

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, January 27, 2026
8:00-9:30 a.m. on Zoom

Mission Moment

Girl Scout Senior Emma S. from Philadelphia shared her Gold Award project. She presented her project entitled “A Northwest Philly Girl’s Guide to Navigating the City,” which focused on learning how to safely navigate public transportation in Philadelphia.

Management Report

CEO Kim Fraites-Dow reported that GSEP has just over 19,000 girl members. We reached 86% of our December 31 goal and are 9% down YOY. This dip is consistent across Girl Scout Councils nationally, with overall membership down approximately 8%. During the winter and spring, the Community Engagement team is focused on recruiting new girls, concentrating on girls in grades K-3.

Chief Marketing Officer Stacey Moyers explained the Council is extending the Cookie Program for an additional two weeks (until March 22) due to snowstorms early in Cookie Season. On January 31, GSEP and the Cookie Program will be featured in Philadelphia’s “52 Weeks of Firsts,” celebrating the nation’s 250th anniversary. The first commercially baked Girl Scout cookies were created and sold in 1932 at PECO’s predecessor company, so the “First-ival” for our cookies will be held at PECO and will feature a giant number one with images about Girl Scouts and Girl Scout cookies on it.

This year’s 12 Take the Lead honorees (four women at the three respective regional events) are in the midst of hosting Shadow Days with their girl Presenters. All three events are being held at new locations.

Chief Mission Delivery Officer Molly Eigen reported that we currently have 2,513 girls registered for summer camp, which is 69% of our annual goal.

Kim Fraites-Dow also shared that the final payment from Montgomery County for Camp Laughing Waters’ conservation easement has been received and deposited into the Land, Building, and Equipment Fund. She also offered an update on the house renovation project at Camp Mountain House; the new Girl Activity Center will be open in June.

Finance/Audit Committee Report

Committee Chair Rick Perkins introduced Sara Doyle, a principal at our audit partner, CliftonLarsenAllen, to give the FY25 audit report. She explained the overall process, including the analysis, reporting, and partnership dynamic with the staff. CLA has issued a “clean” unmodified opinion of the FY25 financial statements, which means the financial statements provided are free from misstatements; no significant difficulties were encountered; and they agree with GSEP’s management’s estimates and data.

Chief Financial Officer Mike Vanic offered a brief overview of the Q1 finances, which are tracking favorable to the budget (mainly due to savings in personnel expenses). He also shared an update on the National Girl Scout Retirement Plan. The National Board will be selling up to three floors of GSUSA's national headquarters in Manhattan, with up to half of those proceeds being used to create the "Pension Settlement Fund" (the retirement plan will be terminated in July 2027). GSEP will make its final payment in December 2026 to the National Retirement Plan.

Closing Remarks

Board Chair Nicole LeVine thanked Ellen Iobst for representing the Board during a presentation of the Girl Scout Lifesaving Medal of Honor to a Cadette in Coopersburg; Kathy Killian, for facilitating a Cookie Mega Drop at Citizens Bank Park; and Bunmi Ojikutu, Crystal Ashby, Diana Cortes, Ellen Iobst, Fusun Bubernack, Judy Freyer, and Kathy Killian for being "Mentors for a Day" at the Calling All Girl Bosses workshops in Reading, Allentown, and Philadelphia earlier this month.

She then congratulated Allison Green Johnson on her successful climb of Mount Kilimanjaro in the fall; Kathy Killian, for becoming a grandmother; and Ashley Russo, for being recognized as this year's Outstanding Philanthropist by the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m.