

Delegate Meeting – Fall 2019

September 24, 2019 from 7-9 pm

Daisy's Place (Shelly Ridge); Multi-Purpose Room (Valley Forge); Great Valley Room (LV)

Invited: GSEP Board of Directors, Board Development Committee Members, GSEP Girl Advisors & Girl Delegates, Service Unit Delegates & Alternates, Interested Members

Meeting Opening

Debbie Hassan, Board Chair, opened the Delegate meeting by welcoming all members to the three locations. She invited Brianna Davis and Sydney Machion, Girl Advisors to the Board, up to the podium at Shelly Ridge to lead the group in saying the Pledge of Allegiance, Girl Scout Promise and Girl Scout Law.

Debbie then asked members of the respective cohorts in attendance (Board, Board Development Committee, National Council Session Delegates, SU Delegates, and Girl Delegates) to stand and be recognized. She reiterated the decision-influencing role of the Delegate Council and thanked the members for their service.

Board Development Committee Report

Debbie O'Brien, member of the BDC, introduced the committee members, including the two newest members of the Board Development Committee, Anne Baum and Michele Box. Anne is the Lehigh Valley Executive & Vice President of Capital BlueCross and Michele is a Senior Vice President with Wells-Fargo.

Debbie O'Brien provided an overview on the work of the Board Development Committee, which focuses on the identifying, cultivating, and recruiting candidates to become members of the Board of Directors and the BDC itself. This year, the BDC has the added responsibility of selecting the slate of National Council Session Delegates as well.

Debbie O'Brien also explained that the Bylaws and Policy Review Subcommittee is under the auspices of the BDC, so she then turned the podium over to Deb Walters, chair of that subcommittee.

Bylaws & Policy Review Subcommittee

Deb Walters shared the subcommittee's responsibilities, which include updating organization-wide policies (except for Personnel policies) and reviewing the relevancy of the Bylaws. Deb W. then shared the two newest policies which had just been approved by the Board an hour before the Delegate Council Meeting:

- 1) Smoking Policy: All GSEP properties and buildings, including camps, are smoke-free, vape-free, and tobacco-free.

- a. After the attendees asked a couple questions, Deb reiterated that people should use their best judgment about representing Girl Scouts and GSEP. And, if issues arise, the Subcommittee can review the policy again next year.
- 2) Social Media Policy: GSEP strongly discourages social media connections between minor Girl Scouts and Girl Scout volunteers; volunteers should refrain from any social media communications that negatively implicate Girl Scout volunteers, girls, parents or staff; posts that are negative, inappropriate, or defamatory in nature may be considered in evaluating a volunteer's eligibility status; and social media communications must be in good taste and be respectful. This pertains to all social media platforms as well as Service Unit and troop sites.

These policies will be shared via GSEP News, Volunteer Essentials, and on all facility rental documents.

Service Unit Delegate and Girl Delegate Pinning

Board Chair Debbie Hassan asked CEO Kim Fraites-Dow to join her for the pinning ceremony. Girl Delegates elected at the 2019 Annual Meeting but not present were given their pins by Debbie and Kim. A number of SU Delegates were newly elected by their Service Units, so Debbie and Kim also presented them with their Delegate pins.

GSEP CEO Update

Kim E. Fraites-Dow, CEO, presented a GSEP update which included the following:

- GSUSA National Board Chair & CEO Conference is coming up in November
 - There is no new news about the lawsuit against the Boy Scouts of America, since it is in the "discovery" phase.
 - Girl Scouts of Farthest North (in Alaska) recently won its lawsuit against GSUSA regarding the last increase in membership dues.
 - We will find out more in November.
 - GSEP's Board voted to write a letter to GSUSA letting them know that GSEP would like to see more controls on the National Board, including supporting a proposal to the NCS asking that an increase in dues of more than 15% must be approved by the National Council Delegates.
- 2020 National Council Session news
 - For more information from GSUSA on the 2020 NCS, please visit <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/GIRL-2020/ncs-resource-center.html>
 - The new formula for allocating council delegates to the 2020 National Council Session, which was also shared at the Spring Delegate Meeting is as follows:
 - 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.
 - This formula is changed from the ratio of one additional delegate for every 2,000 girls used for the last three National Council Sessions. For example: For the 2017 NCS, GSEP sent 20 Delegates (2 delegates, plus 18... since we had a little over

36,000 girl members). With this new formula, we *would have been* entitled to send 24.

- GSUSA will let us know how many Delegates we **MAY** send in November 2019.
- GSEP will open the applications to be a National Council Session Delegate in October. The deadline to apply is January 10, 2020. The BDC will create the slate of NCS Delegate candidates, which will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on May 2, 2020.
- About the National Council Session Proposals, GSEP did send in our proposal regarding allowing virtual attendance at Special Sessions of the National Council. Our board also approved supporting three sister Councils' proposals as well:
 - GS of Kentuckiana's proposal – very similar to GSEP's which allows virtual attendance at Special Sessions.
 - GS of Connecticut – discounted lifetime membership dues for any volunteer who has served at least 10 years
 - GS of Greater Chicago/Northwest Indiana – the National Board must seek approval from the National Council for any membership dues increase of more than 15%
- We will find out which proposals are going to be presented at the 2020 National Council Session in the spring and will share them at the March 18th Spring Delegate meeting

Bylaws Review Strategy Café

Deb Walters, chair of the Bylaws & Policy Review Subcommittee, introduced the topic of a comprehensive review of GSEP's Bylaws. Each table was given a "chunk" of the Bylaws to discuss and note any suggested edits, deletions, additions, clarifications, and questions. After 40 minutes of small group discussion, the large group was brought back together. Deb then asked for report outs from two tables at each of the three locations.

Deb Walters explained that a Bylaws Review Subcommittee was newly formed and would be gathering and reviewing all the feedback. They will meet regularly and present their suggested amendments at the Spring 2020 Delegate Meeting; the possibility also exists that there will be no edits necessary or that the review timeframe is too short, and the subcommittee may suggest pursuing this work into Membership Year 2021.

Closing

Board Chair Debbie Hassan reminded the Delegates of important dates in the MY20 Governance year, including emphasizing the January 10th application deadline, the March 18th spring meeting date, and the Annual Meeting date of May 2nd, 2020.

Debbie adjourned the Spring Delegate meeting at 9:00 p.m.

If you would like to suggest a topic for the Spring 2020 Delegate Meeting on March 18th, please email governance@gsep.org