

EXECUTIVE CORNER

The 2013 Annual Meeting was a successful event and one I won't soon forget. I was extremely surprised and very humbled when I was presented with the James C. Haugen Meritorious Service Award. To be included with the other 28 past recipients since the award's inception in 1979 is quite an honor, and I want to express my appreciation to everyone who was involved in my nomination and selection. There are many individuals that work selflessly on behalf of our high school student activity participants and because of their long-time service may be deserving of an award. I would like to take this opportunity to list the MHSA awards with their criteria and encourage submissions of those individuals who have provided service to the MHSA and meet the criteria of the particular MHSA awards listed below:

James C. Haugen Meritorious Service Award (established in 1979) – this award is presented by the MHSA Executive Board for "Outstanding Contributions to MHSA Activities." This is the highest award given by the MHSA.

Service Citation Award – (established in 1983-84) – this award is presented by the MHSA Executive Board in recognition of a "Significant Contribution" to the MHSA.

Mildred Adams Award – (established in 2000-01) – this award will be presented by the MHSA Executive Board to schools' support staff personnel in recognition of their assistance with student activities.

Even though we had only six proposals to address at this year's Annual Meeting, those six proposals stimulated much discussion and I believe it is the first time in the twenty-six years that I have attended this meeting that all the proposals passed. It still is important to note the level of cooperation, compromise and understanding that existed at this meeting. In other action during the meeting the membership welcomed Peter Fusaro, Principal at Flathead High School as the newly elected Class AA representative, Duane Walker, Activities Director at Hardin High School was elected to complete the Class A term, and Lance Voegelé was reappointed by the Montana School Boards Association for another four-year term. Also during the meeting the membership recognized many deserving MHSA award winners and heard MHSA committee reports.

During my tenure as an activities director I enjoyed serving on the MHSA Regionalized Basketball Committee, the MHSA Basketball Committee and the MHSA Ad-Hoc Seasons Committee. With that said, I would also encourage you to consider serving on an MHSA committee. Please let us know if you are interested and if there is a specific committee of which you would like to be a member. You can contact Scott McDonald in regard to committee service.

The 2013 State Speech and Drama Meets, State Wrestling Tournament, and State Swim Meet from all reports were all very successful events. Post season basketball tournaments will commence this week and there is no doubt this is an exciting time for coaches, players and fans. As I have stated in my February article many times and want to reinforce again this year, it is

important to continue to address at all high school events the expectations of good sporting behaviors by coaches, players and fans. We have experienced more fan ejections during this year's basketball season than ever before. 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, 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. And remember, as Bruce Brown so aptly stated, there are only four roles in an athletic competition (player, coach, fan, official) and we need to reinforce that individuals can only fulfill one role during that competition. Especially the role of a fan: we encourage fans to Be Loud, Be Proud, and Be Positive.

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

VENDORS PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL MEETING

The recent MHSA Annual Meeting included vendor booths sponsored by eighteen 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 Mike Gear, former Activities Director at Sidney High School, Ted Schreiber, former Activities Director at Custer County High School (Miles City), and Scott Whaley, former Activities Director at Missoula Sentinel 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 country.

This year, for his contributions as a clinician, guest conductor and adjudicator, Allen Slater, Band Director at Flathead High School (Kalispell) was presented with the NFHS Music Educator Award for Section 8, which includes nominations from Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming and Montana.

SERVICE CITATIONS PRESENTED

The Service Citation is presented in recognition of "significant contributions" made to MHSA programs. The following citations were awarded at the 2013 Annual Meeting in Missoula:

Mark Brajcich – Red Lodge – Tournament management, committee membership, service as MHSA parliamentarian, and a four-year term on the MHSA Executive Board with one year as president highlight Mark's contributions to MHSA. He helped guide the MHSA during the transition of the girls' basketball and volleyball seasons and assisted with the realignment of A and B-C speech, debate and drama.

Mark Dennehy – Kalispell – Mark has served on MHSA committees, managed numerous post season events in multiple classifications, and routinely hosts post season events in basketball, wrestling, football, volleyball, soccer, softball, golf, tennis, track & field, speech and music. Recently he has been instrumental in the implementation of Class AA track & field qualifying standards.

John Overstreet – Ennis – As a teacher, coach, administrator and official, John has served MHSA in numerous leadership positions on committees, within professional organizations, and as a conference officer. After 17 years of service in Three Forks, he now serves as the educational leader of Ennis Public Schools.

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.

Mark Beckman – MHSA – Mark joined the Association staff after years as a teacher, coach, and activities director. After holding numerous conference offices and managing countless events, he was hired as an assistant director at MHSA in 1997. In 2004, he was selected as Executive Director and continues to serve the Association in that role.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD PROGRAM

In the near future, school contacts will receive the 2012-2013 school year's 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 2012-2013 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 school's teams for their academic achievements for the winter season with the MHSA/Army National Guard All Academic All Team Award, you must submit the winter season activity teams reporting form to the MHSA by Friday, March 1, 2013. The forms can be found on our website at www.mhsa.org.

MUSIC

MUSIC INFORMATION TO BE SENT TO DIRECTORS

Music directors should be aware of the electronic and/or hard copy mailings that will be sent in the next few weeks concerning music events.

First, information will be sent to each school concerning the 2013 All-State Band, Chorus and Orchestra Festival. The information includes details for the online audition process. Bozeman is the site for the event this fall.

Next, schools will receive information concerning the State Solo & Ensemble Festivals scheduled for May 3-4, 2013.

For information regarding your individual district festivals, please contact the appropriate festival chair. The list of chairs is posted on the music page of the MHSA website at www.mhsa.org.

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 – Butte High School
Roger McCullough and Chuck Merrifield,
Tournament Managers

Class A – Havre High School
Kevin Shellenberger and Dennis Murphy,
Tournament Managers

Class B-C – Huntley Project High School
Bonnie Ortner and Guy Croy,
Tournament Managers

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 2013 track and field season, a visible undergarment worn under the uniform top and/or bottom displaying contrasting/different color stitching to the single, solid color of the undergarment and which functions as the actual seam for the undergarment's construction is now legal. The stitching must not distract or cause confusion and be used for actual construction of the garment and not for design purposes.

POLE VAULTERS' WEIGHT VERIFICATION

Enclosed is a copy of the pole vaulters' weight verification form that the MHSA 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 2012-2013 MHSA Handbook #16 on page 186 for a copy of the rule).

If you have any questions about this information, please call Scott McDonald at the MHSA 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 MHSA 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 MHSA office for any assistance you may need in contacting reconditioners.

SPIRIT

SPIRIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The MHSA Spirit Advisory Committee will meet on April 3rd. If any spirit coaches from MHSA member schools would like to see an issue of concern placed on the agenda, please contact Janie Holmes at the MHSA office.

RULES CLINICS

SPRING RULES CLINIC ONLINE

The MHSA/MOA 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. Coaches must view the clinics prior to **March 14 for golf and prior to March 22 for softball, track and field and tennis** to receive credit.

All coaches, including the head coach, all assistant coaches and all school-approved volunteer coaches, are required to view the clinic. Activities directors are also encouraged to view the clinics. 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 MHSA office.

SPORTS RECORD BOOK

MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS RECORD BOOK

The MHSA 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 MHSA sports record book application form, found on our website, and mail the form back to the MHSA office. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Scott McDonald at 442-6010.

AIM HIGHER

RECENT AIM HIGHER WORKSHOPS

On December 5th, Jill Flynn from Townsend, Randy Gramm from Choteau and Brian Michelotti from MHSA facilitated an AIM Higher workshop at the College of Technology in Great Falls. Once again, there was an outstanding turnout from surrounding area schools. The schools who attended the workshop were Belt, Choteau, Chester-Joplin-Inverness, Conrad, Cut Bank, Geysler, Great Falls High, Great Falls CMR and Shelby. We had a very energetic group of students and administrators and appreciate their commitment to this valuable program.

Last year, the MHSA lost our corporate sponsor Coca-Cola/PowerAde for the AIM Higher program due to the national reorganization of the company. Fortunately several companies, including some of our existing corporate partners, have expressed interest in sponsoring this program in the future. We hope to have a sponsor secured for next school year so we can continue this valuable program.

AIM HIGHER AWARDS PRESENTED

Each year at the MHSA Annual Meeting, one school is recognized for its support of the AIM Higher Program. The AIM Higher Contributor Award is also presented in order to recognize individuals who have furthered the promotion of this leadership and mentoring program. The following awards were presented for 2012-2013:

AIM Higher School Award – Loyola Sacred Heart High School was recognized for their perennial support of AIM Higher. They have provided one of their faculty members to be an AIM Higher facilitator and sent over 130 students and twelve faculty members to workshops over the past ten years.

AIM Higher Contributor Award – Randy Gramm of Choteau High School received recognition for his contributions as an AIM Higher Facilitator. He is one of our most well-traveled facilitators having traveled across the state to workshops in Malta, Kalispell, Missoula and any other location where he is asked to volunteer.

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 MHSA. 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.

ENCLOSURES

[Online Clinic Information](#)
[Basketball Tournament Information](#)
[Pole Vaulters' Weight Verification Form #1](#)
[Track & Field Rule Books \(2\)](#)
[March Calendar](#)

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.



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



Executive Board Members

Dennis Holmes, Principal, Billings Senior High School
(President)
Pat Lynch, Activities Director, Manhattan High School
(Vice President)
Mike Cutler, Superintendent, Granite Public Schools
Malia Kipp-Camel, Governor's Appointee, Ronan
Lee Stiffarm, State Superintendent's Appointee, Billings
Duane Walker, Activities Director, Hardin High School
Lance Voegelé, MTSBA Appointee, Belgrade



MHSA STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS

2013 State Boys' Basketball Tournaments

The 2013 state tournaments will be held in the following locations on the dates specified:

Boys' State AA
 March 7-9, 2013
 Great Falls Expo Park – Four Seasons Arena
 Mark Beckman, Manager 442-6010
Thursday/Friday Game Times
 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 3:30 pm, 5:00 pm
Saturday Game Times
 9:00 am, 9:00 am, 3:30 pm, 6:30 pm

Boys' State A
 March 7-9, 2013
 Billings MetraPark – Rimrock Auto Arena
 Brian Michelotti, Manager 442-6010
Thursday/Friday Game Times
 12:30 pm, 2:00 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:00 pm
Saturday Game Times
 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 6:30 pm, 8:00 pm

Boys' State B
 March 7-9, 2013
 Butte Civic Center
 Scott McDonald, Manager 442-6010
Thursday/Friday Game Times
 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 3:30 pm, 5:00 pm
Saturday Game Times
 9:00 am, 9:00 am, 3:30 pm, 6:30 pm

Boys' State C
 March 7-9, 2013
 MSU-Bozeman
 Joanne Austin, Manager 442-6010
Thursday Game Times
 10:30 am, 12:00 noon, 3:30 pm, 5:00 pm
Friday Game Times
 12:30 pm, 2:00 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:00 pm
Saturday Game Times
 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 6:30 pm, 8:00 pm

2013 State Girls' Basketball Tournaments

The 2013 state tournaments will be held in the following locations on the dates specified:

Girls' State AA
 March 7-9, 2013
 Great Falls Expo Park – Four Seasons Arena
 Mark Beckman, Manager 442-6010
Thursday/Friday Game Times
 12:00 noon, 1:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:00 pm
Saturday Game Times
 10:30 am, 10:30 am, 5:00 pm, 8:30 pm

Girls' State A
 February 28 – March 2, 2013
 Butte Civic Center
 Scott McDonald, Manager 442-6010
Thursday/Friday Game Times
 12:30 pm, 2:00 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:00 pm
Saturday Game Times
 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 6:30 pm, 8:00 pm

Girls' State B
 March 7-9, 2013
 Butte Civic Center
 Scott McDonald, Manager 442-6010
Thursday/Friday Game Times
 12:00 noon, 1:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:00 pm
Saturday Game Times
 10:30 am, 10:30 am, 5:00 pm, 8:30 pm

Girls' State C
 February 28 – March 2, 2013
 Belgrade Special Events Center
 Rick Phillips, Manager 924-2554
Thursday/Friday Game Times
 1:00 pm, 2:30 pm, 7:00 pm, 8:30 pm
Saturday Game Times
 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 6:30 pm, 8:00 pm