

ACTIVITY NEWS

Montana High School Association • 1 South Dakota Ave • Helena, Montana 59601 • 406-442-6010 • www.mhsa.org

February 2011

EXECUTIVE CORNER

Forty minutes. We now have experienced the Annual Meeting afternoon session adjourning in less than an hour for five consecutive years. As I stated last year, the Association continues to address membership concerns before those issues become problematic, allowing for the shorter afternoon meeting time due to fewer proposals on the agenda. This shorter afternoon session (compared to the "old days" when we had a two-day meeting with over 100 proposals) generates interesting discussion on whether meeting each year is necessary. Both sides have interesting ideas on this subject, including many administrators still appreciating the opportunity to attend the usual meetings of various administrative groups, districts, divisions, committees and classifications, and many of those same administrators valuing the positive social networking that occurs throughout Sunday and Monday. Also, it was noted that the Executive Board meets on Monday afternoon after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting providing an opportunity for schools to address the Board on certain issues without having to travel to Helena. On the other hand, some administrators believe a bi-annual meeting would save districts money and if any major By-Law proposals surfaced they could be addressed at the next Association membership meeting or possibly by online balloting. Also, one administrator suggested having the meeting each year but video streaming the meeting live with the ability for voting delegates to still cast their votes at their home site. He believes this would save districts money and would address travel safety issues caused by bad weather. There is no doubt this subject creates interesting discussions.

No matter the pleasure of the membership regarding the frequency of the membership meeting, this particular Annual Meeting, in my opinion, was one of the best I have ever attended, including my fourteen years in the MHSA office and the many years before as a school administrator. The reason I believe this meeting was one of the best is because of the level of cooperation, compromise and understanding I witnessed at this meeting. Even though we did not have many proposals, two were of major concern for different classifications. The eighth grade proposal was supported by many Class C schools and the reduction of the bricks and mortar requirement was supported by many of the larger school districts. Through that willingness to compromise, both proposals passed.

In other action during the meeting the membership welcomed Karen Underwood, Principal at Laurel High School as the newly elected Class A representative, recognized many deserving MHSA award winners and heard MHSA committee reports. In consideration of a recent Federal Court case involving competitive cheer, the reports and recommendations of the Competitive Cheer Committee and the Additional Female Sport Committee were postponed until more legal directive is obtained.

The 2011 State Speech and Drama Meets, State Wrestling Tournaments and State Swim Meet by all reports, were very successful events. It is hard to believe that district, divisional and state basketball tournaments are just around the corner. There is no doubt this is an exciting time for coaches, players and fans. As I have stated in my February article many times it is important to continue to address at all high school events the expectations of good sporting behaviors by coaches, players and fans.

Crowd control is the responsibility of school administrators, not the game officials. We appreciate your help to guarantee that high school activities are wholesome events for everyone involved and demonstrating that all participants can have fun, as long as everyone stays "centered" on exhibiting good sporting behaviors. Once again, thank you for all the hard work and for what seems like a need for extra vigilance with cheering sections not only during regular season but especially during tournament time.

Good luck during the coming post season events, and if the MHSA office can assist you in any way please don't hesitate to contact us.

Mark Beckman
Executive Director

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPORTSMANSHIP

New MHSA/US Bank Sportsmanship posters are included with this newsletter. We encourage all schools to display these posters in prominent areas to encourage good sportsmanship.

VENDORS PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL MEETING

The recent MHSA Annual Meeting included vendor booths sponsored by seventeen different exhibitors and corporate partners. The Annual Meeting provides one of the best opportunities for education-related service providers to meet with administrators from across the state. We thank all of those exhibitors that participated in this year's event.

MIAAA GOLD PASS AWARD

The MIAAA uses the forum of the MHSA Annual Meeting to present gold passes to deserving athletics/activities directors. Nominations and selections for the awards are processed through the MIAAA.

This year, the MIAAA Gold Pass was awarded to Dave Marsh, former Activities Director of Sheridan High School.

NFHS OUTSTANDING MUSIC EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

The Annual Meeting provides an opportunity to present NFHS awards to music educators. Each year the National Federation Outstanding Music Educator Awards are presented to individuals across the United States.

Dean Peterson, Choir Director of Missoula Hellgate High School, was awarded the NFHS Music Award for Section 8, which includes Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. Dean is first and foremost an educator, although he frequently serves as an adjudicator and as a leader within Montana's music organizations. Currently he serves on the MHSA Music Committee.

SERVICE CITATIONS PRESENTED

The Service Citation is presented in recognition of "significant contributions" made to MHSA programs. The following citations were awarded at the 2011 Annual Meeting in Billings:

Glenn Hageman – Glasgow – Under his leadership, Glenn's current and previous school districts have hosted a variety of district and divisional events in several MHSA sanctioned sports and activities, and he was a long-time member of the Athletic Committee. He served a four-year term on the MHSA Executive Board and completed his Board service as the 2009-2010 Association President.

Darrell Holland – Hamilton – The HHS gym is almost constantly in use for post season tournaments at every level, and Darrell is the ever-present manager for those events. His district has hosted a girls' state basketball tournament every year for more than a decade and has also hosted events in volleyball, wrestling, golf, tennis and speech & drama. In addition, he currently serves on the Master Basketball Scheduling Committee.

Randy Russell – Bozeman – During his tenure as activities director, Bozeman has hosted post season events in football, basketball, wrestling, volleyball, soccer, softball, golf, tennis, track & field, speech and music. Additionally, he hand-scores the State All-Class Wrestling Tournament; he is the AA floor manager for the State All-Class Volleyball Tournament; and he currently chairs the MHSA Swimming Committee.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE REGOGNITIONS

The James C. Haugen Meritorious Service Award is presented in recognition of "outstanding contributions" made to MHSA programs. It is the highest individual honor presented by the MHSA.

Bill Wright – Farmers Union Insurance – Farmers Union Insurance has a simple and effective strategy for supporting high school activities, which is to help enhance the programs offered by local school districts. Their philosophy has been to support their local Montana communities, which they have effectively achieved by assisting MHSA in providing much-needed services for student-based programs.

Bob Rowe – NorthWestern Energy – NorthWestern Energy believes in recognizing student achievement in all MHSA programs, including all sanctioned sports as well as music, speech and drama. Their support has also endowed the Academic Excellence Award, which is widely considered MHSA's most prestigious award. This year's presentation recognized NorthWestern Energy's ongoing commitment to Montana high schools. By sponsoring all MHSA awards, NorthWestern Energy has a positive fiscal impact on the Association while helping to distinguish outstanding students in all Montana communities.

For more information on the process for any MHSA or NFHS award, please feel free to contact the MHSA office at 406-442-6010.

2012 ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR BILLINGS

The next MHSA Annual Meeting will again be held in Billings on January 16, 2012. The Billings Hotel and Convention Center is the host facility. They will begin taking reservations in February. Call 800-537-7286 and ask for group code "MHSA12."

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD PROGRAM

In the near future, school contacts will receive the 2010-2011 school years' initial mailing concerning the NorthWestern Energy Company's Academic Excellence Award. The competition was initiated in the 1988-89 school year.

Please review the material when you receive it and make plans to enter your school's students in the 2010-2011 competition. The award is very prestigious, and we encourage schools to submit an

application to recognize overall activity participants' academic achievement.

MHSA/MONTANA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ACADEMIC ALL TEAM AWARD

Just a reminder that if you want to recognize your schools' teams for their academic achievements for the winter season of the MHSA/Army National Guard All Academic All Team Award you must submit the winter season activity teams reporting form to the MHSA by Monday, February 28, 2011. The forms can be found on our website at www.mhsa.org.

MUSIC

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS MUST BE PART OF DISTRICT MUSIC FESTIVALS

Our office has received questions regarding district music festival participation. If your school has paid dues for participation in any music program (chorus, band or orchestra), your major performing group(s) must be part of the district music festival. Adjudication of major performing groups is required, not optional.

Also, if students want to participate in solos or small ensembles, they must meet all eligibility requirements, and they must be part of a major performing group and be adjudicated with that group. No student who has not participated in the district festival will be allowed participation in the state festival.

SPEECH AND DRAMA

SPEECH AND DRAMA MEETS COMPLETED

Schools participating in speech and drama finalized their seasons in January. Thanks to the host communities and managers listed below, the events were successful culminations of this year's competition:

Class AA – CM Russell High School
Alex Rosenleaf, Tournament Manager

Class A – Laurel High School
Trudi Downer, Tournament Manager

Class B-C – Broadwater High School (Townsend)
Kim Leslie, Tournament Manager

TRACK AND FIELD

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

One responsibility of the home meet management or administration is to make all track and field competition areas and competition equipment favorable and safe for all competitors. The expectation of the competition areas and equipment is to have minimal risk or distractions for all competitors. With that in mind, the home meet management or administration must inspect all track and field competition areas and event equipment to make sure it complies with current NFHS Track and Field Rules. The MHSA recommends that this be done before your school's first track and field practice and before each meet.

UNDERGARMENT RULE INTERPRETATION

For the 2010-2011 school year, undergarments displaying seams stitched on the outside of the garment in a visible contrasting color to the undergarment will be illegal. There are undergarments available for purchase by schools and athletes that are not in compliance with the NFHS uniform rules. Coaches must be aware of the rule requirements when purchasing undergarments, and must inform students – who are purchasing their own competitive undergarments – of the rules to avoid non-compliance.

POLE VAULTER'S WEIGHT VERIFICATION

Enclosed is a copy of the pole vaulters' weight verification form that the MHSAs requires each school to complete and have on file in the Activities Director's office prior to a pole vaulter's first interscholastic competition (See the 2010-2011 MHSAs Handbook #16 on page 180 for a copy of the rule).

If you have any questions about this information, please call Scott McDonald at the MHSAs office.

FOOTBALL

INVENTORY AND RECONDITIONED HELMETS

We trust you have checked your existing supply of football helmets and have determined which helmets must be reconditioned so they are completely safe. The MHSAs encourages each coach or athletic director when considering reconditioning to contact the manufacturer directly to determine what its policies are regarding reconditioning and warranties. Companies differ in their helmet policies and it is wise to check them out carefully. Please feel free to contact the office for any assistance you may need in contacting reconditioners.

SPIRIT

SPIRIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The MHSAs Spirit Advisory Committee meets every spring. If any spirit coaches from MHSAs member schools would like to see an issue of concern placed on the agenda, please contact Janie Holmes at the MHSAs office.

RULES CLINICS

SPRING RULES CLINIC ONLINE

The MHSAs/MOAs rules clinics for all activities are presented exclusively online. The softball, track and field, tennis and golf clinics will be posted on our main website at www.mhsa.org. Enclosed please find an instruction sheet that details the procedure for accessing the clinics. **March 1** is the planned launch date for the clinics. Head coaches must view the clinics prior to **March 17 for golf and prior to March 25 for softball, track and field and tennis** to receive credit.

All head coaches must view the clinic for their activity in order to meet the clinic requirement. However, all other members of the coaching staff, as well as activities directors, are encouraged to view the clinics. Please note it is required that golf and tennis head coaches view the rules clinic for their sport. Users must complete the registration process at the end of each clinic in order to verify their attendance. If you have questions about the requirements or about the verification process please feel free to contact the MHSAs office.

SPORTS RECORD BOOK

MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS RECORD BOOK

The MHSAs is in the process of gathering information to update our Montana High School Sports Record Book.

Please take a few minutes to review the sports records by going to our website www.mhsa.org and look under quick links for the Montana High School records. If you have knowledge of a record that equals or exceeds the existing marks, list that record on the MHSAs sports record book application form, found on our website, and mail the form back to the MHSAs office. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Scott McDonald at 442-6010.

AIM HIGHER

RECENT AIM HIGHER WORKSHOPS

In December, the Aim Higher staff conducted back-to-back workshops. On December 7th, Randy Gramm from Choteau and Brian Michelotti conducted a workshop at Malta High School. On December 8th, Jill Flynn from Townsend and Brian Michelotti facilitated another workshop at the College of Technology in Great Falls. Schools attending the workshop in Malta were Hinsdale, Malta, Nashua and Turner. The next day in Great Falls the schools who were able to attend were Augusta, Browning, Centerville, Choteau, Conrad, Fairfield, Great Falls Central, Great Falls High, Great Falls CMR, Shelby, Simms, and Sunburst. We had a very energetic group of students and administrators at both of the workshops and appreciate their commitment to this valuable program.

In January, a workshop in Billings on the 26th at the Hampton Inn was facilitated by Brian Michelotti. Schools in attendance were Billings Senior, Custer Co. (Miles City), Fromberg, Grass Range, Hardin, Laurel, Lavina, Red Lodge, Roundup, Ryegate and Winnett. At the beginning of February we had our final workshop of the year in Manhattan on February 2nd at the Manhattan High School. The facilitator was Jill Flynn from Townsend. Schools who were at the workshop were Broadwater (Townsend), Manhattan, Manhattan Christian, Park (Livingston), and Sheridan. Highlights of both of these workshops were the leadership session, the sportsmanship activities, and the hazing awareness information.

We had a successful year for Aim Higher workshops, and are very pleased with the all of the changes we made over the past few years. In the spring we will be announcing the locations of the Aim Higher workshops for the 2011-12 school year.

AIM HIGHER AWARDS PRESENTED

Each year at the MHSAs Annual Meeting, one school is recognized for its support of the AIM Higher Program. Recently, the AIM Higher Contributor Award was added in order to recognize individuals who have furthered the promotion of this leadership and mentoring program. The following awards were presented for 2010-2011:

AIM Higher School Award

Sidney High School was recognized for their perennial support of AIM Higher. In the last decade they have hosted four workshops and have sent over seventy-five students and fifteen faculty members to workshops.

AIM Higher Contributor Award

Kip Ryan of Sweet Grass County High School (Big Timber) received recognition for his contributions as an AIM Higher Facilitator. He is one of the longest-serving AIM Higher facilitators and is known for building special relationships with students over the course of the workshops.

TOURNAMENTS

TOURNAMENT MANAGERS

It is the responsibility of tournament managers to make sure that they report any incident or injury to spectators and/or participants to the MHSAs. Also, we would ask that you report such things as property damage.

Please report these occurrences immediately following your tournament so that we might send you the proper forms to complete in the event that any type of litigation occurs following the injury or incident.

Since there is a claims made coverage deadline from the date of occurrence in which it has to be reported, we are asking all tournament managers to send these reports as soon as possible following your event. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

THANK YOU!

Many thanks are extended to the following corporate partners for their enthusiastic support of Montana's student activities. These corporate partnerships directly impact several of our special programs for student recognition and for citizenship, as well as enhancing other services. The MHSA is pleased to recognize these entities for their commitment to activities.



ENCLOSURES

Online Clinic Information
Basketball Tournament Information
Pole Vaulters' Weight Verification Form
Track & Field Rule Books (2)
MHSA/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Program Poster
March Calendar



MHSA's Mission Statement

The mission of the Montana High School Association is to assure that the membership is provided with leadership and support in advancing equitable Montana High School Association interscholastic activities for the growth and educational experience for students.



STAFF MEMBERS

Mark Beckman, Executive Director
Joanne Austin, Associate Director
Scott McDonald, Assistant Director
Brian Michelotti, Assistant Director
Janie Holmes, Business Office Manager
Theresa Stanisich, MOA Coordinator
Sheila Lindquist, AIM Higher Coordinator
Amanda Hazlett, Receptionist and Information Clerk

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Duane Walker, Activities Director, Hardin High School (President)
Doug Reisig, State Superintendent's Appointee, Missoula (Vice-President)
Dennis Holmes, Principal, Billings Senior High School
Pat Lynch, Activities Director, Manhattan High School
David Perius, Activities Director, Gardiner High School
Malia Kipp-Camel, Governor's Appointee, Ronan
Lance Voegele, MtSBA Representative, Belgrade