

ACTIVITY NEWS

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

February 2012

EXECUTIVE CORNER

After traveling throughout Montana the past three weeks, I realize how fortunate we all are to reside in such a beautiful state. I have been on the road conducting Cultural Diversity Training and have have presented to over 3,500 head coaches, administrators and officials at the in-person workshops, driving approximately 3,400 miles to reach all the sites. It is hard to believe that during my travels I did not experience any adverse weather or road conditions (I am glad the workshops weren't during this same time last year!). The training has been well received, and I appreciate the hospitality shown to me at the host sites. It has been especially valuable to hear the many comments and stories shared regarding issues that attendees have experienced concerning diversity over the years. An online version of the clinic is available at www.mhsa.org, so please feel free to share the information with assistant/volunteer coaches and other members of your staff.

If you have contacted the MHSA office in the last two weeks you have probably spoken with our new receptionist/information clerk, Kaelynn Olsen, who joined our staff earlier this month. Welcome, Kaelynn!

The 2012 Annual Meeting was a successful event and I have heard many positive comments regarding our keynote speaker, Jack Roberts, Executive Director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association and his very relevant message. Even though we only had five proposals to address, those five proposals stimulated much discussion and a sharing of philosophies, beliefs, etc. not only regarding athletic issues but also a non-athletic issue, particularly the music proposal. 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 Mike Cutler, Superintendent for Philipsburg Public Schools, as the newly elected Class C Representative. In addition, the membership recognized many deserving MHSA award winners and heard MHSA committee reports.

The 2012 State Speech and Drama Meets, State Wrestling Tournament (back in the All-Class format), and State Swim Meet from all reports were 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. 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. 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.

In emphasizing 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 nineteen 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 Steve Crosby, Activities Director of Roundup 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.

Nancy Murdock, former music director of Whitewater Public Schools, was awarded the NFHS Music Award for Montana. Nancy developed the music curriculum for the entire K-12 program and remained in Whitewater for 32 years, retiring from education at the end of the 2011-12 school year.

SERVICE CITATIONS PRESENTED

The Service Citation is presented in recognition of "significant contributions" made to MHSA programs. The following citations were awarded at the 2012 Annual Meeting in Billings:

Karen Sanford Gall – Billings – As Executive Director of Big Sky State Games, she has helped partner MHSA and BSSG on a number of endeavors to provide continuing education for officials. Having completed her four-year term on the Executive Board, she continues to represent Montana on the National Federation Board of Directors, representing Sections 5 and 8. Karen continues to impact national and statewide activities.

Trudi Downer – Laurel – Trudi dedicated more than three decades to education. She is responsible for mentoring students, coaches

and judges in MHSAs forensics programs and hosted countless meets in both regular season and post season. She also served as MFEA President.

Scott Wilson – Polson – As a coach and activities director, Scott continually assists in the administration of activities in his conference, in his classification and in his geographic region. He has been active as a conference officer, and he frequently manages playoffs as well as divisional and state events in volleyball, football, golf, soccer, softball, basketball, wrestling, track & field and speech & drama.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE REGOGNITIONS

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

Duane Walker – Hardin – Duane has been an educator, a coach and an activities advocate for over 30 years. His leadership and volunteerism are always evident, and he willingly tackles issues that are primarily important to student activities. Last year he completed a four-year term on the MHSAs Executive Board having served as president in the 2010-2011 school year.

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

2013 ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR MISSOULA

The next MHSAs Annual Meeting will be held in Missoula on January 21, 2013. When the contract is finalized for the event, schools will be notified of the location and reservation instructions.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD PROGRAM

In the near future, school contacts will receive the 2011-2012 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 2011-2012 competition. The award is very prestigious, and we encourage schools to submit an application to recognize overall activity participants' academic achievement.

MHSAs/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 with the MHSAs/Army National Guard All Academic All Team Award, you must submit the winter season activity teams reporting form to the MHSAs by Monday, February 29, 2012. 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 (including being enrolled in twenty hours per week and in attendance in the bricks and mortar for ten hours per week), 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 – Helena Public Schools
Jen Kirby-Hermanson & Katy Heistuman,
Tournament Managers

Class A – Polson High School
Jon Peterson, Tournament Manager

Class B-C – MSUB (hosted by Shepherd High School)
Jon Moore, 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 MHSAs recommends that this be done before your school's first track and field practice and before each meet.

UNDERGARMENT RULE INTERPRETATION

For the 2012 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 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 2011-2012 MHSAs Handbook #16 on page 184 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 MHSAs 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. Coaches must view the clinics prior to **March 15 for golf and prior to March 23 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 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 6th, Randy Gramm from Choteau and Brian Michelotti conducted a workshop at St. Luke's Lutheran Parish Hall in Shelby. On December 7th, Jill Flynn from Townsend and Brian Michelotti facilitated another workshop at the College of Technology in Great Falls. Schools at the workshop in Shelby were Cut Bank, Havre, Shelby and North Toole Co. (Sunburst). The next day in Great Falls the schools in attendance were Belt, Centerville, Choteau, Conrad, Dutton-Brady, Fairfield, Fort Benton, Great Falls Central, Great Falls High, and Great Falls CMR. 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, we had a workshop in Billings on January 25th at the Hampton Inn. The facilitators were Jill Flynn from Townsend and Richy Powell from Glendive. Schools that attended the workshop were Custer, Grass Range, Joliet, Laurel, Lavina, Lodge Grass, Red Lodge, Roundup, Shields Valley and Winnett. We had an outstanding group of students at this workshop who were very involved in the activities, which led to a exciting and productive day for everyone who attended.

We had another 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 2012-13 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 2011-2012:

AIM Higher School Award - Butte 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, sent over 120 students and eighteen faculty members to workshops, and have volunteered to host workshops at their school every year for the past ten years.

AIM Higher Contributor Award - Connie Wittak of Scobey High School received recognition for her contributions as an AIM Higher Facilitator. She is one of the longest-serving AIM Higher facilitators and is known for her creativity in presenting the material and engaging participants in the activities.

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.

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 MHSAA is pleased to recognize these entities for their commitment to activities.



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MHSAA'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
Kaelynn Olsen, Receptionist and Information Clerk



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Dave Perius, Assistant Activities Coordinator, Gardiner High School (President)
Dennis Holmes, Principal, Billings Senior High School (Vice President)
Malia Kipp-Camel, Governor's Appointee, Ronan
Pat Lynch, Activities Director, Manhattan High School
Lee Stiffarm, State Superintendent's Appointee, Billings
Karen Underwood, Principal, Laurel High School
Lance Voegelé, MTSBA Representative, Belgrade