

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS JUDGES
NATIONAL GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES
Hosted by Zoom
January 18, 2021

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Cookie Batsche at 7 p.m. EST. After welcoming everybody, she called for a roll call for the record:

President: Cookie Batsche
Vice President: Ann Heppner
Director of Finance: Robin Ruegg
Secretary: Barbara Tebben
Region 1: Cindy Lord
Region 2: Denise Green
Region 3: Marilyn Blilie
Region 4: Robin Smith
Region 5: Debbie Campbell
Region 6: Pat Panichas
Region 7: Bonnie Synol
Region 8: Diane Thompson
National Collegiate Assigner: Lois Colburn
National Education Director: Janice Eyman
National Librarian: Judy Dobransky
National Website Director: Brenda Eberhardt
National Judges Cup Director: Evelyn Paradis

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Robin Smith: I move to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2020 Conference Call.

Second: Bonnie Synol

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

National Secretary Changes

The Awards Committee presented a tribute to National Secretary Barbara Tebben, who is retiring on March 31 after eight years of service. Denise Green, current Region II Regional Judging Director, ran unopposed for the position and will begin serving a two-year term beginning April 1, 2021 and ending March 31, 2023.

Barbara Tebben will update the Executive Board listings with SilverFlume by March 31. In addition, the NAWGJ national address will be changed from the National Secretary's address to the Director of Finance's address (Apple Valley, Minnesota.)

Elections Update – Ann Heppner, Vice President

Elections are ongoing for Regional Judging Directors in odd Regions (I-III-V-VII). Also, a special election will be held in Region II for vacating RJD Denise Green.

Election Buddy, an alternate online election platform to VotingPlace.net, will be used on a trial basis for the RJD elections this year. A plan may be developed to centralize the election process, in which the Vice President will set up and supervise all elections. The Constitution Committee will revise the Election Manual in the Official Documents once permanent decisions are made.

Also, the Vice President has requested timelines from each Executive Officer to include in the Operating Code.

For the Record

After Pat McDiarmid, SJD for Massachusetts, passed away recently, a special election was held to fill the vacancy. Marybeth Richardson was elected as the new Massachusetts State Judging Director. Pat Panichas, Regional Judging Director for Region VI, will work with the bank to delete McDiarmid's name from the bank account. She will also add her own name to the account.

2021 Judges' Cup Update – Evelyn Paradis, National Judging Cup Director

The National Judges' Cup was held at the Louisville, Kentucky Convention Center January 8-10. Strict health and safety guidelines for the Covid 19 pandemic were enforced, per the Kentucky Governor.

One thousand athletes competed and over fifty judges from 22 states volunteered at the meet, including many new judges from Region V. Team Texas won the Patty J. Shipman Level 7 Team Challenge. Evelyn reported that everything ran very smoothly despite some initial technical difficulties with streaming the meet for parents. Gift cards were a popular alternative to the traditional gift exchange among judges, and all volunteer judges were eligible to receive a free download of "X Marks the Spot," an XCEL practice judging program from the NAWGJ Library.

Next year, the NJC will be held January 7-9, 2022 at the New Orleans Convention Center in Louisiana. All Board members are asked to reserve these dates to volunteer.

New At-Large Director: National Historian

In anticipation of adding a National Historian to the NGB, a document listing the duties and qualifications of the position was distributed.

MOTION: Cindy Lord

I move that we add a new At-Large Director, the NAWGJ Historian, to the National Governing Board.

Second: Pat Panichas

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

The Vice President hopes that the NAWGJ Historian can be appointed in time to assume duties April 1, in accordance with the election schedule of the other At-Large Directors. This term would expire March 31, 2024.

NGB Committees Discussion

President Batsche recommends guidelines for NGB members serving on the various standing and ad-hoc committees. She will send out a survey to determine which four committees most interest each Board member and who would like to serve as committee chairpersons. The goal is to have RJD's serve on no more than three standing committees if possible. At-Large Directors would automatically be appointed to the committee related to their responsibility, but they may also serve on selected other committees. Committee rosters will be finalized prior to the summer, 2021 NGB meeting. (A current list of committee members will follow these minutes.)

Covid-19 Procedures Document

A Covid-19 Procedures Document will be completed and sent to the RJD's. The President is waiting for updates from USA Gymnastics to finalize the document.

Professional Responsibility Committee – Cindy Lord, Bonnie Synol, Denise Green
The NGB discussed a revision of Rule #10:

OLD Rule 10: A judge who has accepted a contract issued by NAWGJ and who later cannot, for valid and substantial reasons, perform that contract shall contact the appropriate assigning official at the earliest possible time and shall adhere to the procedures designated by the assigning entity to facilitate replacement as appropriate.

NEW Rule 10: A judge who has accepted a contract issued by NAWGJ and who later decides to decline the assignment, must communicate with the designated assigning official at the earliest possible time. If there is an appropriate replacement available, the judge may be released from the contract; if not, the original contract shall remain valid. Non-compliance may be considered a violation of the NAWGJ Code of Professional Responsibility and may be addressed accordingly. Exceptions may be made for emergency situations such as illness, family emergency, or other valid reasons.

MOTION: Marilyn Blilie

I move that we accept the Rule #10 revision.

Second: Barbara Tebben

Vote: Passed/Unanimous

Finance Committee Update – Robin Ruegg, Robin Smith, Debbie Campbell, Denise Green

Robin updated the NGB on the status of our National accounts. The Finance Committee will investigate various avenues of investing our money. Robin has also collected all of the 2020 W-9's so 1099's can be issued by the 1-31-21 deadline. The 2020 Quarterly Financial Reports will be turned over to the accountant in advance of preparation of our 2020 tax return.

An updated Quarterly Financial Report form will be posted soon on the NAWGJ Website. To address questions, the Finance Committee plans to have a virtual meeting with SJD's and their Financial Assistants in early February. This meeting also will be recorded and posted on the Website. The first Quarterly Financial Report is due February 20.

The Finance Committee plans to conduct an audit of all bank accounts to determine that three current Officers, no more than two from the same State, are listed as signers.

National Board Meetings

Our winter Board meeting will now be held virtually, but the Executive Board, or the NGB, may meet in person at National Judges' Cup if necessary. Designating times for At-Large Directors to attend both winter and summer NGB meetings will be discussed later this year.

NCAA Judging Update – Lois Colburn, National Collegiate Assigner

Lois reported that because of Covid-19, the 2020-2021 season has been a challenge for institutions, assigners and officials. Assigning for one Conference did not begin until January 2, months later than the target date. Twelve schools are not competing this year, and DIII will decide soon whether or not to have a season.

Covid-19 testing and safety procedures are varying widely in the different schools, Conferences or States. Several officials have declined meets. Even so, many D-1 meets are happening safely. Lois is working on Conference Meet assigning.

Uniform Update – Denise Green

The NAWGJ Uniform Page features the official Lands End Uniform site as well as a complementary page that features pieces that are embroidered with the Leaping Lady logo.

Lands End is working with us to keep the consumer-division Starfish pants available in the True Navy color, as the availability has dropped. Three versions of the NAWGJ dress are now available, as well as a collarless jacket and the traditional uniform pieces. Judges should register on the Lands End site so they can receive e-mails about sales.

Denise and the Ad-Hoc Uniform Committee (Cookie Batsche, Ann Heppner, Debbie

Campbell, Barbara Tebben) will work with the Professional Development Committee to develop guidelines for professional appearance, now that the uniform has so many options.

Miscellaneous Updates

Diversity Initiative: President Batsche recently met with individuals who are interested in exploring this topic. A report will be given at the next NGB meeting.

Professional Activity Report: President Batsche presented a chart summarizing the reports generated on gymjas since the form's inception last fall.

Annual Statistical Report: President Batsche will summarize the 2020 national statistics at the summer NGB meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Pat Panichas
Second: Bonnie Synol
Meeting adjourned 9:35 p.m. EST