



Board of Directors

Executive Officers:

President - Teresa Barnard
Vice Pres. - Ann Heppner
Secretary - Denise Green
Finance - Robin Ruegg

At-Large Directors:

National Collegiate Assignor
Jenna Karadbil
National Education Director
Tammy Parsons
National History Director
Gina Fuller
National Judges Cup Director
Evelyn Paradis
National Technology
Support & Services Director
Maureen Blair
National Website Director
Brenda Eberhardt

Regional Judging Directors:

- RJD 1 - April Brandon
- RJD 2 - Priscilla Hickey
- RJD 3 - Suzy Azzaro
- RJD 4 - Robin Smith
- RJD 5 - Debbie Campbell
- RJD 6 - Jim Burton
- RJD 7 - Leslie McPeek
- RJD 8 - Diane Thompson

August 9, 2025

General Membership Meeting,
Honoring Outgoing
Board of Director Members

USAG National Congress
1:30 – 2:30 PM
Room 345
@ New Orleans, LA

January 2026

National Judges Cup
Board of Directors Meeting
@ Anaheim Marriott
Anaheim, CA

July 2026

Board of Directors Meeting
(Virtual) SJD Meetings
@ The Loews
Kansas City, MO

July 15 – 18, 2027

NAWGJ Symposium
@ The Loews
Kansas City, MO

National Newsletter July 2025

National Newsletter published
quarterly and linked
to the NAWGJ Website.

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Teresa Barnard
NAWGJ PRESIDENT
(Term: 2024–2028)

Welcome to the July 2025 Newsletter!
A Time for Gratitude and Appreciation

Summer is often the time we slow down from our usual busy judging schedule. It is a time to catch up with friends and visit with our gymnastics colleagues while attending Congresses, training camps and other educational opportunities.

As I reflect on the Board of Directors meeting that just took place in Baltimore and plan for training camps to begin in a few weeks, I am reminded of the friends I have made through my years in this sport. I am forever grateful for all the people I have had the pleasure to meet. In the blink of an eye, children have grown, friends have become like family and major life moments have been shared and celebrated.

I realize my judging friends have been a part of so many moments in my life. They have responded in times of need, answered the phone when I just needed to talk or just listened on the long car ride home.

Mere words cannot convey the gratitude I have for this extraordinary community. I am blessed beyond measure to be surrounded by such an incredible, hardworking and dedicated group of people.

Best Regards,

Teresa Barnard, **NAWGJ President**



Gina Fuller
NATIONAL HISTORY DIRECTOR
(Term: 2021–2024 & 2024–2028)





With Gratitude

For our NAWGJ Presidents

Thank you for your time and dedication to NAWGJ as you provided professional development for our judges. You each have made a difference in how the world sees gymnastics. Your contributions and creativity have moved our organization forward. We are grateful for you!



Kitty Kjeldsen
1974-1980



Joanne Aschenbrenner
1980-1984



Dale Brown
1984-1990



Yvonne Hodge
1990-2000



Carol Ide
2000-2010



Evelyn Chandler
2010-2020



Cookie Batsche
2020-2024



Teresa Barnard
2024-present

2025 – NAWGJ

2025-2026 COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Teresa Barnard, Ann Heppner, Robin Ruegg, Denise Green

- Oversight
- Strategic Plans
- Uniform

BYLAWS COMMITTEE:

Ann Heppner*, Denise Green, Diane Thompson, Brenda Eberhardt

- Election
- Membership

COLLEGE JUDGING COMMITTEE:

Debbie Campbell*, Jenna Karadbil, Robin Ruegg, Teresa Barnard

- Collegiate JAS Assignors

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

Priscilla Hickey*, Gina Fuller, Brenda Eberhardt, Jim Burton, Maureen Blair

- History
- Newsletter
- Social Media
- Technology
- Web Content

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Ann Heppner*, Tammy Parsons, Maureen Blair, Evelyn Paradis, Leslie McPeek, Suzy Azzaro, April Brandon

- Education Projects

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Teresa Barnard*, Evelyn Paradis, Leslie McPeek, Gina Fuller, Tammy Parsons, Jim Burton, Robin Smith

- Awards
- National Judges Cup
- Site
- Symposium

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Robin Ruegg*, Leslie McPeek, April Brandon, Debbie Campbell

- Budget
- Bank Accounts

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Denise Green*, Diane Thompson, Priscilla Hickey, Robin Smith

- Assigning
- Helping Hands
- Outreach, Recruitment & Mentoring
- Professional Responsibility

Outreach – 2025 New Judge Recruitment Project



JUDGE



NEW JUDGE
CHECKLIST



JUDGING
ACCREDITATION

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Women's Gymnastics Judges

SCAN THE QR CODES TO LEARN MORE
OR GO TO NAWGJ.ORG

REASONS TO BECOME A MEMBER:

- 1) STAY CONNECTED to *Gymnastics*
- 2) EARN \$\$\$
- 3) SHARPEN Your SKILLS
- 4) SEE a Different Side of the Sport
- 5) SHAPE the FUTURE



SCAN TO GET STARTED



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Women's Gymnastics Judges

BECOME A
JUDGE & JOIN
NAWGJ TODAY!

Microsoft Word - NAWGJ Helping Hands Committee Project Flyer.docx



NAWGJ Helping Hands Committee Needs YOUR Help!

Problems are:

- Recent SJD Surveys indicate that many states do NOT have enough judges.
- Supporting and retaining new judges is also a big concern.
- Many new judges do NOT earn enough to cover the expenses of becoming a judge.
- We need to do all we can to support our judges!

YOU can help:

- Share YOUR great ideas to help educate, support, &/or retain new judges by developing a model project that could be shared with other SJDs and would provide one or more of the following:
 - Educational Opportunities
 - Professional Development
 - Provide Opportunities to judge
 - Help with expenses
- **Send your Model Project to the Helping Hands Committee by September 15, 2025.**

Rewards for the Winning Author(s):

- Knowing you did something special to grow and support our judging ranks.
- Opportunity to present the project at the 2026 National Judges Cup.
 - Travel Expenses paid (Flight or Mileage) & Hotel Room for 1 night.
 - Location: Anaheim, CA – January 2-4, 2026

Deadlines:

- **Projects are Due September 15, 2025**
- **Winner(s) Announced October 10, 2025**

Send to:

Rubin Smith
region@nawpj@gmail.com





Robin Ruegg
NAWGJ DIRECTOR of FINANCE
(Term: 2021–2025 & 2025–2029)

Thank you to our **Finance Committee** members: April Brandon, Debbie Campbell, Leslie McPeek, Robin Ruegg and ex-officio Teresa Barnard.

We oversee approximately 60 bank accounts and 60 finance reports along with assuring that NAWGJ is fiscally responsible and following appropriate financial guidelines.

We meet monthly and always have more work to do than there is time to do it.



Ann Heppner
NAWGJ VICE PRESIDENT
(Term: 2018–2020 & 2022–2026)

Thankful for members who volunteer their time and efforts to be part of **NAWGJ Leadership**, including Executive Officers, At-Large Directors, Regional Judging Directors, State Judging Directors and State Committee members. We absolutely need each other!

Thankful for “**Election Buddy**” for providing a platform and service to support our election process.



Denise Green
NAWGJ SECRETARY
(Term: 2021–2023 & 2023–2027)

Thank you, **Teresa Barnard** for your ability to lead us in a great direction, I appreciate your energy and positive spirit!

Thank you, **Ann Heppner** for your wise words and calm nature.

Thank you, **Robin Ruegg** for your financial leadership and encouragement.

We are a great Team!

Executive Committee

Ann Heppner, VP; Denise Green, Sec, Robin Ruegg, Finance, Teresa Barnard, President



MEMBERSHIP

<https://naow3gj.wildapricot.org/>

Please annually check your NAWGJ Membership **PROFILE** to ensure accuracy of your contact information, name changes and judges rating.



Tammy Parsons
NATIONAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR
(Term: 2024–2028)

<https://nawgj.org/education/>



Jenna Karadbil
NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ASSIGNOR
(Term: 2024–2028)

<https://nawgj.org/ncaa-information/>

Introducing 3 new Regional Collegiate Assignors and home state:

- **Michelle Ripple** - WA
- **Amanda Turko** - CA
- **Mark Welch** - PA



Maureen Blair
NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT & SERVICES DIRECTOR
(Term: 2024–2028)

<https://nawgj.org/education/video-links/>



Evelyn Paradis
NATIONAL JUDGES CUP DIRECTOR
(Term: 2020–2024 & 2024–2028)

<https://nawgj.org/natl-judges-cup/>



Brenda Eberhardt
NATIONAL WEBSITE DIRECTOR
(Term: 2018, 2020–2024 & 2024–2028)

<https://nawgj.org/>



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF Women's Gymnastics Judges

ABOUT US BECOME A JUDGE MEMBERS EDUCATION JUDGING AIDS EVENTS NCAA ORGANIZATIONS STORE 🔍

👤 Name ✉ Email **SEND**

<p>About Us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official Documents National Board of Directors Directory: Regional & State RJD/SJD Information Honored Members NAWGJ History 	<p>Become A Judge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to Join USAG Judging Accreditation Testing Overview Study Materials Organizations to Join 	<p>Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Join or Renew Professionalism Uniform 	<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technique NAWGJ Clinics Rapid Review Videos Practice Judging Google Classrooms More Education 	<p>Store</p>
<p>Judging Aids</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrative Forms Health and Wellness Shorthand Helps Test Prep Tools to Use 	<p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Judges Cup National Symposium 	<p>NCAA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules & Clarifications Collegiate Review Videos Judging Resources 	<p>Organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USAG AAU Information NAIGC Information NFHS Information NGA Information USAIGC Information YMCA Information 	

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF Women's Gymnastics Judges ✉ national.nawgj@gmail.com

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UNIFORM Update

Land's End Business – Exciting News!

Four New Choices

- Softshell Vest
- Custom Logo Insulated Vest
- Thermocheck Vest
- Thermocheck 100 Custom Embroidered Fleece Quarter Zip Pullover Top

25% off *Exclusions Apply

Promotion Code: **W25**

25% savings reflected at checkout
when promo code is entered.

Offer valid through 11:59 p.m.
Central, August 1, 2025.

**Men's and Women's
Official Uniform Page – QR codes**





USAG: Technical Updates
Summer 2025

[Committee Minutes • USA Gymnastics](#)

USAG: NAWGJ
Re-Certification 2026

[2026-30 USA Brevet & National Judges Course • USA Gymnastics](#)

[Complete Course Catalog • USA Gymnastics](#)

RJD 1 - April Brandon
 (Term: 2022, 2023–2027)

Directory: Region 1 – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges

- Arizona [AZ National Association of Women's Gymnastic Judges](#)
- NorCal [NAWGJ NorCal](#)
- SoCal [NAWGJ Southern California |](#)
- Nevada
- Utah

Shoutout to my **6 Amazing SJDs** as we take on a true Regional Base Score Symposium for the first time. It takes a village and I am grateful to have you all to support me and each other. One team one dream!



RJD 2 - Priscilla Hickey
 (Term: 2021, 2022–2026)

Directory: Region 2 – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges

- Alaska
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Montana [MTNAWGJ](#)
- Oregon [OREGON NAWGJ](#)
- Washington [NAWGJ WA](#)

A special 2025 note of appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for our **Region 2 Assigning Teams**, who have spent countless hours gathering information, assigning judges and sending out notifications to their membership.

We applaud your willingness to serve as an **NAWGJ Assignor**.

- Alaska – Deatrich Sheffield
- Hawaii – Alyssa Sato and Lisa Standtman
- Idaho – Carla Anderson
- Montana – Sharon Mozer

- Oregon – Theo Simmons and Katrina Rautke Cosgrove
- Washington – Michelle Ripple and Laurel Tindall



RJD 3 - Suzy Azzaro
(Term: 2025–2029)

Directory: Region 3 – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges

- Arkansas
- Colorado [HOME | CONAWGJ](#)
- Kansas
- New Mexico
- Oklahoma
- Texas [TX NAWGJ](#)
- Wyoming

A heartfelt thank you to **Marilyn Blilie** for her ingenuity and leadership over the past 8 years! We would also like to recognize all the outgoing and incoming **Region 3 State Committees** for their time and commitment to excellence over the past 2 years. Thanks for all your hard work!!



RJD 4 - Robin Smith

(Term: 2018–2022 & 2022–2026)

Directory: Region 4 – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges

- Iowa [IA NAWGJ](#) | [IA Nawgj](#)
- Minnesota [MN-NAWGJ](#) | [Judging In The Snow!](#)
- Missouri [MONAWGJ.com](#)
- Nebraska
- North Dakota
- South Dakota

Region 4 NAWGJ: A Heartfelt Tribute

As we reflect on a wonderful year for Region 4 NAWGJ, we are filled with gratitude. This message is a celebration of our community—the volunteers, educators, and mentors who continue to inspire us all.

Thank You to Our Judging Assignors

A special appreciation goes to our diligent Judging Assignors, whose behind-the-scenes commitment has been indispensable:

Their dedication in structuring assignments and ensuring timely contracts enables us to uphold consistent, high-quality meets. We simply could not succeed without you!

Honoring the Legacy of Barbara Tebben

We salute Barbara Tebben, whose distinguished leadership has shaped Region 4 for decades. As she retires this year, we hope she enjoys weekends unburdened by work and rich in time with loved ones. Barb's wisdom, integrity, and advocacy have left an enduring legacy within our community.

Applause for Our Clinic Organizers

Our educational offerings flourish thanks to these passionate leaders:

- Bri Spencer, Carol Balerud, Tom Koll, Pam Tweeten (Nebraska)
- Rochelle Holley (Missouri)
- Karin Ederer, for spearheading the Fall Region 4 Virtual Symposium
- Robin Ruegg, whose skillful training empowered judges to excel in a virtual environment. Your commitment to professional development uplifts every judge who participates.

Gratitude to Our State Judging Directors (SJDs)

A heartfelt thank you to our SJDs, whose leadership and teamwork keep Region 4 running smoothly! Kerri Clifton, IA, Kylie Fortunato, MN, Felicia Ostrom & Annie Alameda, MO, Angie Jensen, NE, Sarah Weninger, ND, Shania Drey, ND and Mary Pica Anderson, WI.

Bravo!

A Personal Thanks To my heroes Mary ice Anderson, Kathy Deustch, and Kay

Ferguson who got me to the meet on time!

In Summary

Region 4 NAWGJ continues to thrive because of the collective energy, passion, and expertise of individuals across our states. Whether orchestrating clinics, assigning judges, or providing steadfast mentorship, each of you makes a difference.

To our incredible volunteers and cherished retirees—thank you for another outstanding year. We look forward to continuing this journey of excellence and camaraderie together!



RJD 5 - Debbie Campbell
(Term: 2021–2025 & 2025–2029)

[Directory: Region 5 – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges](#)

- [Illinois IL NAWGJ - Home](#)
- [Indiana](#)
- [Kentucky](#)
- [Michigan](#)
- [Ohio](#)

Thank you, **Region 5 Judges!** With your commitment to excellence and education, we make our Region 5 Gymnastics community better. I am so thankful for how well our members cooperate and work together to make sure we are educated and prepared for our gymnasts.

I look back at all of my seasons of judging and appreciate all of the friends and colleagues that I have, especially in “Phone-a-Friend” moments (which we know there are plenty of those)!

Our region is so dedicated and willing to share knowledge and educate our members, and I admire how we create a welcoming environment to help our judges, gymnasts, and coaches move forward and get better. We have an outstanding community that supports our athletes to make them stronger.

I loved getting to see so many of us at Region 5 Congress working on staying updated and working on their judging skills!



RJD 6 - Jim Burton
(Term: 2022–2026)

Directory: Region 6 – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges

- Connecticut
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- New York North <https://www.nawgjny.com>
- New York South
- Rhode Island
- Vermont

<https://www.nawgjny.com>

My appreciation goes out to several people. At 17 years of age, I was working for Olympian **Kathy Gleason** [Mexico City 1968]. She spoke to me at practice one day and said, "You need to become a judge. There are no men judging women's gymnastics." I took the test and received my first rating at age 17 in 1974. Kathy was a huge supporter. She often said, "I will will push you to become the first Nationally rated male judge for women's gymnastics in America". That was achieved in 1977. Her next push was try to make me an Elite Judge, and eventually the first International male Brevet for women's gymnastics ever in 1997. Bless her for her support!

However, the person responsible for my training as an official was her sister **Cindy Sielski** [God rest her sole]. Cindy was the New York State Judging Director back in the 70's and was solely responsible for training every new NAWGJ judge in Upstate New York. A talented judge and attorney, her skills resulted in the development of over 40 new judges. I loved being by her side for decades of presenting NAWGJ-NYN Clinics and mentoring the newbies, encouraging them to future rating advancement and success.

These two wonderful women set my career in motion, and eventually led me to run and serve as the Co-SJD for NYN, and currently the Region 6 RJD. It was always a challenge at the beginning as there were no men judging on the state, regional, or national stages. They were a constant voice of encouragement for me to set the bar for future male judges.

But, I would be remiss if I did not also mention the support and friendship of **Madame Jackie Fie**. Jackie was my ultimate cheerleader and supporter when I obtained a Brevet rating. She even fought for me in Switzerland during a contentious FIG Meeting when the President of FIG wanted to remove my name from the women's Brevet book. What a wonderful friend and mentor!

I was indeed fortunate to have several brilliant and talented women train and nurture me from the beginning. I have been judging now for 51 years. What a joy and gift. I have tried to adopt the same level of support and principles they provided me when I am training future generations of officials.

Heartfelt thanks to these three magnificent women for believing in me and helping to shape my judging career. I love and thank you all.



RJD 7 - Leslie McPeek
(Term: 2025–2029)

Directory: Region 7 – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges

- Delaware
- Maryland [MDNAWGJ-Home](#) | [MDNAWGJ](#)
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania [PA NAWGJ](#)
- Virginia & W.V. [VANAWGJ](#)

I am grateful for the lifelong judging friendships and memories I have from my time as NJ SJD and as part of the NAWGJ Reg 7 committee. Especially to my mentor **Bonnie Synol**, first as my SJD then RJD and to my fellow Reg 7 SJDs over 20 years who offered input, advice and guidance and made the work feel like a privilege.

- Kelly Gaston – NJ
- Barb Cutillo, Terry McGurk, Marcy Blitz – PA
- Linda Ostrove – MD
- Diane Berry – VA & WV



RJD 8 - Diane Thompson
(Term: 2020–2021 & 2022–2026)

Directory: Region 8 – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges

- Alabama [Home | ALNAWGJ](#)
- Florida [NAWGJ Florida - Gymnastics Judges, Gymnastics](#)
- Georgia [GEORGIA – NAWGJ – Georgia National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges](#)
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- N. Carolina [NC-NAWGJ.ORG](#)
- S. Carolina
- Tennessee [TN NAWGJ | Tennessee Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges](#)

This past year has been one of transition for SJDs in Region 8 with the introduction of five new SJDs. We were so grateful for the ongoing support and guidance from our SJDs who were transitioning out of their offices.

Heartfelt thanks to **Gayli Craver, Joy Schmidt, Terri Robertson, Kim Joye** and **Susan Monahan**. All of your efforts to support us through this transition have been very much appreciated!



Do you recognize
any of these judges clowning around?

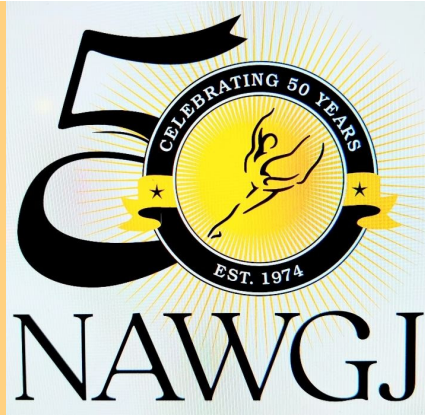


**NAWGJ Board of Directors
in Baltimore - June 2025**



TRIVIA:
Name this Judge
and her BOD position!





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