

Delegate Council Meeting Overview

Delegate Council Meeting – Fall 2022

September 29, 2021 from 7-9 pm

~ in-person @ Shelly Ridge and virtual over Zoom ~

Invited: GSEP Board of Directors, Board Development Committee Members, GSEP Girl Advisors & Girl Delegates, Service Unit Delegates & Alternates, 2020 National Council Session (NCS) Delegates, 2023 NCS Delegation nominees, and Interested Members

Meeting Opening

Debbie Hassan, Board Chair, opened the Delegate meeting by welcoming the attendees to the first in-person Delegate Council Meeting in three years. A group of Girl Delegates facilitated the opening flag ceremony.

Introductions

Board Chair, Debbie Hassan then recognized the respective cohorts in attendance (Board, Board Development Committee, SU Delegates and Alternates, Girl Delegates, National Council Session Delegates and Nominees). She reiterated the decision-influencing role of the Delegate Council and thanked the members for their service. Debbie and CEO Kim E. Fraites-Dow then presented position pins to the new SU Delegates and Girl Delegates. Virtual attendees who have not received pins were asked to submit their names in the chat log; those pins will be mailed to them.

Board Development Committee Report

Deb Walters, member of the BDC, reviewed the names of the committee members. She explained that the members come from a variety of professional areas, live in various communities throughout the council, have different racial and ethnic backgrounds, and are wide-ranging in age.

Deb provided an overview on the work of the Board Development Committee, which focuses on identifying, cultivating, and recruiting candidates to become members of the Board of Directors and the BDC itself. The BDC is responsible for reviewing the applications for the Girl Delegates and Girl Advisors to the Board to create the slate for the Delegate Council to elect. The BDC is also responsible for Board engagement and development opportunities.

She then shared that the BDC has been focused on being more data-centric in their decision-making, so that the Board is representative of all the council's members. She mentioned that several Board members are coming to the end of their respective third terms this year (including our Board Chair) so the BDC will be presenting a slate for the Annual Meeting which has new names and faces on it.

2023 National Council Session Delegation – *presentation and vote*

First, BDC member and NCS Delegation Selection Subcommittee co-chair Mary Beth Biddle introduced the members of her Subcommittee. She then showed various pie charts that compared the geographic, racial and ethnic, and NCS experience diversity of the applicants and nominees. She also shared the age range of the nominees (from 14 to 65 years old) and pointed out that almost one-third of this year's Delegation are girl members.

Subcommittee co-chair Deb Walters then read the names of all the nominees (16 Delegates and 5 Alternates) while their respective photos were shown on the screen.

In her role as Board Secretary, Deb offered a report on quorum: our Bylaws require 40% of our Delegate Council members to be present (or, 62 as of this night) and 76 voting Delegate Council members were present, so quorum was attained.

Board Chair Debbie Hassan then facilitated the vote. Virtually, the voting members on Zoom were asked to complete a poll, indicating their yes/no/abdicate vote; the in-person voting was conducted via voice vote. Both voting methods indicated unanimous support of electing the 2023 NCS Delegation slate as presented.

National Governance News from GSUSA (Girl Scouts of the United States of America)

Debbie Hassan first reviewed the timeline for the 2023 National Council Session, as shared by GSUSA last year. She reminded the attendees that in the spring, GSEP's Delegate Council had discussed and voted on two NCS Proposal topics and one discussion topic to present to GSUSA for feedback. She said that based on GSUSA's feedback, GSEP officially submitted a proposal on allowing virtual attendance at National Council Sessions or Special Sessions and a discussion topic on possible reduced family membership fees. She shared that GSUSA will let each Council know if these submissions were accepted later this fall. Now that they have been officially elected, the 2023 NCS Delegation will begin their educational webinars and discussions this fall to prepare for next July's meeting.

Debbie also told the attendees that the Early Bird deadline to register for the 2023 NCS and Phenom is coming up on October 31st. She hopes many GSEP members will join the Delegation in Orlando next summer.

Finally, she invited all attendees to register for GSUSA's second annual Stewardship presentation, being offered virtually on October 27th. GSUSA's National President Karen Layng, CEO Sofia Chang, and National Board Treasurer Valarie Gelb will present the Girl Scout Movement's Stewardship Report.

Strategy Café

Debbie Hassan introduced the Strategy Café portion of the meeting by stating this discussion was shaped entirely by members of the Delegate Council. Every registrant was asked to submit governance topics to discuss. Debbie shared that most of the ideas proposed were operational in nature, but that four questions focused on how to improve the work of the Delegate Council itself. All attendees were asked to answer these questions:

- 1) How can the Delegate Council get more individuals interested in governance?
- 2) How can the Delegate Council play a more active role in GSEP governance?

Serving girls in Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, and Philadelphia counties

- 3) What are the best governance practices utilized by other councils or other organizations which GSEP might be able to adopt to make us an even better council?
- 4) How does the Delegate Council feel about developing an interest patch on governance for the Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador levels to provide increased exposure to governance?

After 20 minutes of small group discussion, reports from each group were shared with all attendees. Ideas included:

- more promotion of governance roles, especially via social media, at camp, and at large group gatherings (girls and adult volunteers)
- mentoring of new Girl Delegates and new SU Delegates
- meet & greets with the Board of Directors
- meeting more often
- learning more about the Board's work, including Board Committees and Subcommittees
- creating a dedicated patch program centered on governance, especially in the national Girl Scout Movement and here in GSEP (the patch can be created in partnership with current Delegate Council members and designed by current Girl Delegates and SU Delegates/Alternates who are girls)
- enhanced communication with all GSEP members about governance

Closing

Board Chair Debbie Hassan thanked everyone for their input and then turned the podium over to GSEP's History Committee. Committee member Jo Trout shared news of the new exhibit at the Girl Scout History Museum at Valley Forge, focused on Girl Scouting and the World Wars. The Grand Opening will be on Saturday, October 22nd, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Debbie then reminded everyone to keep an eye out for the next edition of the Governance Bulletin, being emailed in early December. Girl Governance applications will be opened later this fall. Debbie asked that all attendees share what we discussed tonight with their Service Units, troops, and Girl Scout friends; any additional thoughts or feedback can be sent to governance@gsep.org.

Kim also joined Debbie at the podium to say thanks for attending and to show some of the new Girl Scout attire that is available in the shop.

Debbie adjourned the Fall Delegate Council Meeting at 8:36 p.m.

If you would like to suggest a topic for the Spring 2023 Delegate Meeting on March 22nd, please email governance@gsep.org