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Welcome to the GSNEO Governance Enews

The GSNEO Governance Enews is sent to the Board of Directors, Board Development Committee, and National and Membership Delegates as you are involved in the governance of our council.

The Preamble to the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the United States of America states: "The ultimate responsibility for the Girl Scout Movement rests with its members."

The Democratic Process is a central tenet of Girl Scouting. We achieve it for girls by making our activities girl-planned and girl-led to the fullest extent possible. For older girls (14+) and adults, we currently have a General Assembly of elected representatives who meet annually to elect board members and officers and approve bylaws changes.

Members of the General Assembly are members of the Board of Directors, Board Development Committee, National Delegates, Alternate National Delegates, and Membership Delegates.

As part of GSNEO's Bylaws there are also elected National Delegates who meet every three years to conduct the business of the organization.

GSNEO's Governance Enewsletter is published quarterly. For those delegates who prefer hard copies, please email names and addresses and they will receive a hard copy through the USPS.

Please feel free to reach: Mona Karoghlanian, GSNEO Executive Services & Governance Officer by emailing: Mkaroghlanian@gsneo.org or Governance@gsneo.org or you may reach her by phone: 330-983-0407 (office) or 330-690-9741(cell).

Governance and Governance Roles

What is Governance

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio and Girl Scouts of the United States of America are governed by an efficient and effective democratic process that includes the core values of a representative democracy, access to decision-makers, and participatory involvement valued at all levels of the council.

Governance versus Operational

Governance and Operations are different and the role of a delegate, board development committee, and the board of directors are established solely for the efforts to ensure the governance of the council.

Key among these ***Governance roles*** are:

- Provide policies that assure the success of the organization and its membership
- Assure the financial health of the council
- Maintain our not-for-profit status
- Report to the membership and community
- Evaluate and deliver on bylaws requirements for participation in the council governance process

Operational roles include:

- Plan and maintain program
- Responding to concerns of the staff and volunteers
- Provide learning opportunities to volunteers
- Representing Girl Scouting in the community
- Employ, direct and conduct performance reviews of the staff
- Prepare performance reports and exhibits as required by the board or committees

Membership Delegates role:

Membership Delegates are elected by the service unit members to serve as their voting representative in matters related to the governance.

- Entrusted with the responsibility of sharing information, as received from council leadership and then utilizing her/his communication skills and an open mind to gather feedback from girl and adult members.
- Understand the issues and concerns of the girl and adult members as well as appreciated council-wide issues to think globally for the good of the entire organization.
- Serves as a channel of two-way communication between members and council leadership.
- Promote GSUSA/GSNEO program, services, and goals to the community-at-large.

National Delegates:

Every three years, national delegates representing each council in GSUSA gather for the National Convention and conduct business at the National Council Meeting.

National Delegate responsibilities:

- Attend all orientation and preparation meetings prior to the National Convention.
- Study the National Council Meeting agenda.
- Understand Girl Scouts of North East Ohio's stance on actions to be taken by the National Council.
- Attend all National Council meetings and report National Council actions to Girl Scouts of North East Ohio members.
- Know parliamentary procedures and how to use them.
- Participate as a national delegate for the entire three-year period of

2017-2020.

- Able to represent the points of view of various ethnic, racial, educational, civic, religious, and socioeconomic groups.
- Willing to prepare thoroughly on the issues and business that will come before the National Council.

GSNEO Annual Meeting of the General Assembly

What happens at the GSNEO Annual Meeting of the General Assembly?

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio is governed, according to its Bylaws, by the Board of Directors composed of volunteer women and men who believe in the values of Girl Scouting and who are elected by the General Assembly. The Membership Delegates vote at the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly to elect the Board of Directors, as well as the Council Board Development Committee, and every three years the National Council Delegates and an Alternate. Their approval is also needed on any revisions to the Council By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation.

[View the Annual Meeting Presentation](#)

[View the current rosters of the Board of Directors, Board Development Committee and National Delegates.](#)



Election Results from the Annual Meeting

OFFICERS of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2018 - 2020

CHAIR, Laura Watson Schultz

VICE CHAIR, Judith Matsko

TREASURER, Matthew Inks

SECRETARY, Kathy Mook

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE, 2018-2020

Allison Baker
Cindy Skelton-Becker
Kim Davenport
Robyn Gordon
Una Lauricia
Nicole Rodenfels
Ellen Stephens

GIRL DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE, 2018-2019

Kristen Blyler
Emani Jackson

BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, 2018-2020

Michelle Albro
Katlyn Shand
Dr. Karen Stock
Heather Clayton Terry
Chris Venditti
Vivian von Gruenigen

We thank the following for their commitment, dedication and service to the Girl Scouting movement and our girls: Jacqueline Adams (Board of Directors), Brenda Heidinger (Board of Directors), Dana Stahl (Board of Directors), Megan Garvey (Girl Member Board of Directors) and Carol Szczepanik (Board Development Committee).



Amendments to GSNEO Bylaws passed

ARTICLE III -MEMBERS (PAGE 1)

Section 1 - Eligibility

Previously Read:

Individuals age 14 years of age and over who are currently registered Girl Scouts through and in good standing with the Council are voting members of the Council.

Approved Amendment Reads:

Individuals age 14 years of age and over who are currently registered Girl Scouts through and in good standing with the Council are eligible to be voting members of the Council.

Rationale for amendment: This is the correction GSUSA suggests and it was just an oversight in 2015. This is a change that needs to be made.

ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS (PAGE 4)

SECTION 2 - TERM OF OFFICE, ITEM C

Previously Read:

No individual shall serve more than two consecutive terms in any one or combination of offices, except that an individual shall be eligible to serve one term in the office of Chair of the Board regardless of the number of consecutive terms that individual shall have served in any office or offices other than Chair of the Board.

Approved Amendment Reads:

No individual shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in any one or combination of offices, except that an individual that serves as Chair of the Board shall be eligible to serve three (3) consecutive terms as an officer of the Council, but not more than two (2) consecutive terms as Chair.

Rationale for amendment: This is being proposed for clarification purposes.

ARTICLE VII - BOARD OF DIRECTORS (PAGE 5)

Section 1-Composition

Previously Read:

The Board of Directors shall consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary 13 Directors at Large, and 2 Girl Directors at large. The Chief Executive Officer shall be an ex officio member of the board without vote.

Approved Amendment Reads:

The Board of Directors shall consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, fifteen (15) Directors at Large, and two (2) Girl Directors at large. The Chief Executive Officer shall be an ex officio member of the board without vote.

Rationale for amendment: Increasing the Adult Directors-at-Large by two

members (from 13 to 15).



Links to Webinars and Town Hall Meetings

Delegate Training Webinar Links Available:

- [Delegate Training Webinar presentation slides](#) held on March 21, 2018.
- [Delegate Training Webinar recording](#) held on March 21, 2018.

Town Hall Meetings:

Town Hall meetings were held at each of our Service Centers. The agenda included such items as: Voices Survey presentation, Properties update and an Open Forum with Jane.

If you were unable to attend, [see the recording here](#) of the Town Hall Meeting held in Macedonia.

Please note: this is a large file and may take a couple minutes to load.

A Note about Boy Scouts of the USA

GSUSA released a message to local councils concerning Boy Scouts of America's plan to open the organization to girl members. While we know Boy Scouting is an important part of many members' and volunteers' lives, we must be extra thoughtful about our relationship to Boy Scouting moving forward. BSA has positioned itself as a marketplace competitor, and we must be thoughtful about how Girl Scouts interacts with them and take a step back from co-hosting events, particularly recruitments with BSA, to help clear some of the understandable confusion in our communities, and to assure our members and prospective members that we are not merging. Girl Scouts will continue to provide the same challenging, fun, and rewarding experiences for girls that we have for more than 100 years.

We understand that as delegates you are seen as ambassadors of our mission, and you may be asked to respond to questions about the difference between Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. This one-page handout titled [The Girl Scout Difference](#) is a useful tool that you can use to form your response. Please do not share this document outside of our organization. If you have any questions or want to share a recent experience, please contact [customer care](#).



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Have a question? Don't be shy!
Contact us for more information.

This email was sent to: Mkaroghlanian@gsneo.org

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Our address is One Girl Scout Way, Macedonia, Ohio 44056

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