

# GSHH Delegate Newsletter

May 27, 2020

Volume 1, Number 3

**"The ultimate responsibility for the Girl Scout Movement rests with its members."** – *Preamble to the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA*

## Delegate Calendar 2019-2020

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**April 25, 2020**

Annual Meeting

**Postponed to June 4**

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**June 4, 2020**

**Virtual Annual Meeting**

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**Nov 9, 2020**

**Virtual Delegate Meeting**

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## Applause for You!

For more than 100 years, Girl Scouts has been taking charge by taking action. We don't just stand by, we step up. We applaud your commitment to doing just that as a Delegate and thank you for working with us to carry on our long tradition of engaging in the democratic process.

## Annual Meeting and Adult Recognition Celebration

The democratic process is a central core value of Girl Scouting. By making our activities girl-planned and girl-led, we demonstrate that principle every day. For older girls and adults, we have you, an assembly of elected Delegates, who meet annually to conduct the essential business of Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson (GSHH). We also hold Delegate meetings twice a year, one each in Fall and Spring, to conduct Delegate business.

We were looking forward to greeting all GSHH Delegates and invited guests at the April 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Recognition Event as part of this democratic process. But then, our world quickly changed and the reality of the precautions we must all take related to the spread of COVID-19 prevents us from meeting in-person this year.

As previously announced, the GSHH Board of Directors has postponed the in-person meeting to June 4<sup>th</sup> in lieu of the previously scheduled Delegate meeting on that date. Instead of holding the Annual Meeting in person, we will now conduct the essential business of GSHH, including the election to vote on Board of Directors and National Council Delegates, through a virtual Annual Meeting. More details about the virtual Annual Meeting and its implementation will be included in the Delegate meeting packet that will be sent out prior to the meeting.

The Adult Recognitions Celebration scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> has also been postponed. While we can virtually accomplish the critical business of the Annual Meeting, we also want to celebrate volunteers via a virtual celebration! GSHH is keeping a close eye on the situation and expects to announce the celebration date soon. Stay tuned and know how much we appreciate the many volunteer contributions that make Girl Scouting the premier



leadership development organization that builds girls' courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place!

*"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples." – Mother Theresa*

## 2020 55<sup>th</sup> National Council Session and G.I.R.L. 2020



Amid the COVID-19 health crisis, the National Board held a special meeting on Tuesday, April 21, and voted to hold a one-time virtual session for our 55th National Council Session in October 2020. The board also voted to cancel G.I.R.L. 2020, including the Global Roundtable. The dates for the National Council Sessions are October 23<sup>rd</sup> through October 25<sup>th</sup>. Our National Delegation will receive additional information about the session and preparing for it in the coming weeks.

The board discussed various options and decided this was the best way to enable the business of Girl Scouting to continue in a timely manner and honor the significant business that was brought to the National Council, including four proposals initiated by councils and two that were co-created by councils and recommended to the board, as well as the business of electing the new board. We will be leveraging our councils' learnings, as more than half have already held/decided to hold their annual meetings virtually this year.

Although the GSUSA National Board can't meet in person, you can continue to connect with other sister Girl Scouts via the many virtual events and activities recently launched for girls and their families, as well as volunteers and alums, via **Girl Scouts at Home™** (<https://bit.ly/3byAwTP>) and the **Girl Scout Network's Campfire Chats** (<https://bit.ly/3aDXAj7>).

If you have any questions, please refer to the **Girl Scout FAQ** (<https://bit.ly/2XXzFIq>)

## **For National Delegates**

If you are interested in minutes from at past National Council Session (NCS), go here <https://www.girlscoutgovernance.com/reference/ncs-documents/national-council-session-minutes/>

If you are interested in past NCS workbooks, go here

<https://www.girlscoutgovernance.com/reference/ncs-documents/ncs-workbooks/>

The workbooks are released by GSUSA and distributed to National Delegates in preparation for the NCS. Proposals and their rationales, the National Board of Directors slate, and any other useful information is included.

## **Major Functions of the Board of Directors**

### **Fulfilling Charter Obligations and Corporate Responsibilities**

The Board of Directors is responsible for GSHH to meet charter obligations. In addition, state law provides for certain powers that are outlined in GSHH's Bylaws. Amending the Bylaws can only be done by action of the Delegates. The Board of Directors is responsible for initiating the necessary action for revision. The Board of Directors must also be familiar with federal and state legislation and regulations affecting not-for-profit organizations.

### **Policymaking**

It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to establish policies that are consistent with policies of GSUSA and to make the policy-level decisions that govern all of the activities of GSHH. Through Delegate meetings and Board committees, the Board of Directors hears diverse views before acting on a matter that will have significant impact.

### **Selection and Performance Evaluation of the CEO**

The search process and hiring/evaluation of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) are arguably the most important decisions the Board of Directors is called upon to make. An evaluation of the CEO is conducted annually and is based on agreed-upon personal performance goals that support the council's corporate goals.

### **Strategic Planning**

The strategic planning process establishes corporate goals that give direction to a long-term integrated strategy for the acquisition, development and disposition of critical resources (human, fiscal and property) and to the development of annual operating objectives and budgets that support corporate goals.

### **Fund Development**

Fund development is the ongoing process of generating public support and enables board members to fulfill their responsibility for securing adequate funding for GSHH within the council jurisdiction.

## **Fiduciary Oversight**

It is the Board of Director's responsibility to maintain the fiscal assets of the organization in such a way as to be able to sustain and grow Girl Scouting throughout GSHH's jurisdiction. This is done in a variety of ways including providing adequate insurance, dependable outside legal counsel, a qualified accounting firm to perform an annual audit, approving an annual operating budget, guidelines for accepting all gifts including cash and non-cash contributions and investment policies.

***"Girl Scouts helps girls make decisions that are right for them and offer support." - Frances Hesselbein***



## **Interaction with the Community**

Board directors can help create broader awareness of the relevance and quality of the Girl Scout program through their own participation in community networks.

## **Oversight of the Management Function**

The CEO manages the day-to-day work of GSHH, making all operational decisions, including the appointment and release of operational volunteers and employed staff. One important way in which the Board of Directors monitors the work of the CEO is by reviewing regular financial and management reports.

## **Emphasizing the Role of a Delegate – What's New with the GSHH Website Redesign**

Your voice as a Delegate matters! In previous editions of this newsletter, we talked about your engagement in discussions on major and minor issues alike. One of the engagements we discussed was to revamp and expand the Governance section of the GSHH website to better serve your governance requirements as a Delegate. Early in 2020, the Governance committee began the important work of this redesign and expansion, but then the response to COVID-19 caused us to set aside this work temporarily. We plan to restart this effort during the Summer or early Fall.



## **GSHH Strategic Plan 2019-2021**

At their April Board meeting the GSHH Board of Directors approved the 2019 – 2021 Strategic Plan. You can find that plan on the GSHH web site at this link <https://bit.ly/3bSd9VG>

In September 2019, the Board of Directors launched a strategic learning and planning process to set the direction for Council's future over the next two years. We engaged our community and staff throughout the process to gather ideas about priorities and approaches. The result is a strategic plan that is designed to strengthen GSHH's leadership position while enhancing leadership opportunities and robust programming opportunities for girls.

***"The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers." – Juliette Gordon Low***

## **Blue Book of Basic Documents, April 2020 Edition**

The newly revised Blue Book of Basic Documents, April 2020 edition has been released by GSUSA and is now available on our website at <https://bit.ly/2SCSPQD> where you can view it or download a copy.

The Blue Book of Basic Documents was revised to reflect the April 21, 2020 National Board vote to hold a one-time virtual session for our 55th National Council Session in October 2020 and to authorize notice of such session to be sent by electronic method.

While the English-language version of the Blue Book of Basic Documents is now available, the Spanish-language version will be posted in the coming weeks at [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org). The Blue Book of Basic Documents will also be made available on the Girl Scout Delegate Official Website (for National Delegates).

The change to the Blue Book of Basic Documents is found below:

The following footnote was added on **page 9**, Constitution, Article V, Sessions of the National Council:

\* The following Section 6 of Article V is effective April 21, 2020 and expires upon conclusion of the 55th National Council Session: "6. The National Board may authorize any session of the National Council to take place in whole or in part by means of remote communication by any means of communications technology determined by the National Board and pursuant to which the members of the National Council have the opportunity to read or hear the proceedings substantially concurrently with their occurrence, vote on matters submitted to the members of the National Council, pose questions, and make comments. Attendance through such means shall constitute presence in person at such meeting for quorum and voting purposes, including without limitation under Article V, Sections 4 and 5; Article XII, Section 11; and Article XVII. The National Board may further authorize notice of such meeting to be given by electronic method notwithstanding Article V, Sections 1 and 3."

A footnote on **page 25** of the Blue Book regarding a lifetime membership promotion for April 2019 has also been removed.

## GSUSA Brings Civics Education to the Classroom!

This year GSUSA put a focus on bringing civics education to the forefront by releasing newly developed civics education and democracy programming for girls in grades K-12 to deepen their understanding of government. You can read more about that initiative here <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/girl-scouts-and-civic-engagement/forgirls.html>

On June 3, 2019, GSUSA hosted a webinar entitled Civics Education: Preparing the Next Generation of Informed and Engaged Citizens. You can view a replay of the webinar here <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/advocacy/event-civics-education.html>

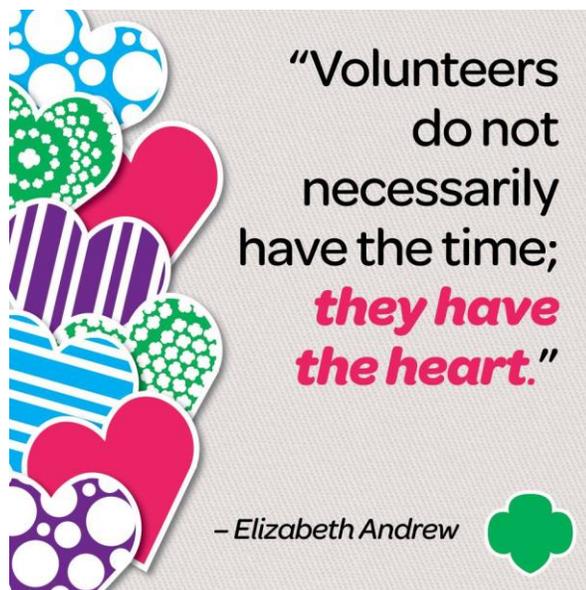
Now, you may be wondering how to implement this within the Girl Scout program. Well, guess what? We have it RIGHT HERE at our fingertips! For both girls and adults! It's built into our own Girl Scout organization and spelled out in the Preamble of the GSUSA Constitution.

### **RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MOVEMENT AND THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS**

*The ultimate responsibility for the Girl Scout Movement rests with its members. We govern by an efficient and effective democratic process that demonstrates our leadership in a fast-changing world.*

Where is this opportunity? It's serving as a delegate on both the council and national level. What better way to educate and engage both adults and girls about civics and the democratic process than to do it within the framework of our organization by using our governance process as a springboard!

Older girls can experience, participate in, and learn about the democratic process through delegate meetings and the Annual Meeting all within a familiar context by becoming Delegates/Alternate Delegates from your service units. Those skills can then be applied in the greater public arena.



**"Don't follow the crowd, let the crowd follow you." – Margaret Thatcher**



## **Your Opinion Counts!**

We love hearing from all of our delegates! Please continue to share your ideas, questions and suggestions for content in this newsletter by sending an e-mail to [gshhgovernance@gmail.com](mailto:gshhgovernance@gmail.com).

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