



INQUIRY FOR THE CANDIDATES OF THE IFAGG COUNCIL

I am applying to the IFAGG council

Name: Annely Riga

Proposing IFAGG member: CAGG

Education: University

Profession and employer: Coach/business owner of Ritmika RGC



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Why are you applying for the IFAGG council?

I would like to continue my work in the IFAGG Council to continue to help develop this beautiful sport to new heights and levels. There are many projects that are still in progress and I would like to contribute my expertise, knowledge and many years experience in the sport of AGG and in organizational management to completing these. Also, as the only council member from North America I would like to see additional projects, events and competitions developed to promote AGG on this continent. Living in Canada, I have a good understanding of what is needed both in this country and on this continent to move forward with developing the sport and organizing events.

Which Council section you have special skills? (e.g., strategy, ethical work, development, education, finance etc.)

I believe I have skills in all of the above-mentioned areas since I have been involved in the IFAGG council from day one. I have also run my own very successful club, Ritmika RGC, in Canada for 45 years now and have produced 2 Olympians in RG. I am a level I judge and I have judged at all of the AGG World Championships.

What are your strengths?

My main strengths are working with people and good communication skills. I speak three languages English, Estonian and Russian and I have a deep knowledge of coaching, judging and the organization of AGG. I believe that I can develop strong relationships with different countries and other AGG professionals. I will work to promote the sport of AGG both worldwide and in North America. In Canada I am the president of the Canadian Aesthetic Group Gymnastics (CAGG) Federation.

Gymnastics and AGG background / activity on international and national level

I started in gymnastics at the age of 5 and have never stopped! After graduating from Tartu University in Estonia I continued working at the university as a RG and women's gymnastics teacher/coach. I was also a member of the Estonian women's gymnastics team, winning the USSR Championships in women's gymnastics (AGG was then called women's gymnastics). In 1977, I immigrated to Canada and in 1980 I founded my own RG club, Ritmika RGC. Ritmika Club gymnasts have travelled to all 5 continents and competed in all major international



competitions including World Championships and the Olympic games. The Club has produced 2 Olympians, Mary Sanders and Alexandra Orlando.

In 1996, I took my club's team to the first International AGG competition in Finland and we have been involved ever since in many IFAGG competitions including Four Continents Championships, Pan Am Championships and World Championships.

I am the president and a founding member of the Canadian Aesthetic Group Gymnastics Federation (CAGG), founded in 2003. I am also a founding member of IFAGG and an IFAGG Vice president. In 2023 I was awarded IFAGG Honorary member status.

Other activity, positions of responsibility, other duties and networks

Gymnastics has been my life and I love what I do! I have friends and colleagues around the globe. I am CAGG President and I am the owner of my own club, Ritmika RGC. Presently we are preparing with our CAGG organization to host IFAGG Four Continents Championships and World Cup II in Toronto Canada in April 2025.

What will be the main challenges of IFAGG in the future (from your point of view)?

At the moment the main challenge is to continue to develop the sport in many more countries, to educate coaches and judges and to continue to organize events and competitions regardless of complicated world-wide situations.

How do you evaluate IFAGG actions? What do you value in IFAGG?

I value that IFAGG has been able to develop the sport of AGG to such a high level. I value that we have development programs for children. I value that we constantly try to improve the competition rules and regulations for our federation. I value the IFAGG leadership that has focused on the education of coaches and judges and I value the IFAGG Council that has continued (regardless of complicated international political situations) to work to develop the sport of AGG and update regulations. I also value that we constantly try to improve our communication with our membership.

What do you think will be IFAGG's possibilities in the future?

I believe that one day this sport will be an Olympic Sport and that all of us who have been involved will do everything to make this dream a reality!

Which matters would you promote in IFAGG?

Professionalism, honesty, integrity and respect.

How would you commit to IFAGG?

I have been committed to IFAGG since day one and I will continue to do so as long as I can.