

**From:** National Association of Womens' Gymnastics Judges NAOW3GJ@wildapricot.org  
**Subject:** National NAWGJ Newsletter 2026-04 April  
**Date:** April 19, 2026 at 7:13 PM  
**To:** BRENDA EBERHARDT blegym@aol.com



## Board of Directors

### **Executive Officers:**

President - Teresa Barnard  
Vice Pres. - Bonnie Synol  
Secretary - Denise Green  
Finance - Robin Ruegg

### **At-Large Directors:**

National Collegiate Assignor  
Jenna Karadbil  
National Education Director  
Tammy Parsons  
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National Judges Cup Director  
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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  
Meeting**

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 April - 2026

National Newsletter published  
quarterly and linked  
to the NAWGJ Website.

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

Recertification and a new quadrennium is just around the corner — the close of one chapter and for some a beginning of a new journey. Those who are choosing not to recertify you will be missed, but I wish you all the best on your new adventures. The past four years have tested our knowledge, sharpened our perspective, and reinforced the responsibility we carry each time we take our seat at the table.

In gymnastics details matter Precision matters Integrity matters As judges we

in gymnastics, debate matter. Precision matter. Integrity matter. As judges, we are entrusted with upholding those standards—quietly and consistently. Recertification is not simply a process; it is a reaffirmation of those ideals. It reflects our dedication to staying current, objective, and aligned with the evolving code. It is a reminder of the beauty of this sport we all love.

This transition into a new quadrennium brings change — new rules and new opportunities to grow. It asks us to be students again, to remain open, and to continue refining the craft of judging. While the code may evolve, our purpose remains constant: to ensure fairness, to honor the athletes' work, and to contribute to the integrity of gymnastics.

As we move forward, let's carry with us the experience we've gained, the lessons we've learned, and the professionalism that defines this community. The next four years are an opportunity — not just to judge, but to elevate the standard of judging itself.

Thank you for your commitment to judging and our gymnastics community.

Best Regards,  
**Teresa Barnard**  
**NAWGJ President**



[National Board of Directors – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges](#)

## 2026 – NAWGJ COMMITTEES

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Teresa Barnard, Bonnie Synol, Robin Ruegg, Denise Green

• Oversight

- Oversight
- Strategic Plans
- Uniform

#### **BYLAWS COMMITTEE:**

Bonnie Synol\*, 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:**

Bonnie Synol\*, 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

- Outreach, Recruitment & Mentoring
- Professional Responsibility

\* denotes Chair of the Committee

## Ethics Committee Chair Report

### Ethics Committee Report

Over the past five months, the Ethics Committee received and reviewed 37 complaints involving 19 judges. Because a single complaint may include multiple alleged Rule violations, the totals by Rule may exceed the number of complaints. Committee actions ranged from educational outreach and guidance to referrals for formal disciplinary review:

- 7 matters were sent to a Review Panel, including 2 which moved on to hearings
- 12 matters were referred to the applicable SJD or the NCAA National Collegiate Assigner for further review and action.

### Key Allegations & Trends

The chart below summarizes the most frequently cited Rules. It reflects allegations raised in complaints, not findings as to every allegation.

#### Rule & Description

(Total Complaints - NCAA - Age Group)

#### **Rule 4: Professional Conduct**

(24 - 12 - 12)

#### **Rule 19: Media & Social Media**

(22 - 15 - 7)

#### **Rule 7: Rules & Procedures**

(17 - 8 - 9)

### Membership Sentiment & Growth

Our goal remains education, accountability, and continuous improvement. Members who have credible information suggesting a possible violation are encouraged to use the Complaint Form and established process set forth in the Disciplinary Procedures. The Committee will continue to review reported concerns through the established process and, where appropriate, address them through education and guidance or refer them for resolution or disciplinary review under the Disciplinary Procedures.

# Outreach – 2026 New Judge Recruitment Project Updated QR Codes



## Awards – Subcommittee Call for Nominations

### Hall of Fame Award Nomination - due July 1, 2026

The Hall of Fame honors individuals who have made lifelong contributions to NAWGJ and the judging community. These individuals have distinguished themselves as an advocate for NAWGJ issues, clinicians, educational contributors, and/or exemplary officer in NAWGJ.

### Lifetime Award Nomination - due July 1, 2026

Life Membership is awarded to individuals who have been NAWGJ members for 20 or more years / who have served as a major clinician or made contributions for judges education / who have provided support for NAWGJ or held an office within the organization.

### Link to Nomination Forms - due July 1, 2026

Ann Heppner  
**Outgoing Vice President**  
Message for the Members of NAWGJ

Thank you so very much for giving me the opportunity to serve **NAWGJ** for many wonderful years.

I have been honored to serve under 4 presidents, all of whom furthered the growth and strength of NAWGJ in unique and different ways. **Carole Ide** concentrated on changing and enhancing our relationship with collegiate programs. **Evelyn Chandler** kept the ball rolling and improved the college relationship in addition to re-working the entire executive structure of NAWGJ and implementing term limits. **Cookie Batsche** kept improving our relationship with the collegiate world and changed and improved the face of NAWGJ education. **Teresa Barnard** has kept the work going forward on our relationship with college judging and has strengthened our media and legal positions.

I also want to mention **Mary Lee Martin** and **Barb Tebben** and their huge contribution to NAWGJ and to me! **Robin Ruegg** has jumped into the breach and solidified our Director of Finance position. **Denise Green** has re-created and improved the processes for membership under the Secretary position. There has been so much progress under these great, strong leaders!

Our **NAWGJ Symposium** has also become a huge success under this leadership. The amount of knowledge and just plain fun delivered at the symposium is impressive. It has been a life changing experience to grow with NAWGJ through the years.

I have learned so much about Robert's Rules, Non-Profit organizations, Relationships and Gymnastics (of course!). What a bonus to be able to serve on the **National Board of Directors** with friends who have the best interests of the membership always in mind. My life has truly been enriched by the entire experience. Learning to work through difficulties with such committed, thoughtful, and serious co-workers has been fulfilling!

It is impossible to give enough thanks to the various **NAWGJ Committees** (state, regional, and national) for all the true friendships I am blessed with. It is the people that I will miss the most. Judges nationwide are serious and dedicated. I am amazed by the professionalism and camaraderie created when boards and panels of judges get together to work. NAWGJ members at every level are absolutely wonderful. There is no way the National Board of Directors could move forward without the support of our members.

When I look back over my journey through the world of gymnastics, the

standout benefit is the people who have helped me grow and change through it all. I am indebted to all of you.

My grateful thanks for every minute.  
Warmly and Sincerely,  
**Ann Heppner**



**Bonnie Synol**  
**NAWGJ VICE PRESIDENT**  
(Term: 2026–2030)

[Official Documents – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges](#)

**Bonnie Synol**, Vice President



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

[Documents & Forms – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges](#)

As a non-profit corporation, NAWGJ needs to spend its money on its mission. We are

pleased to note that:

- National finances are healthy,
- Regional and State committees have compensation plans to help with the expenses for the upcoming re-certification.
- Helping Hands donations are greatly appreciated and requests for Helping Hands funding is available. These funds help our judges from less populated states who can't easily run Judges' Cups. Requests are reviewed.
- We are starting financial planning for the 2027 Symposium.

**Robin Ruegg**, Director of Finance



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

### **Membership Update & Renewals**

We are excited to share that NAWGJ has reached 2,455 members! As we continue to grow, maintaining accurate data is essential for smooth operations and assigning accuracy.

Action Required: Membership Renewals

Membership renewals are currently in process. To ensure your status remains active and you are eligible for assignments, please complete the following:

**Update Your Profile:** Annually log in to the NAWGJ membership site via the NAWGJ website to verify your current rating and contact information.

**Verify Email:** Ensure your primary email address is correct to receive critical updates, newsletters, and contracts.

Complete Renewal:

May 1, 2026: Deadline for SJDs to finalize Group Renewals.

July 31, 2026: Deadline for Individual Renewals.

**Denise Green, Secretary**



**MEMBERSHIP**

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

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

[Education – 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](#)

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



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

**It's a Testing Year!**



**1970 vs 2026**

Some things change,  
Some stay the same.

**Trust in your preparations!**

**Believe in yourself and  
all the hard work  
you've put in!**

**You've got this!**

"Gymnastics has made me strong.  
I feel like it broke me down to my  
lowest point, but at the same time,  
it has given me the greatest strength  
anyone could ask for."

— *Shawn Johnson*

Very unexpectedly SCAT Director Bud Marquette was asked to set up a West Coast judging course for women which was to be conducted by the world renowned Hungarian expert Madame Nagy. Burning the midnight oil and thousands of miles of phone conversations - all this was established while in Denver, attending the World Games Trial Championships. Arriving home August 9, all plans were finalized and the classes began promptly at 9:00 on Monday. In attendance were nine ladies hurriedly assembled from various parts of the West Coast. Conducting the sessions from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. for four successive days was truly a challenge to many of the ladies. All those taking the course passed with a grade point of 7.0 or better. However three who showed promise of future International ability were Sharon Weber of Huntington Beach with an incredible score of 9.0, followed by Karen Patiole (Wisén) of Seattle, Washington with an 8.6 and then Sue Singrin of Long Beach with a score of 8.3. Mrs. Ingrid Schindler did an excellent job as interpreter as everyone gained unforgettable knowledge from this most wonderful person, Madame Nagy. At the conclusion of the tests Madame Nagy was given personal gifts for her remembrance of us. The Long Beach Scats, 1970 USGF and AAU National Champions presented her with a memorable plaque and colored group photo of the team.

We all considered it a great privilege and honor to have spent so brief a time with such a tremendous person who we know has such a busy schedule. Our thanks also to Mr. Frank Bare and the USGF for making this possible.

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

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

**Gina Fuller**, Historian



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

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

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

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

**Maureen Blair**, Director of Technology



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

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

**Evelyn Paradis**, NJC Director



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

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

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

**NAWGJ.org** - Scroll to the bottom of the opening page to enter your email.

### Join Our Mailing List

|                                   |                                    |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="text" value="Name"/> | <input type="text" value="Email"/> | <input type="button" value="SEND"/> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

- A March Wrap Up email was sent in early April.
- We are looking for new ideas for the NAWGJ Store. What would YOU like us to have available for you to purchase, especially Fun Items? PLEASE email your suggestions to [national.nawgj@gmail.com](mailto:national.nawgj@gmail.com) ASAP!
- USAG information will be posted as it is received to help with upcoming tests.
- Optional items from our vendors will be removed as soon as the season is over and we will eagerly await your updated materials for posting.

**Brenda Eberhardt**, Webmaster



## [Women's Artistic • USA Gymnastics](#)

[Judges • USA Gymnastics](#)

[Important Exam Notice: 2026-2030 Women's Artistic Judges Accreditation: Levels 6-10 • USA Gymnastics](#)



# National Gymnastics Association

National Gymnastics Association | To provide a positive and healthy competitive program for the sport of gymnastics focusing on inclusion, wellness and education allowing athletes to achieve their own personal goals and the lifelong benefit of sport in preparation for all aspects of life.



## Directory: Regional & State – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges

**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

Thank you for your loyal service and years of commitment and friendship. You will be missed! See list of judges retiring this year.

**April Brandon, RJD-1**



**Donna Payne (AZ)** - NAWGJ member since 1997. Judge, Coach and gym owner. Donna owns Phoenix Gymnastics Academy with her husband and has raised many Region 1 State, Regional and National Championship titles. She is green flag recipient.



**Vicki Kalthoff (AZ)** - NAWGJ member since 1977. Involved highly in collegiate judging. Judge, coach and gym owner.



**Pat Warren (Nor-Cal)** - NAWGJ member since 1979. Judge and consultant. Worked on the movie 'Stick It' as a technical assistant/coach alongside daughter Donagene Jones. Helped coach Olympian gymnasts, Samantha Peszek and Mohini Bhardwaj.



**Cindy Lord (So-Cal)** - NAWGJ member since 1976. Lifetime NAWGJ member award. SJD for Oregon. RJD for 18 years for Regions 1 & 2 and Collegiate assigner.



**Peggy Gillette (So-Cal)** - NAWGJ member since 1987. Currenting coaching and a long-time NCAA judge.



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

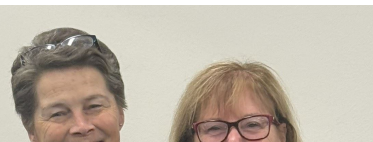
[Directory: Region 2 – National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges](#)

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

**Congratulations, Patty Ames (WA)**

Newly elected RJD-2

(Term: 2026-2030) will assume the office on May 15th.





Region 2 Retirements:

**Janet Earl (ID)**, National Judge since 2002, coach and judge in both Alaska and Idaho for over 50 years.



**Ann Heppner (OR)**, USA Brevet Judge, Lifetime Member, National NAWGJ VP, former RJD-2 & SJD (OR), teacher and with an affirming personality.

**Priscilla Hickey (WA)**, USA Brevet Judge, NAWGJ RJD-2, former SJD-WA, active judge in Region 2 (WA) > 6 (CT) > 3 (CO) > 2 (WA), NCAA judge and Assigner, PE teacher/coach and judge, "Hickey Notes" and "Priscilla-tator".

**Denise Green (WA)**, USA Brevet Judge, Lifetime Member, National NAWGJ Secretary, former RJD-2 & SJD (WA), former Speech/Language Pathologist with a heart of gold.

**Priscilla Hickey**, RJD-2...onward.



**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

**Region 3 Losses:**

Colorado: both passed away this past year  
**Leslie Ogg** and **Aimee Lewis** .

**Region 3 Retirements:**

Kansas:  
**Cathy Knott, Megan Ladwig, and Billie Pinkham**

New Mexico:  
**Mary Lee Martin**

Texas:  
**Leslie Patterson, Carol Williams, Paige Callaway, Larysa Santiago, Janet Price, and Winnie Witten**

Wyoming:  
**Christi Hawkins**

We celebrate the contributions these Region 3 judges have made.

**Suzy Azzaro, RJD-3**



**RJD 4 - Robin Smith**

**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](#)

**Congratulations, Sarah Nelson** (Wisconsin)

Newly elected RJD-2

(Term: 2026-2030) who will assume the office on May 15th.

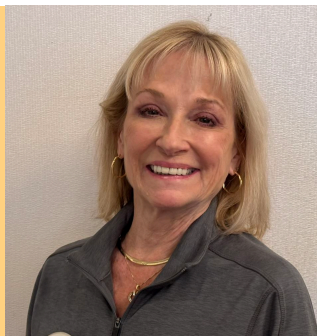
**Sarah Nelson** is our new Region 4 RJD. She is a National judge and was a Co-SJD for Wisconsin from 2010 to 2024. Sarah has been a great contributor to Wisconsin and Region 4 NAWGJ.

She was a gymnast and coaches at Midtown Twisters and Green Flag Award winner from Wisconsin in 2025. She loves books, pets, hiking, traveling and coffee. She still takes a handstand picture on vacation every year.



NAWGJ is fortunate to have had Robin on the National Board of Directors, serving as the Chair of our Helping Hands Committee.

**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

There are many judges throughout **Region 5** who are retiring after this season. We want to highlight and thank you ALL for your time and dedication to the sport of gymnastics. We all know the level of commitment and passion it takes to be an outstanding judge and leader in our sport, and it does not go unnoticed. The entire gymnastics community, from coaches, judges, parents and athletes whose lives you have positively impacted throughout your years is thankful for your positive impact on the development of gymnastics into the amazing sport it is today! We will miss you!

**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

All current Level 10s, Nationals, and Brevets are re-testing this year.

Region 6 is looking forward to hosting the **2027** National Judges Cup in Niagara Falls, NY.

**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](#)

Region 7 retirements:

**Susan Adamczyk** (PA) - Has been a member of NAWGJ since 1991. Susan was a gymnast that competed in college. She judged multiple state and regional meets, but her passion was judging NCAA gymnastics where she loved watching the college athletes and talking with her judging colleagues.

**Carole Micsion** (PA) - Carole has been a member of NAWGJ since 1980 and retires with a Brevet rating. Carole judged several international competitions held in the United States. She also judged many Level 10 National Meets, Level 9 Eastern National Meets and Regional Meets. Several special memories are the USA Classic Competition and Championships of the USA she was asked to judge.

**Kate Shiller** (PA) - Joined NAWGJ in 2002. Kate had a National rating and enjoyed judging NCAA gymnastics. She supported PA/DE NAWGJ for many years and we will miss her.

**Janice Morrow** (PA) - Joined NAWGJ in 1985. Jan served as the Secretary for the State Committee for many years. she has judged multiple state meets

for the State Committee for many years, she has judged multiple state meets as well as regional meets and has enjoyed judging at a meet in Trinidad.

**Amy Short (PA)** - Amy has been a member of NAWGJ since 2013 and specialized in YMCA meets in Western PA. Thank you for your service and you will be missed.

**Judy Grenfell (NJ)** - Judy began gymnastics at the Paterson YMCA in NJ. She continued when her dad, Paul Bohrer, who rented a church then moved into a building he named North Stars. Eventually she worked at north stars, teaching and coaching until she left New Jersey. Began judging 1973 . Attended the elite course in 1980. Served as SJD in Missouri, Region 4 RJD and NAWGJ VP

**Chrystal Norton Chollett (NJ)** - Judged for 46 total years as a USAG FIG Elite, FIG International Elite and a USAG Brevet. 52 years in total as a judge. NCAA collegiate coach first st Trenton State College followed by 25 years at Rutgers University as the head coach.

**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](#)

**Diane Thompson, RJD-8**

