

WELCOME



13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

Women  
*of*  
Distinction

AWARDS LUNCHEON

MAY 16, 2024

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio



## *Dear Honorees, Sponsors, and Guests,*

Thank you for joining us to celebrate our 2024 Women of Distinction, Leaders of Tomorrow, and Advancing Women honorees. We are thrilled to be recognizing and celebrating the remarkable achievements of women, Girl Scouts, and organization that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and a commitment to making a positive impact in our communities.

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio (GSNEO) established the Women of Distinction Awards event to honor women, girls, and organizations who go above and beyond to make our communities better places to live and work. This event not only honors the outstanding accomplishments of women, Girl Scouts, and organizations, but it also serves as an inspiration and guiding light for the next generation of female leaders. The 14 honorees you meet today are an inspiration to all, and on behalf of GSNEO, we congratulate them.

At the heart of the Girl Scout Mission lies the empowerment of girls, instilling in them the values of courage, confidence, and character. Through our Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) programming, Girl Scouts get experience in four key program pillars – STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), Entrepreneurship, Life Skills, and Outdoors.

Funds raised by the Women of Distinction Awards event support the GSLE throughout our 18-county footprint. Your generosity makes a world of difference to the girls, supporting camperships, travel scholarships, and more, and we are grateful for your support.

Finally, we extend our sincere gratitude to the sponsors of this year's event. Your support has helped us identify role models for the next generation of women leaders. Together, we will help more girls reach their full potential.

**Jane Christyson**  
GSNEO Chief Executive Officer

**Kathy Moock**  
GSNEO Board Chair

## Our Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

## Our Promise

*On my honor, I will try:*

To serve God\*  
and my country,

To help people  
at all times,

And to live by the  
Girl Scout Law.

*\*Members may substitute for the word  
"God" in accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.*

## Our Law

*I will do my best to be*  
honest and fair,  
friendly and helpful,  
considerate and caring,  
courageous and strong,  
responsible for what  
I say and do,  
*and to* respect myself  
and others,  
respect authority,  
use resources wisely,  
make the world a better  
place, and be a sister to  
every Girl Scout.



# Program

---



**Betsy Kling**

Emcee

*WKYC Studios*

---

**Welcome**

---

Betsy Kling, *Emcee*

**Lunch**

---

**Ceremony  
Introduction**

---

Betsy Kling, *Emcee*

**Awards**

---

**Women of Distinction**

**Advancing Women**

**Leader of Tomorrow**

Betsy Kling, *Emcee*

**Call to Action**

---

Kathy Moock, *Board Chair*

**Closing Remarks**

---

Betsy Kling, *Emcee*





# Girl Scout Leadership Experience

By participating in fun activities through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, Girl Scouts:



**DISCOVER**



**CONNECT**



**TAKE ACTION**

With the help of supportive adults and troop leaders, girls try new things, share their full selves, and see how good it feels to lead from the heart.



**LEARN  
MORE**  
*gsneo.org*



Scan the QR Code with your smartphone's camera to donate to the GSLE.

## Women of Distinction Honorees



**Maribeth Burns**  
Wayne Economic  
Development Council



**Shelly Cayette-  
Weston**  
Cleveland Cavaliers



**Toi D. Comer**  
United Way of  
Greater Cleveland



**Helen Forbes Fields**  
YWCA Greater  
Cleveland



**Nicole Hagy**  
Akron Municipal  
Court



**L. Danielle Koch**  
NASA Glenn  
Research Center



**Marcela Rodriguez-  
Gonzalez**  
Cleveland Play House



**State Senator  
Kristina Roegner**  
Ohio State Senator  
for Ohio Senate  
District 27



**Congresswoman  
Emilia Sykes**  
U.S. House of  
Representatives



**Judge Nicole Walker**  
Akron Municipal  
Court

## Leaders of Tomorrow

**Jessica Castle**  
Strongsville High School

**Sydney Harbour**  
GlenOak High School

**Irenne Scherer**  
Bio-Med Science Academy

## Advancing Women Award





## **Betsy Kling**

Emcee

*3News Chief Meteorologist, 5PM Anchor*

Betsy Kling is the Chief Meteorologist and 5PM Anchor at WKYC Studios in Cleveland. WKYC's multi-Emmy award winning Chief Meteorologist and Emmy award winning anchor, Betsy Kling, was born and raised right here in Northeast Ohio. Her hometown, Copley, is in Summit County just west of Akron. After graduating from Copley High School, she went to Bowling Green State University where she earned her journalism degree and a minor in meteorology. She finished her remaining meteorology coursework through Mississippi State University. Before coming home to work in 2003, Betsy worked in Fort Wayne, IN, and Jacksonville, FL. In 2008 she became Cleveland's first female Chief Meteorologist.

Betsy is part of a small (but growing!) group of women in the country who have earned the prestigious Certified Broadcast Meteorologist (CBM) accreditation from the American Meteorological Society, as well as the Seal of Approval from the National Weather Association (NWA).

In 2018, 3News tapped Betsy to start a multi-year initiative to encourage and promote girls and women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Calling it "Growing Curiosity: Girls In STEM", the station quickly gained recognition for shining the spotlight on women in STEM careers and highlighting "STEMbassadors" — women and girls doing great things in STEM. The collections of stories and interviews are available on WKYC's Growing Curiosity: Girls in STEM webpage at [wkyc.com/girlsinstem](http://wkyc.com/girlsinstem).



# Women of Distinction Honoree



**Maribeth Burns**

Wayne Economic  
Development Council

Maribeth Burns is the President of Wayne Economic Development Council (WEDC), a business-led, public-private partnership that fosters balanced and sustained economic growth and prosperity for Wayne County, and addresses issues critical to its competitiveness. Maribeth previously served on WEDC's Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

Maribeth is a resident of Wayne County with more than 30 years of leadership experience with The J.M. Smucker Co. in corporate communications, government relations, human resources, and charitable giving.

Through her involvement with Girl Scouts (Troop 504; Kent, OH), Maribeth learned early on about leadership and the importance of making a positive impact in the community.

Maribeth, a graduate of Ashland University, is actively involved in Wayne County serving on the Boards of The Wayne County Community Foundation, The Orrville Area Boys and Girls Club, Aultman Orrville Hospital, Aultman Health Foundation, Aultman College, Wayne Heart Walk ELT, Main Street Wooster, and the Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce. Burns previously served on the Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce Board and was a founding member of the Heartland Education Community, Inc. and OrrViews community newspaper.

In 2023, Maribeth was elected to the Board of the Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA), the state-wide organization focused on advancing the practice of economic development and supporting economic growth in Ohio. In 2024 she was elected to serve as Treasurer for the OEDA.

In 2019, Maribeth was named an Honorary Alum by the University of Akron. In 2020, she was honored to receive the Paul Powell "Citizen of the Year" award by The Orrville Area Chamber of Commerce.

# Women of Distinction Honoree



**Shelly Cayette-Weston**

Cleveland Cavaliers

Shelly Cayette is the Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer for the Cleveland Cavaliers (NBA), Cleveland Monsters (AHL), Cleveland Charge (G League), Cavs Legion Gaming Club (2KL), and Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse. In this role, Cayette oversees all corporate and ticket sales revenue and strategy, the innovation and delivery of corporate partnerships, as well as youth sports programs and membership sales and service, including premium, group and individual ticket platforms.

Very active as a community and civic leader and passionate about initiatives that help create economic growth for a vibrant Northeast Ohio, Cayette sits on the Board of Directors for the Tri-C Foundation, College Now, American Heart Association's Go Red, Destination Cleveland, and the Cleveland Public Market Corporation Board. She is also a member of Women in Sports and Events (WISE) and Black Sports Professionals (BSP).

# Women of Distinction Honoree



**Toi D. Comer**

United Way of  
Greater Cleveland

Toi D. Comer, a native Clevelander, serves as the Vice President of Resource Development for the United Way of Greater Cleveland. Comer comes to United Way with over 18 years of diverse experience in resource development, community relations, strategic planning, management, and communications. Her leadership mission statement is to “champion others to grow personally, professionally and emotionally by using compassion, unique perspective, and belief in one’s inherited goodness, integrity, and potential.”

Since 2011 she’s served with City Year Cleveland, holding various executive leadership positions. Her career included serving as Senior Vice President and Executive Director. She began her career at City Year Cleveland in 2011 as its Development Director where she led its fundraising team and efforts to build structures to support the site’s scaled impact growth plan and was eventually promoted to Managing Director of Development for the site. During Toi’s tenure, she more than tripled the size of the development team as the site’s revenue continued to increase annually and she played a pivotal role in the site cultivating a 95 percent donor conversation rate.

Prior to coming to City Year Cleveland, she served as the Development Director for Eliza Bryant Village, a nonprofit that provides services and outreach programs to senior citizens. She then spent several years serving as the Resource Development Manager of the United Way of Greater Cleveland, where she oversaw the Small Business and Healthcare division team that raised over \$15 million for various programs. Previously, Comer served as the Assistant Area Development Director for the United Negro College Fund of Northeast Ohio, where she raised over \$1 million towards scholarships/grants for African American youth seeking to go to college.

She is actively involved with the Black Professionals Association Charitable Foundation, the Near West Theater, and Shoes and Clothes for Kids. She is a College Now mentor; a member of the Leadership Cleveland, Class of 2022; a Crain’s Cleveland Business Woman of Note recipient, Class of 2019; an alum of the Cleveland Bridge Builders, Class of 2015; and an alum of the City Year Executive Leadership Program, Class of 2015.

Comer holds a Master of Public Administration degree with a specialty in Management from Cleveland State University’s (CSU) Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from CSU.

# Women of Distinction Honoree



**Helen Forbes Fields**

YWCA Greater Cleveland

Helen Forbes Fields serves as the President and CEO of the YWCA Greater Cleveland (YWCA). The YWCA is one of the oldest operating non-profits in Cleveland, founded in 1868, with the mission of peace, justice, freedom, and dignity to all. Today's mission, which is key to our city's future, is to eliminate racism and empower women and girls.

Ms. Forbes Fields previously served as Executive Vice President and General Counsel for United Way of Greater Cleveland. Prior to arriving at United Way of Greater Cleveland, Ms. Forbes Fields practiced law for over 31 years with Forbes, Fields & Associates Co., L.P.A., primarily focused on employment discrimination and wrongful discharge matters. At the YWCA, Ms. Forbes Fields continues her fight for the City of Cleveland's marginalized community and gender equity.

Ms. Forbes Fields is a proud graduate of Spelman College and Howard University School of Law. She has received the following: City of Cleveland's 2024 Hidden Figure Award, 2023 John Hill Award, 2023 NAACP Freedom Fund Award, 2023 Blacks in Management, Excellence in Leadership Award, 2021 Smart Women Progressive Woman Honoree, 2020 Cleveland Arts Prize Special Prize Award, 2019 Crain's Notable Woman in Nonprofit, and 2018 Southern Christian Leadership Conference Community Award.

She is a graduate of Leadership Cleveland, Class of 1994. Currently, she serves as a trustee for the Cleveland Museum of Art, where she led the Museum's Board effort in the implementation of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan in 2018; and Board of Trustees of Cuyahoga Community College, where she serves as Chairperson of the Board.



# Women of Distinction Honoree



## Nicole Hagy

Akron Municipal Court

Nicole Hagy is someone who loves helping others and is someone who leads by example. In her seven years at the Akron Municipal Court, she has made a substantial impact. In her role as the Community Outreach and Grants Coordinator, she educates the public about the Akron Municipal Court's specialty dockets and programming.

She has secured more than one million dollars in grant funding for various projects, such as art therapy for specialized docket participants, staffing additions, and much needed technology upgrades benefiting all court users.

Nicole brings a welcoming and energetic spirit to any event or initiative she organizes. An avid reader, she orchestrated the installation of two Little Free Libraries in Downtown Akron.

In 2021, Nicole joined the Ohio Supreme Court Judicial College Faculty where she has shared her expertise on public relations strategies with court leaders. She has presented on best practices related to social media, community outreach, and employee engagement at various marketing conferences held nationwide.

In August 2022, she launched a professional development group for grant writers and marketing professionals in the Akron/Canton area.

Nicole completed two terms on the Victim Assistance Program's Board of Directors and has been on the Board of Directors for the Hope Meadows Foundation since 2022. She served as Hope Meadows' Board Chair in 2023.

Nicole earned a B.A. in Marketing from Walsh University and her M.S. in Integrated Marketing Communications from West Virginia University.

Growing up in Lake Township, Nicole was a Daisy and a Brownie. Her fondest memory from Girl Scouts was visiting the Hartville Domino's Pizza where she learned how to make pizza with her troop.



# Women of Distinction Honoree



**L. Danielle Koch**

NASA Glenn Research Center

Danielle Koch works as an Aerospace Engineer at the NASA Glenn Research Center. She has spent her career trying to increase the peace and quiet in the world by researching ways to develop safer, cleaner, and quieter aircraft and high-performance ventilation systems for spacecraft. She has described the results of this research in over 50 technical publications and has been granted three patents.

She is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) and a licensed Professional Engineer in Ohio. She is an active member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Institute of Noise Control Engineering and was a member of the student chapter of the Society of Women Engineers at CWRU.

As a young student, Danielle discovered an interest in aviation and engineering from a variety of camps and fun competitions. In turn, Danielle has interacted with thousands of students, Pre-K to PhD, by working with the NASA Speakers Bureau and NASA's Office of STEM Engagement. She has served as a tutor for NASA via the Cleveland Federal Executive Board Tutoring Program since 2007 and as a volunteer Engineer Mentor for the DiscoverE Future City Competition since 2011.

She has been recognized for excellence in engineering and educational outreach with many awards, including a NASA Invention Award (2000), the Cleveland Federal Executive Board Wings of Excellence Award (2017), the NASA Glenn Federal Women's Program Award (2017), the NASA Glenn Research Center Diversity and Inclusion Award (2019).

Danielle enjoys spending time exploring nature and the cultural scene in Ohio with her husband and three children who are now in college.

# Women of Distinction Honoree



**Marcela Rodriguez-Gonzalez**

Cleveland Play House

Marcela is the Director of Community Development at Cleveland Play House, and she considers herself a community builder, idea-maker, and educator. For the past six years, she has been a notable leader in Northeast Ohio, characterized by her passion for building communities using the arts as a tool for social action, empowerment, and the development of neighborhoods. Marcela's approach to community development has expanded to programs in Las Vegas and Western New York.

She currently manages the implementation and compliance of federal and locally funded educational programs in Cleveland, which serve an average of 1,400 youth daily. In this role, Marcela has the honor of advocating for historically marginalized community members by curating culturally relevant experiences using the arts as a bridge to connect families with academic, social, and behavioral resources provided through partnership with other nonprofit organizations. Marcela's lifelong goal is to make the arts accessible to all children and youth.

# Women of Distinction Honoree



**State Senator  
Kristina Roegner**

Ohio State Senator for Ohio  
Senate District 27

State Senator Kristina Roegner is serving her second term in the Ohio Senate representing the 27th Senate District, which includes most of Summit County. Senator Roegner chairs the Government Oversight and Reform Committee, serves as Vice Chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, and is also a member of the Health and Transportation Committees.

Senator Roegner joined the Senate after serving four terms in the Ohio House from 2011-2018, and as an elected member of Hudson City Council from 2005-2010. Prior to her time in public office, she worked as a management consultant at McKinsey & Company, serving global clients on performance and strategic issues. She was also a field engineer and project manager for Westinghouse Power Generation Service Division, where she was responsible for leading teams to overhaul large turbines and generators at power plants.

Graduating cum laude in 1990, Senator Roegner has a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Tufts University. She also holds a Master of Business Administration degree with a concentration in finance and strategic management from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

Senator Roegner's legislative work focuses on regulatory reform and returning tax dollars to the District. Her work in the Statehouse has earned her numerous legislative awards, including the NFIB's Guardian of Small Business Award, which is presented to only two legislators each year. She has also received "Legislator of the Year" awards from: the Ohio Real Estate Investors Association, Ohio Society of CPA's, Ohio Dental Hygienist's Association, and others.

Senator Roegner and her husband, Eric, have three daughters by birth and two foster children, and reside in Hudson.

# Women of Distinction Honoree



## **Congresswoman Emilia Sykes**

U.S. House of Representatives

Born and raised in Akron, Congresswoman Emilia Strong Sykes grew up on the city's west side and has dedicated her career to strengthening her community. For eight years, Emilia served as the State Representative for Ohio House District 34, otherwise known as the "Birthplace of Champions." During that time, she served for four years in Democratic leadership, including three years as the House Minority Leader. In her first year as the leader of the House Democratic caucus, despite serving in the minority, the percentage of bipartisan bills passed in the Ohio House was nearly double each of the previous four years combined.

In 2022, Congresswoman Sykes became the first Black person elected to represent Ohio's 13th Congressional District, where she has been committed to fighting for economic opportunity, safer communities, and affordable healthcare for Northeast Ohioans, bringing along a spirit of bipartisan cooperation to get things done for those she serves.

Congresswoman Sykes has received numerous awards for her advocacy, including the EMILY's List National Rising Star award, Legislator of the Year from the Ohio Minority Business Enterprise, the Champion for Children award from Summit County Children's Services, and 30 for the Future award from the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce. Outside of elected office, she engages her community as a lifelong member of her church, a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and a life member of the NAACP.

Congresswoman Sykes graduated with high honors from Kent State University with a B.A. in Psychology and later went to the University of Florida, where she earned a Juris Doctor with a Certificate in Family Law and a Master of Public Health.

Congresswoman Sykes is a newlywed, married to Kevin Boyce, and enjoys spending time with family, engaging in the arts, and enjoying the many blessings of life.

# Women of Distinction Honoree



## Judge Nicole Walker

Akron Municipal Court

Before being elected to the Akron Municipal Court bench in November 2017, Judge Nicole Walker served as a magistrate for the Honorable Elinore Marsh Stormer in the Summit County Probate Court.

As a young girl, she found her father's career as a police officer inspiring and has always had a desire to help people who face challenges in life.

While pursuing a bachelor's degree in English Literature at The University of Akron, she took a job at a local law firm as a part-time receptionist. This was just the beginning of Judge Walker's remarkable career, as she was soon promoted to a full-time receptionist, then Assistant Librarian, and then Librarian.

After completing coursework at The University of Akron School of Law and passing the Ohio Bar Exam in 2006, she received another notable promotion and became an Associate at the firm.

Her longing to serve others and make an impact on our community inspired her to take a leap of faith and join the government sector.

Judge Walker was selected by her peers to be the Administrative/Presiding Judge of the Akron Municipal Court in 2020 and presides over Active Recovery Creates Hope (ARCH) Court for men and women struggling with alcohol addiction. ARCH Court is a specialized docket intended to supervise OVI offenders in the community and help impact the jail population by reducing long-term sentences.

Judge Walker is active in the community, serving on several boards and frequently giving informational talks and presentations on subjects such as crisis intervention training for police officers and first responders, financial exploitation of the elderly, and how to protect assets.

She and her husband Robert are proud residents of Akron.

# Leader of Tomorrow Honoree



**Jessica Castle**

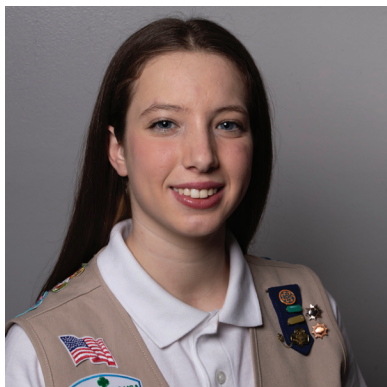
Strongsville High School

Jessie Castle is a senior at Strongsville High School and is a very active contributor to her community inside and outside of Girl Scouts. At school Jessie is active in many clubs and honor societies such as National Honor Society, Key Club, Science National Honors Society, Red Cross Club, Student Council, Leadership Club, and much more! She is an executive officer for the Class of 2024. Outside of school, Jessie is part of the Student Advisory Council, which provides the Superintendent of the Strongsville City School District with the perspectives of multiple students throughout the district on issues and solutions being worked on.

Her love for animals and the environment also shines through the work she does as an ambassador at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. This year she has been selected to serve as a Cuyahoga County Representative on the Ohio Department of National Resources (ODNR)'s Conservation Teen Advisory Council (ConTAC). ConTAC provides a unique opportunity for high school student-leaders from diverse backgrounds across Ohio to work together and contribute ideas to enhance ODNR's youth outreach and program efforts. Her passion for both animals and the environment has shaped her path towards her educational future. After high school, Jessie plans on attending Louisiana State University to major in Environmental Engineering, focusing her efforts on costal water quality and conservation.

Jessie has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and has completed her Bronze and Silver Awards. She has always loved being involved in Girl Scouts, specifically impacting younger girls through helping and assisting with service unit activities. She also enjoys that Girl Scouts taught her how to be a leader and a strong young woman! Jessie is happy and proud to call herself a Girl Scout!

# Leader of Tomorrow Honoree



## Sydney Harbour

GlenOak High School

Sydney Harbour is a junior at GlenOak High School where she is a two-time academic letter recipient, three-time cross country varsity, three-time swimming varsity, and two-time track varsity letter recipient. In addition to school athletics, she is involved in student council and student ambassador program, and was recently inducted into National Honor Society. Sydney is also a member of her symphonic string orchestra where she plays violin.

Sydney has been in Girl Scouts since kindergarten, and as a younger Girl Scout, one of her favorite memories was getting to go to camp. Now she really enjoys leading younger Girl Scouts as a PA at day camp. Last year she was very excited to represent GSNEO as a National Delegate. She has also had the opportunity for the past three years to serve on the GSNEO Board of Directors as a Girl Director-at-Large. Sydney has received her Bronze and Silver Awards, and is currently working on her Gold Award. She is very proud of her Silver Award, where she increased accessibility to reading materials at Refuge of Hope Ministries. The main parts of her project consisted of doing a book drive and creating a bookshelf for the donation center.

In addition to Girl Scouts, Sydney is also active in 4-H. She has held numerous club offices, serves on the Junior Fair Board, and served on the State Fashion Board. She takes on a variety of projects, but specializes in cooking and sewing where she has won multiple Ohio State Fair Outstanding of the Day awards.

Sydney is grateful for the leadership opportunities Girl Scouts has given her and cannot wait to see what is in store for the coming year!



# Leader of Tomorrow Honoree



**Irenne Scherer**

Bio-Med Science Academy

Irenne Scherer is a devoted individual with a remarkable 13 years of experience in Girl Scouts. At the age of 17, they have achieved notable accomplishments within the organization, earning both the Bronze and Silver Awards while actively pursuing the prestigious Gold Award. Serving as a national delegate for GSNEO and previously holding the position of Service Unit Delegate for Service Unit 912, Irenne has demonstrated exemplary commitment to the Girl Scout Movement.

Having participated in Girl Scout summer camp for seven years before transitioning to a staff role, Irenne successfully completed CIT 1 and CIT 2 at Camp Ledgewood and served as a Junior Counselor last summer. "Galaxy" - Irenne's camp name - was always focused on facilitating children's growth and learning in an enjoyable environment. As a certified archery instructor, Irenne takes pleasure in witnessing youth develop a passion for the sport.

In addition to Girl Scout involvement, Irenne is a High School Senior at Bio-Med Science Academy and an active member of the school community. They contribute to the National Honor Society and Quizbowl, having previously been a member of Science Olympiad and Cyberpatriots. Demonstrating technical proficiency, Irenne has obtained a professional license in Solidworks Modeling software.

Looking ahead, Irenne is set to embark on an academic journey at Hiram College in the 2024-2025 school year. They plan to major in Environmental Sciences, aspiring to pursue a career in Ecology post-college. Grounded in a deep love for the outdoors, Irenne's passion for environmental studies is a driving force in their academic and professional pursuits.



# Advancing Women Honoree



Rock Entertainment Group (REG) was formed in 2021 as the umbrella entity of sports and entertainment properties with the Dan Gilbert Rock Family of Companies. It includes the NBA Cleveland Cavaliers, AHL Cleveland Monsters, NBA G League Cleveland Charge and Cavs Legion of the NBA 2K League. They also operate Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse and Legion Lair Lit by TCP in Cleveland, as well as Cleveland Clinic Courts, the Cavs training and development center in nearby Independence, Ohio. As the unified brand platform, REG formally links multiple sports, venues, music, and content properties together to better position them collectively for collaboration, growth and new opportunities, while relentlessly creating amazing experiences for fans, teams, partners, stakeholders and thousands of staff members across the full spectrum of properties.





# Our Leadership

## Officers of the Board of Directors

CHAIR—Kathy Moock, *Community Volunteer*

VICE CHAIR—Sandra Reid, *The Davey Tree Expert Company*

TREASURER—Kate Asbeck, *Retired Finance Executive*

SECRETARY—Cindy Skelton-Becker, *Community Volunteer*

## Directors-At-Large

Stephanie Adams, JD – *The Sherwin-Williams Company*

Diana Bilimoria, PhD – *Case Western Reserve University*

Tami Bolder, CPA/ABV, ASA, MBA, DBA – *CBIZ Valuation Group, LLC*

Ruth Coleman, RN, MA – *Retired Business Owner*

Claudia Diaz-Singer, MSPOD – *The J.M. Smucker Company*

Elizabeth Engels – *ACER Business Consultants*

Rebecca Gallant – *Catholic Charities, Diocese of Cleveland*

Robyn Gordon – *NASA Glenn Research Center*

Vivian von Gruenigen, M.D. – *NEOMED*

Michelle Henry, P.E. – *FirstEnergy*

Chris Hirschler, PhD, MCHES – *Lorain Community College*

Ka-Pi Hoh, PhD – *The Lubrizol Corporation*

Lisa McKay - *Swagelock*

Sandra Rapp – *TravelCenters of America*

Tony M. Srithai, PhD – *Beachwood City Schools*

Craig Sutton – *Eaton Corporation*

Angel Williams – *The Timken Company*

Chris Young, MSN, MBA, RN, NEA-BC – *Akron Children's Hospital*

## Girl Directors-At-Large

Jaiden Miller

Sydney Harbour



## **2024 Women of Distinction Selection Committee**

Diana Bilimoria, PhD\*

Annette Blackwell\*

Angela Brake, PhD

Julie Brandle\*

Tony Costanzo

Brenda Cummins

Jon Dominy

Elizabeth Engels\*

Laura Fisk

Ka-Pi Hoh, PhD\*

Sandy Rapp\*


Sandra Reid\*

Angela Rodenhauser

Lorna Wisham\*

Sara Shookman\*

*\* Denotes a past Woman  
of Distinction Honoree*



# Thank you to our Sponsors!

## SILVER SPONSORS

---



## BRONZE SPONSORS

---



## COURAGE SPONSORS

---

FirstEnergy

The Lubrizol Corporation

Oatey Company

Regency Construction Services, Inc.

Rock Entertainment Group | Cleveland Cavaliers,  
Cleveland Monsters, Cleveland Charge, Cavs Legion GC

YWCA of Greater Cleveland

# **Thank you to our Sponsors!**

## **CONFIDENCE SPONSORS**

---

Akron Children's Hospital

Laura Kiick

Medical Mutual of Ohio

Oswald Companies

TravelCenters of America

## **CHARACTER SPONSORS**

---

Brandstetter Carroll

Coleman Cultural Engagement Foundation

G2G Consulting

Marian Calvin

Metis Construction

Mutual of America

The O'Brien Family

Sikich

# Proud to support The Girl Scouts of North East Ohio.



---

**one open door can open doors  
across a community.**

---

We believe that together we can keep our communities full of hope, compassion, and opportunity. KeyBank thanks Girl Scouts of North East Ohio for making a difference.

**KeyBank**   
**Opens Doors.**

©2024 KeyCorp. KeyBank Member FDIC. 221108-1326908-1270464231

CUYAHOGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (TRI-C®)  
IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE  
**GIRL SCOUTS  
OF NORTH EAST OHIO'S  
WOMEN OF  
DISTINCTION  
AWARDS LUNCHEON**

Congratulations to Tri-C Board of Trustees Chair Helen Forbes Fields and Cuyahoga Community College Foundation board member Shelly Cayette-Weston on receiving the Women of Distinction Award.

**tri-c.edu**  
**216-987-6000**



24-0241



NORDSON IS PROUD  
TO SUPPORT

Girl Scouts of  
North East Ohio

Women  
of Distinction  
Event

[nordson.com](http://nordson.com)





**SHERWIN-WILLIAMS®**

***This is something  
worth celebrating.***

*Sherwin-Williams is proud to support  
the Girl Scouts of North East Ohio.*

©2024 The Sherwin-Williams Company

SW 6807  
Wondrous Blue

SW 6911  
Confident Yellow

SW 6318  
Resounding Rose

**Lighting the way today  
—and every day.**

**FirstEnergy®**





Creating  
chemistry with  
our local  
communities  
for 95 years.

**Lubrizol**

**Community  
Investment**

**Oatey**

Proud to support  
**Girl Scouts** of Northeast Ohio





AS A FEMALE-FOUNDED AND CERTIFIED FEMALE-OWNED FIRM, WE ARE A **PROUD SPONSOR** AND **CONSTRUCTION PARTNER** OF GIRL SCOUTS OF NORTH EAST OHIO



PROVIDING CONSTRUCTION SERVICES THROUGHOUT CLEVELAND AND COLUMBUS SINCE 1994 | [REGENCYCSI.COM](http://REGENCYCSI.COM)



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

**WE AT ROCK ENTERTAINMENT GROUP ARE  
HONORED TO BE NAMED AS THE 2024  
RECIPIENT OF THE ADVANCING WOMEN AWARD!**

**ROCK**  
Entertainment  
Group



**ROCKET Mortgage**  
FIELDHOUSE



**Congratulations,  
Shelly Cayette**

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARD

THE CLEVELAND CAVALIERS AND ROCK ENTERTAINMENT GROUP CONGRATULATE SHELLEY CAYETTE AS ONE OF THE 10 HONOREES CHOSEN THIS YEAR FOR THE WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARD



# ELIMINATE RACISM. EMPOWER WOMEN. END HOMELESSNESS.

eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
Greater Cleveland

**JOIN US AT [WWW.YWCAOFCLEVELAND.ORG](http://WWW.YWCAOFCLEVELAND.ORG)**



We're here from highchairs through high school.

From wellness visits that keep babies, kids and teens growing strong, to breakthrough procedures that make more birthdays possible – we're here to help families make the most of every moment.

Find us near you at [akronchildrens.org/locations](http://akronchildrens.org/locations).

More childhood, please.®



**Akron  
Children's**



# Enriching Lives for Decades

Laura Kiick and Sequoia  
Financial Group salute the  
**NE Ohio Girl Scouts 2024  
Women of Distinction**



**Laura Kiick, CFP®, CRPC®**

(330) 255-2138 • [lkiick@sequoia-financial.com](mailto:lkiick@sequoia-financial.com)

Investment advisory services offered by Sequoia Financial Advisors, LLC, an SEC Registered Investment Advisor.  
Registration as an investment advisor does not imply a certain level of skill or training.  
CFP Board owns the marks CFP® in the U.S.



© 2024 Medical Mutual of Ohio



**MEDICAL MUTUAL®**  
Ohio's Hometown Health Insurer

The Official Health Insurer of

# Everything You Love®

Medical Mutual congratulates all 2024 Women of Distinction honorees for their dedication to serving the communities we love.

**[MedMutual.com/Community](https://www.MedMutual.com/Community)**

A photograph of four women of diverse ages and ethnicities sitting around a table in a modern office, looking at a laptop. Overlaid on the image are several concentric blue circles.

Oswald is proud to  
support Girl Scouts  
of North East Ohio.

[OswaldCompanies.com](https://OswaldCompanies.com)



© 2024 Oswald Companies. All rights reserved. DS2953

property & casualty  
employee benefits  
life insurance  
retirement plan services  
personal risk management

**oswald**<sup>®</sup>  
A UNISON RISK ADVISORS Company

A photograph of four young girls of diverse backgrounds smiling and looking at a laptop in a science laboratory setting. On the right side of the image, there are four blue icons: a balance scale, a microscope, a rocket, and an atom.

**Girls can do  
anything....and do!**

**TA proudly supports Girl Scouts of North East Ohio**



**Navigate  
Government**

**Shape Policy**

**Access Funding**

**Deliver Results**

Advocacy  
with  
Impact



Partner with G2G Consulting to advance nonprofits and policies impacting vital youth, education, and health and human services in Ohio.

Learn how at **G2G Consulting.com**

## CONGRATULATIONS 2024 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

Just like Juliette Gordon Low, Metis believes that we should embrace and encourage the unique strengths and passions of women and girls everywhere!



Maribeth Burns  
Shelly Cayette-Weston  
Toi D. Comer  
Helen Forbes Fields  
Nicole Hagy

L. Danielle Koch  
Marcela Rodriguez  
Senator Kristina Roegner  
Congresswoman Emilia Sykes  
Judge Nicole Walker

**NWBOC**  
WBE CERTIFIED

**Metis**  
construction services  
metisconstruction.com

2023 CERTIFIED  
**OhioWBE**  
Women-Owned Business Enterprise

**We salute today's  
Women of Distinction.  
And tomorrow's as well.**

Mutual of America Financial Group is proud to be a sponsor of the 13th Annual Women of Distinction Awards Luncheon. We celebrate the honorees—and the Scouts who will follow in their footsteps.



[mutualofamerica.com](https://mutualofamerica.com)



*Sikich would like to congratulate  
all the honorees of the*

---

GIRL SCOUTS OF  
NORTH EAST OHIO'S  
**2024 WOMEN  
OF DISTINCTION**



440.238.0445

[SIKICH.COM](https://sikich.com)





We wish to extend special congratulations to two of today's  
award recipients who serve the Akron Municipal Court:

Judge Nicole Walker

and

Community Outreach and Grants Coordinator Nicole Hagy

*From Your Colleagues at the Akron Municipal Court,*

Judge Annalisa Williams, Judge Jerry Larson, Judge Jon Oldham, Judge Ron Cable and Judge David Hamilton



Judge  
Annalisa  
Williams

Judge  
Jerry  
Larson

Judge  
Jon  
Oldham

Judge  
Ron  
Cable

Judge  
Nicole  
Walker

Judge  
David  
Hamilton

A photograph of four young girls of diverse backgrounds smiling and posing outdoors. One girl is holding a soccer ball. The image is used as a background for the congratulatory message.

*Congratulations Toi Comer*  
for being a positive role model and a  
**2024 Woman of Distinction Honoree.**

Your dynamic leadership at United Way of Greater Cleveland  
drives positive impact within our community.

The logo for United Way Greater Cleveland, featuring a stylized icon of a person with arms raised inside a circle, followed by the text "UNITEDWAY" and "GREATER CLEVELAND" below it.





To commemorate the new  
STEM Center of Excellence, honorary  
and memorial brick pavers will be  
placed upon the Center's completion.

***Be a part of the legacy  
and order a brick below!***

We are currently only accepting  
orders via mail or email.



*Scan the QR Code to download  
brick order forms.*

# GSNEO Juliette Gordon Low Society



The Juliette Gordon Low Society was established to thank and honor friends of Girl Scouting who have chosen to make Girl Scouts of North East Ohio part of their legacies and a beneficiary of their estate plans. With their foresight and planning, these donors are crucial to ensuring that our council will be able to provide future generations of Girl Scouts with opportunities to reach their fullest potential.

Joe Allen

Erik and Eva Andersen-  
Girl Scout Movement-wide  
Challenge Planned Gift

Dianne Belk and  
Lawrence Calder-  
Girl Scout Movement-wide  
Challenge Planned Gift

Kevin and Cynthia Becker

Alexandra Bonds

Anna Belle Bonds

Julie Brandle

Mary Lou A. Britton

Patricia A. Broughton

Amie & Phil Cajka

Marian R. Calvin

Jane Christyson and  
Bob Mahoney

Tina Marie Collins

Laura Bailey Culp

Meredythe Gray Daley

Donna M. DeFiore

Grace Ehlert

S.J. Fixler

M. Elizabeth (Beth) Frank

John Graves

Brenda Heidinger

Dr. Robert D. and  
Kim Hinkle

Erin Hosek

Julie Jagger

Claudia W. Jones

Mona Karoghlanian

Pam Kirik

Lizabeth W. Kohler

Carole A. Krupa

Gabrielle Love

Dot MacIntyre

Lisa Maida

Sharon Mathie

Judith E. Matsko

Leslie R. McGinnis

Debbie Minerich

Kathryn D. Moock

Sue Neff

Benjamin G. and  
Jane\* Norton

Marilyn O'Brien

Sandra L. Reid

Susana L. Rogers

Kathleen Scheutzow

Laura and Tim Schultz

April Holly Smith

Bre Tischler

Pamela Valentine

Joan P. Villarreal

Vivian von Gruenigen, MD

Marc and Julie Weagraff

Michele L. Weilnau

Nicole M. Welsh

Carol R. Williams

Mary Susie Williams

*A legacy gift from these  
Juliette Gordon Low Society  
members is a lasting tribute  
to their belief and love of  
Girl Scouts:*

Samuel E. Adams Sr.\*

Nancy D. Barker\*

Bruce H. Bucholzer\*

Virginia F. Carter\*

Gunta Douglas\*

Valerie Gerstenberger\*

John Hay\*

Bette Mae Jirran\*

Nan P. Jubell\*

Martha C. Kelly\*

Dorothy Hunt Lewis\*

Eleanore Margolis\*

Evan Nord\*

Mary Elizabeth Parker \*

Joyce Randall\*

Margaret A. Renwand\*

Elsie Sickafoose\*

M. Elizabeth "Liz" Smith\*

Kathryn W. Sterner\*

Beth K. Stocker\*

Curtis R. Tate\*

G. June Van Dette\*

Ara Lou Waldock\*

*\*deceased*

# *Feeling inspired?*

**Nominations for 2025  
Women of Distinction  
are OPEN!**

Scan the QR code  
to learn more about  
nominations.



**FOLLOW US ON**

***Social  
Media!***

**f**

**in**

**Girl Scouts of  
North East Ohio**



**@GSNEO**



Girl Scouts of North East Ohio (GSNEO) established the Women of Distinction Award to honor women who go above and beyond to make our communities better places to live and work. The ten women honored each year are selected for their remarkable achievements as business, community, and civic leaders, dedicated to supporting opportunities for women and girls.

Since 2012, GSNEO's Women of Distinction Award has honored women that continue to provide inspiration, leadership, and support for girls served by GSNEO.

To learn more, please reach out to **Elizabeth Wagner** at [ewagner@gsneo.org](mailto:ewagner@gsneo.org). Thank you for your support!

**girl scouts**   
of north east ohio

[gsneo.org](http://gsneo.org)