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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

One thing NAWGJ has is plenty of volunteer opportunities!! Remember that those of you going to Nat'l or Brevet courses will need volunteer credits – plus, you're all just nice, giving people!

1. 9/10 Regionals will be in IN and 8 will be in IL. Go to www.Region-5.com for particulars. Assignments are not out yet, but please keep in mind that we will need many auxiliary judges. Contact Judy Kemp in IN and Linda McDonald in IL to volunteer. More info will be out later.
2. National Judges Cup will also be in IN Jan. 6-8. We ALWAYS need help and can use every level of judge. It is a wonderful opportunity. For information, go to www.nawgj.org and look under National Judges Cup.

PROFESSIONALISM REMINDER

Judy Kemp, IN SJD, just sent this reminder to her members. It's a great reminder for all of us as we prepare for the new season. Thanks, Judy!

Dear Members,

As I am sure you are all aware the participation for the meets in our State is down from past years. 2 days to 1 day, 8 judges to 4 judges, etc. Meets are usually fund raising events for our clubs. We need to be accommodating and willing to make last minutes changes to help our State through these economically hard times. Meets should never be about us! MD's have enough to worry about without us adding to their concerns. We are there to apply the deductions and give each gymnast a fair and honest evaluation for which we are compensated very well.

Meet Directors have the right to request certain judges. You should not take this personally. It could be about carpools, location, rating, etc.

Most clubs provide food for us in lieu of paying per diem. Some clubs do this better than others, but at the end of the day it is just food.

When a Meet Director contacts me that the judges have a volunteer parent in tears about their lunch it is really hard for me to defend. If you are put on a "do not want" list in the future, you should not be surprised.

We are being paid for our expertise, parents are volunteering. Make no mistake that they are going to their coach about the way we conduct ourselves on the floor. For the most part they treat us very respectfully. We truly need to return that respect.

I am sending this as a reminder. I have received more complaints within the past 2 years than I have received in the previous 15 years.

Ask yourselves is this something that I truly love and want to do. If so:

Wear your uniform

Be courteous to gymnasts, coaches, and parents

Say "Thank You" when a parent gets you a bottled water or a coach removes a board that is blocking your view.

Refrain from making ANY comment about gymnasts, coaches, routines, etc. in front of a parent.

SMILE! BE PROFESSIONAL

Judy

REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Thanks again to all of you who attended Regional Symposium in June. We had very good reviews. Now that the financial statement has been finished there are a few "grumblings" and I would like to address those.

Region 5 NAWGJ and IN ran the symposium together. We ended up losing around \$7000. We hired Kathy Feldman, who has run many National Congresses, to coordinate it. Yes, that cost us money, but she did an excellent job and thought of many things to make it great. Our main expense was the food which everyone raved about. In years past Regional Symposiums asked each state to furnish food and pay for some of the clinicians. This year instead of asking that, we asked each state (IL, KY, MI, and OH) to contribute \$1000 while IN and the Region will split the rest of the loss.

I know that is a lot of money, but the main purpose of NAWGJ is to educate judges. I feel we did that. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.