

State Gymnastics Banquet 2017

The banquet was held at St. Paul Roy Wilkins auditorium. (We are back at the Mpls Marriott Center next year.) The ballroom was larger, but the area was not as beautiful. The staging area was pretty much the same as before, but less expensive because we shared the cost of the staging with hockey Class A and AA, and split the cost in thirds for all of us. (Refund of \$1906.76)

818 in attendance at the banquet and the paid meals served were 798 @\$28 for a total of \$22,344. (44 less meals than last year) Cost of meal was consistent with other sites. Food choices were pretty well received. Preordered special meal requests have saved expenses from a cost/meal perspective.

Longtime sponsors from TAGS and North shore gymnastics help our bottom line with their contributions of \$750. (Ozone will sponsor again next year/timing problem this year.)

We were seated/started eating dinner at 6:00. The official banquet started at 6:46 and it was complete at 7:51.

I had all but 3 teams/individuals reply a state banquet reservation number by Sunday. Thanks to Coaches/Section reps for having them call right away. The first year that I did not call teams!

I requested state information from the MSHSL office and reformatted the information for our banquet program and for Hultgren's to use on the T-shirt names. In addition, the whole program was reformatted based on what the section reps had requested. The print was smaller but I am hoping people appreciated all of the information. *(This took all day on Monday for the reformatting names/teams and the updated format)*

Colleen Stark Haws submitted the Section academic winner's page. She listed all of the silver/gold awards winners by section and announced the Section winners. Thanks to Colleen for doing this! Shelly ordered banners for the winning section teams.

Sandy Boss organized all of the plaques for all state elite, section and state coaches of the year and she announced coaches' years of service, section and state coaches. Special thanks to Sandy!

All State Elite Gymnasts were announced. Thanks to Dave Maras and Toni Kleber for organizing this part of the banquet and making sure it gets into the papers.

Table for Martha Discoll to do the all state certificates outside the banquet venue has been working great.

The announcing of teams went smoothly and thanks to Shelly for organizing the gymnasts to the left side of the stage area. It was nice to honor the qualifying team's assistant coaches again this year at the banquet, although not all teams took advantage of this.

Congratulations to the Hall of Fame inductees and COTY Awards:

Hall of Fame: Kathy Balzart, St. Paul Highland and Bruce Smith, Park Center

A Assistant Coach: Nicolas Clasemann, Willmar

AA Assistant Coach: Mark Morphew, New Prague

A Head Coach: Kaitlyn Helmbrecht, Maple Lake

AA Head Coach: Shelly Eklund, Eagan

I will be sending thank you notes to Julia (TAGS) and Robert (North Shore sales) the soon.

Your thoughts on the banquet are always welcome. Respectfully submitted Deana Walsh