

NAWGJ NATIONAL NEWSLETTER



A Publication of the National Association
of Womens Gymnastic Judges

1990
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the President	3
Meet Yvonne Hodge	4
Farewell to Dale Brown	4
New Dance Proposal	5
Focus, Focus	6
Memories: The 1964 FIG Code	7
We've Come A Long Way	9
Impressions Count	9
Survey Results	10
15-Year Members	11
Spotlight On A Judge	12
NAWGJ Pro Shop	13
Letters to the Editor	14
News Update	15
Educational Library Materials	16
The Minutes, Summer 1990	17
National Symposium	23
Calendar of Events	24

The Minutes, Summer, 1990

NAWGJ GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

June 28-29, 1990
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
9:00 A.M.

I ROLL CALL

President	Dale Brown
Vice President	Mary Ann West
Secretary/Treasurer	Betty Sroufe
Administrative Assistant	Mary Van Grinsven
Region I	Janet Packwood
Region II	Vad Woodside
Region III	absent
Region IV	Judy Grenfell(11am arrival)
Region V	Donnalyn Trevethan
Region VI	Pat Panichas
Region VII	Jennifer Sperring
Region VIII	Mary Lou Dillard
President Elect	Yvonne Hodge
USGF Liaison	Kathy Kelly (Friday AM)

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/P The Sept 30, 1989 minutes were approved as written.

III DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Director's Report

Dale Brown welcomed Yvonne Hodge as our President Elect. Pertinent issues and concerns of the office of President over the last 8 months were discussed. Liaison committee reports were given and prioritization of events for the smooth change-over of this office were noted.

B. Vice-President

Mary Ann West presented information from the following committees as our liaison: USGF Women's Program Administrative Board, Judges Certification, Inc., USGF Womens Judges Review Task Force and the NAWGJ National Symposium - 1991.

C. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Betty Sroufe presented a detailed financial summary of NAWGJ from November 1989 through May 1990. A detailed account of membership was given to the National Governing Board. In addition, a proposed 1990-91 budget was presented for approval.

M/S/P The 1990-91 NAWGJ Financial Budget is approved as presented.

A Message From the President

Years ago while planting flowers in my backyard, I noticed the grass was in lumpy patches because hundreds of acorns had fallen to the ground from our tall, sturdy oak tree. So, for hours I raked the acorns, swept the acorns into a shovel and poured them into a bucket. I rubbed my sore muscles, poured more acorns, and finally planted one of them in the edge of my yard. Although this acorn never came up, I have seen seedlings and young trees and they are pretty in all their growing stages.



Yvonne Hodge, NAWGJ President

Young gymnasts are like acorns in a way. They fall, they get "raked" around, they endure awkward stages and they

have to produce. This does not happen in the privacy of their backyard. Their every move is scrutinized, written about, and given a score in front of friends, parents, coaches, and God. The least we as officials can do is smile at these little acorns. We can also give the coaches (if asked) some helpful pointers on what the gymnasts need to work on instead of making general statements such as "She butchered the routine."

The older gymnasts, like the mature oaks, may be stronger and less vulnerable to Mother Nature's forces around them, but they still need encouragement and nurturing. A smile from a judge can help. Many gymnasts have told me so.

To be in the position of giving that encouragement to the gymnast and coach, we must feel confident ourselves. We must study our event thoroughly before the meet. "It is better to look ahead and prepare than to look back and regret." We should come to meets early enough to talk with our panel and "make our nest" at our stations. We should take good notes on routines and stay alert throughout the meet.

We need to keep a cool head when "all around us lose theirs." Since anger makes the tongue work faster than the mind, somebody has to stay calm and do the listening. If we all do our part, "acorns" will have a good environment in which to grow.

I hope I can help nurture buckets and buckets of acorns! Don't you?

*Yvonne Hodge
President, NAWGJ*

Meet Yvonne Hodge

Yvonne Hodge, the new president of NAWGJ, was born in Kentucky, the home of beautiful race horses, Muhammad Ali, Mammoth Cave, Johnny Unitas, Phil Simms, Wesley Unseld, Colonel Sanders Chicken, and the Kentucky Derby.

Yvonne graduated from Murray State University and taught school while her husband finished medical school. She has four children—three boys and a girl (yes, an ex-gymnast!)

Yvonne has been judging for eighteen years and has worked for NAWGJ for sixteen years as State Judging Director, Regional Judging Director of Region V, and Educational Librarian.

Yvonne wants to thank Dale Brown, former NAWGJ President, for her six years of service and to let her know that “she is appreciated in more ways than any of us can express.” On behalf of NAWGJ, Yvonne wants to wish Dale continued success as Vice-president of the World Championship Organizing Committee. “We want Dale to know that we respect her and have a warm place for her in our hearts always!”

A Fond Farewell to Dale Brown

The National Governing Board would like to thank Dale Brown for her six years of service as the NAWGJ President. During her terms of office, NAWGJ experienced major growth in membership and professionalism. You gave of your time and yourself unselfishly and for this you are highly commended. Although you may be leaving the duties of President at this time, you will always enjoy the lasting friendships you have made.

Thank you Dale!



Dale Brown, Six-Year President of NAWGJ

Dance Proposal Has Potential: Pilot Program Underway

**By Shirley Tranquill
Region 7 Newsletter Representative**

The July issue of the USGF Technique Magazine announced the establishment of a Dance Committee for the J.O. Program. The committee presented a proposal for a new dance program at the May meeting. The minutes of the J.O. Program Committee indicated that Shirley Tranquill would be conducting a pilot test of the new program in Virginia. The NAWGJ Newsletter editor contacted Shirley, the Region 7 NAWGJ Newsletter Representative, and asked her if she would write an article for judges describing the proposal. Here's her response...

You may be wondering what has been happening with the dance program. If you are confused, you may count yourself among the thousands of us who are unsure about the future of compulsory dance and the role of judges in the new program. At the May 13, 1990 meeting of the J.O. Program Committee, Mary Faulkenberry, Vicky Clarkson, and I presented a proposal for a dance training program which we had been asked to author by the national USGF office. Let me give you a bit of background about these individuals.

Mary Faulkenberry has been coaching the dance work of our national team at training camps for the past two years. She comes to the program incredibly well-qualified, having danced with the Houston Ballet for three years. Mary also has a bachelor's and master's degree in Ballet from the School of Music at Indiana University. Mary immediately adapted her knowledge of dance to the specific

gymnastics needs and has become an integral part of the recent success of the U.S. national program.

Vicky Clarkson has taught both gymnastics and dance, specifically ballet, for many years. She is a gym owner and is currently the Colorado State USGF chairperson as well as a Level 9 judge.

My background is in modern dance and my main claim to fame is as a choreographer. As a judge, I gnash my teeth at the obvious weaknesses in body alignment, turn-out and placement of feet. I often see gymnasts with poor extension of feet and legs in jumping and leaping, lack of awareness of correct plié landings, inability to spot turns, incorrect use of the arms in turns, lack of understanding of bodywaves, insufficient upper body expression, and poor use of musicality and rhythm. Let's put it this way—we have much room for improvement!

Mary, Vicky, and I have developed a program of dance workouts which address these problems and are designed logically to progress from the beginner to the advanced athlete. Each workout has a core of sitting and standing technique drills set to music. The third part of each workout is a series of locomotor passes. The fourth part gives the coaches suggestions for creative dance to allow the gymnasts to use their imagination and enjoy the choreographic aspect of dance.

Five workouts have been developed which could be integrated into the program from Level One all the way through the Elite level. These workouts concentrate only on dance technique that is essential for good gymnastics. They are designed to be done on the floor exercise area with relatively large groups of gymnasts; thus, providing time and space efficiency for coaches. Gymnasts of different levels could be learning the same workout because all the exercises are valid and important for the development of each gymnast. The program will include a video of Mary Faulkenberry teaching each workout to the gymnasts. This video can be plugged in by coaches (just like a Jane Fonda video workout) thus, freeing the coach to walk among the gymnasts making corrections and suggestions.

As the years go by, the basic core work of each workout would not change. At the lower levels, the locomotor passes would not change. To make the upper-level workouts more challenging, we would add to the list of combinations across the floor, taking ideas from the entire membership of the USGF. There are many USGF members with dance knowledge and we want to hear their suggestions.

At the time that I am writing this article, we have yet to make our presentation at the National Congress in New Orleans. The J.O. Committee has yet to approve our program officially, although this is the direction they want to go with the dance program. No decisions have been made regarding the evalu-

ation of gymnasts using this program. We will have to wait until the national membership has a chance to see the workouts before we know when they will be implemented.

The pilot program in Virginia and Maryland has been going well; the reaction of the coaches is incredible! The program makes so much sense to them and they are relieved to see that they can learn right along with the athletes. Hopefully, all of you judges will feel the same way about it! Our purpose is to improve the quality of gymnastics in the United States through systematic dance training. The cooperation of the entire USGF community in implementing this program will assure the achievement of this goal.

Focus, Focus: Five Different Ways

Joanne Aschenbrenner

Coaches often tell gymnasts they need to “focus” and “sell” their routine to the audience. Just what does this mean?

It's easy to identify gymnasts who sell their routines to the audience but it's often hard to explain how they do it. Some very gifted, “natural” performers use focus instinctively. For more reluctant performers, learning focus facts and teaching focus patterns will achieve exciting results.

Gymnasts should learn at least five different focal points. Each one conveys a different mood or feeling and has a different effect on the movement performed. By using several focal points, the gymnast can add expression and feeling to her routine. For example, all five focal points can be used in the first dance pass of the elite and Level 10 compulsory routines to add elegance and style to the movements.

Next time you see a truly moving floor exercise routine, try to identify the different focal points the gymnast uses. It may give you a whole new view of the sport!

Basic Points of Focus

Inner

The focal point is **inside** the gymnast. The gymnast pulls in, contracts, and withdraws to add deep expression to her movement.

Stage

The gymnast's focus is **downward**, like looking at the floor of a stage.

Theater

The gymnast's focus is **outward** to the audience. She tries to draw the audience into her performance.

Horizontal

The focal point here is **diagonally upwards**, towards the horizon.

Universal

The gymnast looks **totally up** to the sky and projects upward.

Memories

The 1964 Code of Points

Sandy Oldham, elite judge from Illinois, sent a copy of the 1964 F.I.G. Code of Points to the NAWGJ newsletter editor. It takes only one quick glance to realize how much judging has changed in 26 years. The most noticeable difference is the size of the 1964 Code—less than 1/4 inch thick! It also cost only \$1.25!

A look inside suggests that a few basic structures have persisted throughout the years with only minor adaptations. For example, a judging panel was required to arrive at scores independent of each other. However, five-judge panels were used. The high score and the low score were eliminated and the three remaining scores were averaged. The scores still had to be in range but there was wider latitude in the range itself (i.e., 0.30 for scores between 9.0 and 10; 0.50 for scores between 8.0 and 8.9; and 1.00 for all other scores).

Studying for the compulsory test would have been easy, assuming there was a test. Only execution was subject to evaluation. Of the ten points possible for the routine, five points were awarded for rhythm and precision and five points for general impression. A table of general and principal faults was provided.

“This attire must be modest, correct, distinguishing, and made of non-transparent cloth!”

Here’s one that must have made it difficult to estimate the length of a meet! “Except in the case of the floor exercise, any gymnast may start again without any loss of points an exercise that she feels has been poorly executed. She must declare her intention to the jury before the judges have given

their scores. The repetition of the exercise must be carried out after a suitable period of rest but before the team leaves the apparatus. Only the second execution is scored.” Beam must have gone on and on and on!

Judging optionals also had a different flavor. Gymnasts were required to have five elements of difficulty in their routine, one of which had to be of superior difficulty. “For the sake of general beauty of movement, and in order to avoid any regrettable excesses, it is expressly recommended not to exceed this level!” Missing elements, regardless of difficulty, were worth 0.60 each.

The 1964 Code had an intriguing description of leotards. “This attire must be modest, correct, distinguishing, and made of non-transparent cloth!”

The rules for vault had the same structure as today. However, gymnasts fell on their pelvis in 1964 instead of their hips. For this error, they received a 2.00 deduction.

Uneven bars emphasized hanging and swinging. Stops were penalized unless it was “evident that they are necessary, either for position of balance or as a brief period of concentration prior to some difficult passage.” Balancing movements were permitted on bars but the judges were instructed to

take deductions if a gymnast used “movements characteristic for floor exercises and beam (for instance the split and the bridge)!”

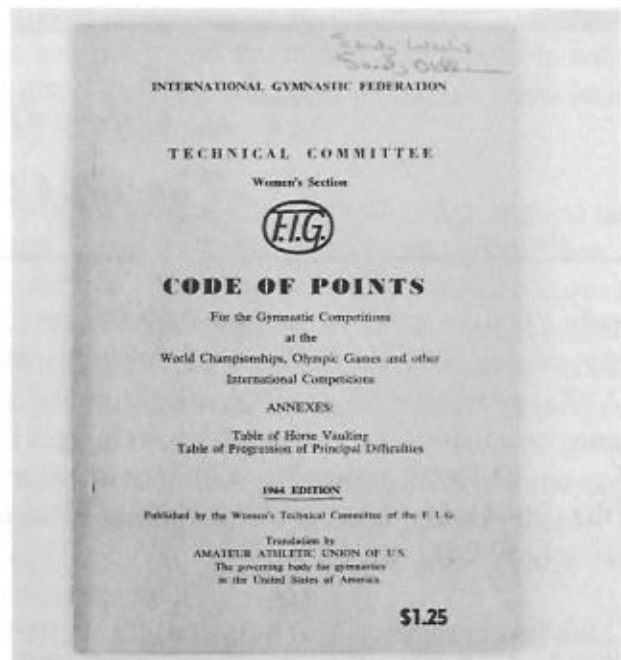
Beam timing rules were surprisingly similar to today’s rules. The duration of the beam routine

was 1 minute 20 to 1 minute 45. Overtime received a penalty of 0.50. Undertime received a penalty of 0.05 point for each second below the minimum time allowed. That must have added to the time it took to show a score!

Floor exercise stressed artistic movements and leaps with vitality, with poses, with balances, with change of pace, and with expression. A single musical instrument was permitted for the musical accompaniment. Interestingly, the Code didn't specify the piano.

What about the elements themselves? Well, there were only 18 vaults listed in the 1964 Code of Points. All except six of them had a value of 10.0. Stoop vault with bent hips was worth 6.5; it was a 10.0 vault if performed with stretched body. There really was a thief vault and it was worth 7.0 (I only thought there was a thief vault mount on beam)! Flank vaults were also worth 7.0. There was a Swan Vault listed in the Code with a 10.0 value and it looked like a hecht vault. Handspring, cartwheel, and yamashita vaults were all worth 10.0!

Elements for bars, beam, and floor were divided into two groups: Basic and International. Narrative descriptions were provided without benefit of illustrations. I think pictures would have helped, particularly on bars! Here's a good example. "From half-upside-down suspension, pass one stretched leg between the arms in order to take position in stretched split support, fall upside-down rearward to half-upside-down suspension,



The 1964 Code of Points specifically forbid the use of "the bridge" and "the split" on uneven parallel bars. However, stops were permitted on bars prior to difficult moves!

change legs while passing them under the bar between the grips, and reassume position in stretched split-support."

It was fun to look back in time and come to understand some of our beginnings. We'd like to publish anecdotes from judges and gymnasts from the "good ole days." If you have an interesting story to pass on, please send it to the NAWGJ newsletter editor. We'd love to hear from you and pass your story along to our readers.

1956 Olympic Coach Erna Wachtel and team members Jackie Klein Fie and Joyce Racek probably had personal knowledge of the 1964 Code of Points. (Photograph courtesy of Erna Wachtel)

We've Come A Long Way: One Judge Remembers

Sandy Oldham

After reviewing the 1964 Code of Points, Sandy Oldham knew just how far we've come in the judging profession. Although her first thought was how light her judging bag was in the "good ole days", she soon recalled the limited availability of judges training. There were few training manuals for beginning judges. The criterion for selecting judges was simply that you had been a

gymnast—here's a clipboard and pencil, go to work!

Sandy remembers judging in the late sixties and early seventies around the Chicago area. She judged meets with 300 girls in them of all levels. It took all day to judge beam. She recalled a typical routine: a small girl crawls up on beam (mount definitely less than A), walks down

and back (not even a dip walk) and jumps off the end (maybe it was a fall)? Her parents are clapping like crazy!! Sandy is wondering how to score this routine!

It was a real challenge to be a judge because there were no judging clinics or courses. While there were many coaches who acted professionally, there were several who screamed at judges for bad scores. Some meets lasted until 3:00 a.m.!

There was no concern for testing or certification. The only advice to the new judge was "make sure the best gymnast wins!"

Impressions Count!

Leslie Drogowski

After judging over 1,000 gymnasts in spring, 1990, Leslie Drogowski (a Level 10 Judge from Virginia) developed a list of hints for gymnasts. She asked NAWGJ to publish these suggestions so that judges can help gymnasts improve the overall general impression of their routines. She must have known about Yvonne's Buckets of Acorns message!

A Fresh-Look Face

Hair should be pulled away from the face. Bangs should be styled or pinned back so as not to cover the gymnast's eyes. Long ponytails should be braided and pulled up or pinned so they are not distracting during the routine.

Have a Chin-Up Attitude

A gymnast who keeps her chin up will improve the overall impression of routine. She will become more stretched and appear to have more expression. She will also give the appearance of

confidence and control. Having a chin-up attitude also means picking yourself up after a fall and continuing with a positive approach.

Walk With Style

Your approach to the apparatus makes the first impression on a judge. If you walk to the apparatus with style, pointed toes, and chin raised, your attitude toward the entire routine can be positively affected. A champion's approach to the apparatus will give the impression that you have a champion's potential.

A Tight Squeeze

It is essential that gymnasts maintain tight body positions while on beam. Your body must be in line from top to bottom with the beam. If you are loose, you will probably wobble or fall.

A tight body affects other events as well and can make a big difference in your score.

Finishing With Style

The difference between an average gymnast and an outstanding gymnast is easily noticed by her ability to go beyond the minimal requirements. Finishing on toe, showing pointed feet and toes, and extending throughout the routine add to the gymnast's style. Hand and head positions are just as important as the feet. A small lift of the chin, a flick of the wrist, and graceful use of the arms and hands are important aspects of style. These finishing touches show the judge that the gymnast is in control from start to finish of the routine.

Stick The Landing

The last impression is as important as the first. One small step at the end of the routine can make a difference in the score and the gymnast's placement for awards. Judges should review the landing deductions with gymnasts to emphasize the importance of the landing in the scoring system.

The Results Are In:

A Summary of a Survey Conducted by Lee Bjella

Last year, Lee Bjella asked NAWGJ to help with a survey seeking information on the educational and gymnastics backgrounds of judges. The survey was published in the November, 1989 issue of the national newsletter; Lee received 159 responses. The respondents had been involved in gymnastics for an average of 18 years and in gymnastics judging for an average of 9.3 years. The highlights of the survey follow.

The median age of the respondents was 37.6 years. The range was 18 to 65 years. The average age for Brevet judges was 40 while the average age of Level 5 judges was 30 years. Ninety-two percent were female; 8% were male. Sixty-nine percent had been gymnasts. Eighty percent are, or have been, a gymnastics teacher or coach, averaging 11.6 year experience. Ninety-six percent of the respondents had attended a state clinic, 81% a regional clinic, and 68% a national clinic.

Of those who responded to the survey, 72% held one or more college degrees; 22% did not have a degree but had attended college for an average of two years. Seven percent had no college degree including 1.8% who were still in their teens. The degrees ranged from B.A.'s to Ph.D.'s in areas from physical education to political science to geophysics.

About 82% of the respondents were employed outside the home in a wide variety of occupations: professors, realtors, bank officers, biologists, social workers, among others. About one-third of the respondents were employed as physical educators, coaches, gym owners, or related occupations. All the Brevets who responded had occupations in coaching, physical education, or related areas.

When asked if they considered judging a hobby or

part-time work, 39% stated it was a hobby, 33% stated it was part-time employment, and 26% considered it to be both. Only 2% considered judging to be full-time employment.

Forty-one percent of the respondents are or were the parent of a gymnast. Approximately 21% became judges because their child was a gymnast. Twelve percent became judges because their child sparked their interest in the sport but the parents themselves had no experience as a gymnast or a coach.

Conclusions

The survey represents a small sample of U.S. judges so generalizations cannot be made. However, the results suggest that this sample of judges includes well-educated women and men who have been involved with the sport in many capacities for several years. People are no longer pulled from the stands and told to judge.

It takes many hours of study and the investment of a great deal of money for books, clinics, uniforms, travel, and volunteer time. Karen Wisen, Washington State Brevet judge, once said, "American judges are the most knowledgeable in the world." Keep up the good work, judges!

Lee would like to thank Donna Lucero for her help with the computer analysis of the survey, Varina French for supplying information on judges ratings, the State Judging Directors who helped with the dissemination of the survey, and the 159 judges who took time to respond to the survey.

HATS OFF TO NAWGJ 15-YEAR MEMBERS !

Region 1 and 2

Shirley Anderson	Chico, California
Yvonne Benny	Carmichael, California
Varina French	Borrego Springs, CA
Norma Hammer	Phoenix, Arizona
Arlene Hartry	Palmdale, California
Constance Maloney	Glendale, California
Janet Packwood	Carmichael, California
Joanne Pasquale	Clovis, California
Shirley Rhoads	Pasadena, California
Judy Smith	Concord, California
Robbie Sumpter	Phoenix, Arizona
Judith Ternyik	Santa Monica, CA
Karen Wisen	Redmond, Washington
Pamela Zak	Kaneohe, Hawaii

Region 3 and 4

Ginger Arons	San Angelo, Texas
JoAnne Aschenbrenner	Longmont, Colorado
Judy Bodman	Boulder, Colorado
Janis Dvorak	Sugarland, Texas
Mary Ann Mahoney	Arvada, Colorado
Janet McNall	Littleton, Colorado
Betty Roberts	Tupelo, Oklahoma
Judie Snook	Fort Worth, Texas
Linda Beran	Omaha, Nebraska
Patricia Brestrich	Sheboygan, Wisconsin
Jacki Fie	Jefferson, Iowa
Judy Grenfell	Ballwin, Missouri
Mary McLellan	Onalaska, Wisconsin
Judith Schalk	Oxford, Wisconsin
Terry Wicker	St. Louis, Missouri

Region 5

Betty Axelson	Des Plaines, Illinois
JoAnn Borda	Dayton, Ohio
Carolyn Bowers	Bowling Green, Ohio
Kathy Case	Danville, Kentucky
Char Christensen	Worthington, Ohio
Judy Dobransky	Sterling Heights, MI
Janet Fraver	Dayton, Ohio
Cheryl Grace	Indianapolis, Indiana
Betty Heppner	Indianapolis, Indiana
Yvonne Hodge	Louisville, Kentucky
Faye Keller	Hartville, Ohio
Carole Liedtke	LaGrange, Kentucky
Linda Morton	Ypsilanti, Michigan
Janice Rodenfels	Columbus, Ohio
Betty Sroufe	Fairfield, Ohio
Grete Treiber	Terre Haute, IN
Erna Wachtel	Chicago, Illinois
Pamela Yockey	Canton, Michigan

Region 6

Frances Aldrich	South Carver, MA
Patricia Alomar	Londonderry, NH
Annette Asmus	Jamaica Est., New York
Charlotte Bukowski	Framingham, MA
Lois Carson	Westford, MA
Jackie Court	Warwick, Rhode Island
Marilyn Cross	Holbrook, New York
Marie Currier	Barrington, Rhode Island
Lorraine Delucas	Ontario, New York
Jane Dickens-Potter	Narragansett, RI
Elizabeth Evans	Longmeadow, MA
Stacy Frey-Carrero	Yonkers, New York
Anne Hanlon	Rockville Ctr, New York
Joan Hicks	Stratford, Connecticut
Linda Hopkins	Oakdale, New York
Karen Kaplan	Newton, Massachusetts
Kitty Kjeldsen	Hadley, Massachusetts
Carol Lovrich	E. Northport, New York
Elaine Lyden	Johnston, Rhode Island
Ann Morris	N. Kingstown, RI
Cynthia Posmoga	Acton, Massachusetts
Eleanor Scott	Smithtown, New York
Cindy Sielski	Glenwood, New York
Margaret Stack-Lennon	Little Neck, New York

Region 7 & 8

Sue Ammerman	Wayne, New Jersey
Gail Bakker	Washington, New Jersey
Peggy Bialla	Sterling, Virginia
Nancy Claar	State College, PA
Jeanne DeVenney	Franklin Lakes, NJ
Jeanne Haralla	Hazlet, New Jersey
Ellen Kovac	Westfield, New Jersey
Martha Kunka	Belle Vernon, PA
Betty Malinchak	Monessen, Pennsylvania
Valerie Miller	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Audrey Schweyer	Allentown, Pennsylvania
Jennifer Spering	Frenchtown, New Jersey
Delene Darst	Duluth, Georgia
Suzanne Goff	Atlanta, Georgia
Debby Kornegay	Birmingham, Alabama
Evelyn McCullough	Orlando, Florida
Hoylene Noble	Cartersville, Georgia
Louise Peck	Florence, South Carolina
Donna Stuart	Forest Park, Georgia
Brock White	Lawrenceville, Georgia

Thanks to Betty Sroufe, NAWGJ National Secretary-Treasurer, for preparing this list of 91 members.

Spotlight On A Judge

Margarete Bonkiewicz was born in Timisora, Romania. She attended a small three-room country school in Ried, Austria for four years and graduated from an All-Girl High School in Linz, Austria in 1952. Margarete's mother died shortly after she was born and her father was drafted while she was an infant. So, she was raised by her grandmother.

In 1944, with the Russian army driving toward the west during World War II, Margarete's family was forced to leave their homeland. Margarete and her grandmother joined a wagon train, much like the wagon trains seen on television. It was seven weeks before they slept under a roof again. During the trip, they were shot at and they ran out of food and water. They were cold, soaked, and became sick.

When they reached Austria, Margarete and her family were housed with farmers. Adults worked on the farms in exchange for pay, housing and food. The children attended school but it was a 45 minute walk both ways. The hardest adjustment was not the living conditions but the fact that they were refugees. Margarete felt like they were people without a home who belonged nowhere.

In 1947, Margarete's father was released from a Siberian concentration camp and he joined the family in Austria. He remarried and Margarete moved in with her father. They lived in one room in a camp for displaced persons. The family expanded to five members and the living conditions became quite crowded. The family felt very fortunate when they were given a new apartment with two rooms.

Through the father's hard work, the family immigrated to America. The trip took them across Western Europe, Iceland, Greenland,

and Canada before landing at Kennedy Airport. After 24 hours of flying, the family was both exhausted and elated. This trip halfway around the world led to a new country, new people, a new language, and a new beginning.

During her journeys, Margarete held several different jobs. In Austria, she worked for a company that made tin cans for non-food products. In Brooklyn, she made sweaters in all colors and sizes. She also worked for a dress company in Belleville, Illinois and later in Endicott, New York. Since 1984, she has managed a bookstore and has the good fortune to have a boss who lets her take off work to judge gymnastic meets or attend clinics.

Margarete's husband of 32 years is a technology analyst for IBM. They have three children: Michael, 27; Michelle, 25; and David, 22. Margarete's interest in gymnastics started with her daughter. Michelle originally competed for the Owego Scamps team and always wanted to know why her score was lower than....sound familiar? A gymnastic official offered a short course for parents. After the course, the judge encouraged participants to make all this knowledge pay by becoming judges themselves. Margarete was quite surprised to find out how much more she'd have to learn!

Margarete received her first judge's rating in fall, 1974 (a State Rating). She has been an active official ever since. She became Section IV Chairperson and assigner in 1978. She is in her sixth year as a member of the New York North State Board. She is now the Newsletter Editor for the Board.

NAWGJ expresses thanks to the New York North Newsletter Editor for granting permission to reprint this article which originally appeared in their May, 1990 newsletter.

NAWGJ PRO SHOP

BRIEFCASE

The NAWGJ briefcase holds all of your judging materials in an organized manner. One pocket is just the right size for the FIG Code. Another pocket holds the Compulsory Book. Pockets are also provided for pencils, score pads, and other necessities. A small purse can also be tucked inside to reduce the number of items you have to carry on the floor with you. The briefcase comes in Association Blue with a shoulder strap and leather hand grips. The cost is \$25.00 plus \$2.50 shipping charge. Add \$2.00 if ordering with credit card.



OFFICIAL UNIFORM

Official NAWGJ uniforms are available in misses sizes 4 to 26. The two-piece suit costs \$158.00 (\$165.00 with credit card). Skirts may be ordered for \$52.50 (\$56.00 with credit card). When ordering sizes 20-26, please add \$21.60 for a special cutting fee. Shipping costs are included in the price listed. The next order will be sent to the manufacture in late fall. All orders should be received by October 15. Delivery can be expected within 12 weeks of the order.

WATCH

This watch is a beauty! It includes the NAWGJ logo in blue on a white dial face. The watch looks great with your uniform. The cost of the watch is \$30.00. It makes a great Christmas gift from family members (put it on your list to Santa)! It's also a wonderful award for recognition of gymnastic enthusiasts in your state judging association or booster club.



ORDERING INFORMATION

Send all orders to Betty Sroufe, 2096 Rolling Hills Blvd., Fairfield, Ohio 45014. Make checks payable to NAWGJ—Betty Sroufe. Credit card orders may be placed by phone (513) 829-5671. Master Card and Visa are accepted. If ordering by credit card, provide the credit card number, expiration date, and signature as listed on the credit card. If using Master Card, include the 4-digit number above your name on the card.

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I have just finished reading the latest NAWGJ newsletter and felt the immediate need to respond to the article entitled "Attracting and Retaining New Gymnastics Judges."...In the state of Oregon, I see the judging community broken into two factions: (1) those of us who are addicted and committed for life, and (2) those who like the extra money and the kids, but really don't have the time or drive to ever judge optionals because it is too difficult. Of course, there are a few who are in between, but most judges are one or the other.

I believe the problem with the life-time judges revolves around advancement and high-level meet assignments. In essence, there are more high-level judges in the area than high-level meets or gymnasts. no matter how difficult it seems, it is still easier to become a high-level judge than a high-level gymnast. The result is that we have very limited expectations of ever judging at the same level as our rating. The Elites judge level 10 meets, the 10's do 8 and 9 meets, etc. Although the increase in fees that comes with an increased rating is nice, it would also be

nice to have the opportunity to judge at the level of your rating. The only solution I have is, perhaps, a financial commitment from the NAWGJ to assign each judge to at least one high-level meet per year, even if his/her score did not count. Of course, this would need the support of the other judges at that meet to prevent hard feelings.

In the "compulsory-for-life" judges, I sense a fear of failure sponsored by our horror stories of coaches' intimidation and too much attention on rules that rarely apply to level 8 or 9 gymnasts (bonus connections, Competition II and III rules, etc.). If they could just be allowed to get past the task of recognizing difficulty, some would come to love optionals as I do. I would really like to see a "provisional" optional status in which only the head judge (having an optional rating for some time) would have to be concerned about difficulty and the "provisional" acting judge could concentrate on execution, shorthand, and specific composition deductions and event requirements. Perhaps this person could have a "mentor" judge that could help them through their first season.

Recruiting new judges is a criti-

cal issue in our area and our state association has spent much time and effort addressing it. Becoming a judge is a HUGE commitment and the judging community needs to make it more feasible and profitable from the start.

Helen Honey
Level 10 Judge
Oregon
(Excerpts from letter)

NAWGJ would like to hear from you. Send your thoughts and suggestions to the editor (address on front cover). Please limit your letter to 300 words or less. Your signature will be taken as permission to publish all or parts of your letter. Only signed letters will be published.

Thoughts expressed in the Letters to the Editor column do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial staff or NAWGJ.

News Update

1991 National Symposium To Be Held in Maine

The 1991 NAWGJ National Symposium will be held on June 26-29 in Portland, Maine. The tentative schedule calls for registration, study sessions and test administration on Wednesday, June 26. The clinic sessions will be scheduled throughout the day on Thursday and Friday as well as Saturday morning. Additional information will be mailed to you soon. Mark your calendars now!

1991 National Judges Cup

The 1991 National Judges Cup will be held in Portland, Maine in conjunction with the National Symposium. The competition will begin on Saturday following the closing session of the symposium.

The competition will continue through Sunday and will include All-Star as well as club team competition.

Don't miss this fourth annual Judge's Cup! It's a great event!

Region V Invites You To Their Fall Symposium

Noblesville, Indiana will be the site of the NAWGJ Region V Judge's Symposium November 9, 10, and 11, 1990. Sessions will be held at the USGF Training Center in Indianapolis as well as Noblesville Junior High School.

Master clinicians include Brevet Judge and Olympic Coach Muriel Grosfeld, Brevet Judge and 1988 Olympic Judge Joanne Aschenbrenner, Region V Elite Program Chairman Gary Warren, and Dance Specialist Suzoko Riewe from the American Ballet Theater and the Hong Kong Royal Ballet Company.

The Symposium will include sessions for all levels of judges. Special sessions will be held for the new/beginner judge. The certification exam will be given on Sunday. All judges are invited to attend this Symposium. Registration is \$85.00 for NAWGJ members and \$100.00 for non-members if received prior to October 2. After October 2, the fees increase to \$100.00 and \$125.00 respectively. Contact Betty Sroufe for additional information (address on front cover).

Dobranksy To Be NAWGJ Librarian

Judy Dobranksy was appointed the new Educational Librarian for NAWGJ effective October 1, 1990. The vacancy in the position was created as a result of Yvonne Hodge becoming the President of NAWGJ.

Yvonne was the first Educational Librarian for NAWGJ and she saw to it that it got off to a solid start. Yvonne filled hundreds of requests for materials for judges. The service was particularly helpful because of the implementation of the new rules.

An order form for educational materials is included in this newsletter.

Correction

Credits for the Question and Answer Compulsory column in the last NAWGJ newsletter should have been listed as follows: Prepared by Linda Cheninski, Reviewed by WTC. The Questions and Answers Optionals column was prepared by the WTC and reviewed by M. Cross and K. Wisen. Thanks to Marilyn Cross for these clarifications.

NAWGJ Educational Library

Order Form

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

I would like to order the following materials from the NAWGJ Educational Library.

Quantity	Description	Unit Price	Total
	FIG Code of Points Print-Out Labels for Flash Cards Cards not included. Developed by Mary Van Grinsven	\$7.00	
	Dance Manual Definitions and illustrations of dance terms in the 1989-92 Compulsories Developed by Linda Kardos Barnett	\$3.50	
	Compulsory Reference Sheets Includes symbols, elements, and deductions on one page. Great for using at your desk while judging. All events and all levels included in the packet. Each page enclosed in plastic cover.	\$3.50	

Total: _____

Send order form and check to:
 Judy Dobransky
 NAWGJ Educational Library
 3446 Gordan Drive
 Sterling Heights, Michigan 48310
 313-264-2047

The Minutes, Summer, 1990

NAWGJ GOVERNING BOARD MINUTES

June 28-29, 1990
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
9:00 A.M.

I ROLL CALL

President	Dale Brown
Vice President	Mary Ann West
Secretary/Treasurer	Betty Sroufe
Administrative Assistant	Mary Van Grinsven
Region I	Janet Packwood
Region II	Vad Woodside
Region III	absent
Region IV	Judy Grenfell(11am arrival)
Region V	Donnilyn Trevethan
Region VI	Pat Panichas
Region VII	Jennifer Spering
Region VIII	Mary Lou Dillard
President Elect	Yvonne Hodge
USGF Liaison	Kathy Kelly (Friday AM)

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M/S/P The Sept 30, 1989 minutes were approved as written.

III DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Director's Report

Dale Brown welcomed Yvonne Hodge as our President Elect. Pertinent issues and concerns of the office of President over the last 8 months were discussed. Liaison committee reports were given and prioritization of events for the smooth change-over of this office were noted.

B. Vice-President

Mary Ann West presented information from the following committees as our liaison: USGF Women's Program Administrative Board, Judges Certification, Inc., USGF Womens Judges Review Task Force and the NAWGJ National Symposium - 1991.

C. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Betty Sroufe presented a detailed financial summary of NAWGJ from November 1989 through May 1990. A detailed account of membership was given to the National Governing Board. In addition, a proposed 1990-91 budget was presented for approval.

M/S/P The 1990-91 NAWGJ Financial Budget is approved as presented.

A letter from our business consultant was presented stressing the need for all Directors to file timely financial reports. A detailed review of financial reporting procedures will be sent to all NAWGJ Directors by the National Governing Board.

D. Administrative Assistant Report

Mary Van Grinsven discussed the election procedures for appointed offices and suggested an alternate system to help reduce costs.

Thirty-two pages of updates to the Directors Guide were presented to State Judging Directors. The Guide will be revised and reproduced in its entirety after our Fall 1990 meeting.

E. Regional Reports

Regional Judging Directors reported on state and regional events and commented on the state of their membership.

F. USGF Report

Kathy Kelly attended the meeting on Friday morning and gave a verbal report on USGF issues as they pertain to officials.

Kathy stated the USGF National office will use NAWGJ for assignment of officials to National-level meets in 1991. Kathy will request all USGF State and Regional Chairmen notify their respective NAWGJ Directors in writing by August 1, 1990 of their assigning intentions for the upcoming season.

In addition, Kathy noted that USGF State Board members must be elected and not appointed if they are to have voting privileges. If a state chooses not to have an elected board, the entire state membership must be polled on voting issues.

IV NCAA

NCAA assigning procedures are under review for 1991. NCAA would like all judges to be aware of two NCAA regulations:

1. Anyone judging a collegiate meet must have a level 9 rating. In the "testing year" it is okay if the level 10 optional written and film tests have been passed and the judge is in the testing loop for the compulsory.
2. Any judge accepting assignment to NCAA Regionals must judge at least two college meets during the season.

V ASSIGNING PROCEDURES

Effective Immediately

M/S/P* Assigning Fees will be \$3.00 per judge.

Meets assigned less than 30 days before the competition date will be \$5.00 per judge.

*YES:I,II,III,IV,V,VI,VII,AA,VP OBSTAIN: VIII, S/T

Please Note: All NAWGJ state assigners MUST be elected officers of their State Governing Board.

VI. INSURANCE UPDATE

A. Directors and Officers Insurance

The benefit and cost of purchasing this type of insurance was discussed. This insurance will cover all members of State, Regional and National Governing Boards.

M/S/P NAWGJ will purchase Directors and Officers Insurance.

M/S/P Cost of this policy will be divided equally among state, regional and national officers.

B. Current Insurance Costs

The possibility of reducing current coverage to \$500,000 (from \$1million) was looked into by Dale Brown. Our agent was contacted and stated he felt this was an acceptable consideration. Dale will continue to work with our agent to receive specific cost savings information to be presented at our fall meeting for a vote.

If any member has strong feelings either way on this issue, please contact your Regional Judging Director before October 15, 1990.

M/S/P Dale Brown will remain liaison to City Securities and K & K Insurance on behalf of NAWGJ.

VII. JUDGES CUP

A. 1990

This year's Cup was very successful, hosting over 140 gymnasts throughout the United States. A Final financial statement will be available at our Fall meeting.

A big THANK YOU is extended to the Oklahoma NAWGJ for their preparation and hours of volunteer work and a lovely dinner and social evening for all involved in the meet! Special thanks to Betty Roberts and Janet Packwood as our Meet Directors.

B. 1991

The Judges Cup 1991 will be held in Portland, Maine in conjunction with our NAWGJ National Judges Symposium.

The Cup will be held on Saturday and Sunday, June 29-30, 1991. The Symposium will finish at 12 Noon and the first session of the meet will be in the afternoon.

The All-Star competition was again a big hit. State and Regional Judging Directors are encouraged to promote and support teams from their area.

VIII. NAWGJ NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
PORTLAND, MAINE
JUNE 26-29, 1991

A. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Weds. June 26-Afternoon:	Registration
	Study Sessions
	Evening: Registration
	Judges Test Administration
Thurs. June 27 All Day:	Clinic
Friday June 28 All Day:	Clinic
Sat. June 29 Morning:	Clinic
	Afternoon: Judges Cup
	Evening: Judges Cup
Sun. June 30 Morning:	Judges Cup
	Afternoon: Judges Cup

B. National Symposium Guide

The Symposium Review Committee presented a Guide to establish the specific duties of the Director and the National Governing Board for future Symposia.

M/S/P The NAWGJ National Symposium Guide is approved as presented with revisions noted by the National Governing Board.

The Operating Code for future Symposia will continue to be worked on by Jennifer Sperring, Mary Lou Dillard and Pat Panichas.

IX. ELECTIONS PROCEDURE REVIEW

A. Appointed Officers

After review of varied election procedures, written suggestions will be sent to the National Governing Board for Constitutional Changes to occur at our Fall Meeting.

B. National Newsletter Editor Appointment

The election procedures were carried out according to the NAWGJ Election Guide and our National Newsletter Editor, Catherine (Cookie) Batsche will remain the Editor for the next four years. Congratulations Cookie!

C. National Symposium Director

Election procedures will commence for a National Symposium Director for the 1993 Symposium on July 25,

1990. The procedures will be as follows:
- July 25 Notification to National Governing Board
Election Procedures about to begin
 - Aug. 25 Letter of Eligibility sent
(RJD's will send to Level 10 and above)
 - Sep. 25 Eligibility Due to Administrative Assistant
(Postmarked by this date)
 - Oct. 20 Election of Director
(occurs at National Governing Board Meeting)

D. NAWGJ Librarian

The appointment of a new Librarian was necessary due to Yvonne Hodge's President Elect position.

M/S/P* Judy Dobransky is appointed the new Librarian.

*YES: I, II, III, V, VI, VII, VIII, S/T, VP NO: IV OBSTAIN: AA

M/S/P Duties and procedures for the NAWGJ Librarian will be established at our next meeting.

E. Election Notification

M/S/P Duties of each respective office will be sent with the eligibility form to prospective candidates.

M/S/P A yearly election calendar will appear on a permanent basis in the National Newsletter starting in 1991.

X. FEE STRUCTURE

The NAWGJ Fee Structure will continue to be in effect for organizations assigned by NAWGJ that do not possess their own fee structure.

The USGF Fee Structure will continue to be in effect for USGF sanctioned meets in 1990-91.

If you have any comments or suggestions on either fee structure, please direct your comments to your Regional Judging Director before October 15, 1990.

XI. MISSION STATEMENT/ PHILOSOPHY OF NAWGJ

The National Governing Board produced a final draft of a proposed Mission Statement with specific goals designed to achieve the Mission. This draft will be reviewed by all committee members and voted on at our fall meeting.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

A. 1990 State Judging Directors Workshop

The agenda was reviewed and finalized for the workshop held here on Friday, June 29. The SJD's enjoyed a luncheon and an afternoon of informative and

participatory meetings to help them with the duties of their office.

B. National Newsletter Editor Requests

Editor, Cookie Batsche, requested the President consider writing a "Letter from the President" section for each National Newsletter.

The possibility of a "mini-newsletter" (short newsletters sent to the membership inbetween National Newsletters when information was available) was discussed. The National Governing Board felt this was a good idea and would produce one issue on a trial basis when the National Newsletter Editor felt information gathered would warrant it.

C. NAWGJ Bids Farwell To Our President

The Natinal Governing Board would like to publicaly thank Dale Brown for her 6 years of service as the NAWGJ President. During her terms of office, NAWGJ experienced major growth in membership and professionalism. You gave of your time and yourself unselfishly and for this you are highly commended.

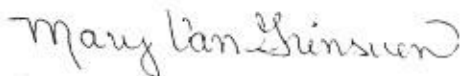
Although you may be leaving the duties of President at this time, you will always enjoy the lasting friendships you have made.

Once again, THANY YOU DALE.

D. Next NAWGJ National Governing Board Meeting

The next National Governing Board Meeting will be held on October 19-21, 1990 at the O'Hare Hilton in Chicago, IL.

Respepfully submitted,



Mary Van Grinsven
NAWGJ Administrative Assistant



Approval by Dale Brown
NAWGJ President

6 JUN 90
DATE

The Eighth Bi-Annual

**NATIONAL WOMEN'S
GYMNASTICS
JUDGES
SYMPOSIUM**

June 26 -- June 29, 1991

**Clinicians include Yvonne Hodge, Audrey Schweyer, Shirley Tranquill,
Ruth Morse, Cheryl Hamilton, and Joanne Aschenbrenner**

**The sites of Portland and the scenic, rugged Maine coast await you at
Symposium. Cruise Portland Harbor. Visit the famed Portland Head
Light. Stroll the Old Port District. And shop in scenic Freeport or the
Maine Mall, the largest shopping center in Northern New England.**

Watch your mail for registration materials

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

October 19-21, 1990	National Governing Board Meeting	Indianapolis, IN
February 22-23, 1991	American Cup	TBA
April 19-20, 1991	NCAA Women's Championships	Tuscaloosa, Alabama
April 27-28, 1991	Level 9 Easterns/Westerns	TBA
May 4-5, 1991	Level 10 Junior Nationals	TBA
May 11-12, 1991	Level 10 Senior Nationals	TBA
June 26-29, 1991	NAWGJ National Symposium	Portland, Maine
June 29-30, 1991	National Judges Cup	Portland, Maine
Sept. 7 - 15, 1991	Gymnastics World Championships	Indianapolis, IN

NAWGJ
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Normal, IL 61761

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