

AUGUST 2009 NEWSLETTER

Hi Everyone!

Can you believe that the summer has gone by so quickly? I know I used to throw things at the TV when those back to school ads started about mid-July. Not so bad now that I'm not getting a building ready for all the back to school rush.

I hope your summer has been a least a little restful and that you and your team have begun some great training and adventures together.

Lots of information to follow, but in particular, remember about the September membership meeting. It is your chance to network with other coaches, judges, and dancers. We are the only organization I know that offers something like this for free to its membership.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our annual coaches/directors membership meeting will be held on SATURDAY, September 19th at the West Chester Conference Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Lunch is provided for all judges and one coach per member team. Others who would like lunch will be charged \$10 per lunch. Because of the lunch count, it is necessary for you to RSVP no later than September 15th to Kim Nicoll at chelsey34@aol.com even if you have replied on Facebook. Please email her with your team name and number of coaches attending. Judges, please RSVP as well (Judges, remember, that you are required to attend a training session each year in order to be assigned as a judge).

This year, since the rules are only undergoing minor, cosmetic changes, we are concentrating on training and giving you the latest information and news in the world of dance teams. In addition to our usual business meeting and rules clarification, we will be running two concurrent break-out sessions several times during the day, offering sessions for both the novice and the experienced director or judge. We will be offering sessions in TEACHING AND POLISHING A ROUTINE; STORYTELLING IN CHOREOGRAPHY; BOOSTER CLUBS AND ORGANIZATION; JUDGES' TRAINING; TEEN SOCIAL ISSUES; REHEARSAL ORGANIZATION; SHOW DESIGN; TECHNIQUE AND TERMINOLOGY/ TRENDS IN THE DANCE WORLD.

It certainly be a jam-packed day, but our hope is that you will come away with great ideas, plans, and new information. Don't forget to RSVP today!

Agenda for the Meeting:

8:30-9:00 Registration

9:00-10:00 Business Meeting

10:00-11:15 Directors' Roundtable Discussion/ Judges' Meeting

11:15-12:00 Lunch

	Session A	Session B
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12:00-1:00	Rehearsal Organization	Storytelling and Choreography
1:15-2:15	Technique and Terminology	Teaching and Polishing a Routine
2:30-3:30	Show Design (from music to magic)	Parent and Booster Organizations
3:45-4:45	Teen Issues	Show Design—repeat
4:45-5:00	Closing Session and Nationals Information including forms for dressing room spaces.	

FORMS, FORMS, FORMS

It is most helpful to have your membership forms filled out and ready for the meeting in September. Judges, your registration form is attached. Coaches, team membership forms are attached as well.

RULE REVISIONS FOR THE 2009-2010 COMPETITION SEASON:

This year is not one for large-scale rule changes, but as you may recall, the SCAU Board met on May 3rd to work on clarification, and slight revisions of existing rules. These were sent out to the membership in May, but here is a “punch list” of the new and/or clarified rules.

- **WILD CARD CLARIFICATION:** The Wild Card rule was taken out of the rules, as it did not accomplish what it was intended to do. Wild Cards will now be totally at the discretion of the judges to select some additional routines that they feel deserve to move into the Medal Round.
- **LEADERSHIP:** We attempted to clarify the leadership wording in the rules. New wording will read: “Co-Captains will not be judged at the same contest.....Director must advise each contest which captain will be scored at each contest.
- **TEAM SIZE:** Junior/Senior team sizes remain the same; Elementary team size underwent a revision and will now only be divided into 2 classes: 4-12=Small (elementary); 13 += Large(elementary) Juniors and Seniors remain: A=4-9 members; AA=10-17 members; AAA=18+
- **TEAM SIZE:** We have removed the rule that states that you must perform the same number of dancers in each show. Now, as long as you remain within your class (A, AA, AAA or Large, Small), you may use differing numbers of dancers in each show. So, for example, if I were a AA team (10-17 members), I could use 10 dancers in kick, 17 in pom, 13 in jazz, 12 in lyrical, etc.
- **KICK RULE CLARIFICATION:** New wording is, “Preparatory moves or jumps for a

kick do not count as a kick, nor do extended toe touches, floor kicks, or seated kicks.”

- PENALTY SCORESHEET REVISION: Added a place for judge to mark # of performers.
- LEADERSHIP SCORESHEET REVISION:
- TEAM PERFORMANCE SCORESHEET REVISION: We have reduced the category points (for jazz, kick, pom, etc.) from 20 points to 10 points on the top portion of the scoresheet. On the bottom half of the scoresheet, we have separated Technique from Execution. Technique being the proper performance of the moves, and execution being the timing and precision of the moves. Technique=20 points; Execution=20 points; Show Design=20 points; Choreography=20 points; Presentation=10 points. This small revision, places more emphasis on the technical aspects of the show and less emphasis on the showmanship/presentation.
- AWARDS: There was some preliminary discussion about going back to placement awards at every contest. Since that is a much larger discussion and directly affects the contests' expenditures, we will open that up for discussion at the next meeting.

WE HAVE A FAN PAGE!

Showcase America has a fan page on Face book. Please tell your girls, their parents, and your alumni about the Facebook page. That way, they will receive miniature versions of the newsletters and reminders, at the same time as we send information to the coaches and judges. If they are already Facebook members, all they need to do is put Showcase America Unlimited in the search box. If they are not members, they can join for free by going to www.facebook.com

On that fan page, there is a spot for discussion groups (that we can monitor). Currently, the discussion is what you do during the summer to prepare for the upcoming season. Anyone can join the discussion. Share your great ideas, how you prepare, what types of team building activities you do, etc. But, help us get more fans and to spread the good word!

CREATIVE DANCE PRODUCTIONS SPONSORS OFFICER CLINIC

Mark your calendars! On the same day as the directors/judges meeting on September 19th, Creative Dance Productions will host a dance clinic for team officers (juniors and seniors suggested).

Dancers will learn a routine in the morning from Katie Farry, participate in a technique class, have lunch and then have a master class taught by Missy Lay Zimmer and Andrew Hubbard. Officers will then be invited if they would like to join the judges and directors in the final breakout session and closing of the SCAU meeting.

Cost for the clinic is \$70, with preregistration only \$65 including lunch. If students do not pre-register, they will need to bring their own lunches.

Attached to this email is the information flyer and the registration form/emergency medical form necessary for the flyer. Get your registration form in soon and beef up your choreography repertoire.