

Goodbye as RJD

For 32 years I have volunteered in Regional positions (Chair, Technical Director, SJD and RJD). I will miss the direct involvement and daily participation in doing the job. I hope I have made a difference in the development of gymnastics as I have seen it grow since 1960 when I first competed and then continued as a coach, teacher and judge. I have taken and passed the first National Course in 1975, the FIG Brevet Course and test seven times, and the USA Brevet Course and test once and numerous J.O. Compulsory and earlier optional tests. Even Doctors do not have to retest so often!!

As RJD my main duty was to guide and advise the SJD and to represent our Region at the National level, but I always felt a kindred responsibility to all the Region V judges in wanting the best professionalism, training, working conditions and service to gymnastics. I tried to represent the region at as many functions as possible. I am most proud of the many hours the Region V judges have donated to Regional Training Camps and volunteered to help at state, regional and National meets and clinics in our area as well as the deep desire all feel to judge in a fair, consistent manner with concern to stay educated and alert for updates and changes. Most of our judges get many more than just the required CPE credits due to their dedication to gymnastics. Most give time and donations to their state judging cups. In return the judges have received payment for their memberships, uniforms, education and the acknowledgement that they have made a difference for gymnastics and the gymnasts. I hope the Coach/Judge relationship can continue to improve to put everyone's objective in the same direction for the correct judging and betterment of the gymnasts.

I enjoyed the long hours of preparation and the running of the Regional symposiums and feel strongly that they have helped train our judges to be consistent in our Region as well as providing a single site for joint camaraderie for all the states.

I have had to mediate several problems and concerns and hope that the Ethics and Codes of NAWGJ will prevail to enhance the correct management of rules and regulations. I hope that problems can be handled with professionalism and realization that the NAWGJ is trying to represent the good of all judges, all volunteering with this purpose in mind.

Thank you to all who have been supportive to Region V and to the gymnastics community of gymnasts, coaches and judges with whom I have come into contact. Please continue to strive to maintain high ethics and professionalism and take time to follow procedures and policies.

I now pass the green flag over to Hilary Carlson and hope you all will be as supportive to her and that Region V will continue to be strong and to grow. I will continue to Judge and am currently on the USAG State Board and running for the NAWGJ Board for Kentucky. My husband and I have taken up ballroom dancing and I continue to exercise each day and golf several times a week (I am the Ladies League Vice President). My family is growing with spouses and grandchildren and we try to do many things with them. I do a lot of yard work on our four acres and some for the kids. So I stay very busy, but still will miss the daily duties of my regional job.

Carole Liedtke 6/1/07