



June 2020 Governance Bulletin

The Governance Bulletin is shared with all Service Unit Delegates on file, National Council Session (NCS) Delegates, Girl Advisors to the Board of Directors, Girl Delegates, GSEP Board Development Committee members, GSEP's Board of Directors, and Service Unit Managers (SUM).

Dear Delegate Council,

First, we hope you & yours are healthy and safe. Please know that we have a tremendous amount of resources to keep you and your Girl Scout(s) engaged! Visit our [Girl Scouts at Home page](#) for a list of virtual programs (including our newly launched Camp@Home with GSEP virtual summer camp!), activities, and service projects for girls as well as virtual training for volunteers and social & emotional resources for families during these challenging times.

Secondly, welcome and congratulations to our new Girl Delegates, Girl Advisors to the Board, National Council Session Delegates, and Board Development Committee members, who were elected at last month's Annual Meeting! And, a special welcome and congratulations as well to the newest Service Unit Delegates and Alternates who have recently been elected by their SUs for this Governance Year. We are excited to have you all actively participating in GSEP's governance!

[Recap of our Annual Meeting](#)

On May 2nd, GSEP held its first [virtual Annual Meeting](#), check out the link to see a recording of it. A record number of 265 attendees including delegates and other

members were present! In addition to the elections mentioned above, we also heard from a number of people on the state of the Council. Debbie Hassan, our Board Chair, gave her Governance report, which included a recap of the Fall & Spring Delegate Meetings (the overview of those meetings can be found under the Documents tab on the [Governance page](#)) and an update on the National Council Session (details can be found below). Board Treasurer Rick Perkins gave the Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2019, during which he shared that the auditors gave GSEP an unmodified (or favorable) financial outcome report. He also reported on the positive financial health of the Council for the first half of FY20.

CEO Kim E. Fraites-Dow spoke about GSEP's proactive response to the COVID-19 crisis. The staff, working from home since mid-March, has been laser-focused on pivoting to offering virtual programming for girls, practical tools for volunteers, and resources for families. Kim also gave a report on the final year impact of the five focus areas of GSEP's three-year strategic plan. More details about the Strategic Plan and the Treasurer's Report can be found in the [2019 Annual Report](#).

The final vote that occurred during the Annual Meeting was for the [new bylaws](#). Deb Walters, Chair of the Bylaws Committee and Board Secretary, introduced the motion to adopt these new Bylaws by offering a short explanation of the work of the committee. She also explained that the three areas of focus were to create clarity, include definitions, and make substantive changes to bring the Bylaws up to date with the Council's needs. The motion to adopt the [new bylaws](#) was passed by 136 vote in favor, with one opposed.

The Annual Meeting then shifted to its traditional celebratory phase, in which the Top Cookie Sellers for each age level were recognized by Terri Boyer, co-chair of the Board's Membership Strategy Committee. The names of the Scholarship and Award recipients were then read by Ann Donley and Deb Walters, Board members and co-chairs of the Adult Camping Weekend committee (which raises funds for the GSEP Graduating Senior Scholarship).

Board Chair Debbie Hassan closed the meeting with a reminder to [renew your Girl Scout membership](#). She then introduced Girl Scout Cadette Myah D., who shared her [Silver Award project of making masks for essential works via an amazing video](#) she created.

The full [recording of the Annual Meeting](#) can be viewed on GSEP's YouTube page and the [official minutes of the Annual Meeting](#) can be found on the [Governance page](#). Many thanks to all of you who attended!

2020 National Council Session Updates

The National Board of Girl Scouts of the USA decided in April that the 2020 National Council Session scheduled to be held in Orlando in October will now be a virtual meeting. This is from the message GSEP received from GSUSA:

This decision was made with the health and safety of all members of the Girl Scout

Movement at the forefront. As we've continued to monitor public health experts' recommendations and forecasts, it became clear that Girl Scouts could not hold convention in person in October 2020 because we can't host a large scale, in-person event and guarantee the health and safety of participants.

Further, this decision allows us to honor the intent to bring the Movement together to address important business which will shape our future. The board made this decision now so that we can maximize planning time for the virtual iteration of the 55th NCS, while we also minimize any additional financial risk that members, councils, and GSUSA might incur for delaying such a decision.

So, our newly elected 25 NCS Delegates and 3 NCS Alternate Delegates will still represent GSEP during the National Council Session, now scheduled for October 23-25.... It will just be online, rather than in-person.

The other news that has been shared from GSUSA are the proposals that will be voted on during the NCS. These are the six proposals (condensed):

- Establish a task force to determine the viability of developing a Gold Award Scholarship Foundation.
- Establishing consistency of delegate terms across the Movement
- A lifetime membership discount for volunteers who have served 10+ years
- Changing Membership Dues: National Board first needs input from the National Council
- Changing Membership Dues: National Board must communicate the intended use of the funds and the impact on the movement prior to any changes.
- Changing Membership Dues: for an increase of 25% or more, the National Board MUST seek approval from the National Council

GSEP's NCS Delegates and Alternates will meet over the summer to discuss these proposals in more detail. More information will be shared at the Fall Delegate Meeting in September.

More News from GSUSA

Since our Movement's primary goal is to build girls into leaders, Girl Scouts of the USA is also focused on ensuring that those leaders are justly recognized in the future. GSUSA has just launched a new initiative aimed at asking companies for gender parity in leadership roles and pay equity. For more information on GSUSA's "Fair Play, Equal Pay" project, check out [this page](#) on their website. It includes a link for companies to take a pledge to ensure that at least 30% of leadership positions are held by diverse female talent by the year 2030. Ask your company to consider joining this initiative.

Service Unit Delegate Elections – results due by August 31, 2020

It is now time to **elect your Service Unit Delegates for the new Governance Year!** (The term for SU Delegates runs from one Annual Meeting to the next Annual Meeting.) Please check out the following information to make your elections go smoothly (all of which can also be found in the tab at the bottom of the [Governance page](#) of our website):

- [Sample script](#) to help facilitate your SU Delegate election
- The [SU Delegate Election Results Form](#) – this must be downloaded, completed, saved, and emailed to governance@gsep.org no later than August 31, 2020, please!
- [The list](#) of which Service Units are entitled to one SU Delegate or two SU Delegates.
- Please remember
 - A SU Delegate can be an older girl! This is a great opportunity for girls 14 years or older to learn more about the Council on a strategic level (and it looks great on a college application!).

This position requires only 3 meetings a year: the Fall Delegate Meeting in late September; the Spring Delegate Meeting in March; and the Annual Meeting in early May. A Delegate training will also be offered in the fall to orient new folks to the position.

GSEP MY21 Governance Calendar

(which can also be found on the [Governance page](#) of the website)

Date	Action Item
April 3 – August 31, 2020	Elect your Service Unit Delegates for the 2021 Membership Year
Sunday, September 20 (afternoon)	Girl Delegate Training for all NEW Girl Delegates (<i>if any girls are serving as new SU Delegates, they are also welcome to attend this session!</i>)

	<p><i>Registration details will be shared once virtual platform or on-site location is confirmed. For now, please save the date!</i></p>
<p>Wednesday, September 23 (evening)</p>	<p>Delegate Training for all NEW Delegates</p> <p><i>Registration details will be shared once virtual platform or on-site location is confirmed. For now, please save the date!</i></p>
<p>Saturday, September 26 (morning)</p>	<p>Delegate Training for all NEW Delegates</p> <p><i>Registration details will be shared once virtual platform or on-site location is confirmed. For now, please save the date!</i></p> <p>New Delegates need to attend ONLY ONE of the training sessions!</p>
<p>Wednesday, September 30</p>	<p>Fall Delegate Meeting (7-9 p.m.)</p> <p><i>This meeting may be virtual; details will be updated once confirmed!</i></p>
<p>October 23-25</p>	<p>2020 National Council Session – virtual!</p> <p><i>More information for visitors will be shared as details are confirmed by GSUSA.</i></p>

Thank you again for your commitment to Governance excellence here at GSEP!
Have a great summer!

As always, if you have any questions or thoughts to share, please do not hesitate to reach out to governance@gsep.org!

LEARN MORE



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

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