

M.T.A.A.
Muhlenberg Township Athletic Association
A Non-Profit Volunteer Youth Sports Organization
www.mtaasports.com

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January 5, 2009

RE: January-February News Letter

M.T.A.A. Members,

Welcome to 2009 everyone! It's a new year and with a new year come new changes. You will see a letter from me posted on our web site bi-monthly updating you on all the important issues that have transpired over the previous two months. It is one of our goals in 2009 to improve communication between the M.T.A.A. Board and the M.T.A.A. Parents. As I stated in my introduction letter the bi-monthly letter, the answering machine and e-mail through the webmaster are the initial ways that we are going to make this happen & please check our web page often for updates. I also strongly encourage members to attend our monthly General Meetings, where we discuss upcoming and current topics and our membership has the opportunity to express their views, on the fourth Monday of the month. For those of you who may be new to M.T.A.A., the organization is run by a Board of Directors consisting of 15 elected volunteers. The General Meetings for 2009 are tentatively being held at The River Road Recreation Center. This may change as we progress through the year, so always check the web site for possible location updates. We are also introducing the letterhead you see here. All flyers for our athletic programs will be on this and if you don't see this letterhead, it's NOT M.T.A.A.!

I would like to thank Jack Keller for setting the ground work that is allowing us to continue and enhance what he helped start as President in 2008. I would also like to thank all our exiting board members for their efforts in the last year. You can view the complete list of your new 2009 board members in the "About M.T.A.A." tab on our web site.

Our most import point of business is the closing of the Bingo Hall at Muhlenberg Plaza. The Bingo Hall ran for 8 years and provided M.T.A.A. with approximately \$3,000.00 per month of income. This was a big part of what allowed M.T.A.A. to give teams money for parties, buy opening day gifts, provide end of season gifts and maintain & upgrade our facilities. Unfortunately for a lot of bingo halls September 11, 2008 marked their demise; The Commonwealth of PA passed a ban on smoking in public facilities. Believe it or not people refused to come to bingo anymore if they couldn't smoke. Several bingo halls were closed by the end of October. The M.T.A.A. Board decided we were going to try and persevere, hoping to pick up business from the others that had closed. Regrettably this did not happen and by mid November we had lost \$14, 000.00. The M.T.A.A. Board decided at this point it was in the organizations best interest to cease operations. An agreement was made with the

Football

Flag
Knee-hi
Mites
Midgets

Cheerleading

Competition
Football
Basketball
Wrestling

Field Hockey

Junior
Senior

Wrestling

K thru 6

Basketball

Boys Knee-hi
Boys Mites
Boys Junior
Girls Mites
Girls Junior

Baseball

Tee Ball
Coach Pitch
Knee-hi
Mites
Diamond League
10u Tournament
12u Tournament
Fall League

Girls Softball

8u Coach Pitch
10u
12u

landlord, Jim Hartman, that he would release M.T.A.A. from the remainder of the lease in return for all our bingo equipment, worth approximately \$8000.00. **M.T.A.A. is NO LONGER affiliated with the Bingo Hall.** The M.T.A.A. Board would like to thank John and Shelley Vicari for all the time and effort they put into running the Bingo Hall on behalf of The M.T.A.A. Board & our children.

The Board will be discussing fund raising ideas for 2009 at our January 12th Board Only Meeting. In addition we will be exploring ways to generate new revenue for M.T.A.A. to compensate for the loss of income from bingo. We will present our ideas at the January 26th General Meeting to our membership.

Another exciting addition for 2009 is a Fan Wear page on our web site. We are currently developing this page and it should be up and running in the near future. No more waiting, you can order items when you want to! An order will be placed with our vendors on the fourth Monday of every month and pick-up will be after our General Meetings' conclusion for the previous months' orders. Please keep in mind that if you place an order after the fourth Monday of the month it won't be ordered from the vendors until the following month, meaning it will be two months before you receive your items. If we find we can bring items to you sooner we will make every effort. This is a new service we are bringing to our members, so please bear with us for the first few months as we try different methods to get your items to you as soon as possible.

M.T.A.A. is always looking for new volunteers to help. There is a letter from your Vice President, Kevin Button, on the web site home page with some of the specific information on the different committees we are trying to form. However, we are always looking for volunteers to help out in all types of capacity. We'll have handouts and posters hanging up at baseball sign-ups in February; see the baseball page on our web site for the sign-up dates. Please take the time to read them and ask how **YOU** can become more involved!

Respectfully,



Mark C. Christman
M.T.A.A. President

PS: If you would like this bi-monthly letter sent to your e-mail address please e-mail webmaster@mtaasports.com and we will add you to the list.