**Twirlettes win 1st National World Open Corps National Championship**

The Saline Twirlettes ventured into a new arena this year at national competition. After admiring corps for over 19 years this 20th year felt special and the right time to venture into new waters. Last Fall, a team meeting was held where parents and members alike agreed to make this big jump knowing it was a risk, cost more money and more practice time. The Corps division at nationals holds many traditions, has a longevity of top World class corps and respect among judges and competitors. The Twirlettes started early , recruited sponsors to help offset the costs, and had weekend practices throughout the school year along with an even more intense summer schedule. They entered the Show Corps with Props in the Senior Small division with a different style and approach. This proved to gain much recognition as the Twirlettes were announced the division winners and a trip to the Show Corps finals. This was an amazing feat where the team pulled off a beautiful performance under pressure and earned that spot. In the finals, the team faced a strong team that had went to WORLDS 10 times. Although, Twirlettes didn’t get the world bid, they turned many heads and were the closest of any team in many years. The recognition from fellow twirlers, judges, coaches was overwhelming and the Twirlettes knew the risk they took was worth it. The team plans to enter again next year with the hopes that in 3 years they could make the World team.

The youngest member of the Twirlettes national team did qualify for the WORLD team. Hanna Alvarez, age 9 and a Grass Lake 5th grader will represent the United States next March as part of the WORLD TEAM and will compete in Norway at the World championships. This will be her first time competing internationally.

 Overall the Twirlettes had the best nationals to date and the response was overwhelming for their first time in the corps division.

On the first day the Grand National solo event is held. You must qualify in the top 8 of your state to compete. Three Twirlettes Made the top 20 and had to re twirl for the final top 6 . In the Junior division, Lizzie Branch , Haley Alvarez in the preteen division and Hanna Alvarez in the Juvenile division made the TOP 20 cut. Haley and Hanna made it to the Grand National finals by placing in the top 6. The Alvarez’s twirled again at the big show on the final day of competition where Haley placed 6th and Hanna placed 5th.

**Miss Majorette of America**

In the Miss Majorette of America Pageant the Twirlettes equally showed great representation. Haley Alvarez of Grass Lake placed 1st runner up in the pre-teen division by placing 2nd in modeling, 6th in strut and 7th in solo. Her consistency earned her a spot so close to the winner.

Hanna Alvarez, placed 3rd overall in the Juvenile Miss Majorette of America pageant by 2nd in modeling, 8th in strutting and 1st in pageant solo.

Amanda Coy, Saline Senior placed for the first time in the top ten and went home with a 7th place overall award by winning 11th in solo and 5th in strutting.

Haley went on to win 10th in 3-baton, 3rd in open solo finals, 10th in freestyle and a national championship strutting title . Her little sister, Hanna earned a 3rd in freestyle which qualified her for the WORLD team , won 4th in 2 baton finals and 6th in strutting.

In other advanced events, Team mate Amanda Coy won the Show twirl, All American girl modeling, and flag twirling event . The advanced divisions have the nation’s best twirlers so even if you are new to division you compete against a very tough field. In the Junior division Lizzie Branch placed 2nd in strut and 12th in open solo, while fellow Grass Lake sophomore Sabrina Beiring placed 15th in solo and 8th in strutting and 7th in show routine.

Grass lake sophomore Zoe won 7th in 3-baton, 8th in show routine, 15th in her open advanced solo and placed 23rd in the Grand National solo.

Grass Lake Senior, Izzy Melvin, received a 5th in open 3-baton 14th in solo and 12th in 2-baton.

**Corps Member of the Year**

 Four young ladies represented the Twirlettes in the Corps Member of the Year competition. Every twirler placed in the top ten earning recognition for their team. Hanna was named the Juvenile winner, Alexis Figueras won 2nd, Zoe Dotts-Brown 3rd in Junior division and Alexa Bader placed 7th in the senior division. These girls not only represented themselves well but upheld the values the Twirlettes are based upon.

**Collegiate Twirling**

Cori Walworth, 2017 Chelsea High School graduate represented the University of Toledo during the collegiate day competition. Cori performed at the show doing a field goal toss, spectacular trick, down the field and solo halftime routine. Cori will be a feature twirler in the fall at Toledo.

**Title Winners**

Twirlettes had many individual National title Winners in the developing divisions. Maggie Smith, at her first nationals, won her Beginner solo age 8. Maggie partnered with Erin Huetteman of Saline and won the Novice duet division. Erin also was a big winner capturing her novice solo national title. Addison Foy of Belleville won her Novice strut title and 4th in flag twirling. Kaitlyn Kornacki won her beginner national solo and flag solo. Aubrey Bukosky won her beginner national flag title, Alexis Figueras won the National Intermediate strutting title. In Intermediate Johanna Kegerreis, A Jackson Christian Sophomore, won the Intermediate National Solo title and the Beginner Flag title

**Pageant Placements**

Twirlettes had 4 young ladies that qualified for the national pageant by winning their state or regional pageant. The pageant is an all-around event that includes interview and modeling, strutting and solo twirling.

Avery St. Lawrence a Saline 8th grader, won the National Pre-teen Intermediate title by winning the modeling portion, 1st in strutting and 3rd in solo . Avery also won two more national titles; National Intermediate solo and show routine.

Also in the Senior Intermediate Pageant, Alexa Bader of Ohio, placed 1st runner up in the Teenage National pageant by placing 3rd in strut and 1st in solo, Julie Palmer Saline Graduate although injured placed 8th in senior intermediate modeling.

In the Beginner Pageant Aubrey Bukosky, Milan 8th grader, represented the preteen division and won a 15th in pageant solo, while Milan Freshman Kaitlyn Kornacki placed very well in the Junior division. Kaitlyn won the pageant solo and placed 3rd in modeling to win an overall placement as 11th.

**In open events, Twirlettes showed the most success.** Jady Jackson, Saline 7th grader, won the Novice solo national title. Jady Jackson also took home 4th in 2-baton, 8th in flag, and 7th in strutting. Jady placed top 10 in all her events.

Newcomer Maggie Smith, along with her national solo title she placed 2nd in 2-baton, flag 4th, and strut 3rd, while duet partner Erin Huetteman placed 8th in 2-baton, flag and 4th in strutting. Also in her first year, Alayna Offredi, Ann Arbor Pioneer student, placed 13th in 2-baton and 7th in flag twirling.

Beginner Twirlers equally had a good week. Ali Gucwa, Pioneer Senior, placed 10th in her solo and 12th in strutting. In Novice flag she won 2nd and 15th in 2-baton. Jenna Huetteman, Saline 7th grader won a 5th place in 2-baton and flag and 8th in duet with Jady. Zoe Dotts -Brown placed 4th in her 2baton event. Aubrey Bukosky took 2nd in solo, 8th in 2-baton, and 8th in her show routine. Elly LeCursi, Saline 7th grader over some personal illness but bounced back with good results; she placed 12th in solo, strut and 11th in duet with partner Aubrey Bukosky , a Milan 8th grader.

Saline Senior Kelly Coghlan placed 11th in 2-baton, 13th in duet with partner Cori Walworth and Sabrina Beiring placed 6th in 2-baton. Earning a 4th in solo, 2nd in 2-baton, 2nd in duet with Avery St. Lawrence as Saline 7th grader Alexis Figueras. Cori Walworth, Chelsea graduate placed 4th in Intermediate 2 baton.

Alexa continued the good trend by placing in the Intermediate division and brought home a 3rd in open solo , 5th 2-baton, strut 3rd, and won a 6th for her show routine.

Overall it was just an outstanding week”, stated Usher with “results beyond belief”. The girls commitment, hard work, sacrifice and attitude all throughout the year made the huge difference. The team really came together to produce a top quality routine that we hope to show the community very soon, states Coach Susan Usher. The Twiirlettes will continue their 49th year this season by accepting new students. Registration information can be found online at [www.salinetwirlettes.org](http://www.salinetwirlettes.org)

Twirlettes would like to thank their sponsors and parents that made this dream a reality.