Why are We Here?

“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.”

- Eleanore Roosevelt
Where are We Going Today?

• Who are the delegates?

• What is your role?
  • Welcome to both our National and Membership Delegates tonight!

• Issues that might surface at meetings

• What are next steps for Membership and National Delegates?

• Governance versus Operational Overview
What is Governance?

A system of established processes used by the board of directors to provide oversight of the organization and its mission.

In Girl Scouts, there are two aspects of Governance.

– Both are guided by the GSNEO Bylaws
– National Delegates are also governed by GSUSA Bylaws.
Two aspects of Governance
#1-Decision Influencing

• All members are part of the decision influencing system.

• Viewpoints are sought and considered by those making the decision.

• Maximizes member engagement and access to decision-makers.

• GSNEO
  ▪ Members (Service Unit level) elect Membership delegates to represent their views to our decision-makers.
  ▪ Delegates vote in the election of the Board of Directors and the Board Development Committee.
Two aspects of Governance
#2-Policy Making

• The Board of Directors is the only policy-making body in the council.

• Board engages the decision-influencing system by presenting select items to the members for input/feedback.
Governance and Operations are different and the role of a delegate, board development committee and the board of directors are established solely for the efforts to ensure the governance of the council.

Key among these Governance roles are:
• Provide policies that assure the success of the organization and its’ membership
• Assure the financial health of the council,
• Maintain our not-for-profit status and
• Report to the membership and community
• Evaluate and deliver on bylaws requirements for participation in the council governance process
Governance versus Operational

Operational roles include:

- Plan and maintain program
- Responding to concerns of the staff and volunteers
- Provide learning opportunities to volunteers
- Representing Girl Scouting in the community
- Employ, direct and conduct performance reviews of the staff
- Prepare performance reports and exhibits as required by the board or committees
Membership Delegate Role

• Elected by the members to serve as their voting representative in matters related to the governance of Girl Scouts of North East Ohio.

• Entrusted with the responsibility of sharing information, as received from council leadership and then utilizing her/his communication skills and an open mind to gather feedback from girl and adult member.

• Understand the issues and concerns of the girl and adult members within their county as well as appreciated council-wide issues in order to think globally for the good of the entire organization. Serves as channel of two-way communication between members and council leadership.

• Promote GSUSA/GSNEO program, services and goals to the community-at-large.
Membership Delegate Major Responsibilities

• Act as a channel for two-way communication between constituents and Council leadership.

• Understand her/his constituencies’ issues and concerns as well as appreciate Council-wide issues and needs in order to think globally for the good of the entire organization.

• Understand corporate functions, including being able to review and understand any Council financial reports provided.

• Attend Annual meeting of the General Assembly of the Council. Attend special meetings as called in accordance with the GSNEO Bylaws. Attend Service Unit Membership Meeting(s). Participate in Service Unit meetings as requested.

• Participate in Membership Delegate conference calls or webinars.
Membership Delegate Major Responsibilities (con’t)

• Participate in training for this position.
• Elect the Officers of the Board of Directors, the Directors-at-Large of the Board of Directors, the members of the Board Development Committee, and the Delegates and Alternate Delegate(s) to the National Council of Girls Scouts of the United States of America, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the GSNEO Bylaws.
• Participate in votes to amend or revise the Articles of Incorporation and the GSNEO Bylaws as presented at meetings of the General Assembly of the Council.
• Submit proposals to the Board of Directors to improve the quality of Girl Scouting.
• Promote the organization’s programs, services and goals to the community-at-large.
Membership Delegates Role

**BOARD**
- Sets Direction
- Provides Oversight/Hires CEO
- Ensures Mission, Resource, and Organizational Accountability

**CEO**
- Hires/Appoints and manages staff and operational volunteers
- Assures Delivery of Programs/Services
- Partners with Board on Strategy

**EMPLOYED STAFF**
- Supports/Facilitates the work of volunteers.
- Executes business/legal functions

**OPERATIONAL VOLUNTEERS**
- Deliver GSLE, programs, and services

**MEMBERSHIP DELEGATES**
- Represent Membership in electing Board, BDC, and National Delegates.
- Receives training related to governance, votes on governance issues, serves as info conduit between Council Leadership and the Membership

**VOTING MEMBERSHIP**
- Participates in Decision-Influencing System
- Elects Membership Delegates to represent the membership
Circle of Communication

Board of Directors/Staff prepare information

Staff Liaison Compiles Info from Delegates & Reports To Board/Staff

Decision Influencing System

Staff Liaison Forwards Information to Delegates

Delegates Share Input/Feedback Received From Members With Staff Liaison.

Delegates Present Info at Service Unit and/or Leader Meetings.
Governance Communication Schedule

• A minimum of two Webinars annually. Others will be scheduled as needed.
• A quarterly Governance Newsletter will be launched starting the first week of April. If there are any delegates who prefer a hard copy, please let me know and I will mail you a copy.
Membership Delegates Composition

• Serve a two year term.
• Membership Delegates are selected by Service Unit.
  – If the Membership Delegate elected by the Service Unit is a girl, then the Service Unit shall be entitled to elect a 2nd Membership Delegate.
• Membership Delegates are nominated and elected directly by the girl (over age 14) and adult members of GSNEO.
• For more information, refer to Article IV of the GSNEO ByLaws.
• It is noteworthy that of the 88 Membership Delegates, 43 are GIRLS!
Issues that Might Become Discussion Items for Council Board Meeting

- Future funding for the council
- Newly adopted or modified corporate goals
- GSUSA Initiatives
- Potential jurisdiction alteration
- Strategy Alignment input
Representing your Service Unit

• The membership delegate is responsible for:
  – Maintaining consistent communication with the Service Unit/Service Unit Director either by phone or email.
  – Attending service unit leaders meetings as needed.
• Information on what to discuss will be provided to delegates, by staff, via conference calls and emails.
• A membership delegate must contact GSNEO immediately if she/he is unable to fulfill the responsibilities of the position.
What is the Blue Book of Basic Documents

Contents Include:

• Constitution of Girl Scouts of the United States of America
• Bylaws of Girl Scouts of the United States of America
• Policies of Girl Scouts of the United States of America
• Credentials
• Criteria and Standards for an Effective Girl Scout Council
• Congressional Charter of Girl Scouts of the United States of America.
Updated Blue Book of Basic Documents

The changes were approved at the January 2017 National Board of Directors Meeting.

Certain changes to the Procedures for Reviewing and Issuing Girl Scout Council Charters and to the First and Third Criteria and Standards for an Effective Girl Scout Council.

Many of these latter changes were based on work and input of the network alignment strategy team to ensure that councils are aligned around a nationally consistent program with demonstrable outcomes and a unified brand voice.

Amendment to correct Article IV of the Bylaws (Executive Committee) to remove the Chief Financial Officer (“CFO”) as an ex officio nonvoting member of the Executive Committee to conform to the 2014 National Council vote to change the reporting relationship of the CFO from the National Board to the CEO.

The [Blue Book of Basic Documents](#) can be found on the Governance Page of the GSNEO.org website.
Updated Blue Book of Basic Documents

• For details of the specific changes to the Blue Book of Basic Documents, email Mkarogghanjan@gsneo.org. I will email the detailed document of changes to you.

• A Spanish-language version is also available on girlscouts.org

• Additionally, we encourage you to send the updated versions to your boards, staff and delegates.

• **Suggestion**: At a future Service Unit Meeting, share the Blue Book of Basic Documents! It a great resource for all of us!
National Delegates

As indicated in Article IV.5 of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA (found in the Blue Book of Basic Documents, 2015 edition): Each local council to which a charter has been issued and remains in force shall be entitled to the following delegates based on the number of girls under its jurisdiction who are members of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America as of September 30 of the year preceding the regular session of the National Council:

• two (2) delegates;
• one (1) additional delegate for up to 3,500 girls;
• one (1) additional delegate for every 3,500 girls thereafter.
National Delegates

How is the Delegate Formula Determined?
In keeping with the feedback GSUSA received from council leadership, for the 2017 National Council, the delegate formula will be adjusted to keep the National Council closer to the size of 1,500 delegates (the size determined optimal at the 2008 National Council Session). This is the same formula that was used for determining the 2011 and 2014 National Council delegates.

Each council will be entitled to elect:
• two (2) delegates;
• one (1) additional delegate for up to 2,000 girls;
• one (1) additional delegate for every 2,000 girls thereafter.

USA Girl Scouts Overseas collectively shall be entitled to the number of delegates according to the same formula prescribed for local councils. The prescribed figure of girls may be adjusted when necessary to keep the total membership of the National Council no larger than 1,500.
National Delegates – 3 Year Term

For the 2014-2017 term, 19 Elected National Delegates including:
– 13 elected directly from the membership (girls age 14+, and adults)
– 6 elected Board and Executive Staff members
– Each triennium, the number of National Delegates elected changes based on a formula used by GSUSA (*Blue Book, Article IV, Section 5*)

• For the 2017-2020 National Delegate term, GSNEO can elect 15 National Delegates.
  – The Board Development Committee has slated 15 National Delegates and 1 Alternate National Delegate. 9 of the 15 slated National Delegates and the 1 Alternate National Delegates are GIRLS!

• The 2017 G.I.R.L. Convention will be held in Columbus, Ohio October 4-8, 2017.
  – Represent the best interests of the girl and adult members of GSNEO by serving as their “voice” at the national level.
National Delegates Responsibilities

In advance of the National Council Session, each individual elected by the council as a voting member/delegate to the National Council takes personal responsibility to:

• Study all items on the agenda, including background information, and recommendations of the National Board of Directors.

• Study the National Council Session Workbook in order to be well-informed on procedures and appropriate conduct while at the National Council Session.

• Attend mandatory training and preparation sessions for National Delegates.
  – GSNEO Conference Calls - May 2017 - October 2017
  – GSNEO in person Meeting - September 2017, Macedonia
  – GSUSA Orientation and Preparation calls -TBA
  – Additional calls/meetings as needed to fully prepare.
National Delegates Responsibilities

• Participate in council and/or board meetings, and participate in council forums and focus groups, as requested.

• Obtain a broad array of the opinions of adult members and Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors from all parts of the council, by meeting with constituents prior to G.I.RL. 2017 National Convention.

• Participate in teleconferences for voting members, sponsored by the GSUSA.

• Engage in opportunities to discuss, learn, and share ideas across the Movement.

• Be familiar with the contents of the current Blue Book of Basic Documents.

• Have a basic understanding of parliamentary procedure and Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised.
National Delegates Responsibilities

While attending the 2017 National Council Session/ G.I.R.L. 2017 as well as any additional special sessions of the National Council each National Delegate is responsible for:

• Attending all business meetings and participating in the proceedings.
• Being fully prepared to participate in discussion and vote on all business items.
• Elect the National Board of Directors, the officers of the National Board of Directors, and the members of the National Board Development Committee.
• Determine general lines of policy of the Girl Scout Movement and program by considering and acting upon proposals directed toward the fostering and improvement of Girl Scouting, receiving and acting upon reports from the National Board of Directors, and giving guidance to the National Board upon general lines of direction of the Movement and program.
• Participate in votes to amend or revise the Constitution and/or the Bylaws of GSUSA.
• Participate in the establishment of requirements for certificates of membership, local council charters, and all other credentials. o Submit proposals to the National Council to improve the quality of Girl Scouting, in accordance with the submittal guidelines reflected in Article VI of the Constitution of GSUSA.
• Participate in all other action requiring a National Council membership vote.
• Wear official Girl Scout uniform during all Convention sessions.
National Delegates Responsibilities

While attending the 2017 National Council Session/ G.I.R.L. 2017 as well as any additional special sessions of the National Council each National Delegate is responsible for:

• Attending all business meetings and participating in the proceedings.
• Being fully prepared to participate in discussion and vote on all business items.
• Elect the National Board of Directors, the officers of the National Board of Directors, and the members of the National Board Development Committee.
• Determine general lines of policy of the Girl Scout Movement and program by considering and acting upon proposals directed toward the fostering and improvement of Girl Scouting, receiving and acting upon reports from the National Board of Directors, and giving guidance to the National Board upon general lines of direction of the Movement and program.
• Participate in votes to amend or revise the Constitution and/or the Bylaws of GSUSA.
• Participate in the establishment of requirements for certificates of membership, local council charters, and all other credentials. o Submit proposals to the National Council to improve the quality of Girl Scouting, in accordance with the submittal guidelines reflected in Article VI of the Constitution of GSUSA.
• Participate in all other action requiring a National Council membership vote.
• Wear official Girl Scout uniform during all Convention sessions.
National Delegates Responsibilities

Upon returning from the National Council Session, each National Council voting member/delegate is prepared to:

• Report on National Council decisions and the reasons for such decisions at the council’s annual meeting, to the council board of directors, and the council’s constituency (if requested by council Board Chair and CEO) on the National Council decisions and the reasons for such decisions.

• Share insights on information gained at the National Council Session, if requested.

• Assist the council as it prepares to participate in the next National Council Session, if requested.

• Participate in teleconferences and other opportunities for voting members/delegates.

• Be an active, voting member of the GSNEO General Assembly.
  – Act as a channel for two-way communication between constituents and the National Council.
  – Understand her/his constituencies’ issues and concerns as well as appreciate Nation-wide and Council-wide issues and needs in order to think globally for the good of the entire organization.
  – Attend meetings of the General Assembly of the Council, which is held annually. Attend special meetings as called within the jurisdiction of the Bylaws. Attend Membership and Service Unit Meetings in my area.
  – Elect the Board of Directors, the members of the Board Development Committee, and the Delegates/Alternate Delegates to the National Council in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Bylaws.
  – Participate in votes to amend or revise the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws as presented at meetings of the GSNEO General Assembly. Submit proposals to the Board of Directors to improve the quality of Girl Scouting.
  – Promote the organizations programs, services and goals to the community-at-large.

• Report to GSNEO on the events of the National Council Session/ G.I.R.L. 2017 and any special sessions of the National Council.
GSNEO National Convention Proposal Status

• During the January GSUSA National Board of Directors Meeting, our proposal “Girl Members-at-Large on the National Board of Directors” was considered for the National Council Session Agenda.

• GSUSA has notified GSNEO that after much discussion and evaluation in accordance with the criteria below it voted not to include our proposal “Girl Members-at-Large on the National Board of Directors” on the National Council Session Agenda.
The National Board looks to the following standards in determining which proposals and discussion topics to place on the National Council Session agenda:

- An agenda topic should provide strategic direction to the Girl Scout Movement.
- As an item for vote, a proposal should give guidance at a major policy level, be far-reaching in its vision, and have national impact, or result in a major change in governance structure through amendment of the Constitution.
- Agenda topics should avoid being operational or having limited interest.
2017 National Convention

October 4 – 8, 2017
Columbus, Ohio
G.I.R.L. 2017 – What’s New?

**PAST**
- Limit 10 girls per council
- GSLI for Seniors & Ambassadors only
- Girls attend as part of council delegation only
- Weekday schedule; overlap with NCS
- GSLI was girl-led

**PRESENT**
- Unlimited participation
- Cadettes added *plus* weekend program for Brownies & Juniors
- Girls can attend with council, troop, other group, or family
- Weekend schedule; *after* NCS business completed
- All of G.I.R.L. 2017 is girl-led
G.I.R.L. 2017

• GSNEO will be offering buses from Service Centers at a reduced rate on Saturday, October 7, 2017

• Visit “G.I.R.L 2017” on girlscouts.org for most up to date information and registration.

• Volunteer through gsoh.org (Adults Only)
Schedule of Upcoming Activities and Events

• March 29 - Membership Delegate Orientation & Webinar
• April 6 – Quarterly Governance E-News
• April 8 - Annual Meeting of the General Assembly
• April 29 – Adult Recognition
• June – Date TBD - GSNEO Board Meeting & Orientation
• August 10-12, Adult Learning Experience
• September – Date TBD - GSNEO Board Meeting
• October 4 – 8 – 2017 G.I.R.L. National Convention
Questions?