



**Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**July 30, 2022**

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania Council was held virtually and broadcast from the Council Headquarters at 350 Hale Avenue, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, online as a Hopin webinar on Saturday, July 30, 2022.

Meeting called to order at 10:05 am. Quorum announced at 10:17 am.

**Present:**

*Board of Directors Members:* Adrienne Vicari, Bridget Casher, Kathryn McCorkle, Stacey Irwin, Alison Bernhardt, Anthony Billet, and Daren Russ.

*Absent/Excused\*:* Daniel Sheaffer\*, Jayne Huston\*, Jeshanah Fox\*, Deborah Vereen\*, Barbara Green\*, and Judith Windom\*.

*Delegates in attendance:* 46 delegates

Adrienne Vicari, GSHPA Board Chair, opened the virtual meeting and welcomed the attendees to the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania. She reviewed the Hopin platform to inform attendees of the features used to vote or comment during the meeting. Staff shared a video of the Girl Scout flag ceremony conducted by Girl Scouts from Troops 32907, 60082, and 60527. Meeting attendees recited the Girl Scout Promise.

Adrienne Vicari recognized and thanked the outgoing Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA Board members: Anthony Billet, At-Large Member of the Board of Directors from 2019-2022 and current chair of the Fund Development Committee; Stacey Irwin, At-Large Member of the Board of Directors from 2016-2022, member of the Executive committee and current chair of the Volunteer Strategy Committee; and Bridget Casher, Treasurer to the Board of Directors from 2019-2022, member of the Executive committee and member of the Finance & Audit committee.

Adrienne Vicari acknowledged all current Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA Board members and the troop and service unit level volunteers for their service and commitment to the mission of Girl Scouts. She thanked the GSHPA staff members for their behind-the-scenes work to ensure this meeting was a success and the national and service unit delegates for their participation.

**GSHPA Financial Report - Bridget Casher, Board Treasurer**

Bridget Casher, GSHPA Board Treasurer, presented the year to date financial results for the fiscal year from October 1, 2021– June 30, 2022. GSHPA engages an independent accounting firm to perform an audit of financial statements, and after the audit is complete, staff will post the 2022 Form 990 to gshpa.org in February 2023.

There were several items of note in the review of the finances through the first 3 quarters of the current fiscal year, October 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. GSHPA girls generated \$9.8 million in product revenue against a budget of \$9.0 million.

The Council reported that proceed collections continued to improve and outstanding debt for the product season this year were less than 1.0% as of June 30, 2022. Fundraising efforts also generated \$859,000 in contributions during this time, which increased from \$650,000 compared to last year.

GSHPA continued to reconnect with past donors and establish new relationships with individuals, businesses, and community foundations to grow and diversify revenue sources.

During the current membership year, the Council extended over \$79,000 in Financial Assistance to 1,420 members through the end of June. GSHPA also awarded \$40,000 in GO!Dough as product program rewards and early bird renewal incentives, which, in turn, encourages the girls to continue engaging in more Girl Scout activities and programming as they develop through the entire Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

While there was a recent turn in the investment markets, the conservative and long-term investment strategy continues to allow the Council to maintain a healthy operating reserve to protect the organization in difficult economic times.

### **Volunteer Honors – Stacey Irwin, Board of Directors Member-at-Large and Volunteer Strategy Committee Chair**

In April, GSHPA celebrated Volunteer Appreciation Month, and one way to thank and recognize Girl Scout volunteers is through nominations for a Volunteer Award. A long-standing tradition dating back to the beginning of Girl Scouts, Volunteer Awards acknowledge peer-nominated volunteers to receive honors for their outstanding dedication and service to Girl Scouts.

There were 56 volunteers nominated and approved by a volunteer review committee to receive an award, and 49 of those volunteers received the Volunteer Appreciation Award. This award recognizes volunteers who have contributed exemplary service and have gone above and beyond to deliver the Girl Scout mission.

Amanda Witmor - Service Unit 628  
Amy Beauton - Service Unit 414  
Annette Ott - Service Unit 837  
Barbara John - Service Unit 704  
Brenda Leidig - Service Unit 224  
Cornelia Yoder- Service Unit 704  
Christina VanBrunt - Service Unit 701

Colleen King - Service Unit 331  
Deb Leonori - Service Unit 414  
Deb Shue - Service Unit 704  
Diane Toyos - Service Unit 414  
Dionne Brieck - Service Unit 713  
Faith Irwin- Service Unit 704  
Flora Pulos- Service Unit 713

Giselle Talley - Service Unit 713  
Heather Card - Service Unit 414  
Heather Santee - Service Unit 331  
Jessica Clouse - Service Unit 154  
Jill Reed - Service Unit 191  
Kathleen Lockman - Service Unit 331  
Kat Kellie Farrell - Service Unit 331  
Kim Wolf - Service Unit 154  
Laura Odell - Service Unit 713  
Laura Summerson - Service Unit 713  
Linda Davis - Service Unit 715  
Lisa Klinedinst - Service Unit 224  
Lindsay Stroupauer - Service Unit 324  
Lisa Wagoner - Service Unit 154  
Lori DeTommaso - Service Unit 222  
Lynn Detterline - Service Unit 713  
Louise Brown - Service Unit 715

Malerie Ainge - Service Unit 713  
Melinda Roat - Service Unit 642  
Melissa Benscoter - Service Unit 628  
Melissa Davis - Service Unit 628  
Mindy O'Dell - Service Unit 513  
Nicole Castanga - Service Unit 713  
Rebecca Hoffman - Service Unit 331  
Samantha Heffner - Service Unit 324  
Sara Exley - Service Unit 642  
Shannon Messick - Service Unit 175  
Stacey Barkauskas - Service Unit 628  
Stacey Kosters - Service Unit 174  
Stacy Smulowitz - Service Unit 319  
Steph Haley - Service Unit 841  
Tina Marie Kline - Service Unit 628  
Vickie Dgien - Service Unit 628  
Violette Ganoe - Service Unit 628  
Wendy Zajac - Service Unit 301

Four volunteers received the Volunteer of Excellence Award, recognizing volunteers who have contributed outstanding service to the Girl Scouts mission.

Cheryl Sinclair - Service Unit 628  
Mary Root - Service Unit 175  
Rachelle Weiser - Service Unit 414  
Sandy Calaman - Service Unit 628

Three volunteers received Juliette's Pearl, recognizing volunteers giving outstanding service to one or more service units or groups for an extended period of years.

Elaine Royer - Service Unit 175; Juliette's Savannah and Legacy Pearl  
Kim Schon - Service Unit 628; Juliette's Savannah and Legacy Pearl  
Alexis Hoke - Service Unit 222; Juliette's Daisy Pearl

Stacey Irwin thanked all of the volunteers who are making a difference in the lives of girls.

### **Quorum Report – Alison Bernhardt, GSHPA Vice Chair**

Alison Bernhardt delivered the quorum report at 10:17 am and noted that the Annual Meeting is being held pursuant to Article 1 of the Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania Bylaws. Section 10 of Article 1 states that a quorum is met if at least 25% of the corporation's delegates are present AND a majority of the service units are represented. This year, the total number of delegates was 94, and there were 46 delegates present. Out of the 68 Girl Scout Service Units, 36 were represented. Accordingly, both provisions in the bylaws were met, and there was a quorum.

Since the Annual Meeting last year, the Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania Board of Directors held official meetings in person or by conference call on four separate occasions. Additionally, the Executive Committee met one time. There was a quorum at all of these board meetings.

**Presentation of GSHPA Board of Directors Board Treasurer, Members-at-Large, Board Development Committee, National Council Delegate, and National Council Alternate Delegate Slate – Kathryn McCorkle, GSHPA Board Development Committee Chair**

The goals of the Board Development Committee were to: expand the geographic, professional expertise, and racial/ethnic diversity of the board; recruit people with an interest and or experience in the Girl Scout organization as well as in-depth knowledge of their local communities; and recruit people with a willingness to be involved in GSHPA fundraising efforts with corporations, foundations and potential individual donors within their local communities. Kathryn McCorkle shared the personal and professional backgrounds of the following nominees and their history with Girl Scouts.

The Board Development Committee, elected by the council delegates, was pleased to announce the following nominations:

- GSHPA Treasurer for a First Term
  - Barbara (Barb) Green, Board of Directors Member-at-Large
  
- GSHPA Members-at-Large for a First Term
  - Elizabeth (Liz) Dilullo Brown, GSHPA Strategic Planning Committee Member
  - Renee Mattei Montgomery
  - Ami Zumkhawala-Cook, GSHPA Strategic Planning Committee Member
  
- GSHPA Member-at-Large for a Second Term
  - Daniel (Dan) Sheaffer, Jr.
  
- GSHPA Board Development Committee for a First Term
  - Janice Black

The 56th annual Girl Scout Convention and National Council Session will be held July 16-23, 2023, in Orlando, Florida. GSHPA will send National Council Delegates to represent the council and join National Council Delegates from across all 50 states to review and debate proposals that govern Girl Scouts.

The Board Development Committee was pleased to announce the following nominations:

- Adult National Council Delegate Slate
  - Carol Thornton, a volunteer from Cumberland County who served as a Service Unit Lead and a Troop Leader.

- Karen Zercher, a volunteer from Lancaster County who served in various capacities as an Outdoor and Program volunteer, as well as a Troop Leader.
- Girl National Council Delegate Slate
  - Brylea Starr, a Senior Girl Scout from Troop 60041 in Lycoming County.
  - Cara Costello, a Senior Girl Scout from Troop 70441 in Lancaster County.
- Adult National Council Alternate Delegate Slate
  - Brandy Yagle, a volunteer from Montour County who served as a Troop Leader and Troop Cookie Chair.
  - Vicki Hench, a volunteer from Perry County who served as a Troop Leader, Troop Cookie Chair, and Day Camp Director.
- Girl National Council Alternate Delegate Slate
  - Mary Stark, an Ambassador Girl Scout from Troop 11026 in Lebanon County.
  - Catherine Datorre, a Senior Girl Scout from Troop 70595 in Lancaster County.

The GSHPA Board Development Committee presented the slate of nominees as presented in the Annual Meeting notice and noted that the Board Development Committee welcomes referrals of potential board nominees year-round. Since there were no additional nominations or proposals submitted, the Board Chair declared the nominations closed. The voting poll for the Board of Directors Treasurer, Members-at-Large, Board Development Committee, National Council Delegates, and National Council Alternate Delegates slate opened, votes were validated with attendance lists.

#### **Mission Moment – Adrienne Vicari, GSHPA Board Chair**

Staff shared the “Power of Girl Scouts” video that highlighted Mara, a Girl Scout with autism. The video showed how the Girl Scout tradition of making new friends and the Girl Scout Promise to help people at all times created positive experiences for Mara and her mother with other Girl Scouts.

#### **Election Voting Results – Alison Bernhardt, GSHPA Vice Chair**

Alison Bernhardt thanked the delegates for participating in the Council elections. At 10:35 am, she shared the official announcement that the slates of the GSHPA Board of Directors Treasurer, Members-at-Large, GSHPA Board Development Committee, National Council Delegates, and National Council Alternate Delegates passed. Newly elected members received congratulations from Adrienne Vicari and the membership.

#### **CEO Remarks and Report – Janet Donovan, GSHPA President and CEO**

Janet Donovan presented the CEO report to the membership and congratulated the newly elected board members and delegates.

The finalized GSHPA multi-year strategic plan will be presented to the Strategic Planning Committee for recommendation and then to the Board of Directors for approval in August. Once approved, staff will share the plan with the membership. Over the past year, the Board of Directors, Strategic Planning Committee, staff, volunteers, and members participated in the strategic planning process through focus groups, visioning sessions, and ongoing discussions.

GSHPA council participation rates in the recent Girl Scout Voices Count survey were outstanding, some of the highest, and ranked #1 for troop leader survey participation.

On September 14, 2022, the Women of Distinction Celebration will be hosted at the Country Club of York. This special evening of recognition will include a reception, dinner, program, and silent and live auctions. This event will honor four outstanding women in the GSHPA footprint who represent each of the key pillars of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. These pillars include STEM, Life Skills, Entrepreneurship, and Outdoors. The honorees include Pamela Gunter-Smith, President of York College, representing STEM; Kim Lemon, former Senior Anchor for WGAL-8, representing Life Skills; Betsy Hamm, CEO of Duck Donuts, representing Entrepreneurship; and Shannon Gority, owner and principal consultant for Raindrop to River Consulting, representing Outdoors. As champions of women in leadership roles, these selected honorees serve as positive role models and figures of inspiration to girls and women in local communities. They demonstrate the importance of the key pillars that make up the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and the opportunity for success they offer.

GSHPA will also recognize the legacy of Marion Nivert at the celebration as this year's recipient of the Generational Award. This award honors individuals who have lived by and shared the values of Girl Scouts with their community and future generations. Marion Nivert was an active volunteer and philanthropist supporting Girl Scouts for decades, and GSHPA is honored to recognize her legacy this year.

One of the essential outcomes of Girl Scouting is that girls become community problem solvers, which is never more evident than in the Girl Scout Higher Awards program. The Girl Scout Research Institute Alumnae study illustrated that it only takes one year of Girl Scouting to make it more likely that an adult woman will volunteer in her community than a woman who was not a Girl Scout. Community service matters, and Girl Scouts are involved every year in take-action projects as troops and as individuals – most notably through the GSHPA higher awards programs. Congratulations to the girls and volunteers who guided them through this process. In the coming year, in addition to the Gold Award celebration, there will be a virtual Silver Award celebration to recognize the highest awards projects of Cadettes.

This year 68 outstanding Girl Scouts from 20 different counties received their Gold Awards; many attended an in-person recognition event at Bucknell University earlier this summer.

GSHPA has a Gold Award scholarship fund available through the generosity of donors to provide one additional benefit to 3 Girl Scout Gold Award recipients each year through scholarships of \$1k, \$2k, and \$5k for post-secondary education. Staff shared a slide of the criteria for these

scholarship awards. Social media posts will announce which Girl Scouts will receive these scholarships this fall.

In closing, Janet Donovan took a moment to remember those individuals lost from the GSHPA Girl Scout family. Everyone at GSHPA will remember them with love and be thankful for their Girl Scout legacy and the lives they lived honoring the Girl Scout promise and law.

**Concluding Chair Remarks – Adrienne Vicari, GSHPA Board Chair**

Staff shared a video highlighting the impressive Girl Scout year for GSHPA.

Adrienne Vicari expressed appreciation for all the work by staff in preparation for the Annual Meeting and thanked the delegates, volunteers, and members for their commitment to GSHPA.

The next Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

The Annual Meeting closed at 10:47 am.