“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.”

- Eleanore Roosevelt
Where are We Going Today?

- Who are the delegates?
- What is your role?
  - Welcome to both our National and Membership Delegates tonight!
- Issues that might surface at meetings
- What are next steps for Membership and National Delegates?
- Governance versus Operational Overview
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 Delegate Role

- Elected by the members to serve as their voting representative in matters related to the governance of Girl Scouts of North East Ohio.

- 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 member.

- Understand the issues and concerns of the girl and adult members within their county as well as appreciated council-wide issues in order to think globally for the good of the entire organization. Serves as channel of two-way communication between members and council leadership.

- Promote GSUSA/GSNEO program, services and goals to the community-at-large.
Membership Delegate Major Responsibilities

- Act as a channel for two-way communication between constituents and Council leadership.
- Understand her/his constituencies’ issues and concerns as well as appreciate Council-wide issues and needs in order to think globally for the good of the entire organization.
- Understand corporate functions, including being able to review and understand any Council financial reports provided.
- Attend Annual meeting of the General Assembly of the Council. Attend special meetings as called in accordance with the GSNEO Bylaws. Attend Service Unit Membership Meeting(s). Participate in Service Unit meetings as requested.
- Participate in Membership Delegate conference calls or webinars.
Membership Delegate Major Responsibilities (continued)

- Participate in training for this position.
- Elect the Officers of the Board of Directors, the Directors-at-Large of the Board of Directors, the members of the Board Development Committee, and the Delegates and Alternate Delegate(s) to the National Council of Girls Scouts of the United States of America, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the GSNEO Bylaws.
- Participate in votes to amend or revise the Articles of Incorporation and the GSNEO Bylaws as presented at meetings of the General Assembly of the Council.
- Submit proposals to the Board of Directors to improve the quality of Girl Scouting.
- Promote the organization’s programs, services and goals to the community-at-large.
Membership Delegates Role

**BOARD**
- Sets Direction
- Provides Oversight/Hires CEO
- Ensures Mission, Resource, and Organizational Accountability

**CEO**
- Hires/Appoints and manages staff and operational volunteers
- Assures Delivery of Programs/Services
- Partners with Board on Strategy

**EMPLOYED STAFF**
- Supports/Facilitates the work of volunteers.
- Executes business/legal functions

**OPERATIONAL VOLUNTEERS**
- Deliver GSLE, programs, and services

**MEMBERSHIP DELEGATES**
- Represent Membership in electing Board, BDC, and National Delegates.
- Receives training related to governance, votes on governance issues, serves as info conduit between Council Leadership and the Membership

**VOTING MEMBERSHIP**
- Participates in Decision-Influencing System
- Elects Membership Delegates to represent the membership
Circle of Communication

Board of Directors/Staff prepare information

Staff Liaison Compiles Info from Delegates & Reports to Board/Staff

Staff Liaison Forwards Information to Delegates

Delegates Share Input/Feedback Received from Members with Staff Liaison.

Delegates Present Info at Service Unit and/or Leader Meetings.
• A minimum of two Webinars annually. Others will be scheduled as needed.
• The Governance Newsletter will be published shortly after the Annual Meeting. If there are any delegates who prefer a hard copy, please let me know and I will mail you a copy.
Membership Delegate Composition

• Serve a two year term.
• Membership Delegates are selected by Service Unit.
  o If the Membership Delegate elected by the Service Unit is a girl, then
    the Service Unit shall be entitled to elect a 2nd Membership Delegate.
• Membership Delegates are nominated and elected directly by the girl
  (over age 14) and adult members of GSNEO.
• For more information, refer to Article IV of the GSNEO By Laws.
• It is noteworthy that of the more than 60% of the GSNEO Membership
  Delegates, are GIRLS!
Issues that Might Become Discussion Items for Council Board Meeting

- Future funding for the council
- Newly adopted or modified corporate goals
- GSUSA Initiatives
- Potential jurisdiction alteration
- Strategy Alignment input
Representing Your Service Unit

• The membership delegate is responsible for:
  o Maintaining consistent communication with the Service Unit/Service Unit Director either by phone or email.
  o Attending service unit leaders meetings as needed.
• Information on what to discuss will be provided to delegates, by staff, via conference calls and emails.
• A membership delegate must contact GSNEO immediately if she/he is unable to fulfill the responsibilities of the position.
Contents Include:

• Constitution of Girl Scouts of the United States of America
• Bylaws of Girl Scouts of the United States of America
• Policies of Girl Scouts of the United States of America
• Credentials
• Criteria and Standards for an Effective Girl Scout Council
• Congressional Charter of Girl Scouts of the United States of America.
• The Blue Book of Basic Documents can be found on the Governance Page of the GSNEO.org website.

[Click here](https://www.gsenseo.org) for the latest version of Blue Book of Basic Documents

**Suggestion**
At a future Service Unit Meeting, share the Blue Book of Basic Documents!

It a great resource for all of us!
National Council Delegate formula is being adjusted as follows:

Each local council to which a charter has been issued and remains in force shall be entitled to the following delegates based on the number of girls under its jurisdiction who are members of the GSUSA as of September 30 of the year preceding the regular National Council Session:

Each council will be entitled to elect:
- Two (2) delegates;
- One (1) additional delegate for up to 1,500 girls;
- One (1) additional delegate for every 1,500 girls thereafter.

Note: this formula is changed from the ratio of 1 additional delegate for every 2,000 girls used for the last three National Council Sessions.
2017-2020 National Delegates
3 Year Term

• GSNEO has 15 National Delegates
• 9 of the GSNEO’s 15 National Delegates are GIRLS!

Term ends at the conclusion of the April 4th Annual Meeting of the General Assembly.
National Delegates Major Responsibilities

- Participate in council and/or board meetings, and participate in council forums and focus groups, as requested.
- Obtain a broad array of the opinions of adult members and Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors from all parts of the council.
- Participate in teleconferences for voting members, sponsored by the GSUSA.
- Engage in opportunities to discuss, learn, and share ideas across the Movement.
- Be familiar with the contents of the current Blue Book of Basic Documents.
- Have a basic understanding of parliamentary procedure and Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised.
While attending the National Council Session and any additional special sessions of the National Council each National Delegate is responsible for:

• Attending all business meetings and participating in the proceedings.
• Being fully prepared to participate in discussion and vote on all business items.
• Elect the National Board of Directors, the officers of the National Board of Directors, and the members of the National Board Development Committee.
• Determine general lines of policy of the Girl Scout Movement and program by considering and acting upon proposals directed toward the fostering and improvement of Girl Scouting, receiving and acting upon reports from the National Board of Directors, and giving guidance to the National Board upon general lines of direction of the Movement and program.
• Participate in votes to amend or revise the Constitution and/or the Bylaws of GSUSA.
• Participate in the establishment of requirements for certificates of membership, local council charters, and all other credentials.
• Submit proposals to the National Council to improve the quality of Girl Scouting, in accordance with the submittal guidelines reflected in Article VI of the Constitution of GSUSA.
• Participate in all other action requiring a National Council membership vote.
• Wear official Girl Scout uniform during all Convention sessions.
National Delegates

Upon returning from the National Council Session, each National Council voting member/delegate is prepared to:

- Report on National Council decisions and the reasons for such decisions at the council’s annual meeting, to the council board of directors, and the council’s constituency (if requested by council Board Chair and CEO) on the National Council decisions and the reasons for such decisions.
- Share insights on information gained at the National Council Session, if requested.
- Assist the council as it prepares to participate in the next National Council Session, if requested.
- Participate in teleconferences and other opportunities for voting members/delegates.
- Be an active, voting member of the GSNEO General Assembly.
  - Act as a channel for two-way communication between constituents and the National Council.
  - Understand her/his constituencies’ issues and concerns as well as appreciate Nation-wide and Council-wide issues and needs in order to think globally for the good of the entire organization.
  - Attend meetings of the General Assembly of the Council, which is held annually. Attend special meetings as called within the jurisdiction of the Bylaws. Attend Membership and Service Unit Meetings in my area.
  - Elect the Board of Directors, the members of the Board Development Committee, and the Delegates/Alternate Delegates to the National Council in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Bylaws.
  - Participate in votes to amend or revise the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws as presented at meetings of the GSNEO General Assembly. Submit proposals to the Board of Directors to improve the quality of Girl Scouting.
  - Promote the organizations programs, services and goals to the community-at-large.
- Report to GSNEO on the events of the National Council Session/ G.I.R.L. 2017 and any special sessions of the National Council
As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis, the Annual Meeting of the General Assembly will be conducted via Zoom in two parts on Saturday, April 4th. Shortly you will receive two separate emails with a Zoom invitation to each part with the respective information.

**Part 1 - 9:30-10:30 am**
General Assembly Members Only for voting purposes only
- Adult Board of Directors
- Girl Board of Directors
- Board Development Committee
- 2017-2020 National Delegates
- Current Membership Delegates
In advance of the meeting, you will be sent an email with a secure Qualtrics link, that will only be open on Saturday, April 4th from 9:30 – 10:30 am for voting. It should be noted voting can only occur between the Call to Order of the meeting and the closing of voting of Part I of the Annual Meeting.

The secure Qualtrics link used for the Annual Meeting voting will request your name and position for the quorum report as our bylaws state a quorum is 35 of which 23 shall be membership delegates. It should be noted that the names is for the quorum report and we will not be able to track who voted for or against a motion or slate.

If you are a member of the General Assembly and do not have the proper technology (computer, tablet or smartphone) to participate in the online voting, please call me at 330-690-9741 for a special individual code and phone number. The code will allow you to vote by telephone during Part 1 of the meeting.
Annual Meeting of General Assembly:
• Current Adult Board of Directors
• Current Girl Board of Directors
• Current Board Development Committee
• National Delegates, whose term is 2017-2020
• Current Membership Delegates

A separate email will be sent to the parents or guardian of girl General Assembly members (girls 14-18 years of age) as per federal law advising of the online survey voting for Annual Meeting voting. This is based on SUSA’s recommendation for how to follow COPPA federal laws (Child Online Privacy Protection Act).
Part 2 - 10:30 am - Open to Voting and Non-Voting Members

- Treasurer’s Report
- Fund Development Report
- Properties
- Strategy Alignment
- STEM Advisory
- Operations Report
- Questions and Answers
- The Quorum Report will be delivered as it will be determined by the voting members using the Qualtrics link.
- Election results will be announced at this time.

The presentation and recording of the meeting will be posted on our website afterwards.
Board Officers Slate – Board of Directors

Judith Matsko  
Chair  
The Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma

Chris Venditti  
Vice Chair  
Cardinal Health

Kate Asbeck  
Treasurer  
Retired Financial Executive

Cindy Skelton-Becker  
Secretary  
Nordson Corporation
Adult Directors-at-Large Slate – Full Term (Board)

Allison Baker
Nestle

Robyn Gordon
NASA

Matt Inks
KeyBank

Kathy Moock
Community Volunteer

Nicole Rodenfels
LifeAct

Laura Schultz
Thompson Hine, LLP

Ellen Stephens
Sherwin-Williams

Karen Stock
Walsh University

Christine Walker
First Energy
Mary Parker
Kent State University
Girl Directors-at-Large Slate – (Board)

Charity Boley

Ava Kress
National Delegates Slate

Shelby Bennett  
Girl

Ella Clapper  
Girl

Nicole Cucuzza  
Adult

Isabelle Gibson  
Girl

Grace Guy  
Girl

Sarah Hermann  
Girl

Emani Jackson  
Girl

Valarie Mariola  
Adult

Elizabeth Morisak  
Girl
National Delegates Slate

Amy Preneta  
Girl

Halle Preneta  
Girl

Heather Renz  
Adult

Elizabeth Siembida  
Girl

Makayla Tarr  
Girl

Karen Treboniak  
Adult

Hayley Van Epps  
Girl

Cecelia Venditti  
Girl

Mya Yarbrough  
Girl
Alternate National Delegates Slate

Wendy Gibson
Adult

Monse Maragano-Yarbrough
Adult
Questions?