

# All Around News

## REGIONAL

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Returning from Congress and the World Championships, I am in awe of the USA Team and their first ever gold medal. In addition, **Carly Patterson** treated us to a wonderful performance in the All Around competition winning a silver medal. I have many fond memories of Carly as a Level 10 competitor right here in Region 8 prior to her families move to Texas. Carly was a JO National champion for Region 8 as a Level 10 at *Elite Gymnastics* with *Johnny Moyal* and *Tani Blount*.

The Region 8 USAG Committee will continue to make regional assignments in the summer. The USAG Region 8 Committee at their summer meeting made assignments for both 2004 regional championships. These assignments can be found in the minutes in this newsletter as well as on my web page.

In gym experience cards for regionals 2005 will be sent by September 30, 2003. They will be sent to all Level 10 and higher judges that submit a regional availability for 2004. These cards can be completed using in gym experiences from June 16, 2003 - June 1, 2004. This June 1 due date has been moved up to correspond with the dates of Region 8 Congress. Any Level 10 or higher judge must complete this card to be eligible for consideration by the Region 8 Board for assignment to a regional meet in 2005. If you do not receive a card by September 30th you may print one from my website or contact Marian Dykes.

Availability forms for Regional Championships are in this newsletter. You will not receive an individual mailing. Completed forms must be returned to Marian Dykes with a copy to Sheila Ragle by June 1, 2004. Many questions continue to arise regarding regional assignments. The following items may help clarify this procedure.

1. Your USAG Region 8 Committee will make Junior Olympic regional assignments. Please remember the requirement for IN GYM EXPERIENCE. Please remember that an Active Status must be on file with JCI.
2. Your USAG Region 8 Committee will make recommendations from Region 8 for Level 10 J.O. Nationals and Level 9 Easterns. If a judge does not satisfy the current elite active-status requirements as well as work at one of the Region 8 training camps, they will drop to the bottom of the rotation for Level 10 Nationals and Level 9 Easterns and will therefore be ineligible for the year.

The Women's Technical Committee emphasizes that Chief Judges are "encouraged and responsible for calling a conference if an impossible Start Value has been awarded (example: missing a Special Requirement or incorrect Additive Value)." Conferences should be handled in a professional and expedient way in order to avoid any athlete having to wait too long and keep the meet moving.

The question and answers section of my web page continues to be a great resource of information for frequently asked questions. A big thank you to **Ceal and Mark Wutka** who continue to do a wonderful job hosting my web site. You can access my Web Page at <http://www.wutka.com/marian> or the Region 8 Web Page at <http://www.region8gymnastics.org>