

FL NAWGJ Board Meeting

July 26, 2023

Susan Monahan called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Attendance:

Clinic Chair	Arika Hoyt	P
Ethics Chair	Pam Sherwood	P
Event Coordinator	Patricia Lydon	P
Media Specialist	Jenn Ynestroza	P
Mentor Chair	Susan Lomas	P
North/Central Assigner	Carol Curley	P
South Assigner	Sharyn Strickland	P
Secretary	Jen Boval	P
State Judging Director	Susan Monahan	P
Volunteer Coordinator	Kevn McNamara	P

SJD Overview and Comments – Susan Monahan

- The Rated Judges Report was reviewed – FL has the 3rd largest membership of active judges with 123 members, behind California and Texas. 66% of Florida’s members are rated level 10 or higher.
- The Annual Report sent to the National NAWGJ Office shows that in Florida, 858 contracts were assigned for 90 meets.
- The Financial Report was reviewed, which documents that the FL NAWGJ account balance as of July 11, 2023 was \$35,346.15.
- The Budget was reviewed. Much of the budget is dependent on Judges Cup in September. Over half of the judges eligible for testing reimbursement took advantage of the opportunity.
- Susan M. attended the State Committee Meeting on June 23rd. Highlights include the following: NAWGJ will again assign competitions; Susan M. was appointed CPE Coordinator, and there are 2 revisions to the travel guidelines.
- Elections for SJD will begin on March 1st with applications due April 1st and the new electee will take over on May 15th. There are 18 eligible judges for the SJD position.

- Elections for the Board will commence on June 1st, with the new board taking over on August 1st. We were asked to encourage members to join the board.
- Training Camps - Jennifer Ynestroza, Stephanie Ovdienko and Tabatha Richardson attended the 6/7/8 training camp. The 8/9/10 training camp will be held at Orlando Metro from 10/13 – 10/15/23.
- Testing – 16 judges in FL have taken the TOPS course. All levels of testing will be offered at Judges Cup on Sunday, September 17th.

National Judges Cup – Jen Boval gave an update on the changes to the application requirements for sending 1-2 judges to NJC. A sub-committee made up of herself, Sharyn Strickland, Arika Hoyt, and Susan Monahan met on June 15, 2023 to discuss new qualification guidelines. The application, including qualifications, will be available on or before September 1st and applications will be reviewed by the board for a vote in the October meeting to determine who may attend NJC in Tinley Park, IL on January 5-7, 2024.

The following qualifications are required to apply: 1) two consecutive years of judging, with a minimum of two meets each of those two years, and 2) two years of FL Judges Cup participation within the past five years.

- **Motion: Pam Sherwood**
- **Second: Sharyn Strickland**
- **Passed unanimously**

Discussion ensued about sending a level 7 team to NJC. It was determined that it may be a good option for 2025 when NJC is in FL, and Jenn Ynestroza volunteered to help coordinate a team when the time comes. Further discussion about volunteer opportunities for the 2025 NJC resulted in a determination that judges can sign up on their own to volunteer, and any coordinated opportunities would need to be arranged by the new board and volunteer coordinator at that time.

Sympathy/celebration Cards – Jen Boval reminded the board to forward knowledge of bereavements and celebrations in our judging community to her so that she can send a card on behalf of FL NAWGJ.

Ethics – Pam Sherwood reported that it has been “a quiet year”. There is a video on NAWGJ website that she recommended to Susan Lomas for new judges. Pam will send out an email to FL membership with reminders about ethics before the season begins.

FL NAWGJ Handbook – Pam reported that she, Susan Lomas, and Susan Monahan have been working on revisions to the handbook that will be available by September 1st.

Volunteers – Kevn McNamara reported that there were 10 volunteers at XCEL Regionals, 13 volunteers at 9/10 Regionals, and she was uncertain of the number at Level 9 Easterns. She has started a discussion with Toni and Evelyn about asking for improved expectations for accommodations for judges who volunteer their time at regional or national competitions hosted by Florida.

FL Judges Cup – Patricia Lydon reported on progress for Judges Cup. So far, she has received responses from 42 judges. Last year’s JC had fewer athletes than expected, so the net income was less than previous years. She doesn’t know how many entries there will be this year, but Tim Keckler is raising the dollar amount per athlete paid to FL NAWGJ from \$8 to \$12. So far, everything is on track.

New Judges – Susan Lomas reported that the number of judges (12) who responded to her inquiry is low, but there are 4 judges who are brand new and 3 transplants from another state. As of now, 2 judges plan to test in August.

Clinics – Arika Hoyt reported that the State Clinic was successful. She is beginning to plan brush-up clinics and requested dates from Sharyn, Kevn, and Susan L. She asked board members to contact her if they have a contribution for the Clinic Corner in the Newsletter.

Assigning – Carol and Sharyn commented that this is a tight year for assigning, especially for certain weekends, because we have lost judges. Judges need to be reminded to create contracts, and they both would like judges to email their assigner to request a hotel if needed, at least a month before the meet.

Website – Jenn Ynestroza requested information for the website and is creating a special email for that purpose.

General Meeting – Susan Monahan said that 74 judges have responded to the survey, so there will be a meeting option for both Wednesday, August 9th and Sunday, August 13th at 7 PM. The same information will be covered at both meetings, and there will be guest speakers at each meeting.

Board meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.

- **Motion: Susan Lomas**
- **Second: Sharyn Strickland**