

Girl Scouts of Nassau County, Inc.

44th Annual Meeting

May 13, 2009

**Ruth S. Harley University Center
Adelphi University
Garden City, New York**

Call to Meeting

The 44th Annual Council Meeting of the Girl Scouts of Nassau County, Inc. [GSNC] was called to order by the President, Sandra Echols Williams, at 7:15 pm. Austin E. Cannon, Jr. served as the Parliamentarian. Secretary of the Board, Debra Ieraci recorded the Minutes.

Opening

Ms. Williams introduced the Ceremonial Unit who conducted the Opening Ceremony and Presentation of Colors. This past year the Ceremonial Unit has presented the colors at our Annual Luncheon, the Gold Award Ceremony, the last NY Mets home game at Shea Stadium, the Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame and at a Women's Basketball game at Hofstra University.

The Girl Scouts of Nassau County Chorus, led by Catherine Azzara, performed a medley of songs beginning with "Make New Friends."

Welcome

Sandra Echols Williams welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation in this year's Annual Meeting. Ms. Williams asked for a moment of silence and extended the entire Girl Scout community's sympathy to our sisters in Garden City on the tragic loss of Betty, Stephanie and Catherine Parente.

Referring to her time as a member of the Board of Directors and her two years as President of the Board, Ms. Williams said, "the Girl Scout Mission is honorable and I am honored to have been elected to serve here in Nassau County." Ms. Williams then singled out and thanked Edward Kang, Carol Ransom and Debra Ieraci, who have served the maximum number of terms, and acknowledged them for their "tireless and excellent work for our cause and service to our Movement." Ms. Williams also thanked the Bellmore Association for helping with registration, West Hempstead/Franklin Square Association for volunteering as Tellers and, the Media Girls for serving as Ushers.

Ms. Williams then spoke of the Girl Scout Movement saying "I am confident our Movement will have an even greater impact in the years to come as we begin to build a grassroots network where Girl Scout members, staff and alumnae across the country can act on issues moving through Congress and the respective State legislatures – issues that are important to girls and Girl Scouts everywhere." Ms. Williams urged attendees to complete the form on their seat to be part of the Girl Scout Advocacy network and help support the Girl Scout Commemorative Coin Act. Ms. Williams spoke passionately, urging those present to "an even greater commitment to this cause greater than ourselves – no more status quo, no more business as usual, but recommitment to our cause; a commitment that brings about results and positive change in our community and even the world."

Ms. Williams concluded by urging everyone to a greater and more far reaching commitment of self to the goals of Girl Scouting in our organization, in our communities and to “make the world a better place.”

Teller’s Report/Report of Credentials

Alice Azzara of the Floral Park/Bellerose/Stewart Manor Association, served as Head Teller for the meeting. Alice reported the Council has 158 eligible voting members; 80 are necessary to open the meeting and conduct the business of the Council. Alice reported that 112 voting members were present: 81 of the 119 Association Delegates to the Council, 23 of the 27 members of the Board of Directors, 6 of the 7 non-Board members of the Council Nominating Committee, and 2 of 5 Past Presidents. 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 by Jennifer Burzenski, Seaford/Wantagh Association and seconded by Donna DiPiola, Valley Stream Association to accept the Teller’s Report.

Adoption of Standing Rules

William Mays, Vice President, Board of Directors reviewed the Standing Rules for the meeting.

It was moved by Denise Thompson, Carle Place/Westbury Association, and seconded by Sherry Wicks, The Plains Association, 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 by Mary Vanden Heuval, Seaford/Wantagh Association, and seconded by Theresa Edelman, Hicksville Association, to adopt the Agenda as presented in the program.

Approval of Amended Minutes

Board Secretary Debra Ieraci submitted the Amended Minutes of the May 7, 2008 Annual Council Meeting for approval.

It was moved by Sandra Nardo, Seaford/Wantagh Association, and seconded by Joanne Meyer-Jendras, Garden City Association, to accept the Amended Minutes of the May 7, 2008 Annual Council Meeting.

Treasurer’s Report

Mark Florio, Chairman, Finance Committee, Board of Directors, reported that the independent auditing firm of Nawrocki Smith has completed the Council’s year-end 2008 audit, which was presented and accepted by the Board of Directors at the April 22nd meeting.

1. Public support and revenue (not including investment income) decreased \$136,040 or 20.99% over 2007. While this shows up in our Annual Giving line, in fact, it represents a decrease in bequest income from a large bequest received in 2007. A distribution of \$100,000 from the Estate of Frances Lesch was paid to the Council in 2007. In fact our total Annual Giving Family Campaign for 2008 was up \$6,400 or 3.4%. Moving forward, we will be asking our auditors to separate significant bequest income so that it provides a more thorough comparative picture of our revenue streams.

2. As a result of the financial market collapse, we recorded loss on our investment portfolio. Overall our portfolio “value” decreased as of December 31, 2008 \$2,176,498. Our only solace is that our loss of about 11% was much less than the overall market loss of 30%. We are pleased to say we have seen some increases in market value for the first 4 months of 2009.
3. We were fortunate in 2008 to keep our expenses down and overall expenses only increased 5.5%.

GSNC continues to maintain an excellent relationship of expenditures for Program Services to Supporting Services – at about 80% to 20% -- which means that 80 cents of every dollar is spent on direct services to our membership.

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 being prepared by our auditors and will be posted on the website when it is completed.

It was moved by Elise Deegan, Massapequa Association, and seconded by Linda Ann Wargo, Council Nominating Committee, to accept the Treasurer’s Report as submitted.

Nominating Committee

Lisa Burke, Chair of the Council Nominating Committee introduced the candidates for Officers, Members-at-Large and Council Nominating Committee. **Officers 2009-2011:** Diane M. McFarlane, Esq., President; Marianela Jordan, Executive Vice President; Diane White, Vice President; William Mays, Vice President; Dr. Adrienne O’Brien, Vice President; Eric Rogers, Treasurer; Mark Florio, Secretary; **Members-at-Large 2009-2011:** Ruth Bigman; Christine R. Bonczyk; Andrea Borah; Lisa Burke; Austin Cannon, Jr.; Dr. Agnelo Dias; Anthony Edelman; Donna Geidel; Deborah Johnson-Schiff; Margaret Yamamoto; Thomas Lawrence; Miriam Lopez; Eileen Owen Masio; Dominique C. Moran, Esq.; Cathy O’Reilly; Christopher J. Pendergast; Brian Rothschild; Priscilla Wong; **Council Nominating Committee 2009-2011:** Steven Kitchener; Bonnie Porzio, Esq.; Colleen Wright.

Instructions for Balloting and Election

Head Teller Alice Azzara 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

Alice Azzara reported that there were enough members present to proceed with the three proposals being presented. The Council has 158 eligible voting members; to discuss the proposals presented, 103 voters must be present. 113 members were present.

Proposal I

It was moved by Elizabeth Alford, Bellmore Association, to consider Proposal I. No second required as Proposal I was supported by 11 Associations.

Discussion followed.

It was moved by Denise Thompson, Carle Place/Westbury, to Call the Question.

Vote on Proposal I: Standing Yes votes: 71. Proposal I was Defeated.

Proposal II

It was moved by Judy Jann, Bay Association, to consider Proposal II. No second required as Proposal II was supported by 12 Associations.

It was moved by Anita Cardillo, Bellmore Association, and seconded by Elizabeth Alford, Bellmore Association, to amend Proposal II to change “age 14” to “age 14 as of April 1st.”

Vote to Amend Proposal II passed by simple majority.

Vote on Amended Proposal II: Yes votes 96; No votes 17. Amended Proposal II was Defeated.

Proposal III

It was moved by Judy Jann, Bay Association, to consider Proposal III. No second required as Proposal III was supported by 13 Associations.

Discussion followed.

It was moved by Anita Cardillo, Bellmore Association, and seconded by Colleen Wright, Bellmore Association, to amend Proposal III to change “age 14” to “age 14 as of April 1st.”

Vote to Amend Proposal III passed by simple majority.

Discussion followed.

Vote on Amended Proposal III: Yes votes 103; No votes 10. Amended Proposal III was Defeated.

Motion to Reconsider Proposal II as Amended

It was moved by Elizabeth Alford, Bellmore Association, and seconded by Judy Jann, Bay Association, to reconsider action on Proposal II as Amended,

Vote to reconsider Proposal II as Amended passed by simple majority.

It was moved by Cindy Summer, Massapequa Association, and seconded by Sandra Nardo, Seaford/Wantagh Association, to further amend Proposal II to change “age 14” to “age 16.”

Discussion followed.

Vote to further amend Proposal II was defeated by simple majority.

Vote on Proposal II as originally amended: Yes votes 104. Proposal II as Amended was Defeated.

Motion to Reconsider Proposal III as Amended

It was moved by Anita Cardillo, Bellmore Association, and seconded by Eileen Wagda, The Plains Association, to reconsider Proposal III as Amended.

Motion to Reconsider Proposal III as Amended passed by simple majority.

It was moved by Theresa Gains, Rockville Centre Association, and seconded by Donna DiPiola, Valley Stream Association, to Call the Question on Proposal III as Amended.

Vote on Proposal III As Amended: Yes votes 105. Proposal III as Amended was Defeated.

A request was posed by Brian Rothchild, Board of Directors, for clarification on determining number of Yes votes need to pass a Proposal. The President and Parliamentarian conferred with the Head Teller and ruled that 105 votes were needed to pass a Proposal. Therefore, the Chair declared that Proposal III as Amended was Passed. [Attached to the original file copy of these minutes.]

Motion to Reconsider Proposal I

It was moved by Dominique Camacho Moran, Esq., Board of Directors, and seconded by Lisa Harris, The Plains Association, to reconsider Proposal I.

Vote to Reconsider Proposal I passed by simple majority.

Discussion followed.

It was moved by Colleen Wright, Bellmore Association and seconded by Denise Thompson, Carle Place/Westbury Association to Call the Question.

Vote on Proposal I: Yes votes 77. Proposal I was Defeated.

Management Report

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

Recognizing outgoing President, Sandra Echols Williams, Ms. Ceravolo said: “It has been my privilege to work in partnership with Sandra Echols Williams as our President and Chief Volunteer Officer. Sandra is a gracious lady, an excellent thinker and a committed volunteer. She understands what Girl Scouts is about and she has given generously of her time and expertise to lead Girl Scouts of Nassau County these past two years.”

Ms. Ceravolo stated, “Thanks to all of you for being here tonight. These Annual Meetings are important milestones in the life of our Council.” Ms. Ceravolo continued, “There are over seven thousand Girl Scout volunteers in Nassau County...all of us in Girl Scouts are in your debt.” Ms. Ceravolo went on to enumerate the many ways our volunteers serve and concluded, “Thank you. Please know that the staff and elected leadership of Girl Scouts of Nassau County know what you do. We really do get it. We value your service to our girls and our community. You make our jobs possible, rewarding and fun!”

“Girl Scouts of Nassau County had a good year. Most of our publicity has been the good kind! The beautiful Annual Report that you found on your seats tonight gives you many of the highlights...”

- Launch of the new Journey series from GSUSA which received encouraging response.
- New bathrooms at Camp Blue Bay and the new ropes course are ready for this summer.
- In our 2nd year as part of the FIRST Lego League, one of our girls’ team won the regional competition and went to the International Finals.
- GirlFest was a big hit. Over 1,200 girls and adults took part.

- GSNC sent over 40K boxes of Girl Scout Cookies® to our military personnel in Iraq, Afghanistan and the military hospitals serving those theatres.
- Continued to improve communication to volunteers by adding E-newsletters, updating our website, improving the Association pages and offering more online training. We are on Facebook and Twitter.
- Family Campaign donations increased 3.4%.
- The Hispanic/Latino Task Force in its 6th year conducted an enlightening series of focus groups with Latino adults to help GSNC better gauge community needs and wants for their girls and themselves as volunteers.
- The UMOJA Alliance travelled upstate to learn more about the travails and travels on the Underground Railroad.
- The Asian Task Force in its 4th year is working to increase our visibility among the various Asian communities on Long Island

Ms. Ceravolo then turned to the future.

- The Hispanic/Latino Task Force, UMOJA Alliance and Asian Task Force will be coming together to plan a major multi-cultural event.
- GSNC has been awarded a \$40K grant from the New York Jewish Women's Foundation to do targeted outreach in yeshivas and other places to reach Jewish girls.
- GSUSA has awarded GSNC the opportunity to serve as part of the WAGGGS Western Hemisphere Twinning Project. Our girls are working with girls in Peru on the issue of diet/hunger in Peru and diabetes in the USA.
- GSNC is part of GSUSA's Hispanic Membership and Marketing Initiative wherein various Councils share ways of reaching underserved girls.
- GSNC is one of 20 Girl Scout Councils who are Advocacy Champions, and we will be working to move from being a voice of girls to being a voice for girls.

“We’ve had challenges this year,” Ms. Ceravolo admitted. “Fran Monahan, Associate Executive Director at Girl Scouts of Nassau County for the past 19 years, retired at the end of December. Fran’s networking skills are legend; she was a caring and enthusiastic supervisor, with both extensive knowledge of Girl Scouting and a deep commitment to the values and benefits that Girl Scouting provides our girls. Fran is certainly missed in the office.”

Ms. Ceravolo then went on to observed that “new ways of work always provide their own challenges and the new Journeys offer us new opportunities to spread the word. Change is hard in most cultures, and maybe a little more so in Girl Scouts, but Journeys are the new way of work and we’ll have everyone on board sooner or later,” assured Ms. Ceravolo.

Ms. Ceravolo went on to speak of GSNC’s Critical Issues Initiative for 2009-2010 which kicked off this past March. Ms. Ceravolo stated, “We are privileged to be partnering with Winthrop

University Hospital on addressing Body Image/Media/Disordered Eating. Over 50 people – pretty equally divided between girls and adults – showed up for our initial conversation.” Ms. Ceravolo acknowledged that this is a difficult topic to address. “But as we move forward on Critical Issues for Girls, we’re going to be talking about fat. We’re going to claim it, de-shame it, and learn how to rein it in!”

Board of Directors, Committee Panel

Mark Florio, Finance Committee – responded to a question that was sent in prior to the meeting by Jennifer Burzenski, Seaford/Wantagh Association.

2008 Girl Scout National Council Session/51st Convention Presentation

Katie Leucken, Lauren Burke, Mary Kate Sirianni and Katie Stainkamp, GSNC’s girl delegates to the 51st National Convention gave an entertaining and enlightening media presentation of their experiences at the Convention.

Results/Declaration of Election

Alice Azzara, Head Teller, reported on the election.

The total number of votes cast	112
Number of legal ballots	112
Number of illegal ballots	0
The number necessary for election	57

The slates for Officers, Members-at-Large and for the Council Nominating Committee as presented have been elected by majority vote.

Officers 2009-2011

Diane M. McFarlane, Esq., President
 Marianela Jordan, Executive Vice President
 Diane White, Vice President
 Williams Mays, Vice President
 Dr. Adrienne O’Brien, Vice President
 Eric Rogers, Treasurer
 Mark Florio, Secretary

Members-at-Large 2009-2011:

Ruth Bigman
 Christine R. Bonczyk
 Andrea Borah
 Lisa Burke
 Austin Cannon, Jr.
 Dr. Agnelo Dias
 Anthony Edelman
 Donna Geidel
 Deborah Johnson-Schiff
 Thomas Lawrence
 Miriam Lopez
 Eileen Owen Masio
 Dominique C. Moran, Esq.
 Cathy O’Reilly
 Christopher J. Pendergast

Brian Rothschild
Priscilla Wong
Margaret Yamamoto

Council Nominating Committee 2009-2011:

Steven Kitchener
Bonnie Porzio, Esq.
Colleen Wright

Installation of Officers, Members-at-Large, Council Nominating Committee Members

Sandra Echols Williams invited the newly-elected Officers, Members-at-Large, and Council Nominating Committee to the front and 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.

Ms. Echols Williams congratulated and thanked all for making this commitment and wished them good fortune and then introduced the newly elected President and Chief Volunteer Officer, Diane McFarlane, Esq.

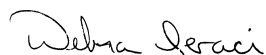
Closing Ceremony

President Diane McFarlane, Esq. thanked everyone for their support and confidence. She went on to thank Sandra Echols Williams for her outstanding leadership. Diane then spoke of GSNC's goal of creating girls of courage, confidence and character. She reaffirmed the Board of Directors' "commitment to continued communication with our members through the Delegate System, meetings, publications, electronic mail and postings on the website."

After a short media presentation recapping GSNC's past year, there being no further business, the President called for the meeting to adjourn.

It was moved by Dorothy Coaker, Park Association, and seconded by Elizabeth Alford, Bellmore Association, to adjourn the 44th Council Annual Meeting, at 10:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debra Ieraci
Secretary
Board of Directors

admin/ep