

Girl Scouts of Nassau County, Inc.

43rd Annual Meeting

May 07, 2008

**Student Center Multi Purpose Room
Hofstra University
Hempstead, New York**

Call to Meeting

The 43rd Annual Council Meeting of the Girl Scouts of Nassau County, Inc. [GSNC] was called to order by the President, Sandra Echols Williams, at 7:30 pm. Austin E. Cannon, Jr. served as the Parliamentarian. Secretary of the Board, Debra Ieraci recorded the Minutes.

Opening

The Girl Scouts of Nassau County Ceremonial Unit conducted the Opening Ceremony and Presentation of Colors. Ms. Williams introduced the Girl Scouts of Nassau County Ceremonial Unit who presented the colors at our Annual Luncheon, Volunteer Dinner, the Gold Award Ceremony, a Long Island Ducks Game and a New York Mets Game.

The Girl Scouts of Nassau County Chorus, led by Catherine Azzara, performed a medley of songs beginning with, "Softly the Swan" and ending with the inspiring song, "I'll Be There for You."

Welcome

Sandra Echols Williams welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming to the Annual Meeting. Ms. Williams said, "As delegates you are representative of people who are committed and care not only for the future of our Council but for the future of the girls of Nassau County, the girls who will become the women and the leaders of our future, I applaud you." Ms. Williams thanked Donna Ceravolo, CEO and the staff of GSNC for delivering an extraordinary level of programs to our girls and a high level of support to our volunteers. She also thanked her fellow Board Members for the passion, enthusiasm and commitment to the Girl Scout movement. Ms. Williams stated, "Collectively you all are the supporting pillars of this Council. An organization cannot function without its pillars."

Ms. Williams said that we can be proud that we have established Nassau County as a high capacity Council by modeling best practices in all aspects of achieving our mission. Our status as a high capacity Council is a result of the supporting pillars of this Council, the people in this room who are dedicated and committed to excellence in Girl Scouting. Your work as delegates is equally critical to the long term plan of our Council's governance process. Working together we will realize our mission to help our girls build the Courage, Confidence and Character to make the world a better place. This is an exciting time for the Girl Scout movement as we challenge our girls to Discover, Connect and Take Action. She concluded by quoting Juliette Low, "The world of today is the history of tomorrow and we are its leaders."

Teller's Report/Report of Credentials

Sheila Bohan of Massapequa Association, served as Head Teller for the meeting. Sheila reported the Council has 177 eligible voting members; 90 are necessary to open the meeting and conduct the business of the Council. Sheila reported that 94 voting members were present: 70 of the 136 Association Delegates to the Council, 20 of the 32 members of the Board of Directors, 2 of the 4 non-Board members of the Council Nominating Committee, and 2 of 5 Past Presidents, Pat Motschmann and Christine Rio. The Head Teller declared that a quorum was present to conduct the business of the Council. She then reviewed the voting procedures.

It was moved and seconded to accept the Teller's Report.

Adoption of Standing Rules

Vilma Osborne of the Delegate Communications Committee and Board Member reviewed the Standing Rules for the meeting.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the Standing Rules.

Adoption of Agenda

The President asked for a motion to accept the Agenda as presented in the Program.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the Agenda as presented in the program.

Approval of Minutes

Board Secretary Debra Ieraci submitted the Minutes of the May 9, 2007 Annual Council Meeting for approval.

It was moved and seconded to accept the Minutes of the May 9, 2007 Annual Council Meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Pamela Lennox, Treasurer of the Board of Directors, reported that the independent auditing firm of Nawrocki Smith has completed the Council's year-end 2007 audit, which was presented and accepted by the Board of Directors at the April 9th meeting.

Public support and revenue, not including investment income increased \$280,700 or 7.3% over the year 2006. The income from the sale of Camp Tekakwitha has been invested in a board designated fund named the New Directions Fund. As a result of these additional investments, income earned from total investments for 2007 was \$710,000. Even with the rising cost of utilities, food and gasoline we were still able to hold our expenses to a 7% increase over 2006. GSNC continues to maintain an excellent relationship of expenditures for program service to supporting services at 80% to 20% - this means \$.80 of every dollar is spent on direct services to members.

A summary of the financial data can be found on the Annual report and the entire audit is posted on our website. The IRS 990 tax return is currently in the process of being prepared by the auditors and will be posted on the website when it is completed.

It was moved and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted.

Nominating Committee

Sandra Williams recognized the Council Nominating Committee [NomCom] for its dedicated efforts and introduced Chair, Paige Johnston Charles, to give the Nominating Committee Report. In her report, Ms. Charles explained that the Committee began its charge in September 2007 to develop a slate of nominees.

Ms. Charles said “Each year the Council Nominating Committee is charged with identifying a slate of candidates to serve in various positions to the Council. These individuals are members of the community who support the work of Girl Scouts to develop Girl leaders.” The committee accepted their charge to slate nominees who will provide leadership and continuity to GSNC as Officers, Members-at-Large, successor Nominating Committee Members and National Council Delegates.

During the year the NomCom identified the needs of the Council. The committee received over 40 referrals and conducted a number of interviews to develop the slate being presented. Thirty-one candidates were identified and invited to lead the Girl Scout movement. Ms. Charles thanked the members of her committee.

The candidates were then introduced. **Members-at-Large 2008-2010:** Sandra Ashby, Melissa Connolly, Alison Gilbert, Paige J. Charles, Allison Kasson, Betty Monroe, Vilma Osborne, Eric Rogers, Leslie Segrete, **Council Nominating Committee 2008-2010:** Christine Bonczyk, Lisa Burke, Sandra Hoffer, Denise Hibbert, Wanda Jackson, Dr. Adrienne O’Brien, **National Council Delegates 2008-2011:** Elizabeth Alford, Lauren Burke, Donna Ceravolo, Basia Damsker, Donna DiPiola, Alison Gilbert, Sandra Hoffer, Dr. Pamela Lennox (1st alternate), Katie Lueken (2nd alternate), Carmel Mendoza, Mary Kate Siriani, Nora Siriani, Katie Stainkamp, Grace Totten, Linda-Ann Wargo, Sandra Echols Williams, Colleen Wright.

Instructions for Balloting and Election

Head Teller Sheila Bohan reviewed the instructions for balloting and election. The tellers distributed the ballots, and voting members were asked to cast their votes. The ballots were then collected and tallied.

Update of Teller’s Report/Report of Credentials

Sheila Bohan reported that there were not enough members present to proceed with the three proposals being presented. The Council has 177 eligible voting members; to discuss the proposals we need 118 voters present. Only 114 members were present.

Management Report

Sandra Echols Williams introduced Executive Director/CEO Donna Ceravolo who addressed the assembly on the state of the Council.

Ms. Ceravolo stated that this has been another exciting year in Girl Scouts. Mr. Ceravolo said: “Sandra and I are having a great partnership and we look forward to the work ahead. Whenever you have ideas or questions, please call on us.”

Ms. Ceravolo stated that, “We could not do any of the things that we do at Girl Scouts of Nassau County if it were not for you and the other 7000 adult volunteers in our Council. My staff and I are all privileged to work with you, and for you and our girls,” said Ms. Ceravolo. She thanked...

- Leaders,
- CAVs, administrative volunteers in the Service Units,
- Delegate Chairs and other governance volunteers,
- Cookie Managers,
- Fall Product managers
- Camp site directors,
- our Ceremonial Unit and Chorus advisors,
- the Asian and Hispanic Task Forces,
- the UMOJAA Alliance,
- our Golf and Luncheon and Adult Recognitions Committees,
- our Critical Issues Committee and
- all of those who serve on our Board Committees,
- our great Board of Directors and the Council Nominating Committee,
- and our outstanding Trainers ...

“We are in your debt and we value your service to our girls and our communities. Girls are more courageous and more confident because you volunteer your time. You are helping our girls to build character based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and because of you – and what these girls do today and in the future – you are making the world a better place.”

A few years ago Ms. Ceravolo and past President Tina Rio told you that “The status quo has got to go” – A great deal has happened since then. Here at GSNC we continue to give thanks that our Council has been allowed to continue without the specter of merger. This privilege allows us to continue to move from being a very good Council to striving for greatness.

Ms. Ceravolo explained to the attendees that, Membership, Fundraising and Cookies are part of everyone’s job. Girl Scout product programs BUILD SKILLS and PAY THE BILLS!!

Ms. Ceravolo expressed the importance of adding Critical Issues to that list of accountabilities for each staff member this year. We will be working together as we continue the work on social bullying, cyber bullying and the Affection Connection. In 2009 we plan to tackle our 2009 priority

issue – Girls and body image. In the coming year we will begin to incorporate Advocacy more actively in our work with girls.

This past fall the Board adopted new corporate goals in keeping with the GSUSA Core Business Strategy. Working with the national Girl Scout organization the focus will be on...

- Rollout of the new Brand campaign,
- Creating a culture of philanthropy
- Improving our volunteer systems to make Girl Scouts the place to go when folks want to volunteer
- Streamlining our governance processes and
- Launching the new unified Leadership Development experience for girls through our new and consistent Program Models and Pathways, and the introduction of the new Journey materials

GSNC is already at work on all of this but the most exciting aspect is the new Program Models and Pathways. For the first time in 96 years, we will attempt to have every girl in Girl Scouting have a similar core leadership experience, called a Journey. For the first time, we will all have the opportunity to measure our work, see what works best and salute our success.

Ms. Ceravolo thanked everyone for their participation and for ALL they do for Girl Scouts of Nassau County. She gave a special thanks to our Chief Volunteer Officer, Sandra Echols Williams, the Delegate Communications Committee and all the volunteers who were instrumental in this meeting tonight, and to staffers for their work on arranging the venue and working on the proposals.

A request came from the floor for a recount of eligible voting members. The voting members were asked to stand and the Head Teller proceeded to count the voting members. It was reported that there were 101 voting Delegates in attendance at that time; therefore a two-thirds quorum, which is needed to proceed with the three proposals, was not present.

Board of Directors, Committee Panel

Sandra Ashby, Community Relations Committee – reported the results of a recent community survey that was sent to 570 business people, professionals and community leaders. The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the image of Girl Scouts of Nassau County. 23% of the surveys were returned.

Mark Florio, Finance Committee – responded to a question that was sent in prior to the meeting from Pat Hickey, ELLM Association.

Results/Declaration of Election

Sheila Bohan, Head Teller, reported on the election.

The total number of votes cast	114
Number of legal ballots	114
Number of illegal ballots	0
The number necessary for election	58

The slate for Members-at-Large as presented has been elected by majority vote, the slate for the Council Nominating Committee and the National Council Delegates as presented has been elected by majority vote:

Members-at-Large 2008-2010:

Sandra Ashby
Melissa Connolly
Alison Gilbert
Paige Johnston Charles
Allison Kasson
Betty Monroe
Vilma Osborne
Eric Rogers
Leslie Segrete

Council Nominating Committee 2008-2010:

Christine R. Bonczyk
Lisa Burke
Sandra Hoffer
Denise Hibbert
Wanda Jackson
Dr. Adrienne O'Brien

National Council Delegates 2008-2011:

Elizabeth Alford
Lauren Burke
Donna Ceravolo
Basia Damsker
Donna DiPiola
Alison Gilbert
Sandra Hoffer
Dr. Pamela Lennox (1st alternate)
Katie Lueken (2nd alternate)
Carmel Mendoza
Mary Kate Sirianni
Nora Sirianni
Katie Stainkamp
Grace Totten
Linda-Ann Wargo
Sandra Echols Williams
Colleen Wright

Installation of Members-at-Large, Council Nominating Committee Members, National Council Delegates and National Council Delegate Alternates

Sandra Echols Williams invited the newly-elected Members-at-Large, Council Nominating Committee, National Council Delegates and Alternates to the podium. Past President Tina Rio conducted the Installation. Current members of the Board and Council Nominating Committee were requested to stand and reaffirm their commitment to Girl Scouts of Nassau County by reciting the following pledge along with those newly elected:

I agree to promote and support the Policies and Standards of Girl Scouts of Nassau County, Inc., abide by the Bylaws of the Corporation and GSUSA and the Laws of Incorporation of the State of New York.

Referring to the Preamble to the Girl Scout Constitution that states: “We hold that the ultimate responsibility for the Girl Scout Movement rests with the volunteers.” Ms. Rio congratulated and thanked all for making this commitment and wished them good fortune.

Closing Ceremony

Sandra Echols Williams. Ms. Williams stated that she was honored and thanked everyone for their support. There being no further business, the President called for the meeting to adjourn.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the 43rd Council Annual Meeting, at 9:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debra Ieraci
Secretary
Board of Directors

admin/ld