

GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
MINUTES OF THE 2005 NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION/
50th CONVENTION

October 8–10, 2005

Atlanta, Georgia

MEETING I, SATURDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 8, 2005

National President and Chair of the National Board Cynthia B. Thompson called the session to order at 9:53 a.m.

International guests who were welcomed included the following:

Elsbeth Henderson, Chairman of the WAGGGS World Board
Lesley Bulman-Lever, CEO of WAGGGS
Mary Lynn Myers, Deputy Chairman of the WAGGGS World Board and former GSUSA National Board member
Angela Dawson, Chair of WAGGGS Western Hemisphere Regional Committee
Tanya Dawkins, member of the WAGGGS Western Hemisphere Regional Committee and member of GSUSA's National Board
Pat Haight, member of the WAGGGS World Centers Committee
Doreen Henry, Pax Lodge Manager
Sally Thornton, Sangam Manager
Bill Giles, WAGGGS Head of Fund Development
Marta Arcocha, WAGGGS Executive for the Western Hemisphere Region
Beatriz de Gonzalez, Our Cabaña Manager
Christine Cretchley, Our Cabaña Deputy Manager

Also welcomed were:

- Three Past Presidents of GSUSA—Dr. Gloria Scott, B. LaRae Orullian, and Elinor J. Ferdon
- National Board of Directors and National Nominating Committee members for the 2002–2005 triennium
- National Board alumni
- Kathy Cloninger, CEO of Girl Scouts of the USA, and national staff
- Exhibitors
- Kenneth Kirschner and Pat Cody, GSUSA's Legal Counsel team from Kelley, Drye & Warren
- Ann Homer, a registered and certified professional parliamentarian, who served as National Council parliamentarian

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING AND TESTING OF ELECTRONIC VOTING EQUIPMENT

An overview of parliamentary and business procedures for the session was presented by National Board member Sandra Espada-Santos and National Council parliamentarian Ann Homer. National Council members tested the electronic voting system.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Credentials Chair Debra Nakatomi, a member of the National Board, reported that 1,753 members of the National Council were registered and eligible to vote as of 9:30 a.m. on October 8, 2005.

MOVED by Debra Nakatomi, Credentials Chair, and member of the National Board, and seconded, THAT the registered members of the National Council reported here stand as the official roll of the voting members of this National Council Session.

By unanimous consent, the Credentials Report was adopted as the official report of the National Council members eligible to vote.

ELECTION OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF NATIONAL COUNCIL

MOVED by Debra Nakatomi, Credentials Chair, and seconded, THAT the Chair and Vice Chair of National Council Tellers be elected members of the National Council of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America to serve until the next regular session of the National Council; and THAT the Credentials Report be amended to include these persons.

The motion was adopted.

Votes Cast: 1,637

Votes Yes: 1,602

Votes No: 35

With the election of two additional members, Ms. Nakatomi reported the new total of 1,755 voting members:

Delegates elected by Girl Scout councils	1,709
Delegates from USA Girl Scouts Overseas	8
Members of the National Board of Directors	31
Members of the National Nominating Committee (non-Board)	2
Past Presidents of Girl Scouts of the USA	3
Persons Elected by the National Council	<u>2</u>
Total Eligible Voting Members	1,755

STANDING RULES

MOVED by Linda P. Foreman, National Secretary, and seconded, THAT the standing rules for the National Council Session be adopted as printed on pages 31-33 of the *Workbook*.

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, **the motion to adopt the standing rules as printed was adopted.**

Votes Cast: 1,654

Votes Yes: 1,558

Votes No: 96

The standing rules are attached as an addendum to these minutes.

ADOPTION OF PROGRAM

MOVED by Carol Mayo Cochran, National Treasurer and Chair of the Steering Group for the 2005 National Convention, on recommendation of the Steering Group for the 2005 National Convention, THAT the program of the Girl Scout National Council Session/50th convention be adopted as presented.

The motion to adopt the program as presented was adopted.

Votes Cast: 1,603

Votes Yes: 1,491

Votes No: 112

There being no objection, the keynote address was taken up prior to the Stewardship Report to accommodate the speaker's schedule.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Christina Frontera, a 2005 Young Woman of Distinction, introduced keynote speaker Dr. Johnetta Betsch Cole, president of Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Dr. Johnetta Cole discussed the importance of gender-specific organizations. She shared that Girl Scouting had been a formative experience, instilling in her the important values of responsibility and self-reliance, helping to prepare her for a professional life.

Dr. Cole also addressed the importance of diversity for educational institutions, the corporate world, and the not-for-profit sector. It is vital for Girl Scouts to embrace diversity and become a more inclusive and pluralistic organization. In continuing to reach out to underserved populations, Girl Scouts will truly exemplify an organization "for all girls" and ultimately "soar beyond greatness"

and thus fulfill the 2005 convention theme. In closing, Dr. Cole noted that every girl and adult in Girl Scouting can ensure respect for, and celebration of, diversity within the Movement by:

- Treating every person in the way they would want to be treated;
- Speaking out against statements conveying bigotry;
- Getting to know people from different backgrounds.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT OF THE NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Stewardship Report for the 2002–2005 triennium was distributed to members of the National Council. National Board Chair Cynthia Thompson and GSUSA's CEO Kathy Cloninger presented highlights of triennial accomplishments, noting that GSUSA must not shrink from its responsibility to transform itself in order to continue to be the premier organization for girls and young women.

Corporate Goal 1: Girl Membership

Membership figures were shared for the 30-year period 1975 to 2004, and it was noted that girl membership currently totals 2.8 million. Over these 30 years, there were several periods of increase followed by periods of decline. Since the early 1990s, the number of girls registering outside of troops has increased dramatically.

Total girl membership declined 4 percent over the course of the triennium, and the greatest losses were in the Brownie and Junior Girl Scout age levels. Hispanic girl membership increased 20 percent for the triennium, and membership increases were evident among girl members who are African-American, Asian and Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaskan Native. Girl Scouts has a membership share of 11.1 percent of the total girl population in the United States. To continue to be attractive to girls of all races and ethnicities, Girl Scouts must become more inclusive.

By 2050, individuals who are non-White and representative of races and ethnicities that include Black, Hispanic, Asian and Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaskan Native will be more than 50 percent of the U.S. population. As the face of America becomes increasingly diverse, it is important that Girl Scouting adapt to better serve girls of all backgrounds, while maintaining a high caliber and flexible program that meets national standards consistently. To meet this goal, it is imperative that the organizational infrastructure change.

Corporate Goal 2: Program

This triennium, \$33 million was raised for Girl Scout program initiatives. Seventy percent, or \$23 million, went to councils to fund programs including Girl Scouting in public housing, rural outreach, Girl Scouts Beyond Bars and in Detention Centers, Fair Play math and science and technology, and CentsAbility financial literacy.

Other highlights of the triennium were as follows:

- The By Girls, For Girls National Advisory Committee was convened, allowing the National Board to hear directly from girls.
- Eighteen thousand Girl Scouts were honored with the Girl Scout Gold Award. The new Girl Scout Gold Award registry database contains 60,000 recipients who earned the Girl Scouts' highest award.
- While Studio 2B sparked dialogue and some controversy, the program increased girls in that age range by 8 percent. In the process GSUSA learned how to partner better with councils in developing a new program model and pathways for girls.

Corporate Goal 3: Adult Membership

Adult membership peaked at an all-time high of nearly one million in 2003. In 2004, adult membership declined 3 percent, and a similar decline continues in 2005, a result of the decline in the number of Girl Scout troops. It is crucial to pilot new ways to make volunteering easier for adults and provide the necessary support to girls. In collaboration with 15 pilot councils, GSUSA is looking at a "state of the art" volunteer development system. To increase the number of young volunteers between the ages of 18 and 29, 30 Girl Scout councils were funded through GSUSA grants to pilot new projects that target college-age and young professional women. Adult diversity within Girl Scouting continues to be a challenge, and Girl Scouts must strive to open new, more flexible pathways to join.

Corporate Goal 4: Girl Scout Brand

In March 2004, more than 600 volunteers and Girl Scout executives visited members of Congress to urge them to place issues related to girls on the national agenda.

The Honorary Congressional Girl Scout Troop, which consists of female elected officials, is helping GSUSA secure federal grants to reach underserved girls and advocating on girls' behalf with their House and Senate colleagues

A new advocacy website was launched, and a unified Voice for Girls platform of advocacy priorities for the Girl Scout Movement was adopted.

Underscoring our organizational expertise on girls and matters that concern them, the Girl Scout Research Institute published four reports: *Feeling Safe: What Girls Say*; *Paths to Positive Youth Development*; *Voices of Volunteers 18–29*; and *Weighing In: Healthy Today and Tomorrow*. In January 2006, original research will be published as to what girls themselves say about healthy living.

The “Girls Go Tech” advertising campaign has been successful, and more examples of dynamic national advertising are under development.

GSUSA has maintained strong relations with WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) and will continue to urge WAGGGS to retain its identity as an all-girl association.

Corporate Goal 5: Organizational Excellence

National Treasurer Carol Mayo Cochran reviewed financial highlights for the triennium. Although challenged by declining revenue in membership and National Equipment Service (NES) sales, GSUSA’s underlying financial position is strong. Contributed revenue experienced the greatest rate of growth and now makes up 15.2 percent of revenue versus only 10.7 percent in 2002. Net assets grew 23 percent over the three-year period. From 2003 to 2005, revenue exceeded expenses in modest amounts.

It was noted that NES net income fell sharply in 2004 and 2005 as a result of falling membership and changes in patterns of membership registration, including more girls registering in non-troop settings. In 2004, a 40-member NES Business Review Task Group, which included council CEOs and shop managers, met to develop recommendations. Five strategies developed by the task group were adopted by the National Board in 2005. These strategies better position the national organization to serve our membership and to remain a viable source of income for councils as well as GSUSA. These recommendations included strengthening our partnership with councils, placing greater emphasis on core product lines, and expanding e-commerce capabilities.

The 2006 budget is balanced and contains the resources necessary to embark on a major transformation of the Girl Scout Movement.

A question and answer period followed.

To accommodate the keynote speaker’s schedule, the Open Forum on Proposals 1 and 2 was postponed to Meeting II.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Bonnie McDonald, a 2005 Young Woman of Distinction, introduced Kavita N. Ramdas, president and chief executive officer of the Global Fund for Women.

Ms. Ramdas spoke about women's philanthropy and the importance of financial literacy for girls. She reflected on the ideals of "courage, confidence, and character" and related how she overcame obstacles such as discriminatory attitudes toward women to attain personal and professional goals.

It was noted that the Global Fund for Women and Girl Scouting share a vision of cultivating self-esteem and leadership qualities in young women and girls as they seek to improve the world around them. To continue these joint efforts, Ms. Ramdas invited Girl Scout members to:

- dream big;
- take risks and stand up for their beliefs;
- join with and support girls from around the world who are preparing to take positions of leadership within their communities.

Meeting I was adjourned at 12:28 pm.

MEETING II, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 8, 2005

Meeting II was convened at 2:18 p.m. by National Board Chair Cynthia Thompson. Ms. Thompson, Kathy Cloninger, and Carol Cochran continued the question and answer period on the Stewardship Report.

Second Vice Chair Norma Barquet assumed the chair. It was reported that there was no change in the credentials report, and a quorum was present.

OPEN FORUM ON PROPOSAL 1: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE XI, SECTION 2

Members of the resource panel on Proposal 1 were introduced to respond to delegates' questions.

- Patricia Bowe Romines, National Board member
- Carol Mayo Cochran, National Treasurer
- Nan C. Hillis, National Board member
- Howard White, National Board member

First Vice Chair Patricia Diaz Dennis assumed the chair.

OPEN FORUM ON PROPOSAL 2: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 2

Members of the resource panel on Proposal 2 were introduced to respond to delegates' questions:

- Mary Borba, National Board member, serving as facilitator
- Maria Blake, Chair of the National Nominating Committee
- Susan Drew Thomas, National Board member

Second Vice Chair Norma Barquet resumed the chair.

PROPOSAL 1: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE XI, SECTION 2 (Officers)

Proposal 1, Part A (Reduction in Number of Continuous Terms by the President)

MOVED by Joseph Mayfield, member of the National Board of Directors, To amend Article XI, Section 2, of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA by striking the word "three" and inserting the word "two."

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, as required to amend the Constitution, **Proposal 1, Part A was adopted.**

Votes Cast: 1,698 Votes Yes: 1,666 Votes No: 32

Proposal 1, Part B (Elimination of the Requirement that Officers must be Members of the National Council)

MOVED by Mr. Mayfield, member of the National Board of Directors, To amend Article XI, Section 2 of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA by striking the words "All of these officers shall be elected from the membership of the National Council."

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, as required to amend the Constitution, **Proposal 1, Part B was adopted.**

Votes Cast: 1,659 Votes Yes: 1,489 Votes No: 170

First Vice Chair Patricia Diaz Dennis assumed the chair.

PROPOSAL 2: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 2

MOVED by Sharon Matthews, member of the National Board of Directors, **THAT** Article X, Section 2, of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA (National Board of Directors) be amended by striking the number “35” and inserting the number “25.”

Proviso: This amendment would take effect with the 2008-2011 triennium.

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, as required to amend the Constitution, **Proposal 2 was adopted.**

Votes cast: 1,658

Votes Yes: 1,421

Votes No: 237

Chair of the National Board Cynthia Thompson assumed the chair.

CORE BUSINESS STRATEGY REPORT

National Board Chair Cynthia Thompson and Girl Scouts of the USA CEO Kathy Cloninger reported on core business strategy highlights.

Ms. Thompson reviewed major changes over the course of Girl Scout history from 1912 to the present, noting that each time the national organizational structure has been overhauled and the number of Girl Scout councils has been reduced, the national market share of girls has increased.

Following the 2004 National Corporate Leadership Meeting of Girl Scout council board chairs and CEOs, GSUSA launched the core business strategy process to focus the Girl Scout Movement on those things we do best in the world. A steering group was formed, which included council representatives, National Board members, and national staff. Brutal truths facing Girl Scouting were studied; it was determined that the organization faces a crisis of relevance, a nationwide and differentiated core purpose and brand is needed, and the organizational structure must become more efficient and results-oriented. Given where we are today, taking incremental steps won't achieve the Movement-wide transformation girls need. Five strategic priorities were endorsed by the National Board:

- **Brand:** Transforming the Girl Scout image with a compelling, contemporary brand.
- **Program Model and Pathways:** Building the best integrated personal leadership development model that defines activities and outcomes, differentiated by age level, for girls 5–17 and offers flexible pathways for participation.

- **Organizational Structure and Governance:** Creating an efficient and effective organizational structure and democratic governance system.
- **Volunteerism:** Developing a nimble, state-of-the-art model of volunteerism that mobilizes a diverse cadre of volunteers committed to the Girl Scout mission.
- **Funding:** Substantially increasing contributed income to fund a vibrant Girl Scout organization.

Ms. Cloninger provided an historical perspective of the process that included the formation of a steering group and Gap Teams made up of council representatives, National Board members, and national staff. The Gap Teams support the strategic priorities endorsed by the National Board, with the addition of a team on culture. Ms. Cloninger shared progress by Gap Teams.

To highlight the work of the Program Model and Pathways Gap Team and the Volunteerism Gap Team, a presentation was made by Lipica Shah, 2005 Young Woman of Distinction and young adult member of the By Girls, For Girls National Advisory Committee; Jan Barker, CEO of Glowing Embers Girl Scout Council in Michigan and co-leader of the Program Model and Pathways Gap Team; and Sharon Matthews, National Board member and member of the Volunteerism Gap Team.

Work continues on creating a nationally consistent Girl Scout experience that is relevant for girls and aligns with their lifestyles. This will include flexible new pathways for girls to take part in Girl Scouting with a new model that focuses on the unique Girl Scout experience in three achievement areas: Discover, Lead, and Take Action. Age-level groupings, new names for the groups, and national standards for age-appropriate participation are in development. A revised volunteer development system will support this new model for girls. To move the process along, members were encouraged to share ideas at the strategy cafes, and dialogue about the issues in their communities. Input provided to GSUSA will be used to make further refinements.

A period of questions and answers followed. Answers to unanswered questions collected from delegates will be posted on the Core Business Strategy website, which can be accessed from the GSUSA website.

National Secretary Linda Foreman assumed the chair.

MOVED by Sharon Matthews, member of the National Board, and seconded,

To accept the reordering of the program as described by the Chair, thereby postponing consideration of Proposal 3 to Meeting IV, Sunday morning.

The motion was adopted.

Votes cast: 1,499

Votes Yes: 1,361

Votes No: 138

OPEN FORUM ON PROPOSAL 3: AMENDMENT OF PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION

Resource panel members for Proposal 3, Amendment of Preamble to the Constitution, were introduced to respond to delegates' questions:

- Patsy Brison, National Board member;
- Pauline Dow, National Board member and member of the National Nominating Committee;
- Tina Dickerson, President and Board Chair of the Commonwealth Girl Scout Council of Virginia (Mechanicsville, Va.);
- Mary Beth Malm, CEO of the Girl Scouts of the Milwaukee Area (Milwaukee, Wisc.);
- Arlene Robinson, CEO of the Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit (Detroit, Mich.);
- Stefanie Argus, member, By Girls, For Girls National Advisory Committee;
- Eileen Doyle, Director of Program Development, GSUSA

DISCUSSION ON COUNCIL REALIGNMENT

At the September 2005 National Board meeting, the National Board approved a recommendation from the Organizational Structure and Governance Gap Team for a complete reorganization of councils using a high-capacity-based model. Background on the Gap Team's recommendation was forwarded to Girl Scout councils and the opportunity to ask questions of National Board Chair Cynthia Thompson and CEO Kathy Cloninger was provided as part of two National Council delegate teleconferences held on September 7 and 14, 2005.

A resource panel was introduced, consisting of the following:

- Gloria Lara, member of the National Board of Directors, Councils Committee Chair, and member of the Organizational Structure and Governance Gap Team
- Patricia Bowe Romines, member, National Board of Directors, Councils Committee, and Organizational Structure and Governance Gap Team
- Debra S. Esparza, CEO, Girl Scout Council of Greater Long Beach (Long Beach, Calif.)
- Sandi Stewart, CEO, Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida (Sarasota, Fla.), and member of the Organizational Structure and Governance Gap Team
- Cynthia Thomson, Chair, National Board of Directors, GSUSA
- Kathy Cloninger, CEO, GSUSA

Gloria Lara and Patricia Bowe Romines presented a brief rationale for comprehensive structural change and national realignment of Girl Scout councils, including an overview of the brutal truths facing the Movement and a vision for the future. Realignment will ensure that all Girl Scout councils have the capacity to reach girls and leverage support for the Girl Scout Movement through funding, connections, scale, and wise use of the Movement's resources.

Ways of work and a timeline were shared. All Girl Scout councils are engaging in dialogue with GSUSA to define capacity criteria. A tool for strategic input is being provided to all councils. Over the next few months state and regional meetings will be convened by councils across the country with demographers. Input received from councils will be used to draft capacity criteria and to create an initial map for sharing at a national work session for council board chairs and CEOs scheduled for February/March 2006. The overall timeline calls for a phased-in approach that spans three to five years.

Two council CEOs, Sandi Stewart (Gulfcoast) and Debra Esparza (Long Beach), shared personal perspective on the critical need for realignment and support of their respective councils for the process.

Delegates used the electronic voting device to provide input on a range of topics related to defining capacity criteria. A question and answer period followed that included opportunity for general comment.

Meeting II adjourned at 6:30 p.m. It was announced that Meeting III would convene at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, October 9.

MEETING III, SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 9, 2005

Meeting III was called to order at 9:23 a.m. by Linda Foreman, National Secretary. A moment of silence was observed for those killed in an earthquake in South Asia.

The Chair reported there was no change in the Credentials Report and a quorum was present.

PROPOSAL 3: AMENDMENT OF PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION

**MOVED by Patsy Brison, member of the National Board of Directors,
To amend a portion of the Preamble to the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA by substitution as follows:**

We, the members of Girl Scouts of the United States of America, united by a belief in God, hold that the Girl Scout Promise and Law is the cornerstone of our Movement,

And inspired by the Founder of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States, Juliette Low, and by the aims of the Founder of the Scout Movement, Lord Baden-Powell, attest to the following:

Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Spiritual Force

The motivating force in Girl Scouting is spiritual. The ways in which members identify and fulfill their spiritual beliefs are personal and private.

Open Membership

The Girl Scout Movement is open to all girls and adults who accept the Girl Scout Promise and Law and meet membership requirements.

Patriotism, Citizenship, and Community Service

Local, national, and global service and action are core elements of the Girl Scout experience.

Diversity and Pluralism

Girl Scouts advance diversity and pluralism in our Movement and in the communities in which we live.

Responsibility for the Movement and the Democratic Process

The ultimate responsibility for the Girl Scout Movement rests with its members. We govern by an efficient and effective democratic process that demonstrates our leadership in a fast-changing world.

Girl/Adult Partnership

Adults partner with girls to guide and inspire growth and achievement. Volunteers are essential to the strength and capacity of our Movement.

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)

We are active partners in a world-wide sisterhood through our affiliation with WAGGGS. We work with WAGGGS to address the needs of girls and to build a network of global citizens.

Community Partners

We take an active leadership role and are collaborative partners in the community.

Voice

We are a premier voice for girls and an expert on their growth and development.

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, as required to amend the Constitution, **Proposal 3 was adopted.**

Votes cast: 1,690 Votes yes: 1,451 Votes no: 239

There being no objection, the order of business was changed to take up the report of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) 32nd World Conference Delegation, followed by greetings from the newly elected Chairman of the World Board, Elspeth Henderson, and the CEO of WAGGGS, Lesley Bulman-Lever.

WAGGGS WORLD CONFERENCE REPORT

GSUSA International Commissioner Pat Turner shared highlights of the 32nd WAGGGS World Conference, which was held in Amman, Jordan, in June 2005. It was reported that 500 participants attended from 120 member organizations. Membership in WAGGGS now totals 145 countries, with the addition of the Girl Scout Association of Mongolia as an Associate Member.

Ms. Turner underscored the vital importance of the international dimension to the Movement. GSUSA remains committed to keeping WAGGGS focused on serving girls and young women and to an increase in sharing of information and resources with WAGGGS and WAGGGS member organizations.

WAGGGS GREETINGS

Elspeth Henderson, Chairman of the World Board, and Lesley Bulman-Lever, Chief Executive Officer of WAGGGS, reported on WAGGGS's strategic plan, which has three overarching goals:

- Leadership development

- Growing member organizations
- Speaking out as a voice for girls and young women

WAGGGS serves 10 million girls worldwide, and is currently revamping its image and expanding funding efforts through solicitation of corporations and other sponsors. Advocacy themes include adolescent health, education, and trafficking.

Meeting III adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

MEETING IV, SUNDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 9, 2005

Meeting IV was called to order by Linda P. Foreman, National Secretary, at 2:15 p.m. The Chair reported there was no change in the Credentials Report and a quorum was present.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Anna Ellis, a 2005 Young Woman of Distinction, introduced Ann Curry, news anchor, NBC-TV's *Today Show* and co-host of *Dateline NBC*.

Ann Curry reflected on the troubled times in which we live and noted that we can better prepare girls for these contemporary realities by striving to become better Americans, daughters, and human beings. Foremost, we should stand up for ourselves, our communities, our families, and our country. She shared her father's life teaching: to be of service to others in order to give one's own life meaning and purpose. She encouraged members to be a force of good, and to be more open to people who appear different from us by judging them less and loving them more.

GIRL CONGRESS

Members viewed video highlights of the third national Girl Congress, held October 6-7, 2005, and remarks were shared by four participants:

- Chelsea Miller, Girl Scout Council of the Catawba Valley Area (Hickory, N.C.)
- Amanda Lake, Girl Scouts, Tarheel Triad Council (Colfax, N.C.)
- Akeylah Walters, Girl Scout Council of Colonial Coast (Chesapeake, Va.)
- Lisa Ramirez, Girl Scouts, Hornets' Nest Council (Charlotte, N.C.)

Approximately 1,300 participants were in attendance for the Girl Congress, including over 900 girls from over 200 councils in 45 states and the District of

Columbia, Puerto Rico, and USA Girl Scouts Overseas. The event convened Thursday afternoon with welcoming remarks from National Board Chair Cynthia B. Thompson, CEO Kathy Cloninger, and Ingrid Saunders Jones, Senior Vice President of The Coca-Cola Company, and Chairperson of The Coca-Cola Foundation. A social event was held Thursday evening. On Friday, the schedule included girl-only strategy cafés, proposal debates, and workshops on health-related topics. Keynote speakers were Dawn Staley of the WNBA and actress America Ferrera.

Remarks underscored the importance of truly listening to girl members, and respecting their opinions regarding issues that affect them. Councils and the national organization were urged to continue to directly involve girls in decision-making. Councils should consider forming local “By Girls, For Girls” advisory groups, if they have not already done so, modeled on the national advisory group.

OPEN FORUM ON PROPOSAL 4: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE III

Resource panel members for Proposal 4, Constitutional Amendment of Article III, were introduced to respond to delegates’ questions:

- Pat Turner, National Board member and Resource Team Facilitator
- Barbara Bonifas, CEO, Girl Scouts of Great Rivers Council (Cincinnati, Ohio)
- Susan Anderson, National Board member
- Brandi Johnson, member, By Girls, For Girls National Advisory Group
- Harriet Mosatche, Senior Director, Research & Program, GSUSA

PROPOSAL 4: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE III

MOVED by Patricia Turner, member of the National Board of Directors, To amend Article III of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA (“The Girl Scout Program”) by substitution as follows:

Grounded in the Girl Scout Promise and Law, Girl Scouting is a nonformal, experiential, and cooperative education program that promotes girls’ personal growth and leadership development. Partnering with caring adults, girls design fun and challenging activities that empower them and raise their voices within a local, national, and global sisterhood.

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, as required to amend the Constitution, **Proposal 4 was adopted.**

Votes cast: 1,670

Votes Yes: 1,543

Votes No: 127

National Treasurer Carol Mayo Cochran assumed the chair.

OPEN FORUM ON PROPOSAL 5: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE XII, SECTIONS 1 AND 2

Resource panel members for Proposal 5, Constitutional Amendment of Article XII, Sections 1 and 2, were introduced to respond to delegates' questions:

- Ellen Brooks, Member of the National Nominating Committee, serving as facilitator
- Gloria Lara, National Board Member
- Maria Blake, Chair, National Nominating Committee
- Beth Maurer, Board Chair of Delaware Raritan Girl Scout Council (East Brunswick, N.J.)
- Deb Long, Senior Vice President, Governance and Corporate Administration

PROPOSAL 5: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE XII, SECTIONS 1 AND 2

Proposal 5, Part A

MOVED by Gloria Lara, member of the National Board of Directors, THAT Article XII, Section 1, of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA (“National Nominating Committee and Nominations”) be amended by striking the word “nine” and inserting the word “seven.”

Proviso: This amendment would take effect with the 2008-2011 triennium.

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, as required to amend the Constitution, **Proposal 5, Part A was adopted.**

Votes cast: 1,660 Votes Yes: 1,332 Votes No: 328

Proposal 5, Part B

MOVED by Gloria Lara, member of the National Board of Directors, To amend Article XII, Section 1, of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA by inserting the words “and the CEO of Girl Scouts of the USA who shall serve as an ex officio non voting member” following the words “seven* members”;

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, as required to amend the Constitution, **Proposal 5, Part B was adopted.**

Votes cast: 1,653 Votes Yes: 1,266 Votes No: 387

**Upon adoption of Proposal 5, Part A, Constitution was amended immediately, thereby striking the word "nine" and inserting the word "seven."*

Proposal 5, Part C

MOVED by Gloria Lara, member of the National Board of Directors, THAT Article XII, Section 2 of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA ("National Nominating Committee and Nominations) be amended by striking the words "three members, but no more than four" and inserting the words "two members, but no more than three."

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, as required to amend the Constitution, **Proposal 5, Part C was adopted.**

Votes cast: 1,632 Votes Yes: 1,553 Votes No: 79

NOMINATIONS

National Nominating Committee Chair Maria W. Blake presented the report of the National Nominating Committee, placing in nomination candidates for officers, members-at-large of the National Board of Directors, and members of the National Nominating Committee as presented in the *Workbook*, which was mailed in advance to members.

ELECTIONS

The Chair recognized Dr. Nancy Pursley, Chair of National Council Tellers, to give instructions for the vote.

Members of the National Council then voted and the Chair declared the period for voting closed.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

The songs "Brave New Girls" and "Being a Girl Scout" were performed by Teresa, a professional songwriter from Nashville, Tennessee.

VIDEO TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL BOARD 2002–2005

A short video tribute to members of the National Board of Directors who served for the 2002–2005 triennium was shown, followed by a video introducing Board Chair Cynthia B. Thompson.

ADDRESS OF NATIONAL PRESIDENT

In an address entitled “The Symphony That Never Ends,” National Board Chair Cynthia B. Thompson looked back on her three years in the highest volunteer office. She used the metaphor of a conductor leading an orchestra to produce unique and beautiful music, and described Girl Scouting as the “symphony” envisioned 93 years ago by its founder, Juliette Low. Today, each member of Girl Scouting has a vital role to play in helping to ensure the continuing vitality of the Movement.

Cynthia Thompson shared notable accomplishments over the three-year period and thanked the Officer team, members of the National Board, Kathy Cloninger, the Senior Leadership Team, her mentor Frankie Muse Freeman, and members of her family.

Meeting IV adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

MEETING V, MONDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 10, 2005

Meeting V was called to order by National Board Chair Cynthia Thompson at 9:30 a.m.

FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT

Credentials Chair Debra Nakatomi presented the final Credentials Report.

Delegates elected by Girl Scout councils	1,709
Delegates from USA Girl Scouts Overseas	8
Members of the National Board of Directors	31
Members of the National Nominating Committee (non-Board)	2
Past Presidents of GSUSA	3
Persons elected by the National Council	<u>2</u>
Total Members of the National Council	1,755

VISITORS

Councils	2,905
USA Girl Scouts Overseas	17
National volunteers, nominees, Former National Board members	61
International	68
Exhibitors	1,022
National staff	152
Participants and others	<u>7,130</u>
Total Visitors	11, 355
Grand Total of Members of National Council and Visitors	13,110

OTHER FACTS OF INTEREST

Girls (14–17) attending as delegates 255

There are 45 female delegates to every male delegate.

The racial breakdown of the delegates is:

American Indian/Alaskan native	19
Asian	17
Black or African American	196
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	29
Hispanic	46
White	1,245
Other	150
Two or More (categories)	1

[Information gathered from a total of 1,703 delegates.]

Councils represented at the National Council Session	313
Councils that sent a full quota of delegates	304

There being no objection, the final Credentials Report was adopted. The number of eligible voters remained unchanged at 1,755.

2005 YOUNG WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

Twenty-five 2005 Young Women of Distinction were honored in a special ceremony.

OPEN SPACE DIALOGUES AND STRATEGY CAFÉS

Martha Webb, past president of Pines of Carolina Girl Scout Council (Raleigh, N.C.) and Agenia Clark, CEO, Girl Scout Council of Cumberland Valley (Nashville, Tenn.) shared highlights of dialogues held for National Council members, which focused on governance topics, and Strategy Cafés, organized around the strategic priorities, held for National Council members and visitors. Taking part in 90 sessions, approximately 1,600 National Council members shared suggestions on what the governance structure should look like at the national and local levels. Strategy Cafés, attended by delegates and visitors, included a special session for members of the Girl Congress. All input has been collected and a report will be published online and shared with the Gap Teams.

APPRECIATION

On behalf of the eight Georgia host councils, Harriet Hessam, CEO of Girl Scout Council of Northwest Georgia (Atlanta, Ga.), expressed appreciation to the 1,200 volunteers and staff members who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the 50th convention. She thanked members of Northwest Georgia Council's board of directors, including board chair Evern Cooper Epps, and noted the wonderful partnership between local councils and the national organization in soliciting corporate sponsorship.

REPORT OF NATIONAL COUNCIL TELLERS

Dr. Nancy Pursley, Chair of National Council Tellers, gave the report on elections. National Board Chair Cynthia B. Thompson declared the following elected:

Officers for a three-year term, 2005-2008

President (Chair, National Board of Directors)	Patricia Diaz Dennis
First Vice President (First Vice Chair)	Sharon H. Matthews
Second Vice President (Second Vice Chair)	Mary P. Borba
Secretary	Linda P. Foreman
Treasurer	Gwendolyn J. Wong

**Members-at-Large of the National Board of Directors for a three-year term,
2005-2008**

Susan L. Anderson
 Donna L. Blackwell
 Patsy Brison
 Valdar Coryat
 Tanya Dawkins
 Tjada D'Oyen
 Raquel "Rocky" Egusquiza
 Mimi U.B. Coppersmith Fredman
 Tom Frost, III
 Michelle L. Garcia
 Olivia N. Graham
 Kip Hughes
 Marne L. Keller-Krikava
 Connie L. Lindsey
 Sandra E. Madrid
 Nancy Marino
 Gail G. Mattson
 Melodie Mayberry-Stewart
 Joseph L. Mayfield
 Linda Mazon-Gutierrez
 Debra Nakatomi
 Judith A. Ramaley
 Angel L. Rodriguez
 Patricia Bowe Romines
 Joyce Espy Searcy
 Brigadier General Annie Sobel
 Gail M. Talbott
 Davia Temin
 Marisa Tabizon Thompson
 Joan Wagnon
 C. Perry Yeatman

Chair, National Nominating Committee for a three-year term, 2005-2008

Maria W. Blake

**Members, National Nominating Committee and Members-at-Large, National
Board of Directors for a three-year term, 2005-2008**

Sherri Betts
 Nan C. Hillis
 Rhea S. Schwartz
 Sara L. Schwebel

Non-Board Members of the National Nominating Committee for a three-year term, 2005-2008

Ralph E. Alonzo
 Pauline Dow
 Megan McPherson
 Mitchell A. Martin

INSTALLATION

Ms. Thompson led the installation of newly elected officers, members of the National Board of Directors, and the National Nominating Committee for the 2005-2008 triennium.

HURRICANE RELIEF THANKS

Rae Lambert, a volunteer with Girl Scouts of Gulf Pines Council, Inc. (Hattiesburg, Miss.) and girl members Jennifer Cain and Rebecca Atkinson spoke about the devastation to Girl Scout councils located along the Gulf Coast, noting items that would assist in rebuilding Girl Scout program in the affected areas, and thanking National Council members for their support.

TIME AND PLACE OF THE 2008 NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION/51st CONVENTION

Debra McCloud, board chair, and Debbie Smith, CEO, of Girl Scouts of Hoosier Capital Council (Indianapolis, Ind.) presented the report on time and place for the 2008 National Council Session, which will be held October 26–November 3, 2008, in Indianapolis. Speaking on behalf of all the Girl Scout councils in Indiana, they extended a warm invitation to everyone to attend the 2008 National Council Session.

BY GIRLS, FOR GIRLS NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

A report on the By Girls, For Girls National Advisory Committee was presented by four committee members: Jessica Clancy, Corilia Ortega, Brandi Johnson, and Stefanie Argus, and Chelsey Kelly, a volunteer working with the By Girls, For Girls National Advisory Committee. They provided a history of the national advisory committee, which was formed three years ago to give girls direct input in the national dialogue and to ensure that Girl Scouting continues to reflect the

diverse needs of today's girls. Members shared the accomplishments of the advisory committee for the triennium and goals for the future. National Council members were encouraged to continue to keep the momentum alive by helping Girl Scouting become a more girl-centric organization and by establishing local By Girls, For Girls advisory groups in their local councils.

ADDRESS OF NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT AND CHAIR, NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Newly elected President and National Board Chair Patricia Diaz Dennis underscored Girl Scouts' commitment to welcoming all girls as members and ensuring that the Movement reflects the real diversity of America. As the first Latina Chair of the National Board, Patricia Diaz Dennis shared her personal enthusiasm for the challenge of conveying to all girls that Girl Scouts has great things to offer them.

Ms. Diaz Dennis said each girl "may begin as an unpolished stone, but with the power of Girl Scouts behind her, she'll find the vibrant and valuable gem she can be." In partnership with caring adults, each girl can develop and ultimately reveal her unique, multifaceted brilliance. Just as gems have four C's—color, clarity, cut and carat--Girl Scouting has its own version of the four C's. These are:

Courage—Girls need the empowerment Girl Scouting can give them to set and achieve high personal goals.

Confidence—When a girl realizes her own inner sparkle, her confidence soars and she knows she can accomplish anything to which she sets her mind.

Character—Every Girl Scout activity builds each girl's character.

Community service—Girls in Girl Scouting make the world a better place, and this sets off a revolving cycle of doing good.

Looking to the future, we are building on a rich legacy. "We are updating the setting of Girl Scouting's precious jewel" with a sense of urgency, as the needs of girls today are so different from ours at their age. Like Juliette Low, who sold her pearls to finance the future of the Movement, we must be prepared to sacrifice something precious for the girls such as our time, talents, and attention. The Movement has a long and honorable tradition, and we need courage to change and grow along with our girls. Members were urged to "pass along the inheritance of Juliette's pearls" by continuing to support the Movement in this time of change. It was noted that Juliette Low's "investment" had paid off well, evidenced by an alumnae list of 50 million members, with millions more girls to be reached.

In closing, members of the National Council were thanked for the roles they play: "Your skills are visible with every patch a girl receives, every service project a girl completes, every Gold Award a Senior Girl Scout earns. You stand on the front lines with our girls, guiding them to be the women leaders of

tomorrow...You give of yourselves, over and over and over, and I salute you for it. You, too, are Girl Scouting's precious jewels."

CLOSING CEREMONY

At 11:42 a.m., Ms. Diaz Dennis declared the National Council Session/50th convention adjourned *sine die*.

Standing Rules for the 2008 National Council Session

1. Delegates

- A. The badge of admission and delegate credential must be in evidence at all times.
- B. The delegate credential shall be transferred only when a delegate is permanently leaving the National Council Session.
- C. The delegate credential shall be transferred only to the individual authorized to fill a vacancy and the transfer must follow the procedures outlined on p. 12.
- D. Any transfer of the delegate credential shall remain in effect until the end of the current National Council Session (Monday, October 10, 2005).
- E. A delegate position shall be subject to forfeiture for the remainder of the current National Council Session if unauthorized transfer of delegate status occurs. Forfeiture decisions shall be made by the Credentials Chair, and this decision is final.

2. Proposals/Amendments

- A. Proposals contained in the *Workbook* or sent with the call to the National Council shall be the only proposals accepted. All other proposals shall be ruled out of order. [Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA, Article VI, Proposals to the National Council]
- B. Amendments to the proposals that are within the scope of the proposals as published in the *Workbook* or sent with the call to the National Council shall be accepted. Amendments not within the scope shall be ruled out of order.
- C. All amendments shall be submitted in writing on the form designated for that use, signed by the maker, and sent to the Chair prior to being placed before the assembly (that is, the National Council).
- D. Amendments that deal with grammar, spelling, or punctuation shall not be allowed. The CEO and Chair of the National Board shall be empowered to make any and all necessary editorial changes.

3. *Debate*

- A. National Council members shall identify themselves before speaking to the question. Girl Scout council delegates shall give name, council, and city/state in which the council office is located. All other National Council members shall give name and position as members of the National Council.
- B. No speaker shall speak longer than two minutes in debate on each question. Timing of the two-minute period allowed the speaker for debate shall begin immediately following the required identification.
- C. No speaker shall speak a second time on a question until National Council members wishing to speak a first time have done so.
- D. No speaker shall speak more than twice on the same question on the same day, without permission of the assembly.
- E. No more than four delegates from the same Girl Scout council nor more than four National Board members shall speak on the same side of the question.
- F. Once a main motion has been moved and then stated by the Chair, motions from the interrupting microphone will not be permitted until the maker of the motion has had the opportunity to speak to the motion.

4. *Nominations and Elections*

- A. Nominations may be made from the floor at the National Council provided that notice of such nomination(s) and written consent of the nominee(s) are presented to the President at least two days prior to the election. [Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA, Article XII, National Nominating Committee and Nominations].
- B. Any National Council member placing a name in nomination from the floor shall give only the name of the nominee.
- C. Names placed in nomination from the floor or on behalf of the National Nominating Committee are not debatable.
- D. Only printed biographical information for persons to be nominated from the floor may be distributed to National Council members on the floor of the Convention Center meeting room. That printed

information:

- (1) Is the responsibility of the person making the nomination. Two thousand twenty-five copies of the nominee's printed biographical information must be delivered to the Girl Scout Convention Office in the Georgia World Congress Center.
 - (2) May not be distributed during business meetings.
 - (3) Will be placed on the seats in the delegate section by the ushers at a time when the National Council is not in session, and at a time following the opening ceremony.
 - (4) Must be in the same format and length as those printed in the *Workbook*.
- E. No write-in votes shall be allowed.
- F. In reporting the results of the election, the number of actual votes received will not be reported to the assembly; the only information that will be reported is that a candidate received at least a majority vote. Full election results will be posted at the Girl Scout Credentials-Registration area and shall be reported in the minutes of the National Council Session.

5. *Rules of Voting*

- A. Electronic voting shall be permitted.
- B. The presiding officer shall be authorized to expedite business by using methods of voting other than electronic voting as the officer deems appropriate. This shall include a vote by unanimous consent, voice, show of hands, standing, and ballot.
- C. Delegates may take their portable electronic voting devices with them when they are standing in line awaiting their turn to speak. Delegates may vote on any secondary motion while standing in line at the microphone. Delegates must return to their seats for any vote on a main motion/proposal and for elections.

6. *Minutes*

The National Board of Directors of GSUSA shall serve as the National Council Minutes Approval Committee and shall be empowered to approve and distributed the minutes of the National Council Session.

7. ***Comfort Issues***

- A. Comfort and personal needs issues of the attendees shall be addressed to the ushers, not to the presiding officer. If addressed to the presiding officer, the remarks will be ruled out of order. (See p. 16.)
- B. While the National Council is in session, obstructing items that may interfere with another individual's comfort or ability to see the stage shall not be worn or displayed in the meeting room.
- C. While the National Council is in session, fragrance products shall not be worn in the meeting room. Individuals who are sensitive to fragrance products (perfumes, colognes, aftershave, hair sprays) fall under a number of disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. These include chemical sensitivity disorders, multiple chemical sensitivity, breathing and lung disorders, asthma, neurological impairments, etc.
- D. While the National Council is in session, personal digital assistants (PDAs) and battery-powered computers with the sound turned off may be used. Use of other electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, pagers, and walkie-talkies, shall be prohibited. Electronic devices that are auxiliary aids for individuals with disabilities will be permitted.

8. ***Procedures***

All persons in attendance shall follow the National Council Session procedures as found on pp. 12–17.

GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ELECTION RESULTS REPORTED AT NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION

OCTOBER 10, 2005

	VOTES YES
Officers	
Patricia Diaz Dennis – President	1543
Sharon H. Matthews – First Vice President	1558
Mary P. Borba – Second Vice President	1520
Linda P. Foreman – Secretary	1596
Gwendolyn J. Wong – Treasurer	1570
Members-at-Large	
Susan L. Anderson	1557
Donna L. Blackwell	1522
Patsy Brison	1499
Valdar Coryat	1414
Tanya Dawkins	1441
Tjada D'Oyen	1470
Raquel "Rocky" Egusquiza	1485
Mimi U.B. Coppersmith Fredman	1497
Tom Frost, III	1437
Michelle L. Garcia	1443
Olivia N. Graham	1482
Kip Hughes	1443
Marne L. Keller-Krikava	1507
Connie L. Lindsey	1471
Sandra E. Madrid	1454
Nancy Marino	1399
Gail G. Mattson	1459
Melodie Mayberry-Stewart	1489
Joseph Mayfield	1459
Linda Mazon-Gutierrez	1455
Debra Nakatomi	1474
Judith A. Ramaley	1448
Angel L. Rodriguez	1453
Patricia Bowe Romines	1477
Joyce Espy Searcy	1483
Brigadier General Annie Sobel	1434

Gail M. Talbott	1,430
Davia Temin	1,449
Marisa Tabizon Thompson	1,410
Joan Wagnon	1,500
C. Perry Yeatman	1,430

National Nominating Committee

Maria Blake, Chair	1,450
--------------------	-------

Member, National Nominating Committee and
Member-at-Large, National Board of Directors

Sherri Betts	1,459
Nan C. Hillis	1,498
Rhea S. Schwartz	1,407
Sara L. Schwebel	1,480

Member, National Nominating Committee (Non-Board)

Ralph E. Alonzo	1,472
Pauline Dow	1,453
Megan McPherson	1,439
Mitchell A. Martin	1,505

There is interest in a thorough record of proceedings of the 2005 National Council Session. Therefore, the attached informational document includes the disposition of secondary motions, including defeated amendments, that are not included in the Minutes of the 2005 National Council Session, in accordance with GSUSA's adopted parliamentary authority *Robert's Rules of Orderly Newly Revised, 10th Edition (RONR)*.

STANDING RULES

MOVED by Linda P. Foreman, National Secretary, and seconded, THAT the Standing Rules for the National Council Session be adopted as printed on pages 31-33 of the *Workbook*.

MOVED by Cassaundra Abousamak, delegate from Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex and Hudson Counties (Montclair, N.J.), and seconded,
To amend standing rule 2 by striking section D.

The motion to amend the standing rules lost.

Votes Cast: 1,570 Votes Yes: 761 Votes No: 809

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, **the motion to adopt the standing rules as printed was adopted.**

Votes Cast: 1,654 Votes Yes: 1,558 Votes No: 96

ADOPTION OF PROGRAM

MOVED by Carol Mayo Cochran, National Treasurer and Chair of the Steering Group for the 2005 National Convention, on recommendation of the Steering Group for the 2005 National Convention, THAT the program of the Girl Scout National Council Session/50th convention be adopted as presented.

MOVED by Susan Morrow, delegate from Keystone Tall Tree Girl Scout Council (Kittanning, Pa.), and seconded,
THAT the program be amended by placing Proposal 3 before Proposal 2.

The amendment was adopted.

Votes cast: 1,598 Votes Yes: 899 Votes No: 699

The motion to adopt the program, as amended, was adopted.

Votes cast: 1,596

Votes Yes: 1,461

Votes No: 135

MOVED by Sue Anderson, member of the National Board of Directors, and seconded,
 THAT the main motion and the amendment be reconsidered.

The motion to reconsider the main motion and the amendment was adopted.

Votes cast: 1,505

Votes Yes: 1,303

Votes No: 202

MOVED by Susan Morrow, delegate from Keystone Tall Tree Girl Scout Council (Kittanning, Pa.), and seconded,
 To amend the program by placing Proposal 2 after Proposal 3.

The amendment lost.

Votes cast: 1,510

Votes Yes: 467

Votes No: 1,043

The motion to adopt the program as presented was adopted.

Votes Cast: 1,603

Votes Yes: 1,491

Votes No: 112

**PROPOSAL 1: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE XI,
 SECTION 2 (Officers)**

Proposal 1, Part A (Reduction in Number of Continuous Terms by the President)

MOVED by Joseph Mayfield, member of the National Board of Directors,
 To amend Article XI, Section 2, of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA
 by striking the word "three" and inserting the word "two."

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, as required to amend the
 Constitution, **Proposal 1, Part A was adopted.**

Votes Cast: 1,698

Votes Yes: 1,666

Votes No: 32

Proposal 1, Part B (Elimination of the Requirement that Officers must be Members of the National Council)

MOVED by Mr. Mayfield, member of the National Board of Directors, To amend Article XI, Section 2 of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA by striking the words “All of these officers shall be elected from the membership of the National Council.”

MOVED by Joanne Galvin, delegate from Girl Scouts of Metro Detroit (Detroit, Mich.), and seconded,
To amend by adding the following sentence at the end of the proposal:
“The President and Vice Presidents shall be elected from the membership of the National Council.”

Under order for the previous question, a vote was taken on the amendment. The amendment lost.

Votes Cast: 1,670 Votes Yes: 468 Votes No: 1,202

MOVED by Olivia Perdue, delegate from Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana, (Louisville, Ky.), and seconded,
To amend by inserting the following sentence in place of what is being stricken:
“At least two of the officers shall be elected from the membership of the National Council.”

Under order for the previous question, a vote was taken on the amendment. The amendment lost.

Votes cast: 1,634 Votes Yes: 448 Votes No: 1,186

Under order for the previous question, a vote was taken on Proposal 1, Part B. There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, as required to amend the Constitution, **Proposal 1, Part B was adopted.**

Votes Cast: 1,659 Votes Yes: 1,489 Votes No: 170

PROPOSAL 2: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE X, SECTION 2

MOVED by Sharon Matthews, member of the National Board of Directors, THAT Article X, Section 2, of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA (National Board of Directors) be amended by striking the number “35” and inserting the number “25.”

Proviso: This amendment would take effect with the 2008-2011 triennium.

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, as required to amend the Constitution, **Proposal 2 was adopted.**

Votes cast: 1,658

Votes Yes: 1,421

Votes No: 237

PROPOSAL 3: AMENDMENT OF PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION

MOVED by Patsy Brison, member of the National Board of Directors, To amend a portion of the Preamble to the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA by substitution as follows:

We, the members of Girl Scouts of the United States of America, united by a belief in God, hold that the Girl Scout Promise and Law is the cornerstone of our Movement,

And inspired by the Founder of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States, Juliette Low, and by the aims of the Founder of the Scout Movement, Lord Baden-Powell, attest to the following:

Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Spiritual Force

The motivating force in Girl Scouting is spiritual. The ways in which members identify and fulfill their spiritual beliefs are personal and private.

Open Membership

The Girl Scout Movement is open to all girls and adults who accept the Girl Scout Promise and Law and meet membership requirements.

Patriotism, Citizenship, and Community Service

Local, national, and global service and action are core elements of the Girl Scout experience.

Diversity and Pluralism

Girl Scouts advance diversity and pluralism in our Movement and in the communities in which we live.

Responsibility for the Movement and the Democratic Process

The ultimate responsibility for the Girl Scout Movement rests with its members. We govern by an efficient and effective democratic process that demonstrates our leadership in a fast-changing world.

Girl/Adult Partnership

Adults partner with girls to guide and inspire growth and achievement. Volunteers are essential to the strength and capacity of our Movement.

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)

We are active partners in a world-wide sisterhood through our affiliation with WAGGGS. We work with WAGGGS to address the needs of girls and to build a network of global citizens.

Community Partners

We take an active leadership role and are collaborative partners in the community.

Voice

We are a premier voice for girls and an expert on their growth and development.

Paragraph 1

MOVED by Haley Vecchiarelli, delegate from Girl Scouts - Arizona Cactus-Pine Council, Inc. (Phoenix, Ariz.), and seconded,
To amend by striking the words “united by a belief in God.”

Diana Smith, delegate from Girl Scouts, Hornets’ Nest Council (Charlotte, N.C.), raised a point of order that the amendment (to strike the words “united by a belief in God) was not in order because it changed the intent of the proposal. The Chair allowed the assembly to decide the point of order. Under order for the previous question, the point of order was voted on. The assembly determined that the amendment to strike the words “united by a belief in God” was not in order and would not be considered as it changed the intent of the motion.

Votes cast: 1675

Votes Yes: 646

Votes No: 1029

MOVED by Maggie Murray, delegate from Girl Scouts, Patriots’ Trail Council, Inc. (Boston, Mass.), and seconded,

To strike the words “a belief in God” and insert the words “a belief in a spiritual force.”

MOVED by Katie Manyen, delegate from Girl Scouts of Mitten Bay, (Saginaw, Mich.), and seconded,
To limit debate to 60 minutes (on Proposal 3, the pending amendment, and main motion).

The motion to limit debate on the pending motions lost (as it failed to get required 2/3 vote).

Votes cast: 1,676 Votes Yes: 1,097 Votes No: 579

Under order for the previous question, the vote on amendment to strike “a belief in God” and insert “a belief in a spiritual force” lost.

Votes cast: 1,662 Votes Yes: 381 Votes No: 1,281

MOVED by Veronica Shaw, delegate from Girl Scouts - Heart of Florida Council (Lakeland Fla.), and seconded,
To amend by striking the first paragraph, and inserting the following:

“We, the members of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, united by a belief in the Girl Scout Promise and Law.”

A point of order was raised by Carolyn Wlodarczyk, delegate Girl Scouts, Connecticut Trails Council, Inc., (North Haven, Conn.) on the amendment and whether (like the earlier amendment) it was in order. The Chair ruled that the amendment seemed in the spirit of debate and so was allowed.

Under order for the previous question, the amendment lost.

Votes cast: 1,614 Votes: Yes: 622 Votes No: 992

[Under order for the previous question, debate on and amendment of Paragraph 1 stopped.]

[Under order for the previous question, debate on and amendment of Paragraph 2 stopped.]

Paragraph 3 (mission)

MOVED by Elysia DiCamillo, delegate from Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital (Washington, D.C.), and seconded,
To substitute for the proposed mission statement the following:

“To inspire girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service that they may become happy and resourceful citizens.”

MOVED by Jennifer Galantowicz, delegate from Girl Scout Council of Greater St. Louis (St Louis, MO),

To refer the question to a newly-formed committee comprised of 2 representatives from each council--1 girl and 1 adult. These appointed representatives should be current national delegates. This committee is to correspond and share the viewpoints gathered from their respective councils over the course of the next 90 to 120 days and report their findings and proposed modifications to the National Board by January 31, 2006.

The motion to refer was ruled out of order.

Under order for the previous question, the amendment to substitute lost.

Votes cast: 1,562 Votes Yes: 351 Votes No: 1,211

Nancy Gottlieb, delegate from Girl Scouts, Patriots' Trail Council, Inc. (Boston, Mass.) raised a point of order, summarized as follows: Pursuant to *RONR 10th edition*, XIII, §45 (Voting Procedure), this assembly can choose to discuss a matter and take a vote without the vote constituting a final action by sending the vote to a committee of the whole or a quasi committee, to permit that committee to make a recommendation that the assembly can reject. She asked, “Should this have been offered to our girl delegates when they asked about having a vote taken only by girl delegates?”

The Chair indicated that the point of order was not well taken. To clarify this ruling, the Chair requested that Parliamentarian Ann Homer address the assembly. Ann Homer indicated the following: 1) straw votes are not permitted under the GSUSA Constitution and 2) the vote on any proposal has to be a vote of the entire assembly.

MOVED by Kelsey McGuire, delegate from Girl Scouts of Utah (Salt Lake City, Utah), and seconded,

To amend by striking the words “builds girls of” and inserting the words “inspires girls with.”

Under order for the previous question, the amendment lost.

Votes cast: 1,612 Votes Yes: 384 Votes No: 1,228

MOVED by Aileen O. Poehls, delegate from Angeles Girl Scout Council (Santa Monica, Calif.), and seconded,
To amend by striking the words “girls of” and inserting the words “in girls to.”

Under order for the previous question, the amendment lost.

Votes cast: 1,629 Votes yes: 693 Votes No: 936

MOVED by Nancy Stone, delegate from Girl Scouts – Columbia River Council (Lake Oswego, Ore.), and seconded,
To amend by striking the words “girls of courage, confidence, and character” and insert the words “courage, confidence, and character in girls as they grow into young women.”

Under order for the previous question, the amendment lost.

Votes cast: 1609 Votes Yes: 184 Votes No: 1,425

Under order for the previous question on all pending questions, debate and amendment stopped.

Votes cast: 1663 Votes Yes: 1448 Votes No: 215

Under order for the previous question on all pending motions, a vote was taken on Proposal 3 in its entirety.

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, as required to amend the Constitution, **Proposal 3 was adopted.**

Votes cast: 1,690 Votes yes: 1,451 Votes No: 239

PROPOSAL 4: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE III

MOVED by Patricia Turner, member of the National Board of Directors,
To amend Article III of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA (“The Girl Scout Program”) by substitution as follows:

Grounded in the Girl Scout Promise and Law, Girl Scouting is a nonformal, experiential, and cooperative education program that promotes girls’ personal growth and leadership development. Partnering with caring adults, girls design fun and challenging activities that empower them and raise their voices within a local, national, and global sisterhood.

MOVED by Gertrude “Trudy” Rudert, delegate from Girl Scout Council of Northwest Georgia (Atlanta, Ga.), and seconded,
To limit debate on Proposal 4 to 30 minutes.

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, **the motion to limit debate to 30 minutes was adopted.**

Votes cast: 1,669 Votes Yes: 1,513 Votes No: 156

MOVED by Lindsay Waytashek, delegate from Land of Lakes Girl Scout Council, (Waite Park, Minn.), and seconded,
To amend by striking the word “sisterhood” and inserting the word “organization” in its place.

Under order for the previous question, the motion to amend lost.

Votes cast: 1,676 Votes Yes: 708 Votes No: 968

A point of order was raised on microphone sequence. The Chair ruled that the microphone sequence was appropriate as it was necessary to alternate between pro (in favor) and con (opposed) microphones. An appeal was moved and seconded.

A vote was taken on the appeal, and the decision of the Chair was sustained.

Votes cast: 1655 Votes Yes: 1497 Votes No: 158

Under order for the previous question, a vote was taken on Proposal 4.

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, as required to amend the Constitution, **Proposal 4 was adopted.**

Votes cast: 1,670 Votes Yes: 1,543 Votes No: 127

PROPOSAL 5: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE XII, SECTIONS 1 AND 2

Proposal 5, Part A

MOVED by Gloria Lara, member of the National Board of Directors, **THAT** Article XII, Section 1, of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA (“National Nominating Committee and Nominations”) be amended by striking the word “nine” and inserting the word “seven.”

Proviso: This amendment would take effect with the 2008-2011 triennium.

MOVED by Liesl Buechler, delegate from Girl Scout Council of Greater St. Louis (St. Louis, Mo.),
To reconsider the vote on Proposal 3.

The motion to reconsider the vote on Proposal 3 was ruled out of order by the presiding officer. The Chair noted that an affirmative vote on an amendment to the Constitution may not be reconsidered, as the amendment to the Constitution becomes effective immediately, and previous notice is then required to amend the Constitution.

Under order for the previous question, a vote was taken on Proposal 5, Part A.

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, as required to amend the Constitution, **Proposal 5, Part A was adopted.**

Votes cast: 1,660 Votes Yes: 1,332 Votes No: 328

Proposal 5, Part B

MOVED by Gloria Lara, member of the National Board of Directors,
To amend Article XII, Section 1, of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA by inserting the words “and the CEO of Girl Scouts of the USA who shall serve as an ex officio non voting member” following the words “seven members”;

Under order for the previous question, a vote was taken on Proposal 5, Part B.

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, as required to amend the Constitution, **Proposal 5, Part B was adopted.**

Votes cast: 1,653 Votes Yes: 1,266 Votes No: 387

**Upon adoption of Proposal 5, Part A, Constitution was amended immediately, thereby striking the word “nine” and inserting the word “seven.”*

Proposal 5, Part C

MOVED by Gloria Lara, member of the National Board of Directors,
THAT Article XII, Section 2 of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA (“National Nominating Committee and Nominations) be amended by striking the words “three members, but no more than four” and inserting the words “two members, but no more than three.”

There being a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, as required to amend the Constitution, **Proposal 5, Part C was adopted.**

Votes cast: 1,632 Votes Yes: 1,553 Votes No: 79

