



# *Carolyn Bowers*

**Brevet Judge  
Gymnast, Coach, Contributor**



# HALL OF FAME

Inducted 2014

## Professional Offices and Committees

- Coach and Club Advisor, The Ohio State University Women's Gymnastics Team, 1965-1968
- Olympic Committee, Gymnastics, 1965-1970
- The Women's Board of the Olympic Development Committee, 1965-1972
- Secretary of Women's Board USODC, 1967-1969
- Board of Consultants of United States Olympic Committee 1970-1974
- DGWS Liaison to the Amateur Athletic Union, 1963-1968
- DGWS Gymnastics Guide Committee, 1965-1967, 1967-1969
- DGWS Gymnastics Guide Chairman, 1969-1972
- Editor for selected articles in Gymnastics for DGWS, 1969-1972
- DGWS Gymnastics Chairman, State of Ohio, 1963-1967, began a state-wide program with sectional organization
- Organizer of and Advisor to the Women's Gymnastics Board of Ohio, 1968-1981
- Chairman of AIAW National Intercollegiate Gymnastics Championships 1978 and 1971
- State Rules Interpreter, Girls Gymnastics-Ohio High School Athletic Association 1974-2004
- Ohio Judges Training Director – 1983, 1984; United States Gymnastics Federation and the National Association of Women's Gymnastics Judges
- USGF National Judges Training Staff, 1981-1989
- USGF Regional Technical Chairman, Women's National Technical Committee, Region 5 Regional Board, 1983-1994

The idea for the Ohio girl's state gymnastics competitive program came to Ohio with Carolyn in 1963 when she was hired as an assistant professor at the Ohio State University and started the first OSU women's gymnastics program. At that time there were few private clubs, only three other college programs with a reasonable drive, and only the beginning of the USGF. Carolyn believed that the high schools could offer gymnastics and could compete. It began by teaching and the efforts of many state physical educators to learn this sport and the rules of competition. We called clinics "play days" where everyone competed for ribbons for all scores and all of the teachers also learned to judge.

This grew into a proposal for OHSAA and into the first girls state championship sport for Ohio high school girls. Carolyn held the passionate belief that girls would benefit from good athletic programs as much as the boys. The girls should be able to compete for their schools and be recognized for their athletic ability. These choices were not available in the 1950's and Carolyn had to train outside of school and with men's teams to become a national level competitor (3<sup>rd</sup> All Around 1960 and 7<sup>th</sup> All Around and alternate to the 1960 Olympic Team). It was the philosophy held by OHSAA that all students should be able to experience many choices of sport and activity in their development as well as the unwavering support (of OHSAA) that has kept Carolyn dedicated to this level.

Carolyn was a member of the USA Gymnastics Women's Technical Committee serving a five state region for 11 years, worked on the Women's Olympic Development Committee for seven years, and published two editions of Judging and Coaching Women's Gymnastics as well as numerous articles. Carolyn was asked to learn the first symbol shorthand and was one of the first "Scientific Technical Collaborators" on the Uneven Bars at the 1979 World Championships. She became a "Brevet" judge in 1988 and was sent on one of her most memorable international trips with Jr. International athlete Shannon Miller, in 1990. Shannon won three events plus the All Around, and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the remaining event. Carolyn also had a memorable two-week trip in main-land China as a delegation leader and judge. In addition she has judged elite level competitions and numerous international meets in France, Italy, Belgium and the USA. Being named one of six USA judges to officiate in the Atlanta Olympic Games was her biggest judging thrill.

Carolyn was inducted into the Ohio Officials Hall of Fame in 1992 and into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1995. Her retirement from gymnastics officiating, after 42 years of involvement, will allow time to rekindle an interest in drawing and pointing. She and her husband, Dick, plan to travel, ski, spend time with grandchildren, and be active within their community.