



All Around News

VOL. 13

REGION EIGHT NEWSLETTER
WWW.REGION8GYMNASTICS.ORG

2004

Region 8 Committee Increases Number of Competitors at Level 8 Regionals

Deb Kornegay, RACC

The Region 8 Committee increased the number of competitors at Level 8 Regionals by adding a session of 54 gymnasts on Friday night. To guarantee quality, these additional athletes will be determined by a percentage per state of those scoring a 34.00 or more qualifying to State Competition.

REGION 8 TOPs Position Open for Nominations

Deb Kornegay, RACC

Due to James Linderholm's resignation, Region 8 is looking for a new TOPs Coordinator. This person needs to have been involved in the Region 8 TOPs program, a USAG member in good standing with good organizational skills and a volunteer's attitude. This is a volunteer position with no salary, but travel expenses are reimbursed for approved activities. TOPs Coordinator has the responsibility of running Region 8 TOPs testings and clinics, willing to attend National testing and to attend designated Region 8 Committee Meetings. This position is appointed by Toni Rand, RECC and under her jurisdiction.

Please mail resumes to

Debby Kornegay
394 Stonebridge Road
Birmingham, AL 35210

OR
Fax to 205-951-0184

OR
Email to DebGK@Bellsouth.net.

Mileage Increase

Deb Kornegay, RACC

Effective 1/1/2004 mileage paid to judges will be 37¢ per mile.

Moneys Spent on Region 8 Athletes

Deb Kornegay, RACC

Region 8 spends **\$28,000 to \$30,000 per year** on apparel for athletes and their coaches. These funds are raised through our **three Training Camps and donations**. A huge thank you to all the **coaches, judges, USAG and NAWGJ officers** who volunteer their time for these camps. The profits from these camps would not be anywhere close to the above figure without all these wonderful volunteers. See a list of all volunteers in this newsletter.

Web Winner Award

Deb Kornegay, RACC



Congratulations to **Nancy and TG Hawkins** for winning the **2003 Region 8 Best Web page!**

Here are some of the comments from the voters:

- *I vote for the Mississippi. I can appreciate the amount of work going onto that lovely site!*
- *They're all great and very creative but I voted for Mississippi because the appearance was clean and sharp and it was easy to navigate.*
- *Mississippi - Clean, artistically appealing, easy to navigate.*

Please note change of e-mail address for Debby Kornegay to
DebGK@Bellsouth.net

LOOK

FOR THESE ITEMS IN NEWSLETTER

- ❖ Address Book Forms
- ❖ Apparel Order Form
- ❖ Elite Entry Form
- ❖ Judges Availability Form
- ❖ Regional Entry Form
- ❖ Regional Petition Form
- ❖ TOPs Bid Form

All Around News

REGIONAL

REGION 8 Loses Two Great Supporters

Marian Dykes, RTCC

It is with great sadness that I tell you about the deaths of Joe Hancock and Wilma Guy.

Joe Hancock passed away November 11, 2003. Joe and Judy Hancock have been a part of Region 8 for many years. As parents of gymnasts and with Judy's judging, gymnastics was a big part of their life. Judy continually contributes to the Region 8 apparel fund. We will miss seeing Joe's awesome smile.

Wilma Guy passed away New Year's Day. Region 8 is saddened by the passing of one of the pioneers of gymnastics in the Southeast. Wilma served as the first Regional Chairman of what was then USGF. She served as Regional Chair from 1977 to 1987. In those early years, there was no Junior Olympic Director, no Elite Director. The Regional Chair did it all. And Wilma did it all. She even served as NAWGJ Regional Judging Director for several years. In addition to her volunteer work in gymnastics, Wilma was also owner and director of Birmingham Gymnastics School, an active member of Brookwood Baptist Church, a loving wife and a wonderful mother. She continued to be a strong supporter of gymnastics even after her retirement.

Wilma had a reputation for being firm but fair. She initiated the first regional newsletter with the goal of keeping the region informed. Her determination that Region 8 would follow the rules in every situation helped bring the region from developmental gymnastics to the strong region we have become. The championship gymnastics Region 8 is known for today is in large part attributable to the groundwork that Wilma Guy helped lay.

Wilma is survived by her husband, William L. Guy; daughter, Debby Kornegay (current Region 8 Chair); son, Robert Jackson Guy, all of Irondale, AL; four grandchildren, Patrick Guy, Mary Jane Guy, Rebecca Kornegay, and Marla Kornegay; brother, Jack Barefield of San Diego, CA; sister, Irma Sanders of Vestavia Hills, AL.

Wilma Guy touched the lives of many gymnasts, coaches and judges. Her death leaves a hole in the hearts of many in the gymnastics community. Contributions can be made in Wilma's memory to Alzheimer's of Central Alabama, P. O. Box 2273, Birmingham, AL 35201-2273, 205-871-7970

2003 TOPs National Team

Deb Kornegay, RACC

Haley Bodeheimer	The Gym Company
Chelsea Howes	Classics
Meghan Hughes	Let It Shine
Meghan Kessler	Sun Country
Kailee Kovacs	Orlando Metro
Emily Reckard	Cabarrus County

Requirement for Judges Being Assigned to Nationals

Deb Kornegay, RACC

Region 8 Committee changed the requirement for a judge to be assigned to Nationals to:

A judge must have judged Regional Championships in the current year and judged **or coached** Regional Championships in one of the two prior years.

Thank You

Deb Kornegay, RACC

Region 8 thanks **Tim and Toni Rand** and *American Twisters* for donating \$600 from the golf tournament, \$1,000 from Regional Congress profits and \$1,500 for a luncheon for USAG and NAWGJ officers for a total of over **\$3,000 to Region 8**.

Region 8 thanks **James Linderholm** for his service to Region 8 as TOPs Coordinator. James was presented with a gift at the last Region 8 Committee Meeting.

Thank you to **Auburn Gymnastics Academy** for letting Region 8 use their awesome facility for Level 9, 10 and Elite Training Camp. Everyone loved it so much we are having Training Camp there again next year.

Thanks to **Orlando Metro** for once again hosting Region 8 Elite Competition and Clinic in December.

Congratulation go to Evelyn

Chandler, Brevet Judge from Florida. Evelyn was elected Vice-President of NAWGJ in December.

All Around News

REGIONAL

State Administrative Committee Chairman ELECTIONS

Deb Kornegay, RACC

Listed below are the results of a poll taken of present State Chairman and their decision to run for election:

Alabama	Deb Walls	Plans to seek re-election
Florida	Mikc McCabe	Plans to seek re-election
Georgia	Peggy Simpson	Plans to seek re-election
Louisiana	Michelle Waguespack	Does NOT plan to seek re-election
Mississippi	Nancy Hawkins	Plans to seek re-election
North Carolina	Jennie Adams	Plans to seek re-election
South Carolina	Joanne Child	Plans to seek re-election
Tennessee	Bob Valley	Plans to seek re-election

Please read the following article for the criterion for nomination.

Criterion for Nomination

Nominees must be USAG Women's Program professional members for a minimum of two years in the state program in which they seek election.

Nominees must be at least 21 years old and be members in good standing.

It is strongly recommended that State Committee Chairman candidates have financial skills, organizational skills, communication skills, a working knowledge of the program, and the willingness to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the position.

Duties and responsibilities of the SACC:

1. The SACC is responsible for the overall organization of the USAG program and events in the state.
2. The SACC provides for the State Administrative Committee, consisting of other members as determined by the state to best serve the needs of the program in the state.
3. The SACC oversees and sets up (in conjunction with the state committee) the following:
 - A. JO Competitions for all Levels
 - B. Sectional or qualifying meets and State Championships
 - C. Qualifying scores and procedures in the state.
 - D. Meet sites for qualifying, Sectional and State meets.
4. The SACC has the responsibility to:
 - A. Support the USAG Women's Program.
 - B. Follow Women's Program Committee rules, policies, procedures, Operating Code, and Code of Ethics.
 - C. Work to assure that the USAG competitions in the state follow the USAG Rules & Policies.
5. The SACC is responsible for helping to keep members informed of important information about the USAG program and about particular dates and items pertinent to the program in the state and region, (Region 8.)
 - A. The SACC should publish state newsletters on a periodic basis.
 - B. The SACC should conduct a minimum of 1 annual state meeting of the USAG professional members.
 - C. The SACC serves as the Women's Program Committee consultant for the state and should answer all correspondence directed to him/her.

All Around News

REGIONAL

6. The SACC is accountable for all state USAG funds.
 - A. The SACC is to keep a state checking account in accordance with the established financial procedures.
 - B. The SACC must file quarterly financial reports with the Regional Administrative Committee Chairman.
7. The SACC is a member of the Regional Administrative Committee.
 - A. The SACC is expected to attend the meetings of the Regional Administrative Committee.
 - B. The SACC is directly responsible to the RACC and should work closely with all of the Regional personnel.

ELECTION PROCEDURE

State Administrative Committee Chairmen are elected by the women's professional members in their respective states. Elections are conducted by the RACC.

Ballots and resumes for the candidates will be sent out using the February 2004 USAG membership list. **(Please make sure your address and membership information at the national office is current!)** Only official ballots will be counted. No signature will be required, and no write-in votes will be allowed.

Elections will be completed by May 1, 2004, one month earlier than directed by the Operating Code. Term of office to begin June 1, 2004, due to the early date of USAG National Congress this year. An election commission of three people will be established to tabulate the votes.

State Administrative Committee Chairmen are elected by a majority vote (1 over 50% of votes cast.) If no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, a run-off election will be held between the 2 candidates receiving the most votes. In the case of a tie in the run-off election, the State Administrative Committee will vote to break the tie. If only 1 nomination is received, the Regional Administrative Committee Chairman will cast one vote and the nominee will be elected by acclamation.

Nomination Form for State Committee Chairman

(Please type or print clearly)

Name of state: _____

I nominate the following person for State Chairman:

Name of Nominee: _____

Address of Nominee: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone(home): _____ Phone(Work): _____

E-mail: _____@_____

Return completed form to: Debby Kornegay, RACC, 394 Stonebridge Road, Birmingham, AL 35210 **OR**

E-mail completed form to: DebGK@Bellsouth.net **OR**

Fax completed form to: 205-951-0184

All forms must be received by February 28, 2004

All Around News

REGIONAL

WHAT COACHES WANT TO KNOW! QUESTIONS COACHES WOULD MOST LIKE TO ASK JUDGES

Cookie Batsche
State Judging Director, Florida

INTRODUCTION

This document was prepared for a presentation at Region 8 Congress. The questions from coaches were obtained by emailing several coaches in Region 8 and asking them to provide questions they would most like to ask judges. The questions were then given to groups of judges who attended the Regional Congress. Their answers are summarized in this document in an effort to enhance communications between judges and coaches. The questions themselves provided valuable insights and will be valuable to the professional development of our judges. We hope coaches find the answers to be helpful.

The document has been reviewed for accuracy by Marian Dykes and Deb Kornegay and reflects rules and policies in place as of July 2003. However, this is not an official publication of USAG and is intended solely to enhance communication between coaches and judges. USAG Rules and Policies should be followed if information in this document appears to conflict with official policy. We hope you find the questions and answers helpful.

CONTINUED FROM FALL 2003 NEWSLETTER

- 4. Does a gymnast's "appearance" really have an impact on your scoring, i.e., neat hair, the way she walks out on the floor? Is there such a thing as the "cute" factor?**

A gymnast who is well groomed and exudes confidence establishes a positive first impression. However, the judging is based on the performance of the athlete, not her appearance. If the gymnast's disorderly appearance detracts from the overall artistry of the routine, it may have an impact on the deductions a judge takes in the artistry category. This would be a rare situation however.

Judges do deduct for incorrect attire of a gymnast (leotards not meeting specifications, jewelry other than stud earrings, underwear showing) but only after a warning is issued.

It is not uncommon for judges to smile when very young gymnasts perform hence the notion of the "cute" factor. However, judges are trained to evaluate the routine, not the appearance of the athlete, no matter how cute they are.

- 5. Much has been made of the stuck landing by television commentators. Does the "stick" really have more of an impact on the score than other components of the routine or is it just the difference in the points deducted for landing errors?**

No. Judges only deduct for the landing error. Sometimes an athlete may "stick" her landing but still receive a deduction for a body position error in the landing as specified in the Code of Points.

All Around News

REGIONAL

6. **Should I coach my gymnast's to smile at judges? Does it make a difference or does it distract from the performance?**

The smile should be sincere and genuine, not forced. Her mannerisms should coordinate to the theme of the routine and music. If the gymnast displays a pleasant expression and appears to be enjoying herself, this will contribute to the overall artistry of the routine.

Visual contact with the judge does not enhance the athlete's score. It is more important for the athlete to show appropriate focus and presentation that is consistent with the choreography. In fact, several judges told us of gymnasts who fell when they were doing a choreographed look or smile directed at a judge.

7. **Do judges ever give scores because they are intimidated by a certain coach or feel they won't be asked back to a meet unless they give high scores? What do judges do to keep from being intimidated by behaviorally aggressive coaches?**

Intimidation is often related to experience. Experienced judges typically have more confidence in their scores than beginning judges. Therefore, experienced judges are assigned as Chief Judges and will oversee the work of the judging panels. If a judge is concerned about being asked back to judge to a certain meet, the scores must be consistent for all teams regardless of the behavior of the coach. The best way a judge can avoid attempts at intimidation is to be well prepared for the meet and to block a coach from his/her view.

REGION 8 SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

List contributions to Region 8: _____

Explain other reason(s) why you think this person should be recognized: _____

RETURN TO: *Debby Kornegay*, 394 Stonebridge Road, Birmingham, AL 35210 • (205) 951-0184 Fax

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATION POSTMARKED BY May 21, 2004