



## April 2024 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.*

Happy Spring!

**\*\*NEW DATE\*\* [Spring Delegate Council Meeting will now be held on Thursday, April 18](#)**

You are all invited to join the Board Development Committee (BDC) as they host GSEP's first "Meet the Candidates" event at the Spring Delegate Council Meeting, now being held on Thursday, April 18, at Shelly Ridge. A virtual attendance option is also available.

The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. All in-person attendees are invited to enjoy a light dinner, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

We encourage all Service Unit Delegates, SU Alternate Delegates, Girl Delegates, Girl Advisors, Board Members, BDC Members, and any interested member to join us! The primary focus of the meeting will be an informal conversation with the nominees for the Board Member at-Large and Girl Advisors for the 2024-25 Governance Year.

Please [click here to register](#) by Friday, April 12.

**[Recap of Winter Delegate Council Meeting in January](#)**

GSEP's first Winter Delegate Council Meeting was held in January over Zoom. More than 120 Delegate Council members and interested Girl Scout members attended.

The primary focus of the gathering was the work of the Board committees (the committees discussed were Community Excellence, Human Resources, Property, Finance, Investment, and IT Strategy). The Chairs of each committee shared an overview of the work of their respective committee, including an introduction of the members of each group.

If you missed it, please check out the recording of the entire 90-minute meeting [here](#). Or, review the PowerPoint deck via [this link](#).

**[Mark Your Calendars - Annual Meeting is Saturday, May 4!](#)**

Please save the date of Saturday, May 4 for GSEP's Annual Meeting, which will be held IN-PERSON (only) at Shelly Ridge (our headquarters in Miquon), from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The agenda for the Annual Meeting includes:

- Governance Award presentation
- Treasurer's Report
- Recap of MY23 from our CEO
- Votes on:
  - o Members-at-Large of the Board of Directors
  - o GY24-25 Girl Advisors to the Board
  - o Members of the Board Development Committee
  - o GY24-25 Girl Delegates
  - o Recognition of Top Cookie Sellers and Scholarship Recipients

The After Party will be held again this year! There will be family-friendly camp activities, camp tours, and service projects. Complimentary lunch will be provided to all attendees.

Look for the official Annual Meeting Notice and registration link being emailed to all Delegate Council members on Thursday, April 4. Registration will be open to the entire GSEP membership starting on Thursday, April 4. Delegates strongly encouraged to attend!

**[Service Unit Delegate Elections - Start Planning for New Governance Year!](#)**

Attention Service Unit Managers: It's now time to begin electing your Service Unit Delegates for the 2024-2025 Governance Year! (*The term for SU Delegates runs from one Annual Meeting to the next Annual Meeting, so there are only a few weeks left in this year's term.*)

Please check out the information found in the tab at the bottom of the [Governance page](#) of our website, including:

- [The SU Delegate Election Results Form](#)- this must be downloaded, completed, saved, and emailed to [governance@gsep.org](mailto:governance@gsep.org) no later than *Saturday, August 31*.
- [Sample script](#) to help facilitate your SU Delegate election
- A [Powerpoint slide](#) explaining the responsibilities of a Service Unit Delegate is also available in a [PDF](#).
- [The list](#) of Service Units entitled to one or two SU Delegates.
- Please remember:
  - o If your SU Delegate served in the 2023-2024 Governance Year and is interested in returning to that role, they still must be elected to serve in the 2024-2025 Governance Year. A SU Delegate (or Alternate) can serve up to six consecutive one-year terms.
  - o A SU Delegate can be an older girl! This is a fantastic 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!).
  - o *If you do not return the form, your SU Delegate will not be allowed to vote at the Annual Meeting.*

As a reminder, elections for SU Delegates/Alternates for the 2024-2025 Governance Year should be held between April 5-August 31, 2024. The updated [SU Delegate Election form for GY24-25](#) is now posted on the [Governance page](#) of the website.

**[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

**[Why is GSEP's Annual Meeting held in May?](#)**

Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA), our parent organization, has their most important governance meeting triennially (or, every three years). That is the National Council Session, where National Board members and National Board Development Committee members are elected and topics that may impact our entire Movement are discussed, debated, and voted upon. Yet, GSEP hosts our most important governance meeting every year. Why?

First, GSEP is a separate, independent legal entity (or 501c3 nonprofit) from GSUSA. GSEP has its own Bylaws, Board of Directors, and CEO. However, since we are chartered by GSUSA, we -- and all chartered Girl Scout Councils -- adhere to the same Membership/Fiscal Year (October 1-September 30).

Girl Scout Councils throughout the country hold their Annual Meetings at various times throughout the Membership/Fiscal Year. Most hold theirs some time between January - May. Here in Pennsylvania, [state statutes](#) do require that 501c3 nonprofits hold a governance meeting annually, as prescribed by each group's respective Bylaws.

GSEP's Bylaws state that we must hold our Annual Meeting "between April 1 and June 1" ([Article 2, Section 7, line 80-82](#)). In the past decade of our 17-year existence as Girl Scouts of Eastern PA, we have settled on the first Saturday in May as the best date to host our Annual Meeting. This timeframe allows the Board time to review and approve financial reports (the previous year's Fiscal Year Audit and 990), which inform both the Treasurer's Report and the CEO's State of the Council report presented at the Annual Meeting. Plus, hosting the meeting in early May ensures that no major holidays or summer camp preparations impact the meeting. And, hopefully, nice spring weather also allows an enjoyable time at the After Party (fingers crossed that the cold rainy weather that occurred in 2022 remains the exception!).

We hope to see you at Shelly Ridge on Saturday, May 4!

**GSEP MY23-24 Governance Calendar**  
(which can also be found on the [Governance page](#) of the website)

Date	Action Item
Thursday, April 4, 2024	Official Notice of the 2024 Annual Meeting will be emailed to all voting Delegate Council members
Thursday, April 18, 2024 <b>**NEW DATE**</b>	Spring Delegate Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m., scheduled at Shelly Ridge. <i>Virtual attendance option also available.</i>
Saturday, May 4, 2024 (10 a.m. - 12 p.m.)	2024 Annual Meeting at Shelly Ridge
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!

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

**QUESTIONS?**



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

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