



## Dear Officials and Coaches,

The competition season is well underway and from what we've seen so far, this is sure to be an amazing year! The athletes look well-conditioned and the choreography is top notch. We are so lucky to be involved with such a powerful, graceful, exciting and evolving sport!

Earlier this fall, we held our mandatory trainings for our members. We felt it was our best training yet. We had incredible technique demonstrators, former Dance Shoppe, Wayzata HS and University of Minnesota dancers, Rachel and Kim Saunders, and focused on every point of the score sheet using new 1-10 compilation training videos. Our Superior Judges went through complete step-by-step training and our new members concentrated on early career essentials. We are ready to do our best officiating for the teams!

Good luck this season!  
**JAM Core Group**

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## Scheduling Update

As you can see from the list of meets listed in this newsletter, this will be a very busy season. As participation in the sport continues to grow, many teams decide to schedule their own events; unfortunately, there are only so many dates on the calendar within the season. Even though JAM recruits a number of new members each year, there also is a limited number of officials throughout the state. JAM has been working diligently with schools to coordinate logistics and explore options so that schools can host their events and contract with trained officials. This year, several host schools have coordinated their meets to allow for shared panels of judges – meaning that for two events in one day, or for two days in a row, the same panel of officials is planned to be scheduled so that both events can take place. JAM wants to thank all of the schools that have worked with our association to coordinate these logistics.

Due to the increasing number of events, JAM has regrettably declined a handful of meets since there simply are not enough officials registered and expected to be trained at this time. The JAM Core Group has approved the decision to limit the number of meet requests, and their resulting number of officials needed, to a number within a reasonable range of our current membership levels. JAM members submit their availability in the fall of each year, and JAM also places certain restriction on its members due to promotional levels, experience and conflicts of interest. Therefore, JAM cannot guarantee which members and how many are available on any given date. The association also needs to ensure that backup officials are available in the event of inclement weather, illness of other emergencies. When the capacity of our membership has been reached for a certain date, JAM can no longer accept meet requests for that date. Dates that are closed include December 6, 13, 20 and January 10, 17, 24.

## Information Regarding Non-MSHSL Teams and Competitions

As a reminder, MSHSL Dance Teams are not eligible to compete against non-MSHSL teams, unless already approved by the MSHSL. This would violate the MSHSL rules and could also impact other areas, including insurance coverage.

If you have a non-MSHSL team that would like to perform at a meet: non-MN teams, middle schools, colleges, studios, all-star team, etc., they would have to compete in a separate division that performs separately from the MSHSL Jazz or Kick division/classes. The only way the other teams can compete in a meet, MSHSL teams are also attending, is if they are part of a separate division that is run as a separate event, which could occur "before" or "after" the MSHSL meet.

A MSHSL team may compete in an approved meet/competition, in Minnesota, where there are other categories that non-MSHSL teams are competing in. However, MSHSL teams must be in their own category/class, judged by MSHSL registered officials and follow the MSHSL rules.

### 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.



## Member News

### Website

Remember that training videos, forms and documents can all be found under the password-protected Members section of our website.

### Member Referral Program

Congratulations to **Ashley VanOverbeke** and **Sadie Orskovich** for winning the \$50 Target Gift Card referral program drawing!

### Accepting Meets

As a reminder, you may only accept meet assignments during the competition season through the JAM Scheduling Team and the Assignr electronic assignment program. If you are asked to officiate outside of these methods, please inform the Scheduling Team.

### Tracking Assignments

It is a good idea to keep track of your own assignments. Not only will you know when a payment is outstanding, but you will have record of your assignments which can be useful when applying for a promotional level increase with the MSHSL.

A few options of tracking assignments include creating your own spreadsheet with date, location, assignment and fee or you can access your past and future assignments through your Assignr profile.

## KUDOS KORNER

A special shout out to officials who have volunteered to participate in extra training, although not required.

Kick Count/Timing and Tabulation  
Kate Smith

Mentor Program  
Kate Smith  
Melissa Penner  
Bonnie Schaefer  
Elisia Tarnowske

## Member Updates



### BABIES

**Crystal Swenson** welcomed a daughter, Violet Mae, on October 1st at 7:30am. She weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce.

**Martha Speckel** had a baby boy, Callan Jacob, on November 24 at 12:01pm. He weighed 8 pounds, 2.5 ounces and joins siblings Amelia, Gabe and Graham.



### WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS

**Lois Wagner** is engaged to Bob Bushard. They are planning a May 2015 wedding.



### OCT, NOV & DEC BIRTHDAYS

<b>Colleen Christensen</b>	10/5
<b>Sara Hordyk Portner</b>	10/5
<b>Kelly Otteson</b>	10/8
<b>Laura Grimlund</b>	10/9
<b>Valisa McKinney</b>	10/10
<b>Kadee Hedstrom</b>	10/13
<b>Lois Wagner</b>	10/15
<b>Katie Remer</b>	10/28
<b>Stephanie Domalik</b>	11/1
<b>Kristine Jungels</b>	11/5
<b>Stephanie Sorbel</b>	11/6
<b>Jodie Anderson</b>	11/9
<b>Jill Korten Hof</b>	11/9
<b>Keely Rask</b>	11/17
<b>Tricia Betley</b>	11/18
<b>Lauren Jenkins</b>	11/27
<b>Jessamy Thomas</b>	11/29
<b>Lisa Allison</b>	12/18
<b>Britt Thelemann</b>	12/18
<b>Nicole Opland</b>	12/21
<b>Julie Bayerl</b>	12/29
<b>Danielle Swanson</b>	12/30
<b>Bridget Tully</b>	12/30



### 2014-15 MENTOR PROGRAM

<b>Allison Schultz</b>	Organizer
<b>Colleen Christensen</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Sara Hordyk Portner</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Susan Kelley</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Kaelynn Kampa</b>	Apple Valley
<b>Ashley Agre</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Samantha Axt</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Jenna Bakken</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Stephanie Domalik</b>	Apple Valley
<b>Kristi Gephart</b>	Apple Valley
<b>Kaitlin Giles</b>	Apple Valley
<b>Gina Hay</b>	Apple Valley
<b>Ariel Hogan</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Kristine Jungels</b>	Apple Valley
<b>Lindsay Kurt</b>	Apple Valley
<b>Bridget Larson</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Heather Lynch</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Nicole Opland</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Melissa Penner</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Kelsey Provo</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Laine Rajkowski</b>	Apple Valley
<b>Keely Rask</b>	Apple Valley
<b>Jenne Roper</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Adria Smith</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Kate Smith</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Bonnie Schaefer</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Elisia Tarnowske</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Rachel Turkowski</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Krysta Wieland</b>	Maple Grove
<b>Danielle Swanson</b>	Apple Valley
<b>Dar Swanson</b>	Maple Grove

# JAM DANCE TEAMS

JAZZ STAMINA CREATIVITY CONTROL PRECISION MOVEMENT TURNS VISUAL MEMORY LEAP ROTATION DISTRIBUTION CONFIDENCE INTRICACY FORMING VARIETY ACCURACY STRENGTH LEAPS TRANSITIONS RECOVERY  
 FORMATIONS DIFFICULTY FLEXIBILITY SPOTTING PACES LEVELS JAM ACROBATIC COMBINATIONS SKILLS  
 KNOWLEDGE JUMPS LEAPS REARFOOT PRESENTATION EXECUTION FLOOR HEIGHT EXTENSION TECHNIQUE COUNTS TIMING PLACEMENT SYNCING UNITY  
 EXPRESSION POWER JAZZ UNIQUE

## In the Spotlight

### ELISIA TARNOWSKE



**Resides In:** Coon Rapids

**Occupation:** Team Leader in Finance at Target Corporation

**JAM Member Since:** 2012

**Q: What is your favorite part about being a MSHSL dance team official?**

**A:** I absolutely love the fact that I can stay active in the dance community. When I was in high school, I loved being part of the dance team and this is a way that I can experience this as an adult. I also love that there are so many talented people that I get to meet.

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

**A:** When I was growing up, I went to Stage Door in Blaine/Coon Rapids. In high school, I was a captain at Spring Lake Park and I danced for the Bemidji State Dance Team for one year in college.

**Q: Favorite dance team trend.**

**A:** I love to see the evolution of kick sequences each year. It is so amazing to see "new" ideas.

**Q: Outside of dance, what are your interests and hobbies?**

**A:** My fiancé and I love to travel and try to take vacations as much as our budget will allow. We are currently planning a trip to San Diego in December. I also take Swedish class once a week. Hej, hur mor du?

**Q: What is something people would be surprised to know about you?**

**A:** I once had a pet goldfish that lived 11 years. True story!

### JENNIFER GILHOI



**Resides In:** Sauk Rapids

**Occupation:** HR/Payroll Administrator at Array Services Group

**JAM Member Since:** 2010

**Q: What is your favorite part about being a MSHSL dance team official?**

**A:** Meeting people with the same passion for dance as I do. Minnesota has so many talented teams, and I get to travel to see them.

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

**A:** I danced for Just For Kix for 7 years, and with Willmar Cardettes dance team for 3 years; which I did high kick. I danced in two state tournaments, and I also danced at the half-time show for the Outback Bowl in 1999, 2000, and 2001.

**Q: Favorite dance team trend.**

**A:** I love watching year after year the new moves and creative dances that teams come up with. Every year, there seems to be something new and that's so much fun to watch.

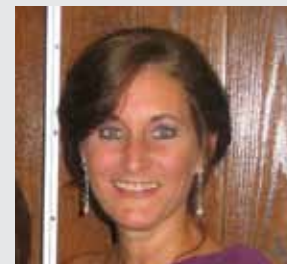
**Q: Outside of dance, what are your interests and hobbies?**

**A:** I love playing indoor and sand volleyball. I also spend a lot of my time home with my husband and son.

**Q: What is something people would be surprised to know about you?**

**A:** I'm a very organized person when it comes to work or JAM. But at home, I'm very unorganized!!

### TERRI MASON



**Resides In:** Excelsior

**Occupation:** Godiva Chocolatier

**JAM Member Since:** 1991

**Q: What is your favorite part about being a MSHSL dance team official?**

**A:** Working with all of the wonderful judges in JAM :)

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

**A:** I was in dance as a child for many years; I danced for the Kennedy Kollens for two years (you could only be on the team your Junior and Senior years.) I started judging after seeing a former teammate judging and she asked me to join--I'm so glad I did!!

**Q: Favorite dance team trend.**

**A:** I just love watching how teams grow and evolve :) The things they come up with continue to amaze me!

**Q: Outside of dance, what are your interests and hobbies?**

**A:** Traveling with my husband and watching baseball.

**Q: What is something people would be surprised to know about you?**

**A:** I have been a diabetic for 27 years. My husband is a former professional baseball player.



## 2014-15 Scheduled Meets List

Date	Day	Site	Type
11/17/14	Monday	Buffalo	Mississippi 8 Conference Meet
11/20/14	Thursday	Rochester Century	Rochester All-City Conference Meet
11/20/14	Thursday	Wayzata	Lake Conference Meet
11/21/14	Friday	Armstrong	Northwest Suburban Conference Meet
11/22/14	Saturday	Burnsville	Invitational
11/22/14	Saturday	Eagan	Invitational
11/22/14	Saturday	Maple Grove	Invitational
11/22/14	Saturday	Shakopee	Invitational
11/22/14	Saturday	Wabasha-Kellogg	Invitational
11/24/14	Monday	St. Francis	Mississippi 8 Conference Meet
11/24/14	Monday	Mounds View	Suburban East Conference Meet
11/25/14	Tuesday	Bloomington Kennedy	Metro West Conference Meet
11/25/14	Tuesday	Lakeville South	South Suburban Conference Meet
11/25/14	Tuesday	North (St. Paul)	Metro East Conference Meet
11/25/14	Tuesday	Rocori	Central Lakes Conference Meet
12/1/14	Monday	Centennial	Northwest Suburban Conference Meet
12/1/14	Monday	St. Croix Lutheran	Tri-Metro Conference Meet
12/2/14	Tuesday	Burnsville	South Suburban Conference Meet
12/3/14	Wednesday	Eden Prairie	Lake Conference Meet
12/4/14	Thursday	Chanhassen	Metro West Conference Meet
12/4/14	Thursday	Fergus Falls (Underwood)	Quad Meet
12/4/14	Thursday	Tartan	Metro East Conference Meet
12/5/14	Friday	Mahnomen	Dual Meet
12/6/14	Saturday	Apple Valley	Invitational
12/6/14	Saturday	Chaska	Invitational
12/6/14	Saturday	Detroit Lakes	Invitational
12/6/14	Saturday	Forest Lake	Invitational
12/6/14	Saturday	Hayfield	Invitational
12/6/14	Saturday	Holy Family	Catholic Jamboree
12/6/14	Saturday	Hutchinson	Invitational
12/6/14	Saturday	Irondale	Invitational
12/6/14	Saturday	New Ulm Cathedral	Quad Meet
12/6/14	Saturday	Target Center	Invitational
12/8/14	Monday	Academy of Holy Angels	Tri-Metro Conference Meet
12/8/14	Monday	Irondale	Northwest Suburban Conference Meet
12/9/14	Tuesday	Eagan	South Suburban Conference Meet
12/9/14	Tuesday	Rogers	Mississippi 8 Conference Meet
12/9/14	Tuesday	Simley	Metro East Conference Meet
12/11/14	Thursday	Albany	Granite Ridge Conference Meet



## 2014-15 Scheduled Meets List

Date	Day	Site	Type
12/11/14	Thursday	Annandale	Wright County Conference Meet
12/11/14	Thursday	Chaska	Metro West Conference Meet
12/11/14	Thursday	Edina	Lake Conference Meet
12/12/14	Friday	Frazee	Invitational
12/12/14	Friday	Worthington	Quad Meet
12/13/14	Saturday	Albany	Invitational
12/13/14	Saturday	Bemidji	Invitational
12/13/14	Saturday	Eastview	Invitational
12/13/14	Saturday	Fridley	Invitational
12/13/14	Saturday	Waconia	Invitational
12/13/14	Saturday	Zumbrota-Mazeppa	Invitational
12/15/14	Monday	Brooklyn Center	Tri-Metro Conference Meet
12/15/14	Monday	Cretin-Derham Hall	Suburban East Conference Meet
12/15/14	Monday	Osseo	Northwest Suburban Conference Meet
12/16/14	Tuesday	Chisago Lakes	Mississippi 8 Conference Meet
12/16/14	Tuesday	Eastview	South Suburban Conference Meet
12/16/14	Tuesday	GFW	Dual Meet
12/16/14	Tuesday	Richfield	Metro West Conference Meet
12/18/14	Thursday	Hopkins	Lake Conference Meet
12/18/14	Thursday	Jordan	Minnesota River Conference Meet
12/18/14	Thursday	Rochester Mayo	Rochester All-City Conference Meet
12/18/14	Thursday	Superior, WI	Lake Superior Conference Championship
12/19/14	Friday	Brainerd	Central Lakes Conference Meet
12/19/14	Friday	Crosby-Ironton	Northern Lights Conference Meet
12/19/14	Friday	South St. Paul	Metro East Conference Championship
12/20/14	Saturday	Academy of Holy Angels	Invitational
12/20/14	Saturday	BOLD	Invitational
12/20/14	Saturday	Edina	Invitational
12/20/14	Saturday	Fergus Falls	Invitational
12/20/14	Saturday	Lake City	Invitational
12/20/14	Saturday	Prior Lake	South Suburban Conference Championship
12/20/14	Saturday	Robbinsdale Cooper	Metro West Conference Championship
12/22/14	Monday	ACGC	Small Invitational
1/3/15	Saturday	Rocori	Invitational
1/3/15	Saturday	Plainview-Elgin-Millville	Invitational
1/3/15	Saturday	Tracy-Milroy-Balaton	Invitational
1/5/15	Monday	Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa	Small Invitational
1/8/15	Thursday	Becker	Granite Ridge Conference Meet
1/8/15	Thursday	Delano	Wright County Conference Meet



## 2014-15 Scheduled Meets List

Date	Day	Site	Type
1/8/15	Thursday	Minnetonka	Lake Conference Meet
1/10/15	Saturday	Elk River	Northwest Suburban Conference Championship
1/10/15	Saturday	Henry Sibley	Invitational
1/10/15	Saturday	Lakeville South	Invitational
1/10/15	Saturday	Marshall	Invitational
1/10/15	Saturday	Minnetonka	Invitational
1/10/15	Saturday	Rochester Century	Invitational
1/10/15	Saturday	Winona	Invitational
1/12/15	Monday	Park (Cottage Grove)	Suburban East Conference Championship
1/12/15	Monday	Rochester John Marshall	Rochester All-City Conference Championship
1/12/15	Monday	Sauk Rapids	All-Area Meet
1/15/15	Thursday	Aitkin	Northern Lights Conference Meet
1/15/15	Thursday	Concordia Academy	Tri-Metro Conference Meet
1/15/15	Thursday	Wayzata	Lake Conference Meet
1/16/15	Friday	Alexandria	Central Lakes Conference Championship
1/16/15	Friday	Central (Norwood-Young America)	Minnesota River Conference Meet
1/17/15	Saturday	Belle Plaine	Invitational
1/17/15	Saturday	Farmington	Invitational
1/17/15	Saturday	Hawley	Invitational
1/17/15	Saturday	Lewiston-Altura	Three Rivers Conference Championship
1/17/15	Saturday	Monticello	Invitational
1/17/15	Saturday	Rochester Mayo	Big 9 Conference Championship
1/17/15	Saturday	Totino-Grace	Invitational
1/17/15	Saturday	Waconia	Invitational
1/17/15	Saturday	Wayzata	Invitational
1/17/15	Saturday	Yellow Medicine East	Invitational
1/19/15	Monday	Rocori	Invitational
1/22/15	Thursday	Fridley	Tri-Metro Conference Championship
1/22/15	Thursday	Montevideo	West Central Conference Championship
1/22/15	Thursday	St. Cloud Cathedral	Granite Ridge Conference Championship
1/23/15	Friday	Alexandria	Invitational
1/23/15	Friday	Annandale	Dual Meet
1/23/15	Friday	Belle Plaine	Minnesota River Conference Championship
1/23/15	Friday	Hayfield	Hiawatha Valley Conference Championship
1/23/15	Friday	Pierz	Northern Lights Conference Championship
1/24/15	Saturday	Blaine	Invitational
1/24/15	Saturday	Dover-Eyota	Invitational
1/24/15	Saturday	Eastview	Showcase
1/24/15	Saturday	GFW	Invitational



## 2014-15 Scheduled Meets List

Date	Day	Site	Type
1/24/15	Saturday	Lac Qui Parle	Camden County Conference Championship
1/24/15	Saturday	Mounds View	Invitational
1/24/15	Saturday	New Prague	Invitational
1/24/15	Saturday	Pelican Rapids	Invitational
1/24/15	Saturday	Prior Lake	Invitational
1/24/15	Saturday	Rochester John Marshall	Invitational
1/24/15	Saturday	Simley	Invitational
1/27/15	Tuesday	ACGC	Dual Meet
1/29/15	Thursday	Cannon Falls	Invitational
1/30/15	Friday	Frazee	JV Championship
1/30/15	Friday	New Ulm Cathedral	Dual Meet
1/31/15	Saturday	Big Lake	Section 2AA
1/31/15	Saturday	Sauk Rapids	Section 4AA
1/31/15	Saturday	Mound-Westonka	Section 3AA
2/7/15	Saturday	Aitkin	Section 4A
2/7/15	Saturday	Austin	Section 1AA
2/7/15	Saturday	Bloomington Kennedy	Section 2A
2/7/15	Saturday	Bloomington Kennedy	Section 1AAA
2/7/15	Saturday	Bloomington Kennedy	Section 3AAA
2/7/15	Saturday	Dover-Eyota	Section 1A
2/7/15	Saturday	Montevideo	Section 3AA

## Emergency Procedures

It's that time of year again. Icy roads, white-out conditions, snowstorms and below zero temperatures are back. Although the weather might be frightful, it's not very often that dance team competitions get canceled. Follow these guidelines when dealing with bad winter weather:

- Consider the meet on until you hear otherwise.**  
 The Superior Judge will be in contact with the meet coordinator or host school and if the meet is going to be canceled, she will contact the assigned officials immediately. During weekdays, if school is canceled, chances are the evening activities will also be canceled. Watch your inbox for a message from your Superior Judge.
- Plan ahead for time and traffic.**  
 Allow yourself plenty of time to get to the meet. Don't put yourself in the position where you feel rushed or are running behind. Drive safely and beware of accidents and road conditions. Visit [www.511mn.org](http://www.511mn.org) before your trip to get up-to-date analysis of Minnesota roads.
- Use common sense.**  
 If it is too dangerous to drive to your assigned meet, contact the Superior Judge and Scheduling Team immediately. Email AND call both parties. We may be able to find a last minute replacement or shuffle around the assigned officials. Your personal safety is more important than risking your life driving to a meet.
- Accidents happen.**  
 No matter how well you prepare, sometimes things happen. A stalled or stuck vehicle or an accident are very real possibilities this time of year. Keep a winter emergency kit in your car. Make sure to save your Superior Judge's cell phone number in your phone and after you've called for emergency personnel, call her to let her know of your situation. It is better to know that you are okay but can't make it, than to not hear from you and wonder if you'll be coming.