

Interview with Patty Shipman

Patty joined NAWGJ in 1984.

Some of the positions she has held include:

NorCal Assigner,
SJD,
National Judges Cup Director
NAWGJ Director of Finance

When Patty was asked to recall some of the highlights from her judging career she responded:

- Attending every NAWGJ Symposium since 1987 has been a highlight.
- I have been blessed with the opportunity to judge JO Nationals and Westerns many times.
- Working at the last six Olympics Trials has been a wonderful experience that I would not have had if I had not been a NAWGJ judge and met so many people in our sport.
- At the 2003 World Gymnastics Championships in Anaheim California I served as the Delegations Liaison for three long weeks.

Information and highlights from your personal life:

- I have been married to my husband Jerry for 48 years. We partnered in business in 1978 building a structural steel installation company where I have served as the Chief Financial Officer for the last forty years.
- Together we have raised two awesome people, a son, Randy and a daughter, Jennifer Shipman Krause. Randy and Jennifer have blessed us with six smart and athletic grandchildren. Seeing our children being wonderful parents to their children is amazing. I am very proud that Randy and Jen are partners in business following in their Mom and Dad's footsteps but taking it to a whole new level.
- Outside of our business and my gymnastics involvement, I am proud to have co-founded a hospital foundation and served on its board which helped raise millions of dollars for the hospital addition in which my last grandchild was born. Additionally, I am one of the co-founders of an organization which raises funds for St. Mary's High School in Stockton, CA. These funds support special, non-budgeted programs to enhance the students' experience..
- In my free time, I enjoy cooking, golfing and spending time at our beach house.

When Patty was asked "What impact has judging had on your life?", she replied:

- My involvement in Gymnastics judging has enriched my life in many ways. The first thing I think of are the many friends I have made after spending very long weekends together during gymnastics season. My gymnastics friends are smart, interesting and exceptional people that I would have never met outside of gymnastics.
- Seeing how gymnastics produces young women that are strong, confident, that have good work ethics, are team players and are able to handle failures along with the wins is certainly rewarding. I truly believe they leave gymnastics with the life skills to become great assets to the work force. I feel that we as judges play a role in their development and that is impactful.
- Gymnastics events have taken me to 33 states as well as Canada. In the process I have learned to pack for a full week in a carry-on, a skill I would have probably never learned!