



## 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  
Director of Technology  
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

## 2026 - 2027 CALENDAR

~~~~~  
**Board of Directors**  
July 21 – 23, 2026  
Kansas City, MO

~~~~~  
**SJD**  
**Virtual Workshop**

August 16, 2026

~~~~~

**State & Regional  
Committee Meeting**

Sept 12 or 13, 2026  
Virtual Meetings with  
Executive Committee

~~~~~

**National Judges Cup**

January 8 – 10, 2027  
Niagara Falls, NY

~~~~~

**NAWGJ Symposium**

July 15 – 18, 2027  
Kansas City, MO

# National Newsletter

## January - 2026

National Newsletter published  
quarterly and linked  
to the NAWGJ Website.

This message was sent to you by NAWGJ  
If you no longer wish to receive these emails,  
you can [unsubscribe](#).

Teresa Barnard  
**NAWGJ PRESIDENT**  
(Term: 2024–2028)

### Happy New Year!

As we flip the calendar and ring in the new year, we are also stepping into a brand-new season filled with fresh opportunities and renewed focus.

The start of the season marks an exciting reset—new goals, sharpened skills, and a shared commitment to excellence as we prepare for another year of competitions.

These steps ensure we're aligned, consistent, and ready to uphold the highest standards of judging as the 2026 gymnastics season gets underway.

It's a time to reflect on the past season while gearing up for what's ahead, bringing energy and enthusiasm into every meet we judge.

Best Regards,

Teresa Barnard, **NAWGJ President**





[About Us – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges](#)

# 2026 – NAWGJ 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, Diane Thompson

- 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

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

\* denotes Chair of the Committee



National Board of Directors - January 2026 in Anaheim, CA

### Professional Responsibilities Committee:

\*Assigning: Best Practices 2025 is posted on the NAWGJ website.  
[SJD Resources – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges](#)

\*Ethics: The Committee has reviewed and processed four ethics complaints: three referred to the SJD with suggestions for addressing the issues, and one referred to the Review Panel. Send ethic complaints to [ethics@nawgjngb.com](mailto:ethics@nawgjngb.com)

## Outreach – 2026 New Judge Recruitment Project

\*Outreach: Will work with USAG to determine numbers of graduating seniors, and with SJDs, Meet Referees and Meet Directors to distribute "New Judge" cards at State Meets. This has been a very successful program.





\*Helping Hands: Three projects were selected for the 2025 Helping Hands Award. The applicants received travel expenses and one night's accommodation at the NJC 2026.

- **Mary Lou Dillard** - "Recruiting, Mentoring and Training New Judges"
- **Karin Ederer** - "New Judge Adventurous Orientation" (unable to attend)
- **Megan Hergenroether** - "Judge Jumpstart: A Mentorship & Mock Meet Program"

**Megan Hergenrother (CA)**  
**Mary Lou Dillard (AL)**  
with Helping Hands Committee Members  
**Priscilla Hickey (RJD-2)**  
**Robin Smith (RJD-4)**



[SJD Resources – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges](#)

**Recruit, Retain, & Support New Judges Projects**

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

**Vice President Election** - Congratulations to **Bonnie Synol**, newly elected NAWGJ-VP who will assume office on April 1, 2026.

Newly elected Executive Committee Members will begin as **interim, non-voting members** on December 16th at the discretion of the Executive Committee. (Approved Amendment to the Bylaws)

Thank you to **Ann Heppner** for her many years of service to NAWGJ.

Photo: **Ann Heppner** (VP) and **Bonnie Synol** (VP-elect)



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

### Happy New Year!

It is exciting to see NAWGJ grow to over 2,400 members, with more joining us every week. As we move into the new year, let's continue to go above and beyond to mentor our new judges in mastering the rules.

As a reminder, annual dues are now **\$75.00**; these funds directly support our mission to promote women's gymnastics at the state, regional, and national levels.

Have a great season judging!

**Denise Green, Secretary**



#### **MEMBERSHIP**

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

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

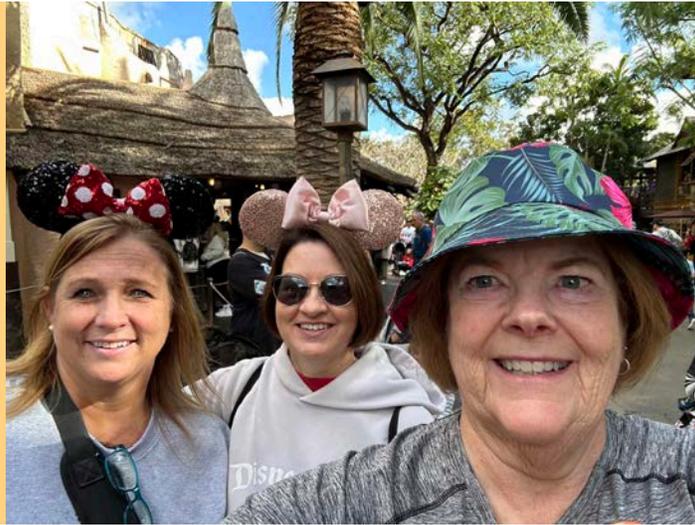
Please email [secretary@nawgjngb.com](mailto:secretary@nawgjngb.com) if you are stepping away from judging and will not be renewing your membership.

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

Good news!! Starting in 2026 we will collect W-9 information via an electronic system, **Avalara**.

SJDs and state NAWGJ finance members look for a Zoom meeting in January to demonstrate this new system. The system has been tested and the feedback is positive. No more collecting private information via paper copies.

Photo: some of the Finance Committee at Disneyland, January 2026  
Debbie Campbell RJD-5, Teresa Barnard, Pres., Robin Ruegg, Finance



**Robin Ruegg, Director of Finance**



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

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

Updated Rapid Review videos for the 2025-26 competition season are available on the NAWGJ website.

[Rapid Review Videos – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges](#)

**Tammy Parsons**, Education Director



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

[NCAA Information – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges](#)

New information for the 2026 season.

[Collegiate Review Videos – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges](#)

New 2026 collegiate review videos are posted on the website.

[Judging Resources – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges](#)

Mentorships, Meet Referee information, Additional Resources

**Jenna Karadbil,**  
National Collegiate Assignor (NAWGJ)  
National Coordinator of Officials, Women's Gymnastics (NCAA)



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

[NAWGJ History – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges](#)

**Gina Fuller**, Historian



*Introducing...*

# **NAWGJ Hall of Fame Member** **Helen Sjursen**



**Did you know...**

- She won seven National Championships between 1939 and 1948, including the all-around title in 1947 and 1948. Also in 1948, she competed in the London England Olympics winning 2nd on Vault and Bronze for the Team award.
- Wrote 10 books on gymnastics, was a frequent contributor to *Gymnast Magazine* and issued correspondence course material for judging.
- She worked as a coach and teacher at camps, clinics and schools, mostly in the New Jersey area. She also coached the U.S. National Team in several international events.
- Judged many National competitions.



*Take a peek at Helen's page on our NAWGJ website along with*

*Take a peek at Helen's page on our NAWGJ website along with many other amazing contributors to gymnastics judging.*

<https://nawgj.org/about-nawgj/honored-members/hall-of-fame-awards/>

Maureen Blair  
**NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY**  
(Term: 2024–2028)

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

Thank you to the volunteers who video taped and categorized routines at the **National Judges Cup** to increase our inventory of practice judging routines. Your efforts are appreciated.

**Maureen Blair**, Director of Technology



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

The **2026 National Judges Cup**, co-hosted with **Fallbrook Gymnastics**, January 2-4 in Anaheim, California. It was an unforgettable weekend of competition, connection, and celebration. We were honored to welcome **120 judges** representing **31 states**, who came together not only to support outstanding gymnastics, but also to collaborate, learn from one another, and strengthen friendships within the judging community.

Nearly **1,000 athletes** competed across USAG, AAU, and USAIGC, including approximately 600 USAG, 300 AAU, and 100 USAIGC gymnasts. Athletes traveled from across the country including Alabama, Arkansas, California, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Washington, as well as internationally from Japan, creating an exciting and diverse competitive environment.

**Seventeen states** participated in the **Patty J. Shipman Level 7 State Team Challenge**, adding an exciting team element to the event. This year **TEXAS** earned first place, followed by **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA** in second and **WASHINGTON** rounding out third. All Star Teams represented two states.

Looking ahead, we are excited to share that the **2027 National Judges Cup** will be hosted in **Niagara Falls, New York**, on January 8-10, 2027. We look forward to bringing this special event to a new and iconic location and hope you will join us for another unforgettable weekend of gymnastics, connection, and community.

**Evelyn Paradis**, NJC Director





Myra & Brenda



Teresa, Jeanine, Evelyn



Volunteer Judges



NJC Gymnasts



Volunteer Judges



Volunteer Judges

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

<https://nawgj.org/>

Check the NAWGJ website often for news & updates.



Sign-up to receive our "Mailing List" for 1st of the month email blasts.

**NAWGJ.org** - [National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges – Promoting Judging Excellence](#) Scroll to the bottom of the opening page to enter your email.

**Join Our Mailing List**

Please make suggestions to help improve our website.  
Judging aids are welcome!

Have a Safe and Happy Winter!

**Brenda Eberhardt**, Webmaster



# NAWGJ Facebook Page

[nawgj - national association of women's gymnastics judges - Search Results | Facebook](#)

## Judges • USA Gymnastics

[rulespolicies.pdf](#)

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



## National Gymnastics Association

<https://nationalgym.org/>



**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

**2025 Region 1  
Green Flag winners**  
Congratulations:

- AZ - Lonnie Rule
  - NCA - Donagene Jones
  - SCA - Mary Preece
  - NV - Meagan Lewis
- 
- Region 1 - **Donagene Jones** (Nor-Cal)



Region 1 just had their Base Score Symposium in Las Vegas with much success. Judges enjoyed friends, fun and great education.

We were proud to celebrate everyone's years of service with a special award to **Kat Sgamba** for judging over 50 years.

We are excited to start the New Year and season with a bang!

**April Brandon, RJD-1**





**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](#)

**2025 Region 2  
Green Flag winners**

Congratulations:

AK - **Martha Dunn** (posthumously)

Martha's passion for the sport, combined with her commitment to nurturing future judges, left an enduring legacy that continues to shape our gymnastics community. Martha passed away in 2025 in Pennsylvania (Region 7).



**OR - Katrina Cosgrove**

Katrina has done an outstanding job assigning judges. Her availability and helpfulness, especially during difficult when last minute changes are needed, is greatly appreciated.



**WA - Michelle Ripple**

Michelle has been an assigner for various levels (high school, NCAA and

NAWGJ-WA). She has served as a judging mentor for new judges. Michelle has created and presented judging sessions at NAWGJ events and is a willing and consistent volunteer at events.



---

### ID - Carla Anderson

Carla is always the first to raise her hand to volunteer at events (clinics, ingym critiques, USAG events). Even though Carla has an incredibly busy life, she volunteered to serve as the assigner and did an amazing job, handling conflict with professionalism and grace.

Region 2 - **Carla Anderson** (Idaho)  
**Regional Green Flag winner**



---

**NAWGJ-Region 2** supported our Region 2 Fall USAG Training Camps (DEV and Xcel) with volunteers who received honoriums as a thank you for their contributions.

Looking forward to our 2026 Level 8 State Team Challenge at Region 2 DEV Regionals in Pasco, WA.

Upcoming elections in February for a new RJD-2. Newly elected Regional Judging Director will assume office on May 15.

**Priscilla Hickey, RJD-2**





**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

**2025 Region 3  
Green Flag winners**  
Congratulations:

- KS - Angela Wagle
- OK - Brittani Leissner
- TX - Tracy Brewer
- WY - Erin McPherson
  
- Region 3 - **Tracy Brewer** (Texas)



**Region 3 - Level 7 Teams**

TEXAS, OKLAHOMA, KANSAS, ARKANSAS





**Suzy Azzaro, RJD-3**



**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
- Wisconsin [NAWGJ-WI - Home](#)

**2025 Region 4  
Green Flag winners**  
Congratulations:

- MO - Annie Alameda
- MN - Karin Ederer
- WI - Sarah Nelson
  
- Region 4 - **Karin Ederer** (Minnesota)



**Region 4 and Minnesota** said goodbye to our beloved **Barbara Tebben** as she retired from judging this year. Barb served as a state committee member

retired from judging this year. Barb served as a state committee member, long-term **SJD** and **RJD** and then as the **NAWGJ Secretary**. We all enjoyed her sense of humor and the crazy judging videos and books that she created.

Photo:

Back row: Jennifer Sampson, Suzanne Hecht, Karin Ederer, Robin Ruegg, Betsy Hoschette, Steph Gerster, Connie Dickson.

Front row: Donna Jahn, Amy Blee, **Barbara Tebben** (holding award), Nellie Kim



**Region 4** had a virtual Symposium in September. We highlighted our Region 4 judges and gave several of them an opportunity to present information to Region 4 judges as well as judges from other regions. We had a great turnout and the Symposium was very successful.

I have termed out of my position and am looking forward to new leadership in Region 4.

Robin Smith, RJD-4



**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

**2025 Region 5  
Green Flag winners**  
Congratulations:

- IL - Sue Brosnan-McNamara
  - IN - Byron Holden
  - MI - Linda Morton
  - OH - Kathleen Edwards
- 
- Region 5 - **Kathleen Edwards** (Ohio)

Note from Kathleen Edwards:

Thank you for this honor! I have been judging for 34 years. I have served in many roles during my career; Education Chair, Judges Cup Chair, Newsletter Editor, Website Chair and Assignor. I am currently in my second term as Co-SJD and was recently elected RTCC for Region 5. I truly enjoy all I do and hope to do it for many more years!



---

2026, bring it on!

We look forward to all the exciting gymnastics meets coming up this year in our region.

Please help all your assignors by keeping your availability up to date in gymjas.

**Debbie Campbell, RJD-5**



---

**RJD 6 - Jim Burton**  
(Term: 2022–2026)

[Directory: Region 6 – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges](#)

- Connecticut [Home | NAWGJ Connecticut](#)
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- New York North [NAWGJ-NYN](#)
- New York South
- Rhode Island
- Vermont

**2025 Region 6  
Green Flag winner**  
Congratulations:

- CT - Linda Briggs
  - MA - Jenn Perry
  - ME - Mary Madore
  - NYN - Lorraine (Sunnie) Delucas (posthumously)
  - NYS - Renee Breines
  - VT - Ken Newton
- 
- Region 6 - **Jenn Perry** (Massachusetts)



---

We had multiple Rising Stars Camps with over 600 gymnasts and over 60 judges participating with leadership credits given for National and Brevet judges.

Looking forward to a successful 2026 season and best wishes to all of our judges with their upcoming recertification exams.

**Jim Burton, RJD-6**



**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 & West Virginia [VANAWGJ](#)

**2025 Region 7  
Green Flag winners**  
Congratulations:

MD - Tony Eunsin

Serving his third term as Meet Director for the MD Judges Cup, Tony is a valued member of the Maryland NAWGJ Committee. Under his leadership, and because of the relationships he has cultivated within the Maryland coaching community, the event has experienced exponential growth.



NJ - Brant Lutka

Brant has continuously brought educational opportunities to the judges in NJ and Reg 7 with National level clinicians for compulsories and optional, local National Brevet/National recertification opportunity in 2022.

He has supported Reg 7 NAWGJ Symposium by working with Reg 7 RJD for many years to secure sites and organize clinicians.



PA/DE - Connie Schultz

As the CPE Coordinator Connie has been instrumental in helping our judges complete their CPE credits each year. She has really put her heart into the CPE role.

Connie is the first to be willing to help PA/DE NAWGJ in anyway she can, and if she tells you something will get done, it will!



---

VA-WV - **Sue Leonelli**

Region 7 - **Sue Leonelli** (Virginia)

She has been an amazing influence on Virginia Gymnastics. She has cheerfully and adeptly held many hats while serving on the VAWV/NAWGJ Board from drafting newsletters, coordinating Judges Training Camp, and recruiting/educating and mentoring new judges.

Sue is a mentor to all judges, and is willing and able to share her knowledge, support judges through the process of getting involved, hosting virtual and in-person trainings, and following up to ensure their needs are being met.

She is an invaluable asset on the VAWV NAWGJ board and will do whatever is asked of her. She is respected throughout the state, region and NAWGJ with her incredible knowledge and always a friendly smile and grace.



---

The season is in full swing, State Judges Cups are complete. Working on test preparations within the states.

**Leslie McPeck, RJD-7**





**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](#)

**2025 Region 8  
Green Flag winners**  
Congratulations:

- AL - Gayli Craver
  - FL - Toni Rand
  - GA - Marian Dykes
  - LA - Susie Moyal
  - MS - Laurie Moore
  - NC - Diane Thompson
  - SC - Pat Faulkner
  - TN - Natalia Grosso
- 
- Region 8 - **Diane Thompson** (North Carolina)

**Region 8** hosted three training camps in the fall: 6/7/8 in Atlanta, 9/10 in Orlando and National Training Camp at Auburn in conjunction with Region 8 NAWGJ Symposium.

Leadership opportunities were created for some new judges to do presentations which was well received.

All states have been focusing on fundraising efforts to support the recertification process for all of our National and Brevet judges in 2026.

**Diane Thompson, RJD-8**



