



A Season of Connection, Learning, and Service

MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges is to provide professional development for its members and to support and promote women's gymnastics in the United States."

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Message From the President

As we begin our fall season, I want to take a moment to thank all of our members for your continued commitment, enthusiasm, and hard work. The fall season is always an exciting time for our organization. It gives us an opportunity to build on what we have accomplished, strengthen our skills, and continue working together toward our goals.

I also want to recognize everyone who has supported our judges testing. Testing is an important part of maintaining high standards and ensuring that we are prepared, knowledgeable, and confident in their roles. Congratulations to those who have completed their testing, and thank you to everyone who helped make the process successful.

As we move forward into the season, let's continue to support one another, welcome new members, and approach each event with professionalism, teamwork, and pride.

Best Regards, Teresa

NATIONAL EVENTS

Plan Ahead Registration and Event Information



NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION

2027 NAWGJ Symposium • Kansas City

July 15-17, 2027 • Loews Kansas City Hotel. Early registration is available now. Helping Hands scholarships will be available by application; watch NAWGJ.org for details.

www.nawgj-symposium.com/



NATIONAL JUDGES CUP

2027 National Judges Cup

January 8-10, 2027 • Niagara Falls Convention Center, Niagara Falls, New York. This annual invitational benefits NAWGJ education nationally.

nawgj.org/natl-judges-cup/

MEMBER RECOGNITION

Honor and Celebrate

LIFETIME MEMBERS

2027 NAWGJ Symposium Honorees

NAWGJ is proud to announce and congratulate the following members who will be honored as Lifetime Members at the 2027 NAWGJ Symposium.

Brenda Eberhardt • Priscilla Hickey • Bonnie Synol • Barb Tebben



GREEN FLAG AWARD NOMINATIONS

Green Flag nominations are due to your SJD October 15, 2026

nawgj.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Green-Flag-Nomination-Form.pdf

National Updates

WEBSITE & MEMBERSHIP

Members First *Full text as submitted*

NEW ON THE NAWGJ WEBSITE

"What's New" Email Blasts

We invite you to sign up for our website "What's New" email blasts. Use the link at the bottom of our Home page to join us.

NAWGJ Minutes, NCAA, NAIGC, & NGA Updates, along with information for National Judges Cup & Symposium are posted as they are received. USA Gymnastics has restored publication permission for judging aides and resources related to the 2026 DP Optional COP. Therefore, you will find updated materials including scoresheets now posted on the website.

Send your suggestions for the website as well as any questions you may have to national.nawgj@gmail.com. We will do our best to implement your suggestions and find answers to your questions.

Happy Fall!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership & Profile Reminder

Membership: We have 2,295 NAWGJ members! Out of that, 190 members have lapsed. Please email me at secretary@nawgjnbg.com if you are stepping away from judging and will not be renewing your membership.

The membership site will automatically archive judges by December 2026.

On a happy note, we have added almost 278 new judges since August 1, 2025.

April Brandon

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

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

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Member Resources and Communication

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Rapid Reviews

The Education Committee has been hard at work creating *NEW* Rapid Reviews for Levels 6-10. We look forward to sharing them with you soon!

HELPING HANDS

Symposium Scholarships

Helping Hands is happy to announce that scholarship opportunities will be available by application for attending National Symposium. Keep your eye out for upcoming information on the website.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Staying Connected and Preserving our History

COMMUNICATIONS & DIGITAL LIBRARY

Please send any information you might have to Gina Fuller, our NAWGJ Historian in preparation for the upcoming NAWGJ Symposium. We will not only have nostalgic items, but we also look forward to remembering those who have made such a difference to NAWGJ the organization, our communities, and judging families.

Maureen has been working diligently on permission forms, editing, and coordinating videos to create an updated and secure NAWGJ library with quality videos for presentation use in the future.

Have you seen our updated Website? Brenda has been hard at work making the website more user friendly with current, easy to access information you need and care about for a successful season.

The NAWGJ newsletter has a new look highlighting new and important NAWGJ information.

HISTORY & SYMPOSIUM 2027 REQUESTS

The evolution of the gymnastics uniform: The 1956 Melbourne, Australia Olympics USA Gymnastics Team is pictured left to right: Doris Fuchs, Joyce Racek, Jackie Klein, Sandi Ruddick, Judy Hult, Muriel Davis and Ingeborg Fuchs; Coach Erna Wachtel.

From loose, boxy and modest 1930s-1940s uniforms to modern compression engineering, recycled fabrics and hand-glued crystals, our sport's attire has continued to evolve. Please share photos that demonstrate this evolution so we can preserve our history.

REPRESENT YOUR STATE: Please send labeled photos of your state's judges together, and share NAWGJ memorabilia for our archive library.

Contact: historydirector@nawgjnbg.com

COLLEGE GYMNASTICS UPDATE

College Judges Committee

The College Judges Committee is currently working on SV scoresheets using the previous onsite routines for judges to practice the new changes. All the clinicians are booked for the educational clinics for this season which will be pre-recorded with office hours with the Clinicians for flexibility. Jenna will be able to track the judges as they finish the courses. Routine selection for onsite routines have also been selected, but have not yet been judged.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Judges Cup and Symposium

Please watch for information from your State Judging Directors regarding your state's Judges Cup fundraiser. Don't forget to register for the National Judges Cup in Niagara Falls, NY Jan 8-10th, 2027 and the National NAWGJ Symposium July 15-17, 2027 in Kansas City, MO.

Committees & Professional Standards

FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

A Gift That Will Carry Martha Dunn's Legacy Forward

NAWGJ has been given an incredible gift from the estate of Martha Dunn, a long-term National judge who passed away in 2025. We received over \$409,000. The money has been invested in a short-term CD while we work through logistics of creating an endowment. The endowment will be used to support NAWGJ's mission and to honor Martha who was an incredible volunteer and supporter of the National Judges Cup.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ETHICS

Policies, Conduct, and Professionalism

ETHICS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Social Media & Rules Reminders

Complaint snapshot: Between 9/1/2025 and 9/1/2026, the Ethics Committee received 44 complaints about 26 different judges. Rules 4 Professional Conduct, 7 Adherence to Rules and Procedures, and 19 Media and/or Social Media Policies were the top three complaints.

NAWGJ SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Please review the NAWGJ Social Media Policy. Judges are expected to ensure that personal social-media and public-platform activity reflects the professionalism, neutrality and integrity of NAWGJ.

[Read the NAWGJ Social Media Policy \(PDF\)](#)

BEFORE YOU POST

- Is the content related to a competition, routine, score, assignment, official or travel?
- Was the image captured at, or related to, a collegiate meet during the competitive season?
- Could the content appear to show favoritism, affiliation or impropriety?

NCAA WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS 2026-27

- At any time during or after the season, judges shall not post, share or comment on competition-related content on social media or public platforms, or do interviews. This includes teams, routines, scoring, assignments, other judges, travel and meet logistics.
- Judges may not post photos or video captured at, or related to, collegiate competitions during the competitive season. This includes judges, the arena and images from the competition floor. Content that may suggest favoritism, affiliation or impropriety is prohibited.
- Judges must maintain the highest level of professionalism and neutrality at all times, including in their personal online presence.

[Read NCAA Rules Modifications \(PDF\)](#)

Thank you for assuring that your social media complies with these policies.

BOARD Q&A

Answers From the National NAWGJ Board of Directors

Questions from the NAWGJ State Board meeting • 9/12/26

QUESTION

When will NAWGJ start posting educational videos and repost the score sheets?

ANSWER

We are waiting for USAG to approve the posting of all USAG educational materials. Teresa (NAWGJ president) is corresponding with USAG regularly and asks for this with each meeting.

QUESTION

Is the \$100.00 gift limit per year or event?

ANSWER

Our guidelines say, "Circumstances arise where gifts and donations using NAWGJ funds may be allowable; however, these donations must be appropriate for the occasion and should be limited to \$100.00 or less. The SJD must receive written approval from the Regional Judging Director for any gift or donation exceeding \$100.00." So, it's per event or occasion.

QUESTION

Do you consider it a conflict of interest to have 2 elected family members on the state committee?

ANSWER

Yes. They would need to fill out a mitigation form.

QUESTION

Does insurance cover unsanctioned in house meets?

ANSWER

On the topic of Professional Activity Reports, all states (including the 2 that don't use GymJAS for assigning) can still use GymJAS for submitting PARs. This assures that judges are covered by NAWGJ insurance for unsanctioned in house meets.

Regional Roundup: Regions 1-8

REGION 1

SYMPOSIUM & REMEMBRANCE

- Nov. 21–22: Base Score Symposium in San Jose for all coaches and judges.
- USAG Xcel and Levels 6–10, rules updates and routine evaluation.
- Free for Region 1 NAWGJ members; \$65 for other coaches/judges.
- Region 1 remembered Kat Sgamba at a September 5 gathering.

[Registration & hotel details](#)

REGION 2

TESTING & MENTORSHIP

- Study groups, practice scripts and tests supported new judges.
- Many R2 judges have passed their 2026 tests including several new Level 6/7/8 judges. Congratulations!
- NAWGJ/USAG YouTube routines, a successful regional symposium and state mentor leaders keep education moving.

REGION 3

EDUCATION & EVENTS

- NAWGJ, USA Gymnastics and AAU clinics and camps run consistently June through October.
 - The first R3 Base Score Clinic: Nov. 13, 6:30 PM MT with the High Performance Camp in Colorado; live and on Zoom. This is a collaborative effort between R3 NAWGJ and the R3 Tech Committee.
 - State Judges Cups run Sept.–Dec.
Region 3 and 4 are excited to host National Symposium 2027 in Kansas City.
- Coming soon: Region 3 NAWGJ website
 Region 3 NAWGJ test preparation clinics will be starting soon via zoom. Watch your email for more information. These will be free of charge for Region 3 judges.
 On the Horizon - Region 3 NAWGJ plans to host a fall Symposium in 2028. Dates and location to follow.
 Region 3 would like to celebrate the life of Cori Rizzo, long time judge and Reg 3 USA Gymnastics Committee Chairman for a lifetime of commitment to women's gymnastics.

REGION 4

CLINICS, CUPS & MILESTONE

- State clinics, test preparation, mentorship and new-judge training are active.
- Minnesota, Wisconsin and Missouri host fall Judges Cups; Wisconsin offered two summer clinics.
- **Congratulations to Robin Ruegg, National NAWGJ Finance and Ethics Committee Chairman, on 50 years of judging! Thank you for all you do for our judges and women's gymnastics.**

REGION 5

FALL CLINICS & JUDGES CUP

- Sept. 26 - KY State Congress, Becca's Place, Cecilia: Lower Xcel, artistic performance/new rules; 7 CPE hrs. Clinicians: Angela Dickey, Terri Cooper, Vicki Smith, Michael Crowe and Nancy Gibson.
[Registration / contact: Jennifer Ryan - jennifer@beccasplacegym.com](#)
- Sept. 30 & Oct. 6 - MI Clinic, Hunts Gymnastics, Clinton Township: Level 6–9; 2.5 CPE hrs. each evening. Clinician: Debbie Campbell.
[Registration / contact: Keiko McNitt - keikomcnitt@gmail.com](#)
- Oct. 3 - MI Clinic, Branch Gymnastics, Kalamazoo: Level 6–9; 5 CPE hrs. Clinician: Debbie Campbell.
[Registration / contact: Keiko McNitt - keikomcnitt@gmail.com](#)
- Nov. 7-8 - IL State Judges Cup, Adventure Christian, Bourbonnais: Levels 6–10 updates; 3 CPE hrs./day (6 total). Clinicians: H. Forbes, M. Ackman, Kearns, Brosnan and Sargeant.
[Registration / contact: Heather Forbes - itsjdheather@gmail.com](#)

REGION 6

RISING STARS CAMPS

- Oct. 3–4 - Sterling, MA: Development Program Optionals, Tammy Biggs.
[MeetMaker registration • Event contacts: Michele Archer / Jamie Winkler](#)
- Oct. 10–11 - Salem, NH: Xcel & Compulsories, Byron Knox.
[MeetMaker registration • Event contacts: Michele Archer / Jamie Winkler](#)
- Oct. 17–18 - Long Island, NY: Development Program Optionals, Jason Vonk.
[MeetMaker registration • Event contacts: Michele Archer / Jamie Winkler](#)
- Oct. 24–25 - Syracuse, NY: Development Program Optionals, Mary Wright.
[Registration & current contact information: Region 6 Events & Results](#)

REGION 7

CLINICS, TESTING & ASSIGNING

- Annual meetings and state clinics are preparing judges for testing.
- Seasonal assigning has begun; virtual clinic opportunities are also available.
- Contact your SJD for state-specific training and mentorship.

REGION 8

TESTING, MENTORING & 2027

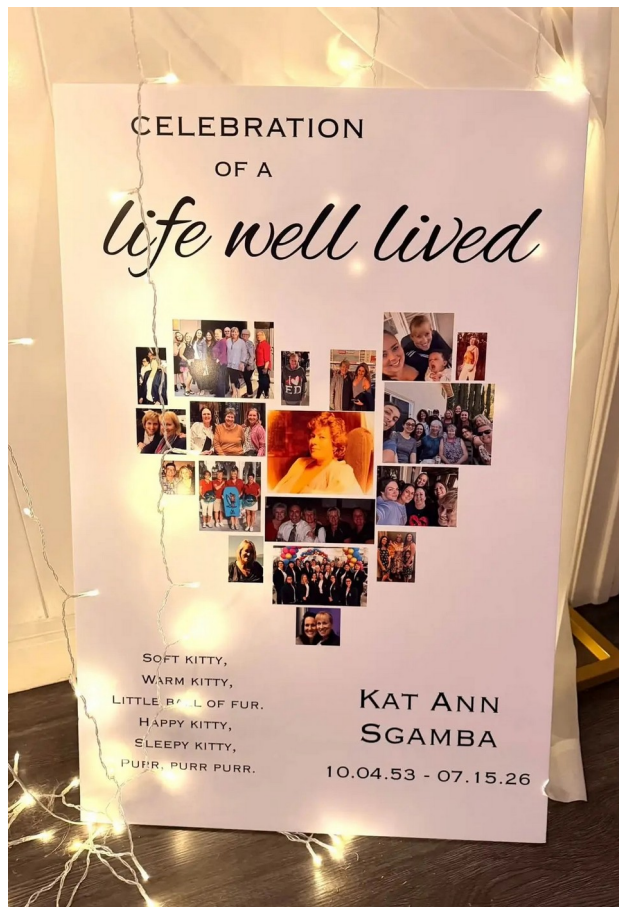
- Five states brought clinicians for National, Brevet and Level 10 test preparation.
- States offered testing support and mentoring at regional training camps.
- Next 8/9/10 Training Camp: Oct. 9–11 in Clarksville, TN.
- A Base Score Clinic/Symposium is planned for fall 2027.

Remembering, Connecting, and Leading

REMEMBERING KAT SGAMBA

A Celebration of a Life Well Lived

Region 1 remembrance



KAT ANN SGAMBA

A gathering to celebrate the life of Region 1 Judge Kat Sgamba was held at the home of Evelyn Paradis on September 5th. Over 100 judges, coaches and friends came from all over Region 1 (and beyond!) to celebrate our Kat. It was a beautiful night of good food, drink and shared memories in celebration of our friend Kat and a life well lived.



REGION 3 REMEMBRANCE

Cori Rizzo • 1950–2026

Cori Rizzo was a lifelong gymnast and elite-level USA Gymnastics judge who volunteered at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta and continued judging for several years after retirement. She will be remembered for her contagious laugh, quick wit, and beautiful singing voice.



CORI RIZZO



REGION 3 COMMUNITY

[Read Cori's full obituary](#)

NAWGJ Community

NAWGJ COMMUNITY

National Governing Board & Regional Gatherings 2026 photos



NATIONAL GOVERNING BOARD



REGION 5



REGION 2

HISTORY & SYMPOSIUM 2027 REQUEST

The Evolution of the Gymnastics Uniform

1956 Melbourne
Australia Olympics
USA Gymnastics Team

Left-Right
Doris Fuchs, Joyce Rarck,
Jackie Klein, Sandi Raddick,
Judy Hall, Mariel Davis,
Ingeborg Fuchs,
Coach Erna Wachtel

In the 1930s-1940's, Women's Olympic uniforms were loose, boxy, and modest, featuring long sleeves, high necklines, and lower-half shorts designed for complete coverage. The evolution of gymnastics uniforms has continued to evolve until our current modern outfits that feature advanced compression engineering, recycled fabrics, and thousands of hand-glued crystals. What photos do you have that demonstrate this evolution? Please share so we can keep a history of this!

Represent your State!

Contact
historydirector@nawgjnhb.com

Symposium 2027 Request
Please send photos of your state's judges together. Make sure it is labeled with your state's name.
Cleaning out your closet? We'd love you to share your NAWGJ memorabilia for our archive library.

Preserving our history • sharing state photos • preparing for Symposium 2027



REGION 4

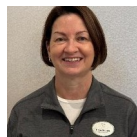


REGION 3

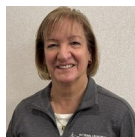
National NAWGJ Board of Directors

LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

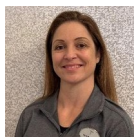
National NAWGJ Board of Directors *Director photos and roles*



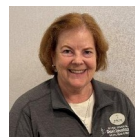
TERESA BARNARD
PRESIDENT



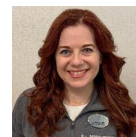
BONNIE SYNOL
VICE PRESIDENT



APRIL BRANDON
SECRETARY



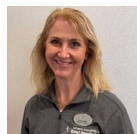
ROBIN RUEGG
FINANCE



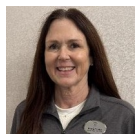
JENNA KARADBIL
COLLEGIATE



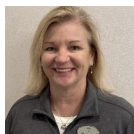
TAMMY PARSONS
EDUCATION



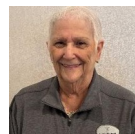
GINA FULLER
HISTORY



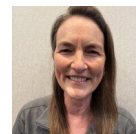
EVELYN PARADIS
JUDGES CUP



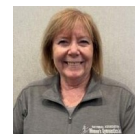
MAUREEN BLAIR
TECHNOLOGY



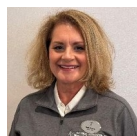
BRENDA EBERHARDT
WEBSITE



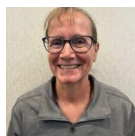
JULIE ANDREWS
RJD 1



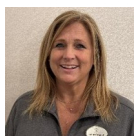
PATTY AMES
RJD 2



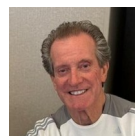
SUZY AZZARO
RJD 3



SARAH NELSON
RJD 4



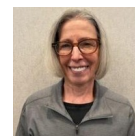
DEBBIE CAMPBELL
RJD 5



JIM BURTON
RJD 6



LESLIE MCPEEK
RJD 7



DIANE THOMPSON
RJD 8

STAY CONNECTED

Visit NAWGJ.org for member resources, education, judging aids, event information, and updates.