

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

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

Via Google Meet

March 25, 2026

Call to Order

President Teresa Barnard called the meeting to order on Wednesday, March 25, at 6:02 pm (Pacific). After welcoming everyone, 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: Suzy Azzaro

Region 4: Robin Smith

Region 5: Debbie Campbell

Region 6: Jim Burton

Region 7: Leslie McPeek

Region 8: Diane Thompson

National Collegiate Assigner: 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

Vice-President Elect: Bonnie Synol

Guests: Region 2 RJD elect: Patty Ames

Region 4 RJD elect: Sarah Nelson - not in attendance

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Priscilla

I move to approve the minutes from our January 3, 2026, Board of Directors meeting.

Second: Robin Smith

Passed: Unanimously

For the Record: Elections

RJDs elected by acclamation (1/16/26). Term: May 15, 2026, to May 14, 2030

Region 2: Patty Ames

Region 6: Jim Burton (2nd term)

Region 8: Diane Thompson (2nd Term)

RJD elected by vote (2/20/26)

Region 4: Sarah Nelson

OLD BUSINESS

President: Teresa Barnard

Expressed appreciation and gratitude to the outgoing officers for their dedicated service to NAWGJ.

Ann Heppner, Vice President (2018-2026)
Priscilla Hickey, Region 2 RJD (2021 - 2026)
Robin Smith - Region 4 RJD (2013 - 2026)

Welcomed newly elected RJDs:

Patty Ames, Region 2 RJD
Sarah Nelson, Region 4 RJD

Reviewed Robert's Rules of Order

REGIONAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Region 1: April Brandon, RJD (1st term 5/2025 to 5/2029)

SJDs: Term: 5/2023 - 5/2027

Term 1: N-CA - Julie Andrews, S-CA - Emily Wensel, UT - Pat Bryant

Term 2: N-CA - Donagene Jones, NV - Alex Hammond, AZ - Natalie Koga

- Meetings with SJDs: 1 time, numerous communications via email
- Number of NAWGJ members: 333
- Number of Judges on Regional Panels:
Level 8 - 10: 4
Level 6 - 7: 2
Xcel B - SA: 2
- Some State assigners had issues filling judging positions
- All states financially healthy

Region 2: Priscilla Hickey, RJD (term completes 5/14/26, Patty Ames 5/15/26-5/14/30)

SJDs: Term: 5/2024 - 5/2028

Term 1: AK - Kalei Rupp & Kai Sims (new May 15, 2025, completing D. Sheffield's term),
ID - Erin Jacobsen, WA - Michelle LaDow, Resigning April 2, 2026, Election in process.

Term 2: OR - Debbie Anderson

Termed out & Re-elected: HI - Pattie Walkabout, MT - Jeanine Henneford

- Meetings with SJDs: limited group and individual phone calls and emails
- Number of NAWGJ members: 172
- Number of Judges on Regional Panels:
Level 8 - 10: 4
Level 6 - 7: 2
Xcel Gold - SA: 2
Xcel S - B: No Regional Meet
- State assigners often needed to pull judges from other states to fill positions
- Some states need financial help

Region 3: Suzy Azzaro, RJD (1st term 5/2025 to 5/2029)

SJDs: Term: 5/2023 - 5/2027

Term 1: KS - Molly Oehlert, CO - Stacie Beckwith, WY - Brianne Rauzi, OK - Brittney Shaw

Term 2: NM - Kelly Shane, TX - Bonnie Crawford, AR - Karma White

- Meetings with SJDs: 2
- Number of NAWGJ members: 327
- Number of Judges on Regional Panels:
 - Level 9 - 10: 4
 - Level 6 - 8: 2
 - Xcel Gold - SA: 2
 - Xcel S - B: No Regional Meet
- State assigners had no issues filling judging positions
- All states financially healthy

Region 4: Robin Smith, RJD (term completed 5/14/26, Sarah Nelson 5/15/26 - 5/14/30)

SJDs: Term 5/2024 - 5/2028

Term 1: IA - Kerri Clifton, MN - Kylie Fortunato, MO - Annie Alameda & Felicia Ostrom, NE - Angie Jensen, SD - Shania Drey, WI - Mary Pica Anderson,

Term 2: ND - Sarah Weninger

- Meetings with SJDs: 0
- Number of NAWGJ members: 212
- Number of Judges on Regional Panels:
 - Level 6 - 10: 4
 - Xcel S - SA: 2
 - Xcel B: No Regional Meet
- State assigners often needed to pull judges from other states to fill positions
- Some states need financial help

Region 5: Debbie Campbell, RJD (2nd term 5/2025 - 5/2029)

SJDs: Term 5/2023 - 5/2027

Term 1: IL - Heather Forbes, IN - Pat Ertle, KY - Michael Crowe, MI - Sheryl DeWeerd & Paula Noe

Term 2: OH - Kathleen Edwards and Tina Snyder

- Meetings with SJDs: 6 with all, numerous 1-on-1
- Number of NAWGJ members: 356
- Number of Judges on Regional Panels:
 - Level 8 - 10: 4
 - Level: 6 - 7: 2
 - Xcel G - SA: 2
 - Xcel S - B: no Regional Meet
- State assigners often needed to pull judges from other states to fill positions
- All states financially healthy

Region 6: Jim Burton, RJD - 2nd Term: 5/2026 - 5/2030

SJDs: Term: 5/2023 - 5/2027

Term 1: CT - Deb Carrier & Linda Briggs, MA - Jenn Perry, ME - Valerie Jackson & Carlee Cummings, NYN - Karen Gurnett and Cheryl Tosh, NYS - Gail Caspare, RI - Katy Basu & Robin Grady, VT - Kori Crane & Michelle Rubman

Termed out & Re-elected: NH - Danielle Baxter

- Meetings with SJDs: Upcoming meeting at Region 6/7 Congress or via Zoom
- Number of NAWGJ members: 283
- Number of Judges on Regional Panels:
 - Level 6 - 10: 4
 - Xcel P - SA: 4
 - Xcel S - B: 2
- Some State assigners had issues filling judging positions
- All states financially healthy

Region 7: Leslie McPeek, RJD - 1st Term: 5/2025-2029

SJDs: Term 5/2024-5/2028

Term 1: NJ - Pam Gardin, MD - Jane Flynn, PA/DE - Linda Kothe & Laurie Lengel, VA/WV - Summer Oostra & Laurell Mauro

- Meetings with SJDs: Individually, as needed
- Number of NAWGJ members: 314
- Number of Judges on Regional Panels:
 - Level 7 - 10: 4
 - Level 6: No Regional held
 - Xcel Gold - SA: 2
 - Xcel S - B: No Regional Meet
- Some State assigners had issues filling judging positions
- All states financially healthy

Region 8: Diane Thompson, RJD - 2nd Term: 5/2026 - 5/2030

SJDs: Term 5/2024-5/2028

Term 1: AL - Stephanie Kuhlman, FL - Patricia Lydon, GA - Cathy Campfield, LA - Silke Tietje, NC - Cris Fuller, SC - Sue Dolinar, TN - Dawn Roy

Term 2: MS - Reg Shurden 2nd term

- Meetings with SJDs: Individually, as needed
- Number of NAWGJ members: 453
- Number of Judges on Regional Panels:
 - Level 6 - 10: 4
 - Xcel Gold - SA: 2
 - Xcel S - B: No Regional Meet
- State assigners had no issues filling judging positions
- All states financially healthy

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Teresa Barnard*, Ann Heppner, Robin Ruegg, Denise Green, Bonnie Synol (Guest)

- Meetings: The Executive Committee has met 3 times this quarter.
- Current Projects
 - Ongoing review of our new Disciplinary Procedures and Rules of Professional Conduct
 - Organization of the summer meeting
 - Organization of committee structure
 - Strategic Planning

Official Documents Committee & Bylaws Committee

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

Sub Committees: Elections, Membership

Bylaws Committee (Standing Committee)

Ann Heppner*, Denise Green, Diane Thompson

- Meetings: 1/3/26, numerous elections meetings
- Current Projects:
 - Membership: Encourage SJDs to use the Group renewal for 2027 NAWGJ memberships by 5/1/26
 - Bylaws document: Housekeeping change: Article V: General Organization, Section II-Requirements of Office, Letter H.
 - A member may not serve in any of the following positions simultaneously: State Judging Director, State Committee Assigner, Regional Judging Director, National Officer, At-Large Director, or Regional Collegiate Assigner.
 - A person may hold only one of the following roles: (a) NAWGJ President, (b) NAWGJ State Assigner, (c) Regional Collegiate Assigner, (d) National Collegiate Assigner, (e) ~~Supervisor of Officials or (f) a member of the S.C.O.R.E. Board Committee.~~
Proposed change in language: appointed or elected member of a collegiate judges' oversight committee.
 - Elections:
 - Upcoming Special Elections:
 - WA SJD, Michelle LaDow's resignation accepted
 - Timeline for Secretary election
 - Monitoring possible election in Mississippi
 - TBD: Vice President virtual meeting with SJDs - "State Committee Elections process."

College Judging Committee

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

- Meetings: 0
- Current Projects:
 - Timeline for next year

Communications

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

- List of Subcommittees
 - History, Technology, Newsletter, Web Content, Social Media
- Number of meetings: 2
- Current Projects:
 - History
 - Interviewed and compiled document on Lifetime member Joanne Aschenbrenner (on website)
 - Currently working on document for Lifetime member Mary McLellen
 - Web Content
 - Submitting summary report to Brenda for 2023 NAWGJ Symposium (not posted at this time)
 - National newsletter submission
 - Updated National/State officers document
 - Website Review, meeting March 26th with Victor Thomas, Thomas Digital
 - Technology
 - Videotaping Project completed at NJC in January 2026.
 - Request sent to RJDs on Feb 5, 2026: With the iPads out, we are asking each RJD and any Board Members to provide the following:
 - Minimum of 5 routines per Level (6 through 10) from actual meet.
 - Need to get the attached permission slip for all athletes who will be videotaped.
 - Contact Maureen for location to upload videos, permissions, and score sheets.
 - Newsletter
 - Working on National Newsletter, April 2026.
 - Focus on New RJDs, SJDs, photos requests
 - Officers and Director updates and plans
 - Due Date: Monday, April 7th
 - Social Media
 - Sent Google Survey to RJDs to distribute to the SJDs (Website and Facebook Accounts), March 11, 2026.

Education

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

- Meetings: 3
- Current Projects:
 - The major project is developing new Rapid Reviews for new Code. The focus has been on obtaining and selecting videos for practice judging routines. Also working on planning format and developing templates for new videos.

Events

Teresa Barnard*, Suzy Azzaro, Evelyn Paradis, Gina Fuller, Tammy Parsons, Jim Burton, Robin Smith, Diane Thompson (guest)

- Meetings: Feb. 18th and 1 April 8th
- Current Projects
 - Planning Summer meeting extras (ideas to see the sites)
 - Awards for outgoing Board of Directors Members
 - Continued planning for Symposium
 - Green Flags sent to award winners

Finance

Members: Robin Ruegg*, Teresa Barnard, Leslie McPeck, April Brandon, Debbie Campbell

- Number of Meetings: 1
- Current Projects:
 - Working on budget for 2026, 2027. Need to work with Site Committee to determine budget for 2027 Symposium. Also wanted full board to know we received \$47,101.30 from the 2026 National Judges Cup. Thanks to all who participated.
 - Proposed budget for BOD email vote before summer meeting

Professional Development

Denise Green*, Ann Heppner, Diane Thompson, Jenna Karadbil, Priscilla Hickey, Robin Smith

- Subcommittees: Assigning, Ethics, Helping Hands, Outreach, Recruitment & Mentoring
- Meetings held: Professional Development: 2, Ethics: 10+
- Current Projects:
 - Ethics:
 - Sending Google Form for a summary upon completion of process
 - January 1 - March 25:
 - 33 alleged complaints received regarding 19 judges
 - 5 referred to a Review Panel
 - Helping Hands: Received 3 donations
 - Outreach, Recruitment & Mentoring: 2026 Recruitment cards ready to go to DEV and XCEL graduating seniors, NCAA, NIAGC, and HS Nationals. Determining whether to send to Regional and National USAG Congresses.
 - Assigning: Maintaining

NEW BUSINESS

Motion: The Bylaws Committee moves to change the name of the Bylaws Committee to the “Official Documents and Bylaws Committee”, which will continue to have the following subcommittees: NAWGJ Documents, Elections, and Membership.

Rationale: The name "Bylaws Committee" is named as a standing committee in the Bylaws and needs to be its own committee, but for planning purposes, will be bundled with the Official Documents Committee.

No second required

Passed: Unanimously

Motion: The Bylaws Committee requests that if there is an unopposed candidate for the SJD special election in the State of Washington, the unopposed candidate will assume office immediately.
Current SJD submitted a resignation letter effective 04/02/2026.

No second required

Passed: Unanimously

ADDENDUM (3/26/26):

WA SJD election: Leah Mohtes-Chan ran unopposed and elected by acclamation on 3/26/26, effective immediately.

2026 - 2027 Upcoming Meeting Dates

- **Tuesday, April 28th (6:00 pm Pacific)**
VP/Even SJDs "State Committee Elections" - Virtual Meeting
State Committee composition and process
- **Tuesday - Thursday, July 20 - 24**
Annual BOD, Kansas City, MO
- **Sunday, August 16 (10:00 am Pacific Time)**
2026 SJD Virtual Workshop
Three (3)-hour commitment
- **Saturday / Sunday, September 12 or 13**
RJD/SJD/State Committee Virtual meeting with Executive Committee
One (1) hour time commitment
- **January 8-10, 2027**
National Judges Cup, Niagara Falls, NY
BOD Meeting

MOTION to Adjourn: **Ann Heppner and Priscilla Hickey**

Second: Robin Smith

Passed: Unanimously

Meeting adjourned: 7:07 PM

2025/2026 NAWGJ National Committees

Executive Committee

Teresa Barnard*, Ann Heppner
Robin Ruegg, Denise Green

Bylaws and Official Documents Committee

Ann Heppner*, Denise Green
Diane Thompson, Brenda Eberhardt

- Election
- Membership

College Judging Committee

Debbie Campbell *, Robin Ruegg
Jenna Karadbil, Teresa Barnard

Communications Committee

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

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

Finance Committee

Robin Ruegg*, Leslie McPeek
April Brandon, Debbie Campbell

* Denotes Committee Chairperson

Education Committee

Ann Heppner*, Tammy Parsons
Maureen Blair, Evelyn Paradis,
Leslie McPeek, Suzann Azzaro
April Brandon
(All BODs participate)

Events Committee

Teresa Barnard*, Suzann Azzaro
Evelyn Paradis, Gina Fuller, Robin Smith
Tammy Parsons, Jim Burton,
Diane Thompson-ex officio

- Awards
- NJC
- Site
- Symposium

Professional Development Committee

Denise Green*, Diane Thompson
Priscilla Hickey, Robin Smith
Ann Heppner, Jenna Karadbil

- Assigning
- Helping Hands
- Outreach, Recruitment & Mentoring
- Ethics