year.

JAM'S RESPONSE:

JAM requires its members to make themselves available for a variety of meets, including class, style of dance, and location in order to be assigned for meets. However, some areas of the state are logistically challenging for members depending on their individual situations such as career and family. The JAM scheduling team will make it a priority to schedule a variety of officials, including veteran judges, for outstate meets. JAM also works diligently to recruit new officials – especially in greater Minnesota – so that all regions of the state can continue to be served by quality, experienced judges. If you know of anyone who might be interested in becoming an official, please have them contact us at jamdanceteams@yahoo.com. New officials are always welcome!

WHAT WE HEARD:

Teams want consistency in rules enforcement and scoring.

JAM'S RESPONSE:

JAM knows that the score sheets provide valuable feedback to coaches and teams and that wide ranges of scores and ranks can be difficult to understand. That's why JAM members are required to attend a day-long annual training session that focuses extensively on the score sheet criteria, breaking down each score sheet category and applying those elements to actual high school routines. Our training is tailored to officials at varying levels of judging experience so that the criteria are understood and interpreted correctly. In addition, live technique demonstrators perform skills and combinations in a session designed to provide continuing education on technique and difficulty. JAM understands the importance of the results and reviews the training agenda every year to ensure that training provides a fresh perspective relative to the sport today.

But even in our varying roles, we all have one desire...to support the dancers who spend countless hours choreographing, practicing, and polishing their skills for a few minutes on the floor. We hope to strengthen the relationship between coaches and officials this year and over the years to come.

Take a moment to thank a coach for the hard work and dedication they put into the teams that we have the opportunity to enjoy at every competition.

Superior Judge Training

New this year, the Minnesota State High School League has requested that MSHSL Rules Coordinators conduct Superior Judge training for both JAM and DX judging associations.

The four Rules Coordinators have attended and conducted the JAM required annual Superior Judge training sessions for several years.

Superior Judges of the DX association will now also be trained by the MSHSL Rules Coordinators.

The four MSHSL Rules Coordinators include Laura Berg Olson, Lisa Hart, Katie Ohlund and Missy Tutewohl, all long-time JAM members.

Member News



WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

Megan Rasmussen became recently engaged to Jared Wiesler and is planning an August 2013 wedding.



BABIES

Breanna Blaskey will welcome her first child this February.



EMPLOYMENT

Colleen Christensen is now employed as a Project Manager at Gage.

New things in your life?

Email us to be included in the next membership newsletter!

Fall Dance Shows

Looking for something fun to do? Come watch some exciting dance action at these Fall Dance Shows!

Saturday, September 29

Anoka High School
6:30 pm

Saturday, October 6

Coon Rapids High School
6:30 pm

Saturday, October 13

Fridley High School
6:00 pm

Saturday, October 13

Blaine High School
6:30 pm

Saturday, October 28

Miss Dance Team Minnesota Competition
Eastview High School

Saturday, November 10

St. Cloud Apollo High School
1:00 pm and 6:00 pm

Starettes Kid's Clinic

The Starettes are hosting a Halloween themed kid's clinic for the young dancers in your lives. This fun filled afternoon includes a Halloween craft for the little ones, dance instruction for all ages and a performance for parents at the end!

When: Sunday, October 21
1:00-3:00 pm

Where: DanceXchange, Edina

Cost: \$15/child for pre-registration
\$20/child at door

Contact Rachel Filippi at 612-309-2430 for more information.



In the Spotlight

Get to know JAM judge:
JAMIE JEWISON



Resides In: Plymouth, MN
Occupation/Company: Health & Welfare Consultant at Xcel Energy

Q: Tell us a little about your dance background.

A: I grew up taking studio dance lessons since I was 5 years old. My high school, Irondale High School, did not have a dance team at the time I was there so studio was the only option. I was able to dance at UW-Stout on their pom team for 2 years. That was my first exposure to high kick. When I transferred to the U of MN, I went back to taking studio classes with young adult groups. The last 2 years, I was a member of the Starettes. They are a high kick/precision jazz dance team that performs for local events around the holiday. This past year, we headlined the first sell-out show at the Cowles Center in downtown Minneapolis.

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

A: I was recruited by a co-worker of mine, Marisa (Toren) Quesnell, to become a judge. Marisa knew that I had been passionate about dance since I was little and encouraged me to join. I have been a judge now for 7 years and still have that same passion about dance that makes the hairs on my arms stand up.

Q: What are your interests and hobbies?

A: I enjoy reading, biking, watching Gopher football, and walking my big basset hound, Newman.

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

A: My favorite dance was performing in the pregame show of the Super Bowl when it was in Minneapolis. I know I am dating myself. We danced to "A Chorus Line" and wore shimmering gold leotards with sequin lapels, tail, and top hat. I was 15 years old.

Q: What is your ideal vacation spot?

A: My ideal vacation spot is anywhere on the ocean in the warm sun. Someday I would like to go to Tahiti and stay in those huts on stilts over the water. I think that would be the most perfect vacation ever!

2012-2013 Meets Scheduled with JAM (as of 9/19/12)

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
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
12/4/12	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
12/8/12	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	Target Center - WOW Sports	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	TBD	Dual Meet
12/13/12	Thursday	Pine River-Backus	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	11:00 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	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
12/15/12	Saturday	Maple Grove	10:00 a.m.	Invitational
12/17/12	Monday	Anoka	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/18/12	Tuesday	Chaska	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
12/20/12	Thursday	Jordan	7:30 p.m.	Conference 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
1/7/13	Monday	BBE	6:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/7/13	Monday	Big Lake	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet

Date	Day	Site	Time	Type
1/7/13	Monday	Pierz	7:00 p.m.	Conference Meet
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	TBD	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	10:00 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	ROCORI	11:00 a.m.	Invitational
1/12/13	Saturday	Waconia	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
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	TBD	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	TBD	Conference Championship
1/19/13	Saturday	Wayzata	9:30 a.m.	Invitational
1/19/13	Saturday	Yellow Medicine East	12:00 p.m.	Invitational
1/21/13	Monday	ACGC	7:30 p.m.	Dual meet
1/24/13	Thursday	Becker	6:30 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/24/13	Thursday	BOLD (Bird Island)	6:30 p.m.	Conference Meet
1/24/13	Thursday	Wabasso	TBD	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	MACCRAY	12:00 p.m.	Conference Championship
1/26/13	Saturday	Mounds View	8:30 a.m.	Invitational
1/26/13	Saturday	Prior Lake	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	TBD	Section 3A

Scheduling Note: There are several "HOT" weekends already. If possible, please try to make yourself available as we will likely need to utilize most members on the following dates:

**December 8, December 15,
January 12, January 19**

**2012-2013 JAM Regular Season
Scheduling Statistics (as of 9/19/12)**

- 88: Meets Requested**
- 765: Total Officiating Positions**
- 477: Judge Positions**
- 127: Tabulator Positions**
- 161: Kick Counter/Timer Positions**

JAM Library

Did you know that JAM has a video library? It's true! And best of all, it's completely, totally, 100% FREE to use just by being a member of JAM!

Prep45.com and Grand Stadium TV have been generous enough to donate full State Tournament DVD and VHS collections dating back several years for our educational use. We are able to use these videos in our annual training and they are also available for your personal viewing as well.

Now is a great time to review recent dance team routines. Practice your shorthand, try out a new tally sheet, get more comfortable with a style or class you typically don't judge, or simply sit back and enjoy the amazing talent that comes from all over our great state. Invite a few of your JAM friends over and make it a dance video marathon!

If you are interested in borrowing dance team videos from the JAM Library, please contact us jamdanceteams@yahoo.com.

The fine print: Videos are released on a first-come, first-served basis and may be borrowed for up to two weeks. Failure to return videos will result in a replacement fee of \$20.



Save the Date

September 30 - JAM Registration Deadline

October 15 - MSHSL Online Rules Meeting & Exam Available

October 26 - New Member Gathering

October 27 - MADT Fall Convention

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 & 9 - Section Meets

February 15-16 - State Tournament

March 2 - JAM General Membership Meeting



KUDOS KORNER

A special **THANK YOU** to members who represented JAM at a recent MSHSL meeting:

Laura Berg Olsen
Sara Hordyk Portner
Katie Ohlund
Franzi Schneider-Krumpus

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