

## **Georgia NAWGJ Board Meeting Minutes June 9, 2002**

### **Location: Roswell Recreation Center**

Attendees: Jean DeArmon, Marilyn Bishop, Kathlyn Skeslock, June Seymour, Lisa Wheaton, Jeanie Lipsius, Ceal Wutka, Chris Jackson

Guests: Sheila Ragle, Gwyned Bius, Liz Nichols

Absent: Marian Dykes

The meeting was called to order by Jean DeArmon, SJD, at 12:45 PM.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Secretary -**

Chris reported the December, 2001 Board Meeting minutes were approved via email and published in the January 2002 newsletter.

#### **Technical Chair -**

Ceal requested that members email her any pertinent "neat" gymnastics oriented links that could be added to the ganawgj website.

#### **Hospitality -**

Jeanie reported that she's been kept busy the first part of this year with all the new babies and illnesses in the Georgia gymnastics community.

#### **Judges Training -**

Kathlyn indicated that Becky Oppenheimer is looking for volunteer judges for the summer clinic the last weekend of July. That clinic will not have a judge's clinic. There was discussion regarding when to have another clinic and what to focus on. The consensus was that a Prep Opt. Clinic may be pertinent at the Judges 500, if the new material is ready by then.

#### **Member At Large -**

Marilyn reported that she is a member of the Prep Opt. Development Committee. She reported that the committee was considering two Prep Opt tracks - a USA track for gymnasts who completed at USA Level 4, 5, or 6 and an AAU track with Novice and Advanced categories. Marilyn also reported that she has been sending AAU updates via

email to all members who have email addresses and has sent the information to Ceal to post on the website.

### **Fundraiser -**

Lisa reported that this year's judges 500 will be held at Rowell. Lisa suggested door prizes for gymnasts. Liz Nichols offered some AAU paraphernalia to start the treasure chest. Jean and Liz will coordinate collecting the items. Lisa also took suggestions for the gymnast's goody bags. The consensus was notebooks with a powder blue design.

The board also discussed ideas for the judges' appreciation portion of our volunteer weekend.

**A motion was made to purchase start value cards for all judges if the cost was approximately \$5.00. If the cost is greater than \$5.00, a limited number would be purchased for gifts and others would be available for sale.**

**Motion: Lisa Wheaton**

**Second: Ceal Wutka**

**Passed: 6-1**

### **Booking -**

Gwyned suggested that judges plan for booking, thinking about things like the impact of the end of the year burn-out that makes it much more difficult to find a replacement. Also, as a reminder, if a judge can't find a replacement, that judge is obligated.

### **Regional Judging Director -**

Sheila mentioned that the RJD/SJD workshop was coming up in Albuquerque shortly. Jean, Marian and Sheila would be attending. She requested that any pertinent questions be sent to them as soon as possible.

Sheila also brought to the discussion table the very sensitive issue of coach/judge relationships. As with any problem, there are always two sides. A sample of the concerns voiced from both sides include: coaches afraid to talk to judges for fear of retaliation toward their gymnasts, judges being confronted/challenged by coaches argumentatively, excessive camaraderie between certain coaches and judges tends to intimidate others, judges who will not discuss a routine with a coach, etc. As a reminder, it is important to maintain a high degree of professionalism at every meet - be courteous, considerate, appreciative, aware of your surroundings and in control of your opinions. Also, if you feel uncomfortable discussing a routine with a coach, refer the coach to the Chief Judge, which is technically the proper response.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Escrow Account -**

Jean reported that she expects to have between \$4-5000 available to establish and seed an escrow account to help defray expenses associated with judges training/testing during each new quadrennium year. The board instructed her to open a savings account to hold that money aside.

### **Plans for Disbursement of Monies from the Escrow Account -**

Chris volunteered to put a Disbursement Criteria proposal together for the next board meeting.

### **Requirements for Reimbursement for Clinics, NAWGJ Dues, and USAG Dues -**

Jean identified deficiencies in staffing the Judges 500, particularly on Sunday. Gwyned agreed to look at the possibility of splitting booking into two days. Lisa indicated there were more jobs than 2 sessions/person currently staffs.

**A motion was made to increase the minimum volunteer time fo the Judges 500 to one full day, effective with the 2002 Judges 500.**

**Motion: Chris Jackson**

**Second: Jeanie Lipsius**

**Passed: 7-0**

### **Motivation for Taking Out of Town Meets -**

Gwyned addressed the difficulty she has experienced staffing meets in Camden, Savannah, Waycross, Vidalia and Albany. The board suggested that she include a statement encouraging judges to book these meets in her booking letter. Chris agreed to incorporate this issue in the Clinic Disbursement Criteria proposal.

### **Clinics and Future Testing -**

#### **Clinic Reimbursement -**

Judges who have met the requirements for reimbursement will be reimbursed the cost of the clinic of their choice up to \$100.00. Late fees will not be reimbursed. Jean requested that a Reimbursement Request Form be drawn up and posted on the website and in the next newsletter. Chris volunteered to draw up the form.

#### **Future testing -**

Kathlyn requested suggestions for conducting the next State sponsored test. The board recommended an early August test, preferably the first weekend. Jean indicated the cost of each test part has increased to the point that the fees are no longer covering the cost.

**A motion was made to change the test fee per part to \$30.00**

**Motion: June Seymour**

**Second: Chris Jackson**

**Passed: 7-0**

**AAU -**

Liz reported that the AAU committee has approved the recommendation that judges who hold a Level 5/6 rating can judge Prep Opt. gymnasts with chief judge who holds an optional rating.

Jean wanted to acknowledge Gretchen Connell for preparing AAU training videos and Becky Oppenheimer for taking the leadership role in re-working the Prep Opt. program.

**Elections -**

Jean announced that the candidate application period has expired. Ballots will be mailed tomorrow.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Chris Jackson

Secretary - GA NAWGJ