

Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING & ADULT RECOGNITION

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

The Meadow Wood, Randolph

5:30 p.m., Check-in

6:30 – 9:30 p.m., Annual Meeting, Dinner & Adult Recognition

Welcome:

Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey opened the Seventeenth Annual Meeting at 7:00pm a Flag Ceremony and Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the Girl Scout Promise and Law by Troop 97195 of Dover, and the singing of the National Anthem by Girl Scout Natalie Torres.

Call to Order:

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 Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey (GSNNJ), and called the meeting to order.

Confirmation of Quorum:

The Chair introduced Krista Korinis, Secretary, Board of Directors, who announced that a quorum had been met in accordance with the Bylaws of GSNNJ. Eighty five (85) 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 (54) service units.

Approval of Minutes (May 10, 2023):

Bette Simmons asked for a motion for approval of the minutes of the 16th Annual Meeting. Motion was made by Lesley Kroczyński from Mahwah and a second by Beth VanEmburch of Wyckoff to accept the minutes as written. **Motion carried.**

Recognition of Outgoing Elected Members:

Bette recognizes our outgoing Girl Scout Representatives to the Board of Directors, Erica Adu, Lorayne Gulbrandsen, and Nicole Pelish, Board Secretary, Krisa Korinis, and Members at Large, Jill Anderson, Joe Penisi, and Delia Perretta.

Presentation of Slate:

Chair Simmons introduced Elisa Buckley, Chair of the Board Development Committee, who presented the Official Slate for 2024-2025. This is a single slate prepared by the Board Development Committee.

Three-Year Terms

OFFICERS

Shanna Jafri - Board Chair
Germaine Lacqua - 1st Vice Chair
Matt Lamb - 2nd vice Chair
Nashira Spencer – Secretary
Leslie Franklin – Treasurer

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Leslie Achter
Elisa Buckley
Danielle Furze
Julia Helliesen
Karyllan Dodson Mack
Damon L. McDade
Christina Tso-Metz
Christyl Lucille Murray
Tracy Schoenberg
Nikki Sumpter
Pia House Walker
Karen Worthy

One-Year Terms

GIRL SCOUT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD

Emily Ruzicka
Julia Thompson
Ellie Wapner

BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Elisa Buckley – Chair
Tevra Francis
Krista Korinis
Jim McCreedy
Christyl Lucille Murray
Lynelle Slivinski
Cindy Taylor

80 Motion to accept the Slate as presented was made by Jennifer Judd of Chester and a second by
81 Maureen Hubbard of Wallkill Valley. **Motion carried.**

82
83 **Installation of Board of Directors and Board Development Committee 2024-2025:**

84 The Honorable Claudia R, Jones, New Jersey Superior Court, performed the installation of
85 elected officers to the Board and Board Development Committee. Chair Simmons thanked
86 Judge Jones for joining us and installing the elected officials.

87
88 **Treasurer's Report:**

89 Bette introduced Leslie Franklin, Board Treasurer, who presented the Treasurer's Report. Leslie
90 reported on the Council's financial position for the fiscal year October 1, 2022 to September 30,
91 2023, in which a clean audit was issued, with no findings. The Council's financial position
92 remains strong with assets totaling \$18 million dollars, with 42% of these assets being the value
93 of our buildings and property and equipment, and the remainder in cash investments.
94 79% percent of our income is derived of program fees and product sales and 5% is composed of
95 public support-donations from corporations, individuals, and foundations.
96 On the Expense side, 85% percent of our revenue is used to fund program services for girls, 7%
97 is allocated to fund development, and 8% on management and administration. These metrics
98 far exceed the Better Business Bureau's standard benchmarks for non-profit expenditures,
99 which is 65% on program and no more than 35% on fund raising expenses.

100
101 **Approval of Restated Bylaws:**

102 Bette thanked Leslie and then introduced Nikki Sumpter, Bylaws Committee, who reviewed the
103 amended and restate bylaws. Our bylaws have been fully reviewed by our legal counsel for
104 compliance with New Jersey Law, and amended per evaluation by our committee to include the
105 following changes:

106 Article I, Section 5, which outlines the Board of Directors responsibilities and now includes
107 reference to the fact that Board members may be called upon for other arising needs.

108 Article IV, Section 1, which calls for a reduction in the size of the Board from a range of 18 to 24
109 members, to 16 to 22 members.

110 Motion was made by Dana Hampson of Gofflebrook and a second by Nicole Osborne of
111 Englewood accept the bylaws as presented. **Motion carried.**

112
113 **Leadership Team Remarks:**

114 Board Chair, Bette Simmons speaks on her 22 years as a Board and Committee member, as her
115 term as Board Chair comes to an end, thanking Board members for their "Courage", thanking
116 staff member for their "Confidence" and delivering the Girl Scout Promise, and thanking all of
117 our volunteers for their "Character" of our Mission Statement. Bette turns the position of Board
118 Chair over to our new Board Chair, Shanna Jafri, and calls Shanna and President/CEO, Sandra
119 Kenoff to share thoughts and highlights of the past year.

120 Sandra begins by sharing some key accomplishments of FY23.

121 We're proud to be one of the largest councils in the country, serving 18,500 girls and 10,200
122 adults in Bergen, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and the northern half of Warren County. 75% of our
123 membership is comprised of girls between the age of Kindergarten and 5th grade, with
124 Brownies being our largest level of participation. We had membership growth from year prior
125 of about 5%, however, nationwide, councils are down in membership by about 25% from the
126 time prior to Covid.

127 GS Cookie program presented challenges in FY23 as we navigated a season of supply chain and
128 labor shortage issues. Raspberry Rally cookie was introduced and sold out almost immediately.
129 Our cookie revenue was down 6% from FY22. We had 366 girl scouts that earned their Bronze
130 Award, the 300 that earned their Silver Award, and the 93 that earned their Gold Award.
131 Between Jockey Hollow and Lake Rickabear Camps, we served almost 1,400 girls at our
132 summer day camps. In our Celebrate Girls summer program, we served almost 80 girls, with
133 some great trips like Space Farms and Liberty Science Center. At our Women of Achievement
134 Gala, we raised over \$200,000 to help expand the impact and reach of our Girl Scout Leadership
135 Experience. We honored Dr. Jeanine Ahmed, Colleen Fay, Samantha Platino and Danielle
136 Nebres.

137 FY23 saw us reinvesting our cash reserves and making significant upgrades and improvements
138 at both of our camps to provide more for our Girl Scouts. At Lake Rickbear Camp, 8 state-of-
139 the-art pickleball courts, 2-half basketball courts, four square and hop scotch courts and a junior
140 scooter track, in addition to new roofing and window replacement in our existing Friendship
141 Lodge and Beach Lodge were projects that were completed last summer. At Jockey Hollow,
142 upgrades to archery and the horse corral, as well as a complete refurbishing of our pool, were
143 projects that were completed there.

144 In July 2023, our National Council Delegates from our council were in Orlando for the Girl
145 Scouts 56th National Council Session and Phenom Girl Scout Convention. A key highlight was
146 the amendment to the preamble of our constitution, which now states, Girl Scouts advance
147 diversity, pluralism, and anti-racism and actively identify and oppose racism by removing
148 systemic barriers to participation in our movement and in the communities in which we live.
149 Sandra thanks Bette Simmons for her many years as a Board member with Girl Scouts of
150 Northern New Jersey and calls new Board Chair, Shanna Jafri to come and give some remarks,
151 as new Board Chair.

152 Sandra, Shanna and Bette join for a special Mission Moment, telling a story of heroism of
153 Peyton Iaderola, who acted quickly to save the life of her friend at a sleepover when her friend
154 had a seizure, and presented Peyton with the Medal of Honor, which is one of the highest
155 honors in Girl Scouting. Since 2017, only 215 girls have been awarded the Medal of Honor, out
156 of 1.7 million girls across the movement.

157
158 Shanna Jafri announces that the business portion of the meeting is over. Motion was made by
159 Nilda Pagan of Passaic and a second by Julie Maurer of Mendham to adjourn the Seventeenth
160 Annual Meeting of Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey. **Motion carried.**
161

162 **There being no further business, the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of Girl Scouts of**
163 **Northern New Jersey adjourned at 8:06pm.**