

**Region 8 NAWGJ Board Meeting
July 15 - 16, 2016 Minutes**

Attendance

Cookie Batsche, Gayli Craver, Terri Costa, Janet Efland, Brenda Eberhardt, Kim Joye, Sibby Lane, Susan Monahan.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont Hotel Executive Conference Room. The meeting was held in conjunction with the National Governing Board meeting in Newport Beach, California.

Minutes

The minutes of the June 16, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved.

General Business

Director Manuals and related forms were distributed to SJDs. Laminated copies of Robert's Rules of Order Quick Reference Guides were distributed the following day.

SJDs were asked to:

1. Remind their members to renew their NAWGJ memberships;
2. Ensure copies of contracts are sent to all Meet Directors in their states (and gym owners if applicable) in case they are needed for an audit;
3. Conduct an open meeting at least once each year for all members. Ideally this would be face-to-face but could be a GoToMeeting event or hybrid of each method. This duty had been expected historically but had been inadvertently omitted from SJD job description so the meetings may not have been conducted in some states in recent years. It has now been added to the job description of the SJDs.
4. Develop a documentable process for obtaining "four-eyes" review on expenditures and to send forms to RJD.
5. Obtain confidentiality and conflict of interest forms from SGB members and send to the RJD who will send the forms to Mary Lee Martin for record retention purposes.
6. Complete the SGB member list and send to the RJD as soon as their elections are completed and SGB is in place.

Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Forms

All SJDs present signed confidentiality and conflict of interest forms for 2016-17.

Action Item: These forms will be sent to Mary Lee Martin by C. Batsche after obtaining a signed form from Mary Thacker who was unable to attend the meeting.

Region 8 Status

Cookie asked for SJD perceptions of the status of judging within Region 8. Among the numerous positive characteristics were: the constructive working relationships among SJDs; good communication among SJDs; the perception of the region as a frontrunner in the education of judges; good relationships with USA Gymnastics in virtually all states; ability for our judges to judge across multiple states; collaboration across states; the trust and respect the judging community has for fellow judges; and the intelligence, competence, and professionalism of our

judging community. Areas that our region can continue to work on were identified as: methods to engage judges on the floor more interactively at training camp; strategies to increase the utilization of digital recordkeeping and other uses of technologies; strategies to get judging experience for a broader range of judges; and the potential elimination of the judgment-reporting form for regional assignments. Issues that affect some states included: disproportionate number of affiliated judges; insufficient number of judges available for high-level state meets; and status of judges moving in from other states/regions.

Action Items: Three activities emerged for immediate action: (1) It was agreed that C. Batsche would work with the SJDs to develop a list of judges with potential availability for cross-state assignments for state meets; (2) Kim Joye will conduct a session at Regional Training Camp for SJDs who are interested in learning more about Google Drive; (3) States will develop strategies to increase participation by judges in their state at the National Judges Cup so they can gain additional experience as well as experience with four-judge panels.

NAWGJ Regional Symposium

The board discussed the structure and topics for Regional Symposium to be held at the University of Alabama on September 16 - 18. Ideas that emerged included:

- Structured activities at stations on the floor of training camp led by experienced judges; specific objectives will be identified at each station, worksheets will be provided to structure the learning activities, and worksheets will be signed following each rotation.
- Coach-judge session on Saturday morning in gym with athlete demonstrators
- Give or Not To Give for various series and elements
- Composition
- Landing deductions lecture from Congress but start with floor
- Procedural methods to calculate optional scores systematically: Start Value, Composition, Execution
- Calculating Start Values
- How to get started in NCAA judging

Potential clinicians were identified for various sessions. Testing will also occur at training camp. The judging exam will also be given during Regional Symposium.

Action Item: C. Batsche will develop a draft schedule and send to board members for review and additional suggestions. The goal will be to publish the schedule in advance of Training Camp. She will also submit the TA Scheduling Form to Connie for testing.

Regional Webpage

Each region has a webpage on the NAWGJ national website. Planned additions/changes to the Region 8 webpage include: adding photos of SJDs to the webpage, updating the photo on the current page, updating the contact information for current SJDs, and posting minutes of the Regional Board meetings on the page for accessibility for all members and archival purposes.

Action item: SJDs will submit a head shot in uniform for the webpage (see National Board photos for examples of type of photo needed); C. Batsche will send needed changes to Judy Hoeflerlin including updates to the SJD contact list, photo updates, and posting of minutes.

Professionalism Issues

SJDs discussed issues related to member professionalism and shared ideas on how to approach these problems. Ideas that emerged included: referring to the NAWGJ canons when speaking to the judge; documenting the conversations; including another board member in the conversation; designating a board member as the Ethics Chair and referring issues to this person; utilizing the procedures for “consequences” delineated in the Operating Guide; recommending to USA Gymnastics State Chairs that professionalism be among the high priority areas considered when making state meet/regional meet recommendations.

Judge Assigning Systems

Following a recess, the SJDs attended a presentation on an electronic judge assigning system currently being used by 4 states in the region. This system appears to offer more functionality than the system being used in the other 4 states. The board voted to invite the developer to Regional Training Camp to demonstrate the system and answer questions for SJDs and assigners in attendance.

Action Item: C. Batsche agreed to contact the developer to determine availability.

Regional Budget

C. Batsche explained that the Board is currently operating under a budget that was approved by the Board last year (fiscal year November 1, 2015 to October 31, 2016). She has requested a copy from the former RJD.

Action Item: C. Batsche will prepare a proposed budget and present it to the Board for review and approval with the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Next Meetings

The current practice is to require SJDs to attend the Regional Symposium. Following general discussion, it was decided to continue this practice for the current year and to re-visit the topic after the new RJD and new SJDs had a better understanding of the full scope of their duties and the workload associated with Regional Symposium. Unless business items develop, the Board will sponsor an informational meeting at National Training Camp in Alabama (September, 2016) so that SJDs and assigners who are in attendance can learn more about two systems that may be useful to them in conducting business: Google Drive and the Judge Assigning System.

GoToMeeting will be explored as a possibility for a mid-year business meeting if needed.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held in conjunction with Regional Congress, 2017. SJDs attending Regional Training Camp in September will gather for Google Docs training (and potentially to discuss the new assigning system).

Recess and Adjournment

The meeting recessed and reconvened throughout the National Board meeting. Final adjournment was at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 16.