1. At 10:00, Larry White, NJSIAA liaison to the Gymnastics Committee, welcomed everyone and thanked the members and guests for attending the meeting. The committee went around and introduced themselves.

2. Present: Dorine Shapiro, Central I Sectional Meet Director; Ron Mazzola, Central I Sectional Co-Director; Barbara Wallace, State Tournament Director/State Rules Interpreter; Beth Murrin, Coaches’ Representative; Trisha Piotrowski, North I Sectional Meet Director; Grace Cunha, Athletic Director, Carteret HS – Not present: Amanda Miller, North II Meet Director; Ed Sarluca, 2015 South Meet Director (AD at Brick Memorial); Johanna Snedeker, MHS – host site representative; Brad Bauer/Dusty Carroll – South Sectional Meet Directors

3. The committee reviewed the results of the 2016 Team and Individual State Tournament winners. The liaison congratulated the winners and the sectional/state directors for jobs well done. Tentatively, December 14, 2017 is date of next year’s Gymnastics Committee meeting.

4. The committee then previewed the 2017 Regulation changes, dates, sites, etc. The start of the practice season will be 8/14/2017, with a Thursday before the second Saturday in September being the opening regular season date (9/7/17). Note: As of this writing, a proposed start date for all fall sports may be voted in for 9/5/2017. The committee agreed again that holding all Sectional meets on the same day was a major plus. This year, 2017, the Sectionals will be held on 11/4/17 and the Team Championships will be Thursday, 11/9/17, which is NJEA Thursday. The Individual Championships will be 11/11/17 Veterans’ Day (A moment of silence will be observed). NO LATEX PRODUCTS ARE ALLOWED IN THE GYMNASIUM DURING WARM-UPS AND COMPETITION. Everyone complimented Ron on such a great job of hosting and this allows Johanna the luxury of being more attentive to details of being the host site. The committee then talked about the timing sequence for the Team Finals in terms of starting the competition exactly at the time posted in the tournament regulations. The committee agreed that this will be the posted team schedule:

   3:30 PM Report time/registration
   4:15 PM Warm-ups
   5:45 PM Coaches meeting
   6:00 PM March-in/Competition
5. Beth Murrin, Coaches Representative, brought up to the committee the concern of the coaches that for the individual championship they truly want a march-in, warm-up, compete, then on the next event, a warm-up, compete format. The committee discussed this idea/proposal and all agreed that it would make for a longer day for the officials, and for the athletes, which is a safety issue, because this format would add more time to the total day. It was mentioned that back when the Gymnastics championship was held at Rutgers, (Capital Cup), that is how it was done. Financially the workers would need to be compensated more for the longer day (officials, workers, school personnel). Also, it was discussed that there may be a need for six rotations with a 35 minute average for a squad to go through one rotation, that would mean 3 hours and 30 minutes total time for competition, not counting pre and post events and the time for those things. For the Sectionals it was determined that the total time would not change hardly at all from what it has been to what it would be with this change.

Here is a suggested schedule for Sectionals:

8:30 AM Registration/Stretch/Bar Set
9:00 AM Coaches meeting
9:15 March –In
9:30 Competition (Warm-up, compete)

6. Under Discussion Items, (i) Realignment – No changes needed for 2017. (ii) Number of teams/individuals/independents – Independents are increasing slightly and the problem is often independents compete with a school that is close in proximity but for Sectionals the entries are by county, and therefore the individual may have to compete at an unfamiliar location and with/against unfamiliar gymnasts (iii) – Any projected changes in Sectional Venues – No, South returned to Seneca High School now that their gym floor has been fixed. Manalapan is set for years to come. (iv) - Sections at Same time: All Sections were good with the times and will stay the course for this year. (v) – Warm-up times/bar settings – there were no problems of major significance this year under this heading (vi) Host Site Concerns – Since Johanna was not able to attend, this item was skipped. (vii) Tee Shirt Vendor – Late entries – These two topics were addressed together due to the fact that they go hand-in-hand. We had a “late entry” by a Shore Conference school and as a result of this, the school/gymnasts names were not on the T-shirts that are made and sold by T-rific Tees. The problem is with the Sectionals being on a Saturday, Sunday being an off-day for our staff person hwo does the programs/names for the tee shirts, there is only a one day window for making corrections on the website for coaches to put their student athletes’ names and to make sure the spelling is correct. After a brief time period, the website is disabled so that no one can access it and change things. Programs and tee shirts must be done by Tuesday for the Thursday finals.
7. Club coaches – There was no issues/no reported problems in this area. The letter that was sent/provided on NJSIAA website last year with all of the parameters for such will be sent and displayed again on our website.

Good of the Order: Available judges again is a concern, especially for Sectionals because all 5 are being held at the same time, same day. Recruiting coaches and former gymnasts must be a priority for the entire gymnastics’ community.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry White
Gymnastics Liaison