

Delegate Council Meeting Overview

Delegate Council Meeting – Spring 2024

April 18, 2024, from 6:30-8:00 pm

~ hybrid (*in-person @ Shelly Ridge; virtual over Zoom*) ~

Invited: GSEP Board of Directors, Girl Advisors to the Board, Board Development Committee Members, Girl Delegates, Service Unit Delegates & Alternates, 2023 NCS Delegation nominees, and Interested Members

Meeting Opening

Nicole LeVine, Board Chair, officially started the meeting at 6:42 p.m. Members of the Delegate Council participated in an opening flag ceremony.

Mission Moment

Nicole invited Girl Delegate Ketorah B. from Philadelphia to share her experience in Harrisburg this past November. The day began with the Troop PA event, with all three Girl Scout Councils in the state inducting female legislators into the Girl Scout sisterhood, and ended with a Women in STEM program, featuring officials who hold various STEM jobs in state government. Ketorah talked about how proud she was to hear Speaker Joanna McClinton, since she is also from Philadelphia and is the first female Speaker of the House. Ketorah also spoke about the afternoon session when she and other Girl Scouts got to talk with women from the state Departments of Health, Human Services, Corrections, Agriculture, Finance Management, Conservation & Natural Resources, and Digital Strategy.

National Governance Update

Nicole LeVine offered a short report on the recent meetings of the National Board of Directors, which meets quarterly. At the National Board's January meeting, they discussed Fiscal Year 2024 strategic priorities, including GSUSA's work around DEIRJ and gender. They are also beginning the Movement Strategy Development process, which involves extensive research into examining who our Movement serves, what experiences we offer, and Girl Scouting's "value proposition" which means what benefits we offer to girls, their families, and our communities and how we tell our story about that. GSUSA's Board also heard from the "Movement Governance Advisory Team," a group of volunteers from across the country focused on governance issues. That team has already begun work on the 2026 National Council Session.

Nicole also spoke on the similarities between GSUSA's Board and GSEP's Board. Both groups have Committees focused on various topics and those committees report out at Board meetings. Both Boards also have specific fiduciary responsibilities, which include reviewing and approving the annual budget and audit statements. One of the major differences between our local Board and the National Board is that the latter group also has a worldwide perspective to consider. For example, a "Global Strategy Working Group" has just been created to define and integrate worldwide initiatives to support our Movement (which includes Girl Scouts Overseas) and how GSUSA works with WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts).

Report from the Board Development Committee (“BDC”)

BDC member and Girl Governance Subcommittee Chair Miriam Shou presented the report from this Committee. She first explained that the BDC is responsible for creating slates for four of the five groups which make up the Delegate Council (the Board, the BDC, Girl Advisors, and Girl Delegates); members of the fifth and largest group (the Service Unit Delegates) are elected by the Service Units themselves.

Miriam described the process of how the BDC creates the slate of the Board Members-at-Large. The group starts with reviewing the demographic profile of the current Board, including counties they live and work in; race and ethnicity; gender; age; and skills and professional backgrounds. They also discuss what gaps there are or facets they want to increase or strengthen, especially considering upcoming strategic initiatives. From that basis, the BDC then creates a plan about how to recruit the people who meet the Council’s needs and who might be interested in joining the Board.

Since the Delegate Council members have already received the slates of nominees, Miriam offered a quick review of the nominees who are being re-elected to the BDC and Board. As a new initiative, GSEP invited the nominees being elected to their first terms to share a short video introducing themselves. Miriam introduced each respective video for these candidates:

- **Crystal Ashby**, executive vice president, chief people, DEI, and communications officer at Independence Health Group (Independence), the parent company of Independence Blue Cross, LLC.
- **Stacy Broad**, Vice President, Deputy General Counsel at Avantor, Inc.
- **Diana Cortes**, Partner at Morgan Lewis

The fourth candidate, Harris Bock, Director of The Dispute Resolution Institute, was unable to provide a video, so Miriam shared a short biography.

Miriam then provided an overview of the work of the Girl Governance Subcommittee of the BDC, which creates the suggested slate of Girl Advisors to the Board and Girl Delegates. The Subcommittee hosted three virtual help sessions in December and January to assist girls in completing the applications. Seventy-four girls submitted applications for the 33 positions. The five members of the Subcommittee individually scored each application; to create the suggested slate, they then gathered together for three hours to review and discuss the applications and life stories the girls submitted. Miriam then explained the pie charts comparing the demographic data between the applicants and the nominees for each role, which included county of residence, race and ethnicity, and grade level.

Another member of the Girl Governance Subcommittee, BDC member Deb Walters, then introduced the respective videos sent in from the three Girl Advisor nominees: Lindy A., Myah D., and Marisa M.

Strategy Café Discussion

Board Chair Nicole LeVine first referenced the information she shared earlier in the evening regarding the National Board’s focus on Girl Scouts’ “value proposition” and how to tell our story about what Girl Scouting offers to its members. She asked the attendees to break into small groups and share a story about an impactful Girl Scout governance experience each person has had.

After 15 minutes of discussion, the large group report out featured a few Delegate Council members offering their individual stories which reflected experiences at both the local and national levels. The ideas shared included how powerful it is to hear from so many girls (and adults) about their personal perspectives on various ideas, proposals, and initiatives. Being involved in governance is also a fantastic opportunity to learn about the various strategic facets that build our Movement as well as a great way to support girls.

Closing

Board Chair Nicole LeVine thanked everyone for the meeting and reminded the attendees that any questions or comments can be sent to governance@gsep.org.

Nicole told the participants that there are still openings in many summer camp sessions, so she encouraged girls and families to register. Plus, the Spring Membership Renewal Campaign has started, and there are incentives for individuals, troops, and service units to renew for Membership Year 2025 by June 30.

She also reminded the Delegate Council that the Annual Meeting is being held on May 4, and current registrations indicate that we have not yet reached quorum so she requested that all Service Unit and Girl Delegates register within the next week. Plus, that day includes a free lunch and camp activities for everyone who attends.

Nicole adjourned the Spring Delegate Council Meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Please email any questions, concerns, or comments to governance@gsep.org.