

2006 –VP OF OFFICIALS REPORT – BETTY HESS

CONGRATULATIONS TO JILL RANUCCI who has earned her status as a Level 6 National Judge. Earning level 6F status in 2006 were Patricia Flanagan, Teena Griggs, Judy Luzaich, Britt Rooney and Jennifer Wickert.

We presently have 9(2E,2N, 2S,3W) people working on their 6F training and 2 working on their routine rating. We wish them continued success and plan to welcome them next year.

The Judges' Update was completed in December with 51 people in attendance. The new changes from FINA were reviewed and discussed in various forums including the technical elements, figures and combo routines. Level 5 judges who expressed a desire to start their level six training were invited as well as some international judges. This gave the session a blend of experience and a thirst for knowledge. My thanks go to Cathy Gower for being a liaison officer and to all our clinicians who inspired us to spread the word amongst the rest of the judges.

All our zone representatives worked hard to offer at least 2 or more clinics in each zone to update all officials at all levels. This was a big Job and I send my thanks to all those who presented these clinics.

The meet season presented challenges as the location of a championship had a direct impact on the number of judges available. I would like to encourage all judges to consider their obligations for judging and help with availability for each championship. We are half way into the quad and judges for next year need to look at their status for attending their different meets within the quad. Also a reminder that all judges are to be members in good standing with USSS and meet their local and zone attendance requirements. This may become an issue if special standards for judging US Nationals are established at convention.

Items for convention discussion are:

1. Standards for judges at US Nationals
2. Combining levels 4+5 into one "zone" category
3. Revising the evaluation system
 - a. to make it more educational-how do I improve?
 - b. to perhaps weight judging the extremely long meets-(meets that have 40 -60+ routines per event.)
 - c. Evaluation of practice judging figures
4. How to use affiliated FINA judges at US Nationals.

Tests for levels 1-5 are new each year and are available from testing chair Mary Ellen Wiegand in December. Her e-mail is maryewiegand@cs.com

All levels of judge's training will be offered at Convention on Tuesday. Please sign up so that sufficient materials will be prepared for those in attendance.