

June 1, 2015

# MCJA SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER

## President's Note

As the 2015 MCJA Board elections come to a close, we say hello to some really great additions to the Board, two returning members, farewell to one fantastic individual and a shift in Board positions.

MaryKay Gavitt, longtime MCJA Board member, decided not to run for the MCJA Board this time around. With many family and personal events drawing her time, commitment and energy—she says farewell. We will still see her officiating at meets, enjoying her camaraderie as an official and wish MaryKay well as her journey continues.

With these goodbyes, come some

new hellos. Returning to the MCJA Board beginning June 2015 will be Laurie Bilke-Snyder and joining the Board will be April Hooker. Both come to the MCJA Board from different parts of the state and also from different pathways. They will bring both a youthful insight and veteran wisdom to the board while sharing a new perspective for the MCJA membership.

Also returning are Jane Plaisted and Phyllis Olszewski. Additionally, Juli Brown has been elected to a new role as President Elect!

The election process ran smoothly and we thank those of you who decided to run for a position. It was a great ballot of officials to choose

from! Thank you for helping MCJA facilitate a transparent, legitimate election by adding your name on the ballot as you voted.

Change can be bittersweet. Goodbyes are sad while 'welcomes' can lend fresh energy, drive and direction.

MCJA looks forward to many years of fruitful training and representation.

Cheers to you!

Stacy Smith

## Donna Luczak Retires

- Thank you Donna!
- Introducing Jayne Sabaitis
- Elections
- Summer Training
- Save the Date

*Donna Luczak recently retired as MCJA Treasurer. The MCJA Board would like to THANK Donna for her dedication to details and for being an important part of the MCJA Board. For many years Donna was also, in charge of membership and would always be at the registration table at MCJA Confer-*

*ences. We will remember Donna sending notes of appreciation, membership renewals and other cheerful notes to members. Donna we will miss you and want to THANK YOU for your many years of service to MCJA.*



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## Patience Everyone!

Submitted by Juli Brown

*Revisions to score sheets, incorrect round 3 descriptions, changes at the last minute due to injuries...these are things that all officials encounter on a pretty regular basis. Will it ever end?? The answer is probably not...so as officials if we learn to possibly put ourselves in the shoes of the coach it may keep our frustrations at bay.*

*Let's see what the manual states; according to the rules it is allowable to make revisions to the score sheet; to correct an incorrect round 3 description, or to make changes due to injuries up to 30 minutes before the competition start. It goes on to say if there is an injury after the competition starts that the description sheet must be changed. (Page 12; 2014-2016 Cbeer Manual) As an official we have "signed on" to officiate the sport and all it entails, so if these types of things frustrate us, perhaps we need to change our view of them.*

*In most cases the coach has had something unexpected happen within the team ie. sickness, injury or perhaps the athlete has gotten into some trouble and become ineligible the night before the competition. Yes, I hear many of you saying while you read; "But what about the coach that submits a*

*round 3 description, knowing it is incorrect, just to be sure it's received on time?" I would argue that this is not the majority of situations, we'll go with that for just a moment and say again per our manual rules, coaches are allowed to turn in revisions to their round 3 descriptions until 30 minutes prior to competition start time, unless the change is due to an injury. In the case of an injury, per the manual rules, they are required to change their description. An hour is the required amount of time that officials are asked to arrive before the start of the competition and this time is for doing any and all paperwork needed for the competition. Some of us work with schools that will send the round descriptions and score sheets to us the day before so we can get a "jump start" on them. This is wonderful and relieves some of the preparation stress that may happen the day of; however because we've had the opportunity to do the round descriptions and have them done, we can't hold that against the coach who turns in a change. That coach is well within her guidelines.*

*Okay so what about the team you've seen a few times and you've told the coach there are*

*things on her description sheet that are incorrect and she needs to change them, only to find out that when you see them again none of the changes have been made? As an official we need to understand that there are an endless number of ways to write the skills and stunts that are seen in a routine, and all explanations are not understood the same by every official. More than once we've heard the complaint from the coach that that they make the changes to the description only to find out that the next official that reviews it tells them it's incorrect again. This can be frustrating and make officials look inconsistent. The coach then has a choice to make; change the description or not. As a coach, what would you do? My answer is that I would leave it on the sheet for the times that the official gives the points and then "pad" my routine to make up for the times the official that doesn't give the points. For the coach to change her sheet every competition or every other competition is probably time that she doesn't have when she is coaching a short ad demanding season.*

*These are just a few examples of the types of things officials encounter on a weekly basis from all over the state, and I'm sure there are more. As always however, the answer is education and communication. If you are a seasoned official working with a new coach or official, please step up and introduce yourself; offer your help to try to come to an understanding on both sides. You may just make the difference between an official/coach who gives up early in her career out of frustration, and one that stays for many, many years positively influencing the kids in our sport. After all, it's about the KIDS!*

**Save the Date!**

**MCJA Fall Conference  
Saturday October 24, 2015  
Mason High School  
8:30 am - 4:00 pm**



MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS received their 20, 30, 40, 45 or 50-year service awards at the 36th annual Officials' Awards & Alumni Banquet at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, in East Lansing on May 2, 2015.



*Congratulations Peggy Lintemuth for 20 years Officiating Award!!*



MCJAcheer.com

## Ref Pay

Schools are using Ref pay for accounting purposes and it saves the schools time. No longer does the Athletic Director have to request checks for an event. Although some still issue checks or cash for an event, there are a growing majority that are making the switch.

It used to be that if a School, "school A" did not have you making more than \$600, then a 1099 to the IRS was not submitted. NOW, it is a combined total. If you go to ten different schools, and all ten schools use Ref Pay, then your pay from all schools is added together and sent to the IRS.

Accountants say it is customary to have 25-30% deducted as pay to the IRS. Your pay is considered income, so make sure you deduct your mileage to meets, and any dues that you pay to become a Judge. Examples: MHSAA, MCJA, etc. Clothes do not count for cheer unless it is from a uniform store. If you purchase a "cheer uniform" example a black suit and only wear to cheer events you may be able to claim that on your taxes.

To see what is in your REF PAY account through the arbiter system /ref pay, go to:  
~Group 1, assigned by school  
~Payments  
~1099

~\$ sign  
and you will see the amount for the year.

If you need assistance, Arbiter has a Ref Pay department. Ref Pay will soon be called Arbiter Pay.

Other helpful hints:

When you set up your account, you will be charged \$1.50 for each transfer if you do not click the button that says no. You can transfer your own money to save this fee. Also, click the button that says you want to be notified that you have a transfer pending. Make sure the right amount has been entered.

June 1, 2015

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## Safety Sundays—Coming Soon!

The MCJA Board felt that after the positive response to the Safety Sunday Session that was held on-line this year it would be a great idea to schedule several of them for the 2015-2016 Cheer season. These sessions will be held via video conference and GoToMeeting during the upcoming season. You will be able to join the session via phone, iPad or computer. This will be a chance to discuss any safety questions or concerns that have occurred at the meets you have been officiating. MCJA is hoping to have video both of the speaker hosting the meeting and some clips of stunts that come up for discussion if possible.

You will be asked to e-mail MCJA any questions or concerns that have come up then in turn will try to have any clarifications or responses from MHSAA prior to the Safety Sessions if possible.

MCJA **DOES NOT** make any rulings or decisions about illegal stunts or illegal skills etc. All rulings come from MHSAA. Anything that

comes up that requires answers not specifically spelled out in the manual will be forwarded to MHSAA office.

Candy Cox is the MCJA Liaison to MHSAA. She connects with MHSAA every Monday during the season about items that have occurred over the previous week. Please send any questions or concerns that you have to Candy and she will pass them on for answers.

MCJA hopes that the Safety Sundays will help keep us all on the same page across the state. We recognize the fact that teams do not always perform the same stunt in a legal way but knowing if the stunt is legal to start with and just performed illegally on that day will help.

MCJA is very excited about offering Safety Sunday Sessions and will keep you posted on the website and via e-mail when the schedule set up.

### Did you know...

**Congress women Lorena Gonzalez has introduced a bill that would make cheerleading a sport in California!**

**The Guinness World Record for the most consecutive back hand-springs is 44. The record is held by an Atlanta Georgia cheerleader Mikayla Clark.**

*Thank you to everyone who ran for an MCJA Board position!!*

*New and returning Board members:*

*Laurie Bilke-Snyder*

*April Hooker*

*Phyllis Olszewski*

*Jane Plaisted*

*Juli Brown—President Elect*

*The University of Michigan won a third consecutive NCA College Cheerleading Championship in the Intermediate Coed Division I this April.*

*Davenport University won a third consecutive NCA College Cheerleading Championship in the All Girl Division III this April and won the Division II Stunt Championship this May.*



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### A View from the Top!

#### Officiating Fun in the U.P.

Phyllis and friends judged a competition the Saturday before Christmas at Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

The other photos were snapped at a quick stop in Christmas, Michigan, on the way home. Natalie is having fun with Santa, the old woman in the shoe and a snowman.

Lots of entertaining fun can be found in officiating trips to the UP!



Cindi Place, Kymberli Wregglesworth, Cathy Mutter and Natalie Hebden having fun in the snow outside of the Superior Dome before the long journey home!



*Hello all!*

*My name is Jayne Sabaitis and I have recently been appointed the Treasurer of MCJA. I am currently the Administrator of Maple Lawn Medical Care Facility in Coldwater. In my former cheer life I coached both at Plainwell High School and Colon High School totaling over 15 years. I have been a registered official since 1997. I graduated from Western Michigan University (Go Broncos!) with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and Business Administration and live in Bronson with my husband Erik and our children Mason (6) and Molly (4). I look forward to serving the MCJA Board and Membership.*



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## MCJAcheer.com

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***Summer Training***

***August 8, 2015***

***Lansing Catholic High School***

***This training will be focused toward the novice and intermediate official. However, ALL are welcome!***

***Register now at MCJAcheer.com***

June 1, 2015

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June 1, 2015

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Have something to share with MCJA?

MCJA welcomes submissions (opinions, training tools, helpful hints, cheer inspiration, family news and more) from all members for the quarterly newsletters. Send yours to **mcja.info@gmail.com** for the chance to be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

### *What Makes You Sad?*

*submitted by Sheila Brownlee*

Another amazing competitive cheer season has come to an end. Champions have been crowned, mats have been rolled up and banquets have been shared. I have to say it has been a whirl wind of a season and I was thrilled to be a part of all the excitement but at the end of it all I must ask you, "What Makes You Sad"?

Allow me to answer what made ME sad this year. Like most officials, I tend to judge near my home and therefore see many of the same teams multiple times during the season. One team in particular caught my eye early on this year and I saw them compete about 5 or 6 times. The first time I noticed them they had a small number of team members sitting on the side of the mat who were dressed only in shorts and tee shirts, not in uniform, not even a team name on their shirts. Ok I said to myself, there are 100 different reasons for that to happen but then I started paying closer attention as I saw them again. I noticed the same four cheerleaders sitting at the side of the mat enthusiastically cheering on the varsity cheerleaders – every round, every competition, week after week. They were there for warm up, team circles and calls to the mat. I could not understand how a coach could seemingly ask these same athletes to attend competitions just to cheer on the cheerleaders knowing she would never be using them in competition. I did notice at one competition this varsity team had an injury but the same four cheerleaders watched from the side of the mat as this team competed with a hole. None of the cheerleaders who sat at the side were used to fill in. Why do that? Why not put these athletes on the JV team and allow them the chance to actually cheer and get some real experience. After all, if these cheerleaders were ever going to be valuable team members isn't experience what we most want for them? It broke my heart to see these same four students giving so much and getting so little in return.

So as an outsider of this team what I saw were four very dedicated cheerleaders who I assume were also attending practice every day, coming to competition every Wednesday and Saturday along with their parents knowing they would never be allowed to "take the mat". That seems like a lot to ask from any athlete.

I will say that I do not know this coach or her reasons for doing what I saw. Perhaps her hands were tied and she was doing the best she could for her athletes and the team as a whole. Perhaps she was dealing with injuries or grades and had no other choice but to leave the girls out of competition but none the less watching these four athletes sit on the sideline all season is "What Made Me Sad".