

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS JUDGES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES**

**Virtual  
April 16, 2025**

***The mission of NAWGJ is to provide professional development for its members and to support and promote women's gymnastics in the United States.***

**Call to Order**

President Teresa Barnard called the quarterly meeting to order at 6:05 PM, PDT. After welcoming everyone, specifically the two newly elected RJDs, she requested a roll call for the record:

President: Teresa Barnard

Vice President: Ann Heppner

Director of Finance: Robin Ruegg

Secretary: Denise Green

Region 1: April Brandon

Region 2: Priscilla Hickey

Region 3: Marilyn Blilie

Region 4: Robin Smith

Region 5: Debbie Campbell

Region 6: Jim Burton

Region 7: Bonnie Synol

Region 8: Diane Thompson

National Collegiate Assigner: Jenna Karadbil, excused

National Education Director: Tammy Parsons

National History Director: Gina Fuller

National Judges Cup Director: Evelyn Paradis

National Library/Technology Services Director: Maureen Blair

National Website Director: Brenda Eberhardt

Newly elected Region 3 RJD: Suzy Azzaro (begins term May 15th)

Newly elected Region 7 RJD: Leslie McPeek (begins term May 15th)

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Priscilla Hickey

I move to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

Second: Bonnie Synol

Passed: Unanimously

**For the Record - Elections**

**Region 1**

RJD - April Brandon wins by acclamation. Term May 15, 2025 to May 14, 2029.

April was re-elected after completing the last year of Teresa Barnard's RJD term.

## **Region 2**

SJD - Alaska special election, Deatrich Sheffield moving (completed one year of a 4-year term).  
Kai Brinkley Sims and Kalei Rupp ran unopposed as Co-SJDs: Term May 15, 2025 to May 14, 2028.  
(partial term)

## **Region 3**

RJD - Suzann Azzaro elected - Term May 15, 2025 to May 14, 2029. (1st term)  
SJD - Molly Oehlert elected SJD Kansas - Term May 15, 2025 to May 14, 2027. (partial term)

## **Region 5**

RJD - Debbie Campbell wins by acclamation. Term May 15, 2025 to May 14, 2029. (2nd term)

## **Region 7**

RJD - Leslie McPeek elected in runoff vote. Term May 15, 2025 to May 14, 2029. (1st term)

- Clarification for applicants eligible for SJD: Shall have been a voting member of their respective NAWGJ State Committee for at least one year (12 months).

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Education Committee**

Bonnie reported that the advisory committee is working on three projects, which will be posted on the NAWGJ National website.

### **Election Committee**

Discussed agenda for May 15th, (6 Pacific/7 Central/8 Eastern) p.m. virtual meeting with RJDs/SJDs in Odd Regions - Even Regions are welcome to attend.

- A Google Form will be sent to RJDs for input.
- A reminder will be sent to the Odd & Even Region RJDs to forward to their respective SJDs.

Past election information will be removed from the website.

### **Finance Committee**

The NAWGJ National office will consolidate the Regional Judging Director's accounts for Regions 3 and 7 in May, issuing credit cards with limits. Adding Regions 1 and 5 will occur at a later date. Even Regions will be brought in next year, with SJD accounts to follow gradually, after a successful pilot with the RJD accounts..

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Bylaw Committee**

**MOTION:** After a 30-day review, the Bylaws Committee moves the four listed amendments to the NAWGJ Bylaws. (vote date: May 16, 2025)

#### **1. Article V - General Organization, Section 1 - Officers, H.**

With the approval and sanction of the Executive Committee and following input from the governing Regional Judging Director, members may choose to run as co-State Judging Directors.

- Co-SJDs must submit a form delineating duties for each Co-SJD to the Executive Committee prior to the start of the election.
- *Co-SJDs have one voice and one vote.*

## **2. Article VI - Elections, Section 1 - Duties and Procedures, A.**

A simple majority of votes cast shall be necessary for elections. ~~State Committee~~ *In the event of a tie, elections will be broken by a run-off election to be completed as soon as possible after the initial elections.*

## **3. Article XII, Section II - Board of Directors Members, Regional Judging Director, Specific Duties, 3.**

~~The RJD may recommend qualified judges from their respective Regions for selected national and Regional competitions. select judges~~

*All women's national gymnastics administrative organizations (USAG, NGA, YMCA, etc.) have a process for selecting judges for post-season meets. The NAWGJ Regional Judging Director may make or be requested to recommend qualified judges.*

## **4. Article XII, Section III - Other Officers, A. State Judging Director, Specific Duties, 5.**

~~5. Recommend qualified judges from the State Judging Director's respective State for State and Regional competitions with the assistance of the State Committee members.~~

*All women's national gymnastics administrative organizations (USAG, NGA, YMCA, etc.) have a process for selecting judges for post-season meets. The NAWGJ State Judging Director may make or be requested to recommend qualified judges.*

### **Outreach Committee**

At the request of the NAIGC Board, the Outreach Committee proposes producing 250+ postcards to give to the NAIGC Board to provide to their graduating seniors in the spring of 2025. The postcards would promote "Becoming a Gymnastics Judge" and include a QR code with information linked to our website—the estimated cost is less than \$400.

Postcards project approved by the Executive Committee, March 14, 2025

**MOTION:** The Outreach Committee requests funding (up to \$1,500) for the production and distribution of New Judge Outreach cards to gymnastics organizations' State, Regional, and National Congresses in 2025, and distribution to SJDs, RJDs, and NAWGJ Directors upon request.

No second needed (from Committee)

Passed: Unanimously

### **Future BOD Committees**

Teresa sent a Google form for Directors to be completed with their top four preferred 2025-26 committees. The list of committees and their subcommittees can be reviewed in the minutes from the January 24, 2025, meeting. Committees will be established by the April 30th board meeting.

### **NCAA update - Teresa**

In order to address judges' concerns, NAWGJ established a Task Force to focus on the enhancement of collegiate judging, from the perspective of judges. The purpose of this Task Force, therefore, was to (1) identify factors that affect a judge's decision to quit judging collegiate gymnastics and (2) propose activities to address areas of concern.

Factors that emerged as areas of concern for judges will be shared with the WCGA in May and then reported to the NAWGJ membership.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- **April 30th virtual BOD Meeting (5P/6M/7C/8E) p.m.**
  - April 19, 2025 - Regional and Committee reports and summaries due in Google All-Access Report folder.
  - RJDs and At-Large Directors present a 2-minute summary report.
- **May 15th virtual Election Meeting (5P/6M/7C/8E) p.m.**
  - All RJDs/SJDs in Odd Regions
- **June 26th - 29th, in-person BOD summer meeting**
  - Briefly reviewed summer meeting schedule.
- **June 28th virtual SJD Summer Meeting and Workshop agenda**
  - **Morning Session (5-7 HI/7-9 AK/8-10 P/9-11 M/10-12 C/11-1 E)**
    - Gymnastics organization representatives' information
    - Executive Director reports
  - **Between Sessions**, time tbd by RJD
    - Regional meetings with an SJD eat-and-greet.
  - **2nd Session (10-1:30 HI/12-3:30 AK/1-4:30 P/2-5:30 M/3-6:30 C/4-7:30 E)**
    - Breakouts with Focus Forward Agendas - Four, 30-minute sessions
      - Organizing SJD position using technology, calendar, etc.
      - Financial - education reimbursements, fundraising
      - Preparing for the future
      - Assigning in small states/large states

## **GOOD of the ORDER**

### **Google suite**

A reminder was given to the BOD to:

- Clean up and organize the Regional and Committee Shared Drive folders by year and/or category by June 25th.
- RJD/Committee Shared drives: ensure current officers have access and inform Teresa of those who are beyond the 3-month transition to out-of-office guideline.

### **Group NAWGJ membership**

RJDs- Remind SJDs - Group renewals due to Denise by May 1st. (upcoming year only)

**Board of Directors Reservations:** Directors, please make reservations at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore Inner Harbor for our June 26th- 29th BOD meeting using the link sent on January 7th.

### **Summer SJD Workshop**

RJDs send reminder to SJDs about dates and times for National meeting, workshop, and Regional meeting.

**Website:** New RJDs and SJDs, please send Brenda a headshot of yourself in your NAWGJ uniform for the website.

**Motion to adjourn:** Bonnie Synol  
Second: Marilyn Blylie  
Meeting Adjourned: 7:03 pm PDT

## **2024/2025 NAWGJ COMMITTEES**

**Awards:** Diane Thompson\*, Evelyn Paradis, Jim Burton

**Bylaws:** Ann Heppner\*, Denise Green, Bonnie Synol

**College Judging:** Marilyn Blilie\*, Jenna Karadbil, Teresa Barnard, Debbie Campbell, Robin Ruegg, Cookie Batsche

**Education:** Bonnie Synol \*, Teresa Barnard, Maureen Blair, Tammy Parsons, Robin Ruegg

**Elections:** Ann Heppner\*, Brenda Eberhardt, Denise Green

**Executive:** Teresa Barnard, Ann Heppner, Robin Ruegg, Denise Green

**Finance:** Robin Ruegg\*, April Brandon, Debbie Campbell, Robin Smith, Teresa Barnard

**Helping Hands:** Robin Smith\*, Jim Burton, Priscilla Hickey

**History Advisory:** Diane Thompson\*, Gina Fuller, Priscilla Hickey

**Outreach, Recruitment & Mentoring:** Priscilla Hickey\*, April Brandon, Jenna Karadbil, Cookie Batsche

**Professional Responsibility:** Denise Green\*, Ann Heppner, Diane Thompson, Robin Ruegg

**Site:** Teresa Barnard\*, Marilyn Blilie, Evelyn Paradis, Bonnie Synol

**Web Content:** Jim Burton\*, Marilyn Blilie, Brenda Eberhart, Gina Fuller, Maureen Blair, Tammy Parsons

**Ad Hoc Assigning:** Debbie Campbell\*, April Brandon, Robin Smith