



July 2023 Governance Bulletin

[The Governance Bulletin is shared with all Service Unit Delegates on file, Girl Delegates, Girl Advisors to the Board of Directors, GSEP Board Members, GSEP Board Development Committee Members, NCS Delegates, and Service Unit Managers.](#)

Dear Delegate Council,

Happy summer!

Welcome and congratulations to our new Board Officers, Board Members-at-Large, Girl Advisors to the Board, Board Development Committee Members and Girl Delegates, who were elected at May's Annual Meeting! Congrats, too, to our re-elected Board Members-at-Large and BDC members. And, a special hello 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!

Annual Meeting Recap

Thank you to all our Delegate Council members who attended the Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 6 at Shelly Ridge! We deeply appreciate your time and interest in ensuring governance excellence here in GSEP.

In addition to voting on the slates for Board Officers, Board Members-at-Large, Girl Advisors to the Board, Board Development Committee members, and Girl Delegates, we also had a Governance Report presented by our Board Chair, Treasurer's Report shared by our Chief Financial Officer, and Management Report from our CEO. And, we ended the meeting with our exceptional girls, when we celebrated our Top Cookie Sellers and Older Girl Scholarship recipients.

If you missed the Annual Meeting and want to catch up, please check out the [2023 Annual Meeting recording](#) on GSEP's [YouTube channel](#). Some distinctive highlights of the meeting were the presentation of this year's Governance Award, a special acknowledgement of our outgoing Girl Advisors, the election of four new Board members, and a special good-bye presentation to Debbie Hassan, our Board Chair for the past six years.

Please also take the opportunity to read the [Official Minutes of the Annual Meeting](#) and view the [Annual Meeting PowerPoint slides](#) presented on Saturday, May 6. You can also peruse the [2022 Annual Report](#).

Spring Delegate Council Meeting Recap

This past March, the Delegate Council meeting focused on the upcoming National Council Session ("NCS").

Board Chair Debbie Hassan and CEO Kim Fraites-Dow shared national governance news from GSUSA, including an announcement of Girl Scouts of the USA's new National CEO, [Bonnie Barczykowski](#). Board Development Committee ("BDC") Chair Debbie O'Brien and BDC member Deb Walters presented a report on the work of the BDC this governance year as well as an overview of the comparative demographic data of the applicants and nominees for Girl Advisors and Girl Delegates.

Also, the 2023 NCS Delegates and Alternates facilitated the Strategy Café discussions on the seven proposal topics that will be voted on in July:

1. Allowing virtual attendance at National Council meetings and allowing Official Notices to be delivered electronically
2. Amending the GS Promise & Law by deleting the words "try" in the Promise and "do my best" in the Law
3. Changing the timing of NCS Delegate allotment (i.e., the number of NCS Delegates allotted to each Council will be determined by girl membership two years before NCS, rather than the current year preceding NCS)
4. Changing the formula for determining the number of NCS Delegates (from the current formula of one Delegate for every 3,500 girls to one Delegate for every 1,000 girls)
5. Having at least three Council CEOs serve on the National Board of Directors
6. Affirming the creation of a Gold Award Scholarship Fund by including it in the Blue Book
7. Adding the words "anti-racism" to the Preamble of GSUSA's Constitution to emphasize that our Movement advances diversity, pluralism and anti-racism

The attendees broke into small groups to discuss the seven proposals and offer their perspectives, questions, and challenges to the NCS Delegation before they travel to Orlando.

An overview of the meeting (which includes a detailed synopsis of the various NCS proposal topics) can be found [here](#), along with the [PowerPoint deck of the slides](#) presented that evening.

If you have any additional comments or thoughts to share with the NCS Delegates about any of the seven proposals before the National Council Session (July 18-20), please email governance@gsep.org. NCS Delegates are informed and educated but not instructed on how to vote, so they welcome all ideas for consideration.

Service Unit Delegate Elections - results due by Thursday, August 31, 2023

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 ensure 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, 2023, please!
- [The list](#) of Service Units entitled to one or two SU Delegates.
- Please remember:
 - If your SU Delegate served in the 2022-2023 Governance Year and is interested in returning in that role, they still must be elected to serve in the 2023-2024 Governance Year. A Service Unit Delegate (or Alternate) can serve up to six consecutive one-year terms.
 - A Service Unit 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 or job application!).
 - This position requires only a few Delegate Council meetings a year: in the fall, a new virtual-only winter meeting scheduled for January, and in the spring; plus, the Annual Meeting in early May. Delegate training will also be offered in September to orient new folks to the position.

One major reason to elect your SU Delegates and Alternates in the spring/summer is so they are ready to participate in both Delegate Training and the Fall Delegate Council Meeting in early October. We want to ensure that ALL Service Units have the opportunity to share ideas and concerns with our Board as well as hear governance news and updates from our Board Chair and CEO.

Want to Catch Up?

Past issues of this year's Governance Bulletins can be found on the [Governance page](#). Check out the tab at the bottom of the page labeled "Past Governance Bulletins."

Continuing Governance Education

Meet Our New Board Officers!

At the Annual Meeting in May, the Delegate Council elected a new Officer slate. (Per Article IV, Section 2.a. of [GSEP's Bylaws](#), "all officers must be elected in the same year.") Our Council now has a new Board Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary, and the First Vice Chair and two Vice Chairs were reelected to their current positions for another term. Each of the Officers have served on the Board respectively for at least six years as a Board Member-at-Large, so they are very knowledgeable about the work of the Board and the Council itself. Five of the six Officers are Girl Scout alums, and two have also served on the Boards of other Girl Scout Councils.

To read more on our new Officers, please see their bios [here](#).

GSEP MY23 Governance Calendar
(which can also be found on the [Governance page](#) of the website)

Date	Action Item
April 7-August 31, 2023	Elections for SU Delegates/Alternates for GY23-24 should be held.
September 2023 (exact dates TBD) Training for all new Delegates.	Training for all new Delegates.
Tuesday, October 10, 2023	Fall Delegate Council Meeting, 6-9pm at Daisy's Place at Shelly Ridge. A light dinner will be served, so the meeting is expected to start early. More information will be shared in the September edition of the Governance Bulletin.
Monday, January 22, 2024	**NEW** virtual Winter Delegate Council Meeting, 7-8:30pm
Thursday, January 18, 2024	Deadline to apply to be 1) Girl Advisor to the Board and/or Girl Delegates in GY24-25, and 2) a nominee from the floor for the Board Development Committee to vet. .
Tuesday, March 19, 2024	Spring Delegate Council Meeting, 7-9pm
Thursday, April 4, 2024	Official Notice of the 2024 Annual Meeting will be emailed to all voting Delegate Council members
Saturday, May 4, 2024	2024 Annual Meeting, 10am - 12 noon
April 5-August 31, 2024	Election of Service Unit Delegates and Alternates for Governance Year 2024-2025

Thank you again for your commitment to Governance excellence here at GSEP.

Have safe & happy summer!

As always, if you have any questions or thoughts to share, please do not hesitate to reach out.

QUESTIONS?



Have a question? Don't be shy!
[Contact us](#) for more information.

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