

MHSA'S

ACTIVITY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2008 • Number 44

Montana High School Association • 1 South Dakota Avenue • Helena, Montana 59601 • 406-442-6010

EXECUTIVE CORNER

Déjà vu – An appropriate statement describing this year's Annual Meeting compared to last year's gathering. Why déjà vu? We may have had a little more snow this year but the cold temperatures were very similar in Billings last year compared to Great Falls this year, in fact, downright frigid both years. Also, I reported last year that Ric Floren, longtime MHSA parliamentarian, stated that a record was set with the afternoon session adjourning in less than an hour – this year we were just a little shy of the mark set last year establishing a new record. And, the business of the Association proceeded smoothly as it did last year, even with some major changes to the MHSA eligibility rules. The credit for that goes to the hard work the Eligibility Rules Review Committee put into reviewing the rules and proposing appropriate and relevant changes to those rules. Also, as was the case last year, meetings of various administrative groups, districts, divisions, committees and classifications were conducted on Sunday and, of course, there was the usual networking among the many attendees rekindling old relationships and beginning new ones. And at the Sunday evening reception, we took time again to recognize our corporate sponsors in attendance: Farmers Union Insurance and the Montana Army National Guard. Monday's schedule went as smoothly as last year with caucuses conducted in the morning reviewing the proposals and discussing other relevant items for each classification. In the afternoon, the membership welcomed Jason Butcher, Superintendent at Shields Valley as the newly elected Class C representative, heard MHSA committee reports, recognized many deserving MHSA award winners and took action on the proposals.

What can't be considered as déjà vu this year were the great reviews afforded to our keynote speaker Bruce Brown. He spoke twice on Sunday and gave the keynote address on Monday. I was very impressed on Sunday evening on how he held his audience at the MIAAA meeting even with the Packers – Giants game on television and the loud cheers very audible in the meeting room. Not many speakers could keep the crowd like he did. His messages were very timely and relevant for activity administrators to share with coaches, and for that matter, with parents. I am excited to announce that Bruce has given the Association a great discount on his Parents' DVD entitled "Parents Role in Athletics" and with the help of U.S. Bank sportsmanship monies, we have ordered a DVD for each school for use at preseason parent meetings, booster club meetings or wherever you deem appropriate. Your school's copy is enclosed.

The MHSA Executive Board met both on Saturday and again on Tuesday morning conducting the business of your Association. On Tuesday morning, Tom Lorang, Regional Director from the Great Falls area, presented to the Board the proposals from the MOA Board. One of those proposals was a fee increase for officials. The rationale presented to the Board for a fees increase were: 1) officials have not had a fees increase for five years, and 2) the percentage for the fees increase is in line with the fee increases

that have been given over the past thirty years. After carefully reviewing the information on the fees increase, the MHSA Board approved the increase pending two-week notice to the schools and will take final action at the April meeting. One misconception that I would like to address is that previous fee increases have been voted on by the membership. In previous years, MOA actions that affected schools were approved by the MHSA Executive Board without a two-week notice. I believe, as does the Board, that a two-week notice is necessary to receive comments on changes in MOA policies that directly affect schools. If you have any comments or concerns on the proposed fee increases please contact me so I can share your comments and concerns with the Board at their April meeting.

It is hard to believe that State Speech and Drama, State Wrestling and State Swimming will be held by the time you receive the Activity News and that district, divisional and state Basketball tournaments are just around the corner. The MHSA office has received quite a few complaints from school administrators, coaches and fans in regard to the behavior of some student cheering sections during the regular season. The major concern is the profanity being yelled from these sections and that certain members of the cheering sections are singling out opposing players personally and heckling them by directing derogatory or profane statements/chants at them. These behaviors are not only a violation of MHSA rules but these behaviors are totally unacceptable at what should be a wholesome high school event where families can enjoy watching their sons or daughters participate without the worry of younger children, or for that matter anyone in attendance, being exposed to the obscene and profane language coming from the student cheering sections. It would shock you if I listed some of the cheers that have been reported. Crowd control is the responsibility of school administrators, not the game officials. It is stated in the MHSA Handbook that working toward prevention is better than seeking a cure. There are strategies listed in the MHSA Handbook under Section (34), pages 49-53. I am including a couple of those sections below for review:

Expectations for Student Cheering Sections

Students' habits and reaction as spectators determine the quality of sportsmanship, which reflects upon the reputation of the school. Profane and abusive language and obnoxious behavior have no place at an athletic contest.

1. Know and demonstrate good sportsmanship. Good sportsmanship means always being positive with your response to the contest.
2. Respect and cooperate with the cheerleaders.
3. Respect the property of the school and the authority of the school officials.
4. Show respect for an injured player and do not heckle or jeer the opposing team.
5. Remember athletic contests and mood altering substances do not mix.

6. Do not use profanity in cheers or direct profane statements at officials, players, coaches or opposing cheering sections.
7. Do not single out opposing players personally and heckle them by directing derogatory or profane statements/chants at them. Racist remarks are never acceptable.
8. Do not advance on the court or field to protest or communicate with officials, coaches or players.
9. Do not direct offensive cheers/chants at opposing cheering sections.
10. Shirts must be worn at all contests.

Responsibility for Crowd Control

D. Leadership must be provided by the school faculty with the superintendent, principal, and athletic director leading the way and delegating authority. The superintendent, principal and athletic director are completely responsible for the entire program, including all levels of competition.

1. This includes providing an event supervisor who will be responsible for duties including but not limited to game preparation, greeting of officials, and supervision of the game/event area for the duration of the event. Special attention must be given to the supervision of student cheering sections.

Tournament time is an exciting time for coaches, players and fans. It is important we all work together to assure that those experiences are positive ones for everyone involved. We appreciate your help to guarantee that high school activities are wholesome events for all participants and fans. Thank you for all your hard work and what seems like a need for extra vigilance with cheering sections not only during regular season but especially during tournament time. In the near future each school and tournament manager will be receiving another poster from the MHSA/U.S. Bank Sportsmanship Program proclaiming to BE LOUD, BE PROUD, BE POSITIVE. Please display these in prominent places in your school and at the tournament site reinforcing that spectators can have fun but need to 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.

Respectfully,
Mark Beckman, Executive Director

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Directory Updates

Brockton - New Superintendent and Principal - Richard Whitesell.

Plenty Coups - New Principal - Jason Cummings.

MIAAA Gold Pass Recognitions

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 recognitions were presented to Jim Opitz, Activities Director of Helena Public Schools, and to Liz Flikkema, Activities Director of Manhattan Christian High School.

To receive more information about the MIAAA Gold Pass nomination process please contact Gary DeGooyer at Great Falls Public Schools, 406-268-6082.

NFHS Section 8 Outstanding Music Educator

The Annual Meeting provides an opportunity to present NFHS awards to music educators.

Each year the National Federation of State High School Associations selects a winner from each of the nation's eight sections to be honored for his/her contributions to music education. This year, Erik Engebretson of Malta High School was awarded the NFHS Music Award for Section 8. Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon, Washington and Alaska comprise this section. At the previous Annual Meeting Erik received the NFHS state award for Montana.

Since that time, Erik has completed his term as the Montana Music Educators' Association President and remains on the MHSA Music Committee. Erik's continuing efforts to promote music experiences for students include various roles, including adjudicator, festival management, guest conductor, and officer of various music associations.

Mildred Adams Awards Presented

At each Annual Meeting selected individuals receive the Mildred Adams Award. Mildred was an administrative assistant in the MHSA office in Helena for almost 30 years. Her service began when the only other employee of the Association was the executive director. She dedicated her entire career to the MHSA, and the following awards were presented to individuals in our member schools who exemplify those traits that Mildred displayed throughout her years of service to the MHSA.

Rich Helderbran – Laurel – Rich started keeping time for Laurel's High School football games and wrestling matches in 1977, and for the past 30 years he has been the timer for every home varsity football game and varsity and junior varsity wrestling match. He has also recently started keeping the clock for soccer and basketball, and he has been a table worker at the State Wrestling Tournament ever since the All-Class Wrestling Tournament started in 1989.

Mel McKittrick – Ennis – Mel has been the school's activities bus driver for the past 35 years. During that time he has logged over a million miles and was named MT State Highway Patrol Bus Driver of the Year in 2001. When he was not driving the activity bus, he was keeping the scorebook or stats for every soccer and football game. His volunteerism includes service at over 350 football games and 770 basketball games.

Ken Watson – North Star – Ken has been involved in the education profession for the past four and a half decades as both a teacher and coach. During those 45 years, he has also been the school's activities bus driver, driving over 200 different teams to various contest sites and has kept the score or clock at more than 1,500 high school and junior high school events. He also has found time to be a timer for more than twenty Divisional Track and Field Meets.

Service Citations Presented

The Service Citation is presented in recognition of "significant contributions" made to MHSA programs. The following citations were awarded at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Great Falls:

Tom Blakely – Three Forks – Tom has assisted in the Class B realignment, helping to ensure equitable opportunities, to balance travel, and to provide parity of competition. He has been instrumental in instituting an inclusive statewide football schedule for Class B Schools, as well as assisting in the seeding process. He supports post season events for his district, division and classification whenever possible, serving as everything from volunteer to manager.

Clay Dunlap – Winnett – Clay has been involved in the education profession for the last 49 years as a superintendent, principal, teacher and coach. During that time he has coached high school basketball, football, track and field and cross country, and has been honored as the cross country coach of the year three times, the latest in 2007 when his boys' cross country team won the Class C State Championship. That championship marked the first state championship in the school's history.

Mike Venner – Butte – Mike was a man who was a great friend of the MHSAs for many years. Mike passed away unexpectedly last year from a sudden illness and left a void not only in the community but also in the state. He was a member of Advantage Butte, promoting numerous district, divisional and state tournaments in various venues. He strived to ensure that all involved in an event had a memorable experience. He was the managing partner of a Butte motel and provided exceptional room rates and complimentary rooms for this Association.

Scott Whaley – Missoula Sentinel – Scott has been a Class AA Activities Director and Assistant Principal for the past decade. He currently serves on the MHSAs Athletic Committee, as well as chairing the MHSAs Soccer Committee. During his years as Activities Director he has hosted the Jug Beck Rocky Mountain Classic, one of the state's oldest and largest invitational wrestling tournaments, as well as numerous other regular season and post season MHSAs events. He is now an AIM Higher facilitator, and he strongly advocates speech and music programs for his school and for the schools in Class AA.

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

Academic Excellence Award Program

In the near future, school contacts will receive the 2007-2008 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 2007-2008 competition. The award is very prestigious, and the interest in the award continues to grow.

MHSAs/Montana Army National Guard Academic Team Award

Just a reminder that if you want to recognize your schools' teams for their academic achievements for the winter season of the MHSAs/Army National Guard All Academic All Team Award you must submit the winter season activity teams reporting form to the MHSAs by Friday, February 29, 2008. The forms can be found on our website at www.mhsa.org.

MUSIC

Music Forms on CD

Please remind your music personnel that the CD with music forms that was previously distributed will be used again for 2008. New discs will not be sent. The disc dated 2/29/04 has the appropriate forms.

At the 2008 Annual Meeting, the Music Committee held its second meeting of the school year and covered a variety of topics. Minutes of the meeting will be available upon request by contacting the MHSAs office.

TOURNAMENTS

Tournament Managers

It is the responsibility of tournament managers to make sure that they report to the Montana High School Association office in Helena any incident or injury to spectators and/or participants. 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.

Because 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.

State Tournament Room Reservations

This is a reminder that the MHSAs does not make reservations for school's teams at MHSAs state tournaments.

Duties of Game Management

Just a reminder that one of the most critical duties of basketball game management is to have personnel that do the duties of the timer and scorer who are poised, impartial, have good judgment and who you are sure will be able to forget the score and concentrate instead on their jobs. We recommend that adults be used in these positions.

Enclosed are the instructions and duties of the scorer and timer that game management should provide and review with your basketball games scorer and timer.

NEW SEASON OF ON-LINE CLINICS

The MHSAs/MOA rules clinics for all activities are presented exclusively on-line. 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 1st** is the planned launch date for the clinics. Head coaches must view the clinics prior to **March 15th for golf and prior to March 21st 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 this year 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.

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.

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.

TOURNAMENTS

2008 State Boys' Basketball Tournaments

The 2008 state tournaments will be held in the following locations on the dates specified:

Boys' State AA

March 6-8, 2008

Great Falls Expo Park & CMR High School
Mark Beckman, Manager 442-6010
Brian Michelotti, Tournament Director 442-6010

Thursday/Friday, State AA Game Times

12:00 noon, 1:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

Saturday State AA Game Times

10:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m., 8:30 p.m.

2008 State Girls' Basketball Tournaments

The 2008 state tournaments will be held in the following locations on the dates specified:

Girls' State AA

March 6-8, 2008

Great Falls Expo Park & CMR High School
Mark Beckman, Manager 442-6010
Brian Michelotti, Tournament Director 442-6010

Thursday/Friday State AA Game Times

9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m.

Saturday State AA Game Times

9:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m..

Boys' State A

February 28-March 1, 2008

Billings MetraPark
Scott McDonald, Manager 442-6010

Thursday/Friday, State A Game Times

12:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

Saturday State A Game Times

9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

Girls' State A

March 6-8, 2008

Dale Berry Court - Hamilton High School
Darrell Holland, Manager 375-6060

Thursday/Friday State A Game Times

12:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

Saturday State A Game Times

9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

Boys' State B

February 28-March 1, 2008

Belgrade Special Events Center
Rollie Rieger, Manager, 924-2554

Thursday/Friday, State B Game Times

1:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 8:30 p.m.

Saturday State B Game Times

9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

Girls' State B

March 6-8, 2008

Butte Civic Center
Scott McDonald, Manager 442-6010

Thursday/Friday State B Game Times

12:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

Saturday State B Game Times

9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

Boys' State C

February 28-March 1, 2008

Butte Civic Center
Mark Beckman, Manager 442-6010
Brian Michelotti, Tournament Director 442-6010

Thursday/Friday/Saturday State C Game Times

Thursday-11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m.,
6:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

Friday- 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

Saturday- 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

Girls' State C

March 6-8, 2008

Belgrade Special Events Center
Rollie Rieger, Manager 924-2554

Thursday/Friday/Saturday State C Game Times

Thursday-11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m.,
6:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

Friday- 11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

Saturday- 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

TRACK AND FIELD

Rule Change Reminder

During the 2007-08 school year, the NFHS Track and Field Rules still require that a 34.92 degree sector be used for shot and discus competitions. By having a common sector for the shot and discus, competitors will not have to guess which sector will be used for competition. The smaller, 34.92 degree sector requires better control of the implement, reduces risk to spectators and is easier to lay out for most administration.

With a throwing event sector of 34.92 degrees in the discus a redesign of the discus cage is necessary to meet NFHS rules regarding discus cage placement.

Enclosed, along with other track and field rules and required forms, are NFHS ideas on how to adopt current discus cages to meet the change.

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

SPEECH AND DRAMA

Speech and Drama Meets Completed

The 2007-2008 State Speech and Drama events were completed on January 25-26, 2008. This publication provides an opportunity to thank the communities and managers of these extremely important co-curricular events. Host communities and managers are listed below:

Class B-C:	Huntley Project High School - Worden Bonnie Ortner, Manager
Class A:	Columbia Falls High School Mike Christenson, Manager
Class AA:	Missoula Sentinel High School Libby Brunell & Scott Whaley, Managers

AIM HIGHER

Recent AIM Higher Workshops

Recently, we have conducted several AIM Higher workshops that were a huge success. On December 12, AIM Higher facilitator Jill Flynn of Townsend and Brian Michelotti conducted the workshop in Great Falls at West Elementary. There was great participation from the students and sponsors in all of the areas of the workshop, especially in the sections involving leadership, mentoring and sportsmanship. The hazing awareness and drug prevention area prompted some great discussion as well. Schools at the workshop were Conrad, Cut Bank, Dutton-Brady, Fairfield, Fort Benton, Great Falls High, Great Falls Central, CMR, and Power.

In January, unfortunately because of a winter storm, we were forced to cancel the workshop scheduled in Lewistown, but we will possibly reschedule this workshop for later in the year. We were able to put on a workshop in Billings on January 30th at the Hampton Inn. The facilitators were Kip Ryan from Big Timber and Brian Michelotti from the MHS. The students were very interactive on this day, and the new curriculum was well received by everyone. Highlights of the workshop were the sportsmanship activities, the team captain training session and the hazing awareness information. It was a very successful day with outstanding group and individual participation. Schools that attended the workshop were Absarokee, Billings Central, Gardiner, Joliet, Laurel, Lavina, Red Lodge, and Roundup.

Future AIM Higher Student Workshops

Workshops for the rest of year are listed below. Please contact the office at least three weeks before the workshop if you want to guarantee space for your students. We will attempt to accommodate as many students as the facility will allow, so please get your registration forms to the MHS office as soon as possible. Enclosed is a registration form for you to use for coming workshops.

Student Workshops

March 12	Butte High School Commons - Butte
April 2	Elks Lodge - Sidney

2006-2007 AIM Higher Award

At the recent 2008 MHS Annual Meeting held in Great Falls, the AIM Higher Award was presented to Missoula Sentinel High School. Sentinel has recently provided one of their faculty members to be an AIM Higher facilitator, and over the last five years they have sent over 60 students to these leadership workshops. Previous annual awards were presented to Power High School, Dawson County High School (Glendive), Broadwater High School (Townsend), Scobey High School, Glasgow High School, Sidney High School, Butte High School, Helena Capital High School, Helena High School, Sweet Grass County High School, Great Falls CMR High School, Cut Bank High School, Custer County High School, and Shelby High School.

The award is presented annually to a school that has truly supported the AIM Higher program through the commitment of staff and resources as well as by attendance of its faculty and students at the workshops.

FOOTBALL

Inventory and Recondition 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 MHS 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.

ENCLOSURES

On-Line Clinic Information
Track & Field Information
Pole Vaulters' Weight Verification Form
Pole Vault Competitors' Event Verification Form
Discus Cage Requirements
2008 Track and Field Rules Changes
Pole Vault Education and Certification Programs
Duties of the Scorer & Timer for Basketball
AIM Higher Registration Form
March Calendar

CORPORATE SPONSORS

The MHSA sincerely thanks the following corporate sponsors who assisted MHSA's student activities:

Coca-Cola Bottling Company of
Montana & Powerade

Dudley Sports

Farmer's Union Insurance

Interstate Studio

MBP Custom Publishers

Mikasa Sports

Montana Sports Network

NorthWestern Energy

Northwestern Scholastic
Insurers - Kevin Irish

Pierce Flooring and Design
Centers

Rawlings

Universal Athletic Service

U.S. Bank

Wilson Racquet Sports



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
Heather Wiensch, AIM Higher Coordinator
Teri Keck, Receptionist

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Baldwin, Superintendent, Alberton High School
(President)
Fred Anderson, Principal, Great Falls High School
(Vice-President)
Dave Fern, MtSBA Representative, Whitefish
Duane Walker, AD, Hardin High School
Glenn Hageman, Superintendent, Glasgow High School
Karen Sanford-Gall, Governor's Appointee, Billings
Doug Reisig, State Superintendent's Appointee, Missoula