

About Cookie

NAWGJ Member and Positions Held:

Joined - 1981

SJD, Illinois (1986 - 1988) and Florida (2000 -2006)

RJD, Region 8 (2016 – 2020)

NAWGJ President (2020 – 2024)

Illinois Assigner (1984-1986)

Florida Webmaster (2002 – 2010)

Florida Clinic Coordinator (1998 – 2000; 2006 - 2020)

National Newsletter Editor (1988 – 1994)

Highlights From Judging Career

1. Watching my daughter train and develop her gymnastics skills.
2. Judging my very first meet and being disappointed when there were no more gymnasts to judge. Seriously, I looked around to see if there were any more gymnasts who wanted to compete because I didn't want it to end!
3. Judging national championships for USAG, NCAA, AAU, USAIGC and YMCA.
4. Serving as a clinician particularly the National Symposium in Chicago (Fosse as Judge), Atlanta (American Top 40), and Fort Worth (Dancing With Our Stars).
5. Working with outstanding friends and colleagues on state, regional, and national governing boards.

Highlights From Personal Career

1. Completing a Ph.D. while working full time and raising my daughter (who chose to attend my graduation ceremony instead of competing at a state meet);
2. Working as the Vice Provost at two universities (University of South Florida and Illinois State University);
3. Working on the creation of a new interdisciplinary college (the College of Behavioral & Community Sciences) and the new Ph.D. in Behavioral Healthcare at USF;
4. Establishing the Summer Research Institute in Behavioral Healthcare at USF; and
5. Receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the University of South Florida.

Impact of Judging on My Life

Judging has become a lifelong passion, second only to the pride I have for my wonderful family. Judging has been intellectually invigorating and intrinsically motivating as we strive to improve accuracy and consistency from routine to routine and meet to meet. In particular, NAWGJ helped me to realize that I had an untapped creative gene (a skill I didn't think I had) by providing the opportunity to design clinics that use emerging technologies and innovative approaches. Most importantly, judging has allowed me to develop deep lifelong friendships as well as connections with a committed group of professionals who are selfless with their time and talents and who share this extraordinary passion for the sport. Thank you, NAWGJ, for contributing in such a positive way to my life. I will be forever grateful.

When I am not judging, I enjoy spending time with my family: my mother who is 102 years old; my sister Carolyn, a former newspaper editor and creative writer, who has read every Pulitzer Prize winning novel; my wonderful daughter Jennifer and her husband Dave, and my two outstanding grandchildren, Addy and Beckett.