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**Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey**  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
**Wednesday, May 10, 2023**

Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey opened the Sixteenth Annual Meeting at 6:47pm a Flag Ceremony, led by Caller Veronica Luer from Denville, and Color Guard Participants Gianna Alexander of Wayne, Molly Munrick of Wayne, and Sofia Pelish of Wayne, who led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the singing of the National Anthem by Julianna Stier of Wayne, and then the Girl Scout Promise.

Bette M. Simmons, Chair of the Board of Directors, thanked the girls for opening the meeting and thanked board members, NCS delegates and alternates, representatives, girl members, and guests to the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey (GSNNJ), which is the first in-person Annual Meeting in three years, and proceeded to call the meeting to order.

The Chair introduced Krista Korinis, Secretary, Board of Directors, who announced that a quorum had been met in accordance with the Bylaws of GSNNJ. One hundred and seven voting members and representatives were in attendance, including members of the board of directors, board development committee, national council session delegates, and representatives from fifty-four service units. Ms. Simmons motioned for approval of the minutes of the 15th Annual Meeting. Motion was made by Cynthia Huson from Washington Township Morris and seconded by Nilda Pagan from Passaic to accept the minutes as written. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Simmons recognized and thanked the outgoing Girl Representatives to the Board – Lula Duda, Bodhi Mathur, and Madeline Tubbs, and wished them all the best as they graduate and go on to college, and also recognized outgoing 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Veronica Ross.

Chair Simmons introduced James McCreedy, Chair of the Board Development Committee, who presented the Official Slate for 2022-2025. This is a single slate prepared by the Board Development Committee. Motion to accept the Slate as presented was made by Lesley Kroczyński of Mahwah and seconded by Dan Luer of Denville. **Motion carried.**

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- 36 **Three-Year Terms**
- 37 **OFFICERS Year Expiring/Term**
- 38 Matthew Lamb, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair of the Board of Directors
- 39 Leslie Franklin, Treasurer
- 40
- 41 **MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**
- 42 Leslie Achter
- 43 Karyllan Mack
- 44 Christyll Lucille Murray
- 45 Pia House Walker
- 46 Danielle Furze
- 47 Julia Helliesen

- 48
- 49 **BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**
- 50 James McCreedy
- 51 Shanna Jafri
- 52 Tevra Francis
- 53 Lynelle Slivinski

- 54
- 55 **One-Year Terms**
- 56 **GIRL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD**
- 57 Erica Adu
- 58 Lorayne Gulbrandsen
- 59 Nicole Pelish

60

61 The Honorable Maritza Berdote Byrne, Appellate Court Judge, New Jersey Superior Court, performed  
 62 the installation of elected officers to the Board and Board Development Committee. Chair Simmons  
 63 thanked Honorable Maritza Berdote Byrne for joining us and installing the elected officials.  
 64 Ms. Simmons introduced Krista Korinis, Interim Treasurer, who presented the Treasurer’s Report.  
 65 Interim Treasurer Korinis reported on the Council’s financial position for the fiscal year  
 66 October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022, in which a clean audit was issued. The Council’s financial  
 67 position remains strong with assets totaling \$19 million dollars, with 39% of these assets being the  
 68 value of our buildings and property and the remainder are cash investments. Fifty-four percent of our  
 69 income is derived of program fees and product program sales and 17% is composed of public support–  
 70 donations from corporations, individuals, and foundations. Eighty-six percent of our revenue is used to

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71 fund program services for girls, 6% is allocated to fund development, and 8% on management and  
72 administration, reported Mr. Hirschfeld. These metrics far exceed the Better Business Bureau's  
73 standard benchmarks for non-profit expenditures.

74  
75 Ms. Simmons thanked Ms. Korinis and then introduced First Vice Chair Shanna Jafri who reviewed the  
76 proposed revision to our bylaws. The proposed change refers to Article III, Section 3, "Election and  
77 Term", which removes a reference to Article IV, Section 3, paragraph D, which is not part of the current  
78 bylaws, making the reference moot. Motion was made by Denise Simpson of Ringwood and seconded  
79 by LaKreisa Jean of New Milford to amend the bylaws to incorporate the revision. **Motion carried.**

80  
81 Chair Simmons thanked 1<sup>st</sup> Chair Jafri for handling the new business and introduced GSNNJ President  
82 and Chief Executive Officer, Sandra Kenoff to highlight some of the changes and accomplishments of  
83 the past year, with fiscal year showing significant growth including donors response to our Invest in  
84 Girls breakfast and Giving HERsday campaigns which generated over \$800,000 in support, and  
85 Women of Achievement gala generating over \$200,000 in support.

86  
87 CEO Kenoff then went on to discuss challenges due to the surge of the Omicron variant of Covid, but  
88 we surpassed our membership goals and ended the year with 18,000 Girl Scouts and 10,000 Adult  
89 members, making GSNNJ the 13<sup>th</sup> largest council out of 111 councils in the country.

90  
91 The Girl Scout Cookie program was up by 27%, and 13% over budgeted total sales. A new community  
92 engagement department was established due to our continuing efforts to address diversity, equity, and  
93 inclusion, serving girls in under resourced and emerging communities within our jurisdiction.

94  
95 We saw 91 girls who earned their Gold Award, 348 who earned Silver, and 525 who earned Bronze, for  
96 a total of 964 that earned their higher awards.

97  
98 Our Steel Magnolias high school first tech challenge robotics team ended the season in the top 10% of  
99 the state's 220 robotics teams.

100  
101 CEO Kenoff called Chair Simmons to join her for a special Mission Moment. The two presented two  
102 Girl Scout Space Science badges which had traveled aboard NASA's Artemis I mission to Heather  
103 Fenton from Bloomingdale and Natalie Vadakkan from Oradell, for their winning essays in the Girl  
104 Scouts "To the Moon and Back" essay contest, and congratulated both. Ms. Kenoff thanked all  
105 volunteers, board members, and staff for their contributions to the girls we serve.

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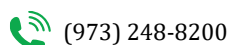
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107 Ms. Simmons announces that the business portion of the meeting is over. Motion was made by Sandra  
108 O’Byrne of Wood Ridge and seconded by Laura McGowan of Wyckoff to adjourn the Sixteenth Annual  
109 Meeting of Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey. **Motion carried.**

110

111 **There being no further business, the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of Girl Scouts of Northern New**  
112 **Jersey adjourned at 7:40pm.**

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