

JAM DANCE TEAMS

OCTOBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

Dear Officials and Coaches,

Well, September flew by so quickly that we didn't get a chance to write a newsletter for the month, so after a little hiatus, we're back! And the big news is that the 2013-2014 competitive season is now underway! We hope that choreography sessions are going well and that teams are geared up for the first day of practice. The excitement of a new season is always such a good feeling!

In early October, we held our first full membership training session in Sartell. We had a great turnout with lots of familiar faces and many new members eager to get started. Our second full membership training will be at the end of the month in Apple Valley and then a few weeks later, we'll have a kick counting/timing only training. Our membership is getting ready for the season and before you know it, we'll be in the stands ready to put what we've learned to good use. We are thrilled to have a great group of officials this year and can't wait for the season to begin!

Happy October!
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.

The Coaches Contact Committee: A JAM Initiative

During the summer of 2010, JAM began a program called the Coaches Contact Committee (CCC) in an effort to better fulfill its mission to "provide information and facilitate discussions between judges, coaches, activities directors, and the MSHSL." Because of dedicated officials, this program has been in place ever since.

All Minnesota schools registered with the MSHSL for competitive dance team are split by conference and geographical area. Fourteen veteran JAM officials serve as the liaisons with these schools. Each year the list of registered schools is updated, and the JAM officials make sure they have the current coach and contact information for each of their assigned schools.

The purpose of the CCC is mainly twofold. The JAM officials who are part of the CCC provide information and helpful tips to their schools. On a regular basis, approximately monthly, all coaches of registered schools receive an email from their JAM official with a newsletter including tips, invitationals, important dates to remember, as well as other helpful dance team information. This is an avenue for JAM to communicate important information to MSHSL dance team coaches.

Additionally, the JAM officials serve as a sounding board for their assigned MSHSL schools. Coaches can contact their assigned official with questions about rules, choreography, uniforms, help in organizing meets, etc. In most cases, the assigned JAM official is very involved with the dance team community in the area in which they have coaching contacts. This is helpful because the official understands the idiosyncrasies of that area of the state (ex: needs of outstate schools/meets vs. metro). Coaches can also give suggestions to their assigned JAM official about information they would like to see in future newsletters. Below are the officials who currently serve on JAM's CCC. Thank you all!

Stacy Abel • stacyabel@gmail.com • Camden • South Central/Southwest MN
Amanda Ballensky • AmandaBallensky@gmail.com • North Suburban
Becky Blissenbach • rebecca.blissenbach@gmail.com • Central Lakes • Northern MN
Colleen Christensen • colleen.r.christensen@gmail.com • MADT Board • Meet Coordinators • Northern MN
Melissa Erp • theerps@charter.net • West Central • Southwest MN
Laura Harding • hardingmusic@yahoo.com • Classic Suburban • Tri-Metro • St. Paul City
Lisa Hart • rhart2lhart@aol.com • Lake • Minnesota River
Nicole Heide • npheide@yahoo.com • Northwest MN
Susan Kelley Krisnik • skelbey@hotmail.com • Three Rivers
Becky King • blk12211@gmail.com • Mississippi 8 • Suburban East
Jennifer Kummer • jennifer.j.kummer@hotmail.com • Wright County
Katie Ohlund • klohund@gmail.com • Big 9 • Southeast MN
Bridget Tully • bridgetbeane@hotmail.com • Northwest Suburban
Missy Tutewohl • missy.tutewohl@district196.org • Hiawatha • Minneapolis City • Minnesota • South Suburban

Member News



SABBATICAL

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

Jennifer Brehm
Nicole Greibrok
Kelly Herzberg
Melissa Jereczek
Jill Thiesfeld



WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

Jenna Tomczik married Nick Colvin on September 28.



BABIES

Ashley VanOverbeke had a baby boy, Kasen Truett, on September 1.

Julie Bayerl is expecting her first child, a boy, on January 24.



EMPLOYMENT

Katie Ohlund has accepted a new position at Loffler in Bloomington.



SEPT. & OCT. BIRTHDAYS

Jayne Smrstick	9/2
Katelyn Schmaltz	9/3
Kayle Evans	9/9
Laine Rajkowski	9/12
Laurie Schaust	9/17
Heather Goldade	9/24
Jenna Colvin	10/4
Laura Christopherson	10/4
Colleen Christensen	10/5
Sara Hordyk Portner	10/5
Kelly Otteson	10/8
Valisa McKinney	10/10
Kadee Hedstrom	10/13
Lois Wagner	10/15
Amanda Ballensky	10/28
Katie Remer	10/28

New things in your life?

Email us to be included in the next membership newsletter!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are so delighted to welcome 22 new members to JAM this year!

Ashley Bartlett
Nicole Brong
Dayna Danielson
Alana Emmerich
Payton Erickson
Laura Grimlund
Kelly Hagen
Charity Hall
Shelbey Jurek
Amanda Kuehn
Natasha Meister
Katie Moeller
Sara Nystuen
Sadie Oraskovich
Melissa Penner
Laine Rajkowski
Katelyn Schmaltz
Crystal Swenson
Britt Thelemann
Lindsay Weber
Sara Weis
Brianna Welle

Newer Member Gathering

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

The purpose of this casual, low-key gathering is to meet other newer members and Core Group members early in the season 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, November 1
Where: Lauren Jenkins' home
 3505 Livingston Ave, Wayzata
Time: 6:00-8:00pm
Bring: MSHSL Rules Book and Exam
 Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Please RSVP by October 25 to jamcoregroup@gmail.com

In the Spotlight

Get to know JAM judge:
ASHLEY VANOVERBEKE



Resides In: Redwood Falls, MN
Occupation/Company: Stay at home mom
JAM Member Since: 2010

Q: Tell us a little about your dance background.

A: I've always been fascinated with dance, dressing up as a ballerina for every Halloween I can remember. I was in jazzy jaguarettes (dance classes hosted by varsity team) since 2nd grade and joined the RCW dance team in 7th grade and continued throughout high school. I was on the choreography team my junior and senior year and was a team captain as a senior. I also was an assistant coach for a Just for Kix team my junior and senior year of high school.

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

A: After high school, I really missed dance and still attended competitions every possible weekend for fun. I wanted to stay involved in the dance community and have a better understanding of the scoresheets and the other side of things so I decided to join JAM.

Q: What are your interests and hobbies?

A: Spending time with family, going to the lake, playing bean bags with my husband, going to rodeos, baking, watching anything dance related, and being a new mom.

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

A: When I was a junior in high school, our team did a "Girl Power" jazz routine to an 80's mix. We wore pink mini skirts, fishnet tights and newsboy hats, which sounds like a disaster on paper, but we thought we looked cute!

Q: What is your ideal vacation spot?

A: Anywhere with a beach, but I would really love a trip to Australia!

2013-2014 Regular Season Meets Scheduled with JAM

Date	Day	Site	Type
11/18/13	Monday	Chisago Lakes	Mississippi 8 Conference Meet
11/21/13	Thursday	Wayzata	Lake Conference Meet
11/22/13	Friday	Coon Rapids	Northwest Suburban Conference Meet
11/23/13	Saturday	Maple Grove	Invitational
11/23/13	Saturday	Shakopee	Invitational
11/23/13	Saturday	Southland (Adams)	Small Invitational
11/25/13	Monday	Monticello	Mississippi 8 Conference Meet
11/26/13	Tuesday	Lakeville North	South Suburban Conference Meet
11/26/13	Tuesday	Sauk Rapids-Rice	Central Lakes Conference Meet
11/26/13	Tuesday	Shakopee	Missota Conference Meet
11/26/13	Tuesday	South St. Paul	Classic Suburban Conference Meet
12/2/13	Monday	Andover	Northwest Suburban Conference Meet
12/3/13	Tuesday	Apple Valley	South Suburban Conference Meet
12/5/13	Thursday	Holy Angels	Missota Conference Meet
12/5/13	Thursday	Minnetonka	Lake Conference Meet
12/6/13	Friday	Rochester John Marshall	All-City Triangular
12/7/13	Saturday	Apple Valley	Invitational
12/7/13	Saturday	Chaska	Invitational
12/7/13	Saturday	Detroit Lakes	Invitational
12/7/13	Saturday	Forest Lake	Invitational
12/7/13	Saturday	Hayfield	Invitational
12/7/13	Saturday	New Ulm Cathedral	Quad Meet
12/7/13	Saturday	Rogers	Invitational
12/7/13	Saturday	Target Center	WOW Factor Sports Invitational
12/9/13	Monday	Blaine	Northwest Suburban Conference Meet
12/9/13	Monday	Farmington	Missota Conference Meet
12/9/13	Monday	North Branch	Mississippi 8 Conference Meet
12/10/13	Tuesday	Prior Lake	South Suburban Conference Meet
12/10/13	Tuesday	Tartan	Classic Suburban Conference Meet
12/11/13	Wednesday	Eden Prairie	Lake Conference Meet
12/12/13	Thursday	Zimmerman	Granite Ridge Conference Meet
12/14/13	Saturday	BOLD	Invitational
12/14/13	Saturday	Bemidji	Invitational
12/14/13	Saturday	Eastview	Invitational
12/14/13	Saturday	Edina	Invitational
12/14/13	Saturday	Fridley	Invitational
12/14/13	Saturday	Hutchinson	Invitational
12/14/13	Saturday	Lakeville North	Invitational
12/14/13	Saturday	Rochester John Marshall	Invitational
12/14/13	Saturday	Zumbrota-Mazeppa	Invitational
12/16/13	Monday	Buffalo	Mississippi 8 Conference Meet
12/16/13	Monday	Elk River	Northwest Suburban Conference Meet
12/16/13	Monday	Rosemount	South Suburban Conference Meet
12/17/13	Tuesday	Fergus Falls	Quad Meet
12/17/13	Tuesday	Northfield	Missota Conference Meet
12/19/13	Thursday	Edina	Lake Conference Meet
12/19/13	Thursday	Mayer Lutheran	Minnesota River Conference Meet
12/20/13	Friday	Frazee	Invitational
12/20/13	Friday	Richfield	Classic Suburban Conference Championship
12/20/13	Friday	Rochester Mayo	All-City Triangular
12/20/13	Friday	St. Cloud Tech	Central Lake Conference Meet

2013-2014 Regular Season Meets Scheduled with JAM

Date	Day	Site	Type
12/21/13	Saturday	Burnsville	South Suburban Conference Championship
12/21/13	Saturday	Holy Angels	Invitational
12/21/13	Saturday	Lake City	Invitational
1/4/14	Saturday	Alexandria	Invitational
1/4/14	Saturday	Belle Plaine	Invitational
1/4/14	Saturday	Henry Sibley	Invitational
1/7/14	Tuesday	Jordan	Minnesota River Conference Meet
1/7/14	Tuesday	Sauk Rapids-Rice	All-Area Meet
1/9/14	Thursday	ACGC	Small Invitational
1/9/14	Thursday	Holy Family	Wright County Conference Meet
1/9/14	Thursday	Hopkins	Lake Conference Meet
1/9/14	Thursday	Rochester Century	All-City Triangular
1/9/14	Thursday	St. Cloud Cathedral	Granite Ridge Conference Meet
1/11/14	Saturday	Aitkin	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	Chaska	Missota Conference Championship
1/11/14	Saturday	Hawley	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	Lakeville South	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	Maple Grove	Northwest Suburban Conference Championship
1/11/14	Saturday	Marshall	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	Minnetonka	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	Park (Cottage Grove)	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	Rochester Century	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	St. Francis	Mississippi 8 Conference Championship
1/11/14	Saturday	Waconia	Invitational
1/11/14	Saturday	Winona	Invitational
1/13/14	Monday	Melrose	Mini Invitational
1/16/14	Thursday	Belle Plaine	Minnesota River Conference Meet
1/16/14	Thursday	Minnetonka	Lake Conference Meet
1/17/14	Friday	Pine River-Backus	Northern Lights Conference Meet
1/18/14	Saturday	Delano	Wright County Conference Championship
1/18/14	Saturday	Faribault	Big 9 Conference Championship
1/18/14	Saturday	Farmington	Invitational
1/18/14	Saturday	Mayer Lutheran	Invitational
1/18/14	Saturday	Pelican Rapids	Invitational
1/18/14	Saturday	St. Charles	Three Rivers Conference Championship
1/18/14	Saturday	Wayzata	Invitational
1/18/14	Saturday	YME	Invitational
1/23/14	Thursday	Becker	Granite Ridge Conference Championship
1/23/14	Thursday	YME	West Central Conference Championship
1/24/14	Friday	Goodhue	Hiawatha Valley Conference Championship
1/24/14	Friday	Pequot Lakes	Northern Lights Conference Championship
1/25/14	Saturday	Blaine	Invitational
1/25/14	Saturday	Canby	Camden County Conference Championship
1/25/14	Saturday	Eastview	Showcase
1/25/14	Saturday	Holy Angels	Catholic Jamboree Invitational
1/25/14	Saturday	Prior Lake	Invitational
1/25/14	Saturday	Simley	Invitational
1/28/14	Saturday	Dover-Eyota	Invitational
1/31/14	Friday	Lakeview (Cottonwood)	Invitational
2/7/14	Friday	Paynesville	Dual Meet

2013-2014 Section Meets Scheduled with JAM

Date	Day	Site	Type
2/1/14	Saturday	Chisago Lakes	2AA Section
2/1/14	Saturday	Orono	3AA Section
2/1/14	Saturday	Sauk Rapids-Rice	4AA Section
2/1/14	Saturday	Wayzata	2AAA Section
2/8/14	Saturday	Dover-Eyota	1A Section
2/8/14	Saturday	Bloomington Kennedy	2A Section
2/8/14	Saturday	Montevideo	3A Section
2/8/14	Saturday	Aitkin	4A Section
2/8/14	Saturday	Austin	1AA Section
2/8/14	Saturday	Bloomington Kennedy	1AAA Section
2/8/14	Saturday	Bloomington Kennedy	3AAA Section

Want to hire JAM to officiate your meet?

Email our Scheduling Team at: jamscheduler@gmail.com

Colleen or Sara will respond to your request and answer any questions you may have.

Note: We strive to assign officials who live close to the meet site or those willing to carpool to reduce applicable mileage fees.

We have already begun to assign officials to the early meets of the season and will continue to assign officials each week going forward. Please make sure you have your meet(s) submitted to the Scheduling Team as soon as possible.

Don't forget about dual, triangular or quad meets! JAM officials are also available to judge a performance (ex: dance show or halftime routine) but remember those performances do count toward your total meets allowed.

2013-14 Scheduling Statistics

- 112:** Meets Requested
- 1117:** Total Officiating Positions
- 698:** Judge Positions
- 238:** Kick Counter/Timer Positions
- 189:** Tabulator Positions

Save the Date

- Oct 14** MSHSL Online Rules Meeting & Exam Available
- Oct 26** Full Membership Late Registration Deadline
- Oct 26** Full Membership Metro Training
- Nov 1** Newer Member Gathering
- Nov 2** MADT Fall Convention
- Nov 5** MSHSL Online Rules Meeting & Exam Deadline
- Nov 9** KCT/Tab Only Late Registration Deadline
- Nov 9** KCT/Tab Only Training
- Dec 1** MSHSL State Application Deadline
- Dec 12** HOT SATURDAY **All Officials Needed**
- Jan 11** SUPER HOT SATURDAY **All Officials Needed**
- Jan 18** HOT SATURDAY **Most Officials Needed**
- Feb 1** Section Meets
- Feb 8** Section Meets
- Feb 14** State Tournament (Jazz)
- Feb 15** State Tournament (Kick)



KUDOS KORNER

Go ahead...tell on your friends!

We want to recognize those members who go above and beyond.

A special thank you to **Lisa Hart and Missy Tutewohl** for presenting with the Core Group during breakout sessions at this year's training.

We really appreciate your help!

Email the Core Group with your Kudos to be included in the next newsletter!

CONNECT WITH JAM

WEBSITE:
www.jamdanceteams.org

FACEBOOK:
facebook.com/JAMDanceTeams

TWITTER:
twitter.com/JAMDanceTeams

PINTEREST:
pinterest.com/JAMDanceTeams

CORE GROUP EMAIL:
jamcoregroup@gmail.com

SCHEDULING TEAM EMAIL:
jamscheduler@gmail.com