

**Region 8 Board Meeting  
Burlington, Vermont  
July 13, 2018**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. in Burlington, Vermont. The meeting was held in conjunction with the National SJD Workshop.

Members present were: Gayli Craver (AL), Brenda Eberhardt (LA), Janet Efland (SC), Kim Joye (GA), Sibby Lane (TN), Susan Monahan (FL), Reg Shurden (MS), Cookie Batsche (RJD)

**Minutes**

The minutes of June 9, 2018 were approved as submitted. The minutes will be posted on the NAWGJ Region 8 webpage.

**Confidentiality/COI Forms**

Meeting participants signed confidentiality and conflict of interest forms for the 2018-19 year. SJDs were reminded to obtain signed forms from all members of their State Governing Board.

**SGB Elections**

SGB elections were in process in two states: Louisiana and Florida. The voting concludes Sunday, July 15. The RJD will notify the SJDs and the candidates of the outcome on Monday, July 16.

C. Batsche reported that her experience with the *Voting Place* led her to ask the National Board to identify a system that uses more current technology and allows direct uploading of candidate's original application. Several RJDs concurred with the need to seek an alternative system/method. The Constitution Committee was charged with identifying alternative methods for conducting online elections.

In addition, the National Board will make changes to the SGB election form to improve its usability:

1. The form will be posted in a fillable format.
2. A field will be added for the applicant to specify the position running for (at-large may be state where appropriate).
3. The instructions requiring a paper form to be sent to the RJD with a return receipt will be removed from the form; only electronic submissions will be needed.
4. A statement will be added that the SGB application should be sent only to the RJD.
5. All states will need to use the official application form for elections after it is posted.

The National Board clarified the role of SJDs in the application process. The Election Guidelines will be changed to indicate that applications for the SGB should be sent only to the RJD and applications should not be shared with SJDs on share drives until the application deadline closed.

All SJDs were asked to send a list of their governing board to Cookie using the form posted on the NAWGJ SJD website. If the position titles were not self-explanatory for the Assigner and Financial Assistant duties, the form should specifically identify these individuals. The NAWGJ President plans to communicate with all assigners and Financial Assistants directly via email to communicate important issues. Specifically, Evelyn will contact assigners (as well as SJDs) regarding changes in contract language regarding independent contractors. She will also send out guidelines for Financial Assistants after the Executive Committee finalizes these duties.

**National Board Meeting Updates**

Per Diem for Burlington was announced to be \$12 breakfast; \$18 lunch; \$34 dinner.

#### **Testing/Ratings Task Force (CB, Marilyn, Anne)**

The NAWGJ Board established a Task Force to collect information, concerns, and suggestions for testing of National and Brevet judges in the future. The primary emphasis will be on identifying alternatives that will allow for ongoing quality monitoring and improvement but with **“Less Stress and More Education.”** C. Batsche will chair the Task Force along with Marilyn and Ann Hepner. Input was obtained from all SJDs in attendance at the national meeting to inform the development of the report. The Task Force will also consider a recommendation to add categorical ratings within the National category; however, the SJDs at the national meeting had a mixed reaction to this proposal. Nevertheless, the importance of recognizing achievements and providing incentives for long-standing judges was recognized and will be discussed as part of the process.

#### **Annual Statistical Report dates now July 1 – June 30**

Prior to the national meeting, Terri Robertson had asked if the dates for the annual statistical report could be changed to correspond to a fiscal year of July 1 – June 30 instead of a federal fiscal year. The National Board agreed with this recommendation and the dates will be changed in the Operating Code beginning with the current year. The National President uses the data on the statistical report to prepare the National Report she prepares each year and she agreed that this change was appropriate for her report as well. The inventory report will need to continue on the federal fiscal year because Director of Finance has to report inventory as part of her annual report to the IRS. However, given the changes made last year regarding the threshold for inventory reporting, few SJDs have inventory to report.

The statistical report is now available as a fillable form on the SJD website. It is due to RJD November 20 and due to Patty/Evelyn November 30 of each year.

**Judging Contracts.** The language in judging contracts will be changed to use the word “engagement” rather than “employment” in order to accurately reflect our status as independent contractors. The NAWGJ President will notify all SJDs and assigners to ensure all forms of contracts are changed. C. Batsche was asked by the national board to contact Julie King so she could make this change in gymjas. *(Post-meeting update: Julie made this change in the gymjas contract immediately following the meeting).* In addition, Julie was given approval to use the long form of the contract to include new elements in gymjas for hotel, travel, and other related expenses following a request from Region 8 SJDs at the June, 2018 meeting with Julie King. *(Post meeting note: Julie indicated this request was in the cue for development but would take time to develop).* The board expressed appreciation for the advancements in assigning that have resulted from the development and implementation of gymjas.

#### **Financial Report Changes and Electronic Signatures**

Based on a recommendation from Gayli Craver, the Quarterly Financial Report form will be modified to add a signature line for the “four-eyes” reviewer directly on the form rather than having to sign the Financial Review Forms. This recommendation prompted the National Board to implement other changes as follows:

1. The financial reports should still be reviewed monthly by the Financial Assistant but will only need to be signed by the Financial Assistant quarterly (rather than monthly).
2. The Board officially adopted the use of electronic signatures as official signatures on all NAWGJ forms the exception of the signature of the Financial Assistant review of the quarterly report. The Financial Assistant’s signature must be an original handwritten signature. After obtaining the signature, the form may be scanned and submitted electronically.

#### **Term Limit Proposal**

A term limit proposal was reviewed by the National Board. Changes were suggested to the proposal. These changes were to be discussed during the Sunday meeting of the board (following the SJD Workshop). The proposal applied only to RJDs and SJDs in the first phase. A proposal for term limits of the National Board and SGBs will be initiated at the January, 2019 meeting.

Unofficial summary of term limit proposal: In addition to implementing term limits, the proposal also aimed to adjust the election cycle so that new RJDs and new SJDs were not elected in the same year. In order to accomplish both objectives, the proposal extends the terms of existing RJDs to six years (one time only). As proposed, all current SJDs and RJDs will be eligible for one additional term following the term they are currently fulfilling regardless of how many terms they have previously served. Board members who are currently fulfilling a partial term, e.g., Mississippi SJD, will be eligible for two complete terms. *(Post-meeting note: The National Board approved the term limit proposal at its Sunday meeting. The change requires a change in the Constitution and Operating Code. A telephone conference call will be conducted in August to approve these changes and then the proposal will become effective. Please see the official proposal that was approved after the National Minutes are posted on the NAWGJ website to make ensure the information in these minutes is accurate).*

### **2019 National Symposium and SJD Workshop**

The NAWGJ National Symposium (along with the National Board Meeting, SJD Workshop, and new SJD workshop) will be held the week of July 8 – 14<sup>th</sup> at the Renaissance Hotel in Fort Worth, Texas. The New SJD Workshop will be on Wednesday morning (new SJDs will need to arrive on Tuesday). The SJD workshop will begin on Wednesday afternoon and conclude Thursday by 1:00 p.m. Symposium will begin on Thursday afternoon/evening.

A Request for Projects (RFP) has been developed to seek new educational projects for the Symposium and NAWGJ website. All SJDs are asked to disseminate the RFP widely and to encourage their judges to submit projects (see RFP announcement for details). Winners will be recognized at the National Symposium.

All SJDs are asked to work with their governing boards to offer incentives for judges to attend the National Symposium, e.g., payment of registration fees, financial support, etc. The National Board will offer 8 scholarships to support judges who attend Symposium—an application form will be distributed by the Helping Hands Committee. SJDs will be asked for input on applicants from their state.

### **Green Flag Award**

A new award, the Green Flag Award, will be developed to recognize judges who make significant contributions to NAWGJ and to the enhancement of judging. In contrast to the Lifetime Member and Hall of Fame awards, this award will be directed toward mid-career judges who have demonstrated leaderships, innovation, and initiative. The criteria will be developed by the Awards Committee and approved for dissemination at the January Board meeting.

### **2018 Regional Symposium: Athens Georgia**

The theme of the 2018 regional symposium will be “Survivor” to recognize those who have survived and/or are in the process of surviving testing. The schedule/topics were reviewed and revised. Cookie is in need of clinicians and floor station games/activities for athletes. She will follow up with email requests to SJDs.

### **Safe Sport/Background Screening Issues of NAWGJ Members**

NAWGJ is seeking legal counsel advice on procedures SJDs and Assigners should follow when a NAWGJ member is not approved by Safe Sport or gets a red flag on background screening.

### **National Website Director**

The National Board received two applications for the new NAWGJ national website. *(Post meeting note: At the Sunday meeting of the National Board, Brenda Eberhardt was selected as the new website director. As such, Brenda will become a member of the National Board. Congratulations Brenda!).*

**Next Meeting: Region 8 Congress, 2019 and National Symposium, 2019.**

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 p.m.