

# JAM DANCE TEAMS

APRIL 2013 NEWSLETTER

Can it be true? Is spring actually here to stay? Let's hope so! Fortunately for dance team, we don't rely on an outdoor field, court or course for our sport. But for the many spring athletes and coaches who do, they're facing a greatly-reduced spring athletic season. The MSHSL released a statement regarding how to manage this shortened season.

While the MSHSL will not be adding any weeks onto the spring season, they did provide some ideas on how to make the most of what is left. Thoughts included scheduling double-headers, increasing the number of competitors at a contest and scheduling Saturday meets. It's hard to imagine the amount of rescheduling and rework that ADs, coaches, officials, athletes and parents are dealing with this spring. We are quite lucky to have had the season we did, which saw only a handful of cancellations. Here's hoping the spring sports get as much out of their shortened play time as possible!

Happy Belated Spring!  
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 sportsmanship 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.



## 2013-2014 Core Group Roles & Responsibilities

The first Core Group meeting for the new year was held in early April. Roles and responsibilities were assigned as follows:

### Stacy Abel

- Treasurer
- Registration
- Membership Liaison

### Jennifer Cassidy

- Vice President
- MSHSL Liaison

### Colleen Christensen

- Scheduling Team-Meet Communications
- Newsletters, Marketing & Website

### Sara Hordyk Portner

- Scheduling Team-Assignments

### Lauren Jenkins

- Secretary

### Katie Ohlund

- President
- Training Committee Chair

### Lauren Theobald

- Recruitment, Retention & Mentoring
- Promotional Items
- Credentials

## Join JAM in 2013-14!

Know of a friend, co-worker, relative, enthusiastic dance team fan, former teammate, former dancer, former coach or fall coach who might be interesting in judging this season? Encourage them to join JAM!

### Why join JAM?

- Access to top-notch education and advanced training opportunities.
- Give back to the dance team community.
- Network with other dance team enthusiasts and create lasting friendships.

Registration for the 2013-14 season will open in mid-summer with mandatory annual training taking place in early fall. We are always looking for new members who have a keen eye for detail, willingness to travel and most importantly, a passion for dance team.

If interested, contact [jamcoregroup@gmail.com](mailto:jamcoregroup@gmail.com) to get on the contact list for the upcoming season.

## New Email Addresses

We have implemented two new email addresses for all JAM communication. Please add these addresses to your contact list.

### [jamcoregroup@gmail.com](mailto:jamcoregroup@gmail.com)

Use this email for all general questions, registration needs, new member or Superior Judge questions. Stacy will be monitoring this email account.

[Jamdanceteams@yahoo.com](mailto:Jamdanceteams@yahoo.com) will no longer be active.

### [jamscheduler@gmail.com](mailto:jamscheduler@gmail.com)

Use this email for all scheduling and meet communications. Colleen and Sara will be monitoring this account.

[Jamscheduler@yahoo.com](mailto:Jamscheduler@yahoo.com) will no longer be active.

## CONTACT US

FACEBOOK: JAM Dance Teams

\*NEW\* CORE GROUP EMAIL:

[jamcoregroup@gmail.com](mailto:jamcoregroup@gmail.com)

\*NEW\* SCHEDULING TEAM EMAIL:

[jamscheduler@gmail.com](mailto:jamscheduler@gmail.com)

## Dance Team & MSHSL Committees

Ever wondered how changes come about or what the different MSHSL/dance team committees really work on? There's quite a bit of work that happens during and outside of the dance team season. Here's a quick glimpse at what the different groups are, who makes up the committees and what areas they serve.

### MSHSL Rules Coordinators

**Made up of JAM officials:** State Rules Coordinator - Laura Berg Olsen Regional Rules Coordinators - Missy Tutewohl, Lisa Hart and Katie Ohlund

**Purpose:** The Rules Coordinators meet twice per year with Kevin Merkle at the MSHSL office to put together and produce the online rules meeting for officials and coaches. The Rules Coordinators also participate on the selection committee for the State Tournament. In addition, they are the first point of contact for coaches, officials and ADs with regards to rules related questions.

### MSHSL Dance Team Rules Committee

**JAM Representatives:** Katie Ohlund, Laura Berg Olsen and Jennifer Cassidy

**Purpose:** This committee is comprised of 3 officials, 3 coaches and 3 Athletic Directors. Each year in the early Spring, rules proposals are submitted to the MSHSL from coaches or officials associations. Shortly after, the rules committee meets to discuss and vote on the rules proposals. If a proposal receives a majority vote in favor of passing the proposal, it is sent to the MSHSL Board of Directors for their final vote and approval. If a proposal does not pass the rules committee, it is not sent to the MSHSL BOD and is declined.

### MSHSL Officials Advisory Committee

**JAM Representative:** Kim Meyer

**Purpose:** This committee is comprised of officials only, from each sport that is under the MSHSL. Officials meet 2 times per year to discuss hot topics and issues pertaining to officiating in Minnesota. Committee members typically serve a 2-3 year term.

### Special Dance Team Committee

**JAM Representatives:** Lisa Hart, Missy Tutewohl and Colleen Christensen

**Purpose:** This ad hoc committee is comprised of 4 officials and 4 coaches with the task of working through some of the challenges specific to dance team. Hot topics currently include accurately determining difficulty, injury prevention, coaches training and uniform compliance issues.

## In the Spotlight

Get to know JAM judge:  
**JENNIFER KUMMER**



**Resides In:** Victoria

**Occupation/Company:** Internet Marketing Consultant at ReachLocal and part-time at Pottery Barn in the Galleria  
**JAM Member Since:** 1999

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

A: In high school, I was a member of the Montevideo Gold Dusters. And, was Captain my senior year & a member of our choreography committee. We also hosted annual Glitter Duster clinics where we taught young girls dance routines that they performed at our year-end invitational.

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

A: I decided to become a MSHSL official because I'm passionate about dance & dance team and wanted to stay involved. Prior to becoming an official, I had attended the State Tournament every year since high school (along with my good friend & judge Melissa Erp). First, as a dancer and then as a spectator. When JAM started in 1999, we both became members. My membership in JAM has allowed me to be a part of a wonderful group of women who all share the same passion for dance & dance team.

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

A: Dance, Travel, Interior Design, Live Music, Vikings & Wild games.

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

A: There were several favorite dances from my dance team days: "Hit That Perfect Beat", "Dancing in Heaven" The movie "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" brings back great memories, as the song was featured in the movie. My senior year we performed at wrestling & basketball regions. We had just returned from competing at State. The gym was filled to capacity & the energy was amazing! The dance had a choreographed entrance & dangerous moves that would have DQ'd our team under today's dance team rules! I'll never forget the feeling as we left the dance floor!

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

A: Love Vancouver, Seattle, Chicago, Door County, and New England! Looking forward to visiting Europe one day.

2013-2014 Meets Scheduled with JAM

as of 4/24/13

Date	Day	Site	Type
11/18/13	Monday	Chisago Lakes	Conference Meet (Mississippi 8)
11/21/13	Thursday	Wayzata	Conference Meet (Lake)
11/22/13	Friday	Coon Rapids	Conference Meet (Northwest Suburban)
11/23/13	Saturday	Shakopee	Invitational
11/23/13	Saturday	Southland (Adams)	Small Invitational
11/25/13	Monday	Monticello	Conference Meet (Mississippi 8)
11/26/13	Tuesday	Shakopee	Conference Meet (Missota)
12/2/13	Monday	Andover	Conference Meet (Northwest Suburban)
12/5/13	Thursday	Holy Angels	Conference Meet (Missota)
12/5/13	Thursday	Minnetonka	Conference Meet (Lake)
12/7/13	Saturday	Chaska	Invitational
12/7/13	Saturday	Detroit Lakes	Invitational
12/7/13	Saturday	Hayfield	Invitational
12/7 or 12/14	Saturday	Target Center	Invitational (WOW Factor Sports)
12/9/13	Monday	Blaine	Conference Meet (Northwest Suburban)
12/9/13	Monday	Farmington	Conference Meet (Missota)
12/9/13	Monday	North Branch	Conference Meet (Mississippi 8)
12/12/13	Thursday	Eden Prairie	Conference Meet (Lake)
12/14/13	Saturday	Eastview	Invitational
12/14/13	Saturday	Fridley	Invitational
12/14/13	Saturday	Lakeville North	Invitational
12/14 or 12/21	Saturday	Maple Grove	Invitational
12/16/13	Monday	Buffalo	Conference Meet (Mississippi 8)

Date	Day	Site	Type
12/16/13	Monday	Elk River	Conference Meet (Northwest Suburban)
12/17/13	Tuesday	Fergus Falls	Quad Meet
12/19/13	Thursday	Edina	Conference Meet (Lake)
12/19/13	Thursday	Rochester Century	Triangular (All-City)
12/20/13	Friday	Frazee	Invitational
12/21/13	Saturday	Holy Angels	Invitational
12/21/13	Saturday	Lake City	Invitational
1/9/14	Thursday	Hopkins	Conference Meet (Lake)
1/9/14	Thursday	ACGC	Small Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	Hawley	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	Lakeville South	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	Maple Grove	Conference Championship (Northwest Suburban)
1/11/14	Saturday	Rochester Century	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	St. Francis	Conference Championship (Mississippi 8)
1/16/14	Thursday	Belle Plaine	Conference Meet (Minnesota River)
1/16/14	Thursday	Minnetonka	Conference Meet (Lake)
1/18/14	Saturday	Faribault	Conference Championship (Big 9)
1/18/14	Saturday	Farmington	Invitational
1/18/14	Saturday	Pelican Rapids	Invitational
1/18/14	Saturday	St. Charles	Conference Championship (Three Rivers)
1/25/14	Saturday	Blaine	Invitational
1/25/14	Saturday	Eastview	Showcase
1/25/14	Saturday	Holy Angels	Catholic Jamboree
1/25/14	Saturday	Prior Lake	Invitational
1/28/14	Saturday	Dover-Eyota	Invitational
2/8/14	Saturday	Dover-Eyota	Section 1A

Want to hire JAM to officiate your 2013-14 meet?

Email our Scheduling Team at: [jamscheduler@gmail.com](mailto:jamscheduler@gmail.com). Colleen or Sara will respond to your request and answer any questions you may have. We strive to assign the best officials available for your meet. We also try to assign officials who live close to the meet site or those willing to carpool to reduce applicable mileage fees.

We can help you determine how many officials are needed for your meet, as well as assist with basic meet planning. If you're interested in full-out competition organization, we can get you connected to our partnered meet coordinators. We look forward to serving you this season!

Member News



EMPLOYMENT

**Lauren Schrank** started a new job as an Account Manager at Business Impact Group in Chanhassen.

**Marissa Leese** has been accepted into the Clinical Doctorate Audiology program at Pacific University, Oregon. She will be leaving JAM and starting classes this August.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

**Lisa Lindemann**  
**Lauren Schrank**  
**Becky King**  
**Alicia Johnson**  
**Allie Helgren**  
**Erin Lutz**

April 7  
 April 8  
 April 9  
 April 15  
 April 15  
 April 15

**Jamie Jewison** April 20  
**Marissa Leese** April 20  
**Paris Solberg** April 28  
**Jill Dean** April 29  
*Apologies to Laura Berg Olsen whose birthday of March 26 was inadvertently missed in the March newsletter.*