

GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2014 NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION/53rd CONVENTION
October 17–19, 2014

Calvin L. Rampton Salt Palace Convention Center
Salt Lake City, Utah

MINUTES

MEETING 1, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2014

National President Connie L. Lindsey called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following special guests were introduced

- Gillian Clay, granddaughter of Lord Robert and Lady Olave Baden-Powell
- McGuire Gordon, great nephew of Juliette Gordon Low, representing the Gordon Family
- Nicola Grinstead, WAGGGS World Board Chair
- Connie Matsui, Past President of Girl Scouts of the USA (1999-2002)
- B. LaRae Orullian, Past President of Girl Scouts of the USA (1990-1996)
- Dr. Gloria Scott, Past President of Girl Scouts of the USA (1975-1978)
- Cynthia B. Thompson, Past President of Girl Scouts of the USA (2002-2005)

Second Vice President Susan Peters assumed the chair.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

National Council Credentials Chair John Hom, a member of the National Board of Directors, reported that 1,195 members of the National Council were registered and eligible to vote as of 8:00 a.m., October 17, 2014.

MOVED by John Hom, 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.

STANDING RULES

National Secretary Debra Nakatomi was introduced. She presented the corrected Standing Rules for the National Council Session.

MOVED by Debra Nakatomi, National Secretary, and seconded,

That the Standing Rules for the National Council Session be adopted as corrected.

Votes in favor: 1,122

Votes opposed: 9

There were at least two-thirds in the affirmative, and the Standing Rules were adopted as corrected.

Note: The Standing Rules as adopted will be attached as an addendum to the official minutes.

PROGRAM

MOVED by Debra Nakatomi, National Secretary, and seconded THAT the Program of the Girl Scout National Council Session/53rd Convention be adopted as presented, with the presiding officer empowered to make changes as necessary.

Votes in favor: 1,145

Votes opposed: 21

There was a majority in the affirmative, and the Program was adopted as presented.

Note: The Program as adopted will be attached as an addendum to the official minutes.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Background

The 2011-2014 *Stewardship Report* was distributed to members of the National Council in advance of the Session. National President Connie L. Lindsey and CEO Anna Maria Chávez highlighted triennial accomplishments, set within the context of the transformation accomplished over the past decade, when Girl Scouts set out on a roadmap to become a stronger, more agile, and unified Movement. This included realignment into 112 high-capacity councils, roll-out of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, and redesign of new girl and volunteer pathways. Highlights of the report were:

Presidential Medal of Freedom for Juliette Low

- A singular moment this triennium was when President Barack Obama honored the founder of our Movement, Juliette Gordon Low, with the Presidential Medal of Freedom on May 29, 2012.

Customer Focus Forward

- In October of 2013, we launched a more customer-centric GSUSA. The deep structural redesign of GSUSA, known as Customer Focus Forward, allowed us to

co-create and collaborate with our council partners to better serve our customers to better serve girls.

Movement-wide IT strategy

- To develop the vision for our infrastructure, GSUSA created a steering committee of council CEOs and leaders in the IT field to develop our first Movement-wide IT strategy.
- A Chief Information Officer was hired.

K-5 Customer Engagement Initiative

- Girl Scouts focused on where we have the most potential for growth, which is Kindergarten through Fifth Grade (K-5), and the adults who serve those girls.
- A Volunteer System and Volunteer Toolkit were developed to speed recruitment and support of our volunteer base.

Digital Cookie Initiative

- A digital platform for the cookie program is in the works, with the potential to energize and modernize our cookie program and thrust it to new heights in reach, scale, and impact for girls.
- This year, we partnered with two demonstration councils to pilot key Digital Cookie components. Girls at these councils set goals, identified customers, created Web sites, captured customer orders face-to-face using a digital app, fulfilled orders, and tracked progress.

Brand

- In 2013, we launched a national recruitment campaign know by the tag line "I Can't Wait To."

ToGetHerThere

The ToGetHerThere campaign will help us remain competitive and invest in generations of girls to come. Councils can customize the message and market for local constituents. The message has resonated, and \$430 million has been raised towards the \$1 Billion goal.

2015-2018 Core Business Strategy

The Core Business Strategy will focus on:

- Identity, core purpose, and delivery system – delivering outcomes and the best leadership experience for girls.
- Network Alignment – working together with one voice, and acting as one movement for girls.
- Financial Model – financial sustainability.
- Volunteer experience – making the experience better.
- Knowledge Management – harnessing our power as one movement for girls.

Treasurer's Report – Joan Wagon

Operating revenue and expenses were shared for Fiscal Year 2012 to Fiscal Year 2014, with Fiscal Year 2011 results included for comparative purposes. The organization is in sound financial condition.

- A surplus of \$5.4 million is projected for FY2014. The increase in membership revenue is a result of a membership dues increase to \$15 effective October 1, 2013. This increase was partially offset by a decline in the total number of girl and adult members. The main driver of the surplus is controlling expenses, in particular, staging of hires.
- Revenues totaled \$234.2 million this triennium, with membership dues representing 48 percent of the revenue stream. Girl Scout Merchandise operations represented 28 percent of revenues.
- Contributed revenue for FY2014 totals \$9.7 million. Corporate and Foundation fundraising now represents more than 50 percent of GSUSA's contributed revenue.
- As financial statements for September 2014 have not been audited, the balance sheet as of August 31, 2014, was cited for the following:
 - Net assets are projected to equal \$142.3 million at year-end
 - Since the beginning of the triennium, net assets have increased from \$110 million at the start of FY2012 to \$142 million, an increase of more than \$32 million.
 - Investments this year are \$142 million, compared to \$110 million at the start of the triennium, due to strong market performance.
 - Liabilities have remained at the same level since the beginning of the triennium. As of August 31, 2014, liabilities totaled \$56.2 million, compared to \$60.7 million at the beginning of the triennium.
- By year-end, GSUSA projects the capital fund will be slightly higher than the one-year goal of \$58.4 million.

Pension Update

- Significant progress was made to reduce the pension burden on councils. This included IRS/Legislative relief, which reduced the required funding for calendar years 2014 to 2016 from a projected \$145 million to \$103.5 million in contributions to the plan.
- As a proactive measure to reduce future PBGC premiums, GSUSA plans to offer a lump sum buyout to certain terminated vested employees covered under the National Girl Scout Council Retirement Plan.
- Due to a change in the discount rate methodology, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) premium for 2014 was reduced from \$4.5 million to \$3.9 million. In addition, GSUSA financial assistance of \$1.1 million for the fourth quarter of 2014 was accelerated and paid to each council at the beginning of the third quarter. These steps reduced costs and improved the funding ratio.
- From 2011 to 2014, GSUSA provided \$15.7 million in assistance to councils to offset their pension expenses. The National Board of Directors approved the

FY2015 budget in September 2014, which included an additional \$1.0 million in GSUSA assistance to councils, bringing the total to \$16.7 million.

WAGGGS World Conference and International Updates

Emily Rodriguez, and Noorain Khan, members of the GSUSA delegation who attended the WAGGGS World Conference, shared highlights of their experience in attending the conference which was held July 6 – 10, 2014, in Hong Kong.

National Board member and GSUSA International Commissioner Sharon Matthews spoke about the importance of Global experiences in our Movement.

- Each year, World Thinking Day is celebrated on February 22, offering Girl Scouts nationally an opportunity to connect with their sister Girl Guides around the world.
- USA Girl Scouts Overseas (USAGSO) serves girls in 92 countries whose parents are working overseas.
- A Girls World Forum sponsored by GSUSA and held in Chicago on July 12-16, 2012, brought together over 300 girls from 89 countries to discuss global issues, bridge cultural barriers, increase understanding, and create action plans.
- We have an opportunity to use our commitment to global and cross-cultural understanding to enrich the experiences of our current membership, and bring Girl Scouting to the many new girls and families coming to the US each year. As our country becomes more multicultural, our work in the global sphere can be the stepping stone for current and new members to engage with one another.
- By harnessing programs and events such as Destinations, the Girls World Forum, and World Thinking Day, we create learning opportunities for girls. The Global Action Volunteers program and the Global leadership opportunities pool for young women create similar opportunities for adults. These offerings and programs build a knowledge and understanding that empowers our both girl and adult members to truly become global citizens.

WAGGGS Leadership Address

Nicola Grinstead, WAGGGS Board Chair, provided a global update. Highlights are as follows:

- At the WAGGGS world conference, Myanmar was welcomed to associate membership, increasing WAGGGS representation to a total of 146 member organizations.
- In 2013, WAGGGS launched Free Being Me – a resource targeted at building body confidence in girls. Created with the non-formal education expertise of WAGGGS and the academic, research, and marketing expertise of the Global Dove Self Esteem Project, the resource is now being used in 70 different countries and has just been translated into its thirteenth language. The project will directly reach 3.5 million girls by 2016.
- Last week on the International Day of the Girl, WAGGGS announced that in partnership with UN Women and Zonta International, we are scaling up the roll out of our voices against violence program. This non-formal education curriculum, the first of its kind globally, helps girls to learn how to recognize different forms of gender

- based violence, learn to protect themselves, and speak out to challenge violence against girls. This is projected to reach 800,000 young people in the next two years.
- WAGGGS 10 million members represent only 1% of the world's girl population. In a WAGGGS survey carried out in 70 countries, 45% of respondents said they think girls are held back from taking leadership positions because they are not confident in the way they look. Unfortunately, more women aged 15-44 are at risk from domestic violence than from cancer, motor accidents, war, and malaria. Many girls remain unable to access education, clean water, health care, and a job.
 - WAGGGS 146 Member Organizations are connected together by a shared vision, an understanding, a commitment to, and belief in, the power of a growing global Movement focused on girls. "Together we can change our world" is WAGGGS awareness-raising program that encourages girls, young women and members of all ages to make a personal commitment to change the world around them and is directly linked to the UN's Millennium Development Goals.

In closing, Ms. Grinstead thanked the highly skilled, dedicated, and inspirational volunteers who enjoy the fun, friendship, and challenge of the movement and who are in turn an inspiration to the next generation of girls and young leaders.

Q&A ON PROPOSAL 1, FLEXIBILITY OF DUES AND REGISTRATION PRACTICES

A question and answer session was held on Proposal 1.

PROPOSAL 1, FLEXIBILITY OF DUES AND REGISTRATION PRACTICES

MOVED by Violet Apple, CEO of Central Maryland, and member of the Task Group to Study National Dues Structure and Registration Practices, and subsequently amended,

To amend the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA Article IX, Membership Dues to read as follows:

Article IX, Membership Dues

Every person accepting the principles of the Girl Scout Movement and desiring to be a member of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States of America shall pay annual, lifetime, or other applicable membership dues to Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

Votes for the motion: 1077

Votes against the motion: 61

There being at least two-thirds in the affirmative, Proposal 1, Part A was adopted as amended.

Proposal 1, Part B

MOVED by Violet Apple,

To amend the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA, Article V, Section 5, Sessions of the National Council to read as follows:

5. Each member present in person at the National Council shall be entitled to one (1) vote. Decision on membership dues shall require a majority of votes cast. All matters shall be determined by a majority vote of the members present and voting, unless otherwise provided by this Constitution.

Votes for the motion: 1109
Votes against the motion: 48

There being at least two-thirds in the affirmative, Proposal 1 Part B was adopted.

Proposal 1, Part C

MOVED by Violet Apple,

To amend the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA Article VIII, Section 4, Credentials, and subsequently amended to read as follows:

Article VIII, Section 4, Credentials

4. Charters and other credentials shall be issued for no more than six years. Certificates of membership shall be issued for annual, lifetime, or other applicable periods. All the credentials shall bear the name of Juliette Low.

Votes for the motion: 1,122
Votes against the motion: 41

There being at least two-thirds in the affirmative, Proposal 1, Part C was adopted as amended.

Treasurer Joan Wagon assumed the chair.

DISCUSSION TOPIC PART 1: IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS IN THE GIRL SCOUT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Joan Wagon provided some background and polled the members on their "ideal" camping experience. She then introduced Leslie Weldon, Deputy Director of the National Forest Service.

Ms. Weldon addressed the benefits of the outdoors and why stewardship of the natural world is so crucial. She highlighted programs that are available to connect children and their families to the outdoors, including the Discover the Forest campaign, and the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, which provides employment for 15-24 year olds. It was noted that some Girl Scout councils, GSUSA, and the Forest Service are already working in partnership on some programs.

Morgan Barron, a Girl Scout Leadership Institute (GSLI) participant from Girl Scouts of Utah, reflected on the GSLI outdoor discussion on the importance of the outdoors for girls.

GSUSA CEO Anna Maria Chávez reported on what is currently planned for 2015, as highlighted below.

- A renewed focus on the outdoors is planned, while Girl Scouts continues to build technology infrastructure, bring the cookie sale into the 21st century, and create a fun, interactive, digital experience for girls while doing so.
- A multi-year outdoor strategy for the Movement will deliver the best experience to get more girls outdoors, more often, and in varied ways.
- There will be four new Outdoor Badges added to program in the fall of 2015, one each at the Brownie, Junior, Cadette, and Senior levels, developed within a "Girls' Choice" format. To allow girls to take the lead on deciding what new badges will be created, GSUSA will poll them to find out what content area within the Outdoor category they are interested in, and then the specific badge topics they would like, based on their grade level in the coming year.
- Training volunteers and sharing expectations of getting outdoors is critical to getting more girls outdoors, more often. GSUSA will be adding outdoor components to the Volunteer Toolkit for next fall, and here at Convention we are showcasing Venture Out, an new online training tool for helping leaders think through a process of getting girls outdoors.
- We are committed to working in partnership with councils to review and revise Safety Activity Checkpoints to be ready for a fall 2015 release.
- Communication and Marketing has already begun to increase the presence of the outdoors in our brand messaging and just released a new camp/outdoor toolkit earlier this month.
- We will increase efforts to provide more support for outdoor program staff and volunteers. We are hosting a Kindred Group meeting at the American Camp Association Conference in February 2015. There will also be a Property/Outdoor Program conference in March 2015, and we'll be facilitating sharing sessions between councils so that best practices as well as pitfalls to avoid can be shared.
- Girl Scout Merchandise will have more outdoor themed and branded merchandise. The first version of this will be with our spring/summer supplement catalog.

Partnerships include:

- American Camp Association (ACA) – GSUSA is in negotiations with ACA to provide more professional development opportunities for our camp personnel.
- National Park Service – In 2015, we will be launching a new joint program encouraging the use of National Park properties.
- National Forest Service – As Leslie Weldon indicated, we will continue working together with the National Forest Service.

Outdoor Journey:

Over the next year, as part of our multi-year outdoor strategy work, Girl Scouts will be considering adding an Outdoor Journey, and other ways to get more girls outdoors more often and in varied ways.

Resource Team members were introduced:

- Krista Kokjohn-Poehler, Chief Girl Experience Officer
- Vicki Wright, Outdoor Initiative Lead
- Suzanne Harper, Chief Girl Experience Innovator
- Lisa Margosian, Chief Council Relationship Officer
- Sharon Baade, Team Lead: Property Strategy
- Susan Swanson, Chief Volunteer Officer
- Judy Schoenberg, Chief Research Executive
- Barry Horowitz, Chief Merchandise Officer

Members were invited to come to the microphone to comment or ask questions of the team. At conclusion of the discussion, moderator Joan Wagnon summarized key points made, and polled the members. Results revealed the following are considered key in planning our multi-year outdoor strategy:

- A progression of activities;
- Enhanced training for leaders; and
- Continuation of council-sponsored events on the outdoors.

The Outdoor conversation will continue on Saturday, October 18, in Meeting 2.

The meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

MEETING 2, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2014

National Board member and International Commissioner Sharon Matthews called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Members recited the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Credentials Chair John Hom presented an updated credentials report indicating 1,198 voting members of the National Council. The revised report was adopted by unanimous consent.

A Question and Answer session was held on Proposal 2, Reporting Relationship of the Chief Financial Officer.

PROPOSAL 2, REPORTING RELATIONSHIP OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Proposal 2, Part A

MOVED by Sylvia Acevedo, National Board member,

To amend the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA Article XI, Section 1, Officers, to read as follows:

1. The officers of the corporation shall be the President, who shall have the working title Chair of the National Board of Directors; the First and Second Vice Presidents, who shall have the working titles of Vice Chairs; the Secretary; the Treasurer; the Chief Executive Officer; and such other officers as the Bylaws may provide.

Votes for the motion: 1,133
Votes against the motion: 55

There being at least two-thirds in the affirmative, Proposal 2, Part A was adopted;

Proposal 2, Part B

MOVED by Sylvia Acevedo,

To amend the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA Article X, Section 2, The National Board, to read as follows:

2. The National Board of Directors shall consist of the President, the Vice Presidents, the Secretary, and the Treasurer; and 25 members-at-large. The Chair of the National Board Development Committee, if not already elected to the National Board, shall be ex officio a member of the National Board. The Chief Executive Officer shall be an ex officio member without vote. The National Board shall at all times be representative of the various geographical areas of the country.

Votes for the motion: 1,156
Votes against the motion: 27

There being at least two-thirds in the affirmative, Proposal 2, Part B was adopted.

Proposal 2, Part C

MOVED by Sylvia Acevedo,

To amend the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA, Article XI., Section 3, Officers, to read as follows:

3. The Chief Executive Officer shall be appointed by the National Board of Directors to hold office at its pleasure. Such other officers as the National Board of Directors may deem necessary may be elected or appointed by the National Board as provided in the Bylaws.

Votes for the motion: 1,140
Votes against the motion: 26

There being at least two-thirds in the affirmative, Proposal 2, Part C was adopted.

Proposal 2, Part D

MOVED by Sylvia Acevedo,

To amend the Bylaws of Girl Scouts of the USA by striking Article II, Section G, Officers, in its entirety.

Votes for the motion: 1,124
Votes against the motion: 62

There being a majority in the affirmative, Proposal 2, Part D was adopted.

Treasurer Joan Wagnon assumed the chair.

A Question and Answer session was held on Proposal 3, Role of the Past Presidents.

PROPOSAL 3, ROLE OF THE PAST PRESIDENTS

MOVED by Wonya Lucas, National Board member,

To amend the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA Article XI, Section 5, Officers, to read as follows:

- 5. In recognition of distinguished service, all Past Presidents of Girl Scouts of the United States of America shall be honorary officers and members of the National Council with full voting rights.**

Votes for the motion: 911
Votes against the motion: 270

There being at least two-thirds in the affirmative, Proposal 3 was adopted.

National Board member Barbara Krumsiek assumed the chair.

NOMINATIONS – Patricia Romines,

Patricia Romines, Chair, National Board Development Committee, presented the report of the National Board Development Committee.

Nominated for the three year term of 2014-2017 were the following:

Officers

President:	Kathy Hopinkah Hannan
First Vice President:	Sharon Hoskin Matthews
Second Vice President:	Wonya Lucas
Secretary:	Sylvia Acevedo
Treasurer:	Charles D. (Chuck) McLane Jr.

Members-at-Large of the National Board of Directors

Priscilla Almodovar
Jenny Alonzo
Judith N. Batty
Jeanne Kwong Bickford
Cathy Coughlin
Brenda Freeman
Lynn M. Gangone
Dineen Garcia
Steven Gilliland
Jeanmarie C. Grisi
John Hom
Karen A. Maloney
Mina T. Nguyen
Debbie Nielson
Susan P. Peters
Norma Provencio Pichardo
Nancy A. Reardon
Sapreet Kaur Saluja
Julie Sygiel
Sharon Wibben
Katherine Worthen

Members-at-Large of the National Board of Directors and also members of the National Board Development Committee

Mónica Gil
Noorain Khan
Trooper Sanders
Carri Baker Wells

Non-Board members of the National Board Development Committee

Tiffany Dufu
Irene Hannan
J.D. Hokoyama

There were no nominations from the floor.

Election results

There being one nominee for each position, the following Officers; Members-at-Large of the National Board of Directors; and Members-at-Large of the National Board of Directors and members of the National Board Development Committee; and non-Board members of the National Board Development Committee were elected by acclamation.

Officers, 2014-2017

President:	Kathy Hopinkah Hannan
First Vice President:	Sharon Hoskin Matthews
Second Vice President:	Wonya Lucas
Secretary:	Sylvia Acevedo
Treasurer:	Charles D. (Chuck) McLane Jr.

Members-at-Large of the National Board of Directors, 2014-2017

Priscilla Almodovar
Jenny Alonzo
Judith N. Batty
Jeanne Kwong Bickford
Cathy Coughlin
Brenda Freeman
Lynn M. Gangone
Dineen Garcia
Steven Gilliland
Jeanmarie C. Grisi
John Hom
Karen A. Maloney
Mina T. Nguyen
Debbie Nielson
Susan P. Peters
Norma Provencio Pichardo
Nancy A. Reardon
Sapreet Kaur Saluja
Julie Sygiel
Sharon Wibben
Katherine Worthen

Members-at-Large of the National Board of Directors and also members of the National Board Development Committee, 2014-2017

Mónica Gil
Noorain Khan
Trooper Sanders
Carri Baker Wells

Non-Board members of the National Board Development Committee, 2014-2017

Tiffany Dufu
Irene Hannan
J.D. Hokoyama

Treasurer Joan Wagnon assumed the chair.

DISCUSSION TOPIC PART 2: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OUTDOORS IN THE GIRL SCOUT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Moderator Joan Wagnon introduced Krista Kokjohn-Poehler, Chief Girl Experience Officer, and Vicki Wright, Outdoor Initiative Lead. Discussion commenced with one representative from each council invited to come to the microphones to ask questions or make comments. Delegates also submitted suggestions in writing for a more comprehensive review.

In follow-up to the discussion, it was announced that:

- GSUSA will poll Girl Scout Ambassadors regarding their interest in an outdoors badge.
- An Outdoor Journey will be considered and additional input obtained before a decision is made.
- An optional session will be held following the close of this meeting to continue the conversation, with small groups formed to maximize participation.

In closing, members took a pledge to connect more girls to outdoor experiences.

National Board member Mónica Gil assumed the chair.

TRIBUTE TO CONNIE L. LINDSEY

Mónica Gil introduced a video tribute to Connie L. Lindsey, highlighting her nine years on the National Board, including six years as National President of Girl Scouts of the USA, October 2008 – October 2014.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

National President Connie Lindsey extended warm appreciation to the many volunteers who planned this convention in meticulous detail. She congratulated the newly-elected National Board, and incoming National President Kathy Hopinkah Hannan. She expressed deep thanks to her colleagues on the national board, the senior national staff team led by CEO Anna Maria Chávez, and her own "ground crew" including close personal friends and her husband John Blackburn.

Ms. Lindsey noted that she had found the essence of herself as a leader in service to others, and she had endeavored to lead with head, hand, and heart. She cited her

deep faith, which sustains her life, work, and commitment to our movement and our girls.

Three things her faith has taught her are:

- To face hard facts, which include pausing to reflect on what has been done and on what needs to be done to create a sustainable future for the movement;
- To be free to question, and to stand up for her own choices and values. The latter include diversity and inclusion;
- To be a fearless leader, and to serve each day with joy to live out our Girl Scout mission, and encourage the promise that lives in our girl members.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

MEETING 3, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2014

National President Connie L. Lindsey called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT

Credentials Chair John Hom reported that there were 1,197 eligible voting members.

By unanimous consent, the final credentials report was adopted indicating 1,197 eligible voting members.

John Hom provided the following registration information:

Racial/ethnic breakdown of voting members:

American Indian/Alaskan Native: 8
Black or African American: 120
Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 5
White: 902
Two or more categories: 24
Spanish/Latina voting members: 73

Girl Scout Councils represented at the National Council Session: 112

Girl members, ages 14-17, attending as voting delegates: 258

50 female voting members for every male voting member.

Total in attendance (all categories): 6,500

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Debbie Sterling, Founder and CEO of GoldieBlox, shared her success story as an entrepreneur, and underscored the importance of STEM opportunities for girls.

INSTALLATION OF THE NATIONAL BOARD AND NATIONAL BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Newly-elected members of the National Board and National Board Development Committee were installed by the Connie Lindsey and the Past Presidents present for the National Council Session.

Kathy Hopinkah Hannan assumed the chair.

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Newly-elected National President Kathy Hopinkah Hannan, the Movement's first Native American to hold Girl Scouts' highest office, opened her address by honoring the past and celebrating the future. After recognition of Connie Lindsey's six years of service as National President, she extended appreciation to her colleagues on the National Board, Anna Maria Chávez, and the executive leadership team for their support. Also thanked for their important role were all the volunteers, staff members, and girl members in attendance. "Ours is a very special mission—transmitting the values, principles, and ideals of a 102 year old Movement to today's girls."

Ms. Hannan recollected the pride she felt in growing up as a Girl Scout member in Chicago, and the confidence she gained from this experience. This foundation of values and service has extended to all aspects of her life and career, and she has focused on building a diverse pipeline of opportunities, and being an advocate, for women and girls.

The importance of partnership and collaboration to create a stronger, more unified movement was underscored as we face challenges and growing competition for the time and attention of girls and parents. We must be bold and innovative in our approach. The National Board is committed to continuing the legacy and will be connecting with the membership in the field, and working to further our shared purpose, and support of the ToGetHerThere \$1 Billion campaign.

Speaking directly to the girl members, Ms. Hannan underscored that their voices truly matter, and each can change the world. She urged them to use tools such as social media to communicate the vital importance of Girl Scouts to their peers and the public, beginning with the first official Girl Scout convention "selfie" taken with all the girls gathered at the front of the stage. In closing, she remarked "Tomorrow will soon be yesterday, so let's embrace the future and create amazing opportunities for our girls, tomorrow's leaders. Be brave, be bold, and lead."

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO GIRL SCOUTS OF UTAH

The following resolution, adopted by the National Board at its September 2014 meeting, was presented:

Whereas, The Girl Scouts of Utah are graciously serving as host council for the 2014 National Council Session/53rd convention of Girl Scouts of the USA, having worked in partnership with the national organization with dedication and diligence to ensure the success of this triennial national meeting, uniting Girl Scouts in a celebration of our global Movement around the theme of “Discover, Connect, Take Action: Girls Change the World”;

Whereas, Thousands of girls, adult volunteers, and council staff are on hand to carry out vital roles to advance the Movement, reunite alumnae, and champion Girl Scouting for a new century; and

Whereas, The Girl Scouts of Utah, in partnership with the national organization, are supporting events that include a history conference, various learning events— including many conducted by Girl Scout University, theme dinners, and the Girl Scout Leadership Institute, engaging hundreds of girls from councils nationwide; therefore be it

Resolved, That the National Board of Directors of Girl Scouts of the USA extends its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Girl Scouts of Utah and to the Council Action Team, for generous contributions of time, energy, and talent in support of the 2014 National Council Session/53rd convention.

TIME AND PLACE OF 2017 NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION

The 2017 National Council Session/54th convention will be held in Columbus, Ohio, October 12-15, 2017. Tammi Wharton, CEO of Girl Scouts of Ohio’s Heartland and Joe Bocherer, vice president of Experience Columbus, highlighted attractions of the next host city.

CONVERSATION OF CONSEQUENCE: REAL GIRLS CHANGE THE WORLD

Moderator Regan Sims, a Girl Scout Alumna and Gold Award Recipient, introduced the panelists:

- Marita Cheng, Founder, Robogals Global
- Jeanesha Bou, Girl Scout Gold Award Recipient
- Thelina Smith, Former Miss Black Utah USA, STEM advocate

Ms. Sims posed a series of questions on topics that included insights on their respective accomplishments, how challenges were overcome, and what each has learned about herself in working towards her goals.

GIRL SCOUT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE REPORT

Mary Fomby from the Girl Scouts of Utah, Justice Williams from Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pines Council, and Xori Spear from Silver Sage Girl Scout Council reported on the Girl Scout Leadership Institute, a triennial conference for girls aged fourteen and older.

Twenty-three young women representing five Girl Scout councils served on the planning team for the three-day event of leadership skill building. This year the GSLI focused on seven specific issues, from which the participants planned their own action projects:

- Basic Needs
- Education
- Gender Equality
- Healthy Relationships
- Inclusion and Diversity
- Self Image
- Teen Violence

Keynote speakers included the following:

- Cathy Coughlin, National Board member, and Senior Executive Vice President/ Global Marketing Officer for AT&T
- Dr. Tererai Trent, Global Humanitarian, and founder of Tingona
- Leslie Weldon, Deputy Chief USDA Forest Service.
- Elizabeth Smart, Author and founder of the Elizabeth Smart Foundation

The young women celebrated a successful conclusion to the GSLI at the Salt Lake City Planetarium, where they had dinner, enjoyed interacting with the science exhibits, and viewed iMax shows before ending the night with a dance party at the Salt Palace. Quoting Dr. Trent in her closing remarks, Ms. Fomby observed, "Believe in us. We are a powerful force, and we will change the world."

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Anna Maria Chávez, CEO of Girl Scouts of the USA, opened with a rallying call to the girl members--"know that you matter.....you have the power to transform the world" so don't let anyone knock you off the path to your destiny. She then called on the adults for their help in bringing in more volunteers to ensure that the girls get the support they need.

Girl Scouts can offer a firm foundation for girls across all backgrounds, and help them rise above life's challenges. Mrs. Chavez shared a personal story of a twelve-year old girl who had touched her deeply with a passionate determination to get an education, although lacking resources as she was living out of a car with her family. There are many thousands of other such girls for whom Girl Scouting has much to offer. We can help them thrive and get back on track, and in doing so we strengthen the fabric of our country.

We must be united as "One Movement for Girls." All present at the convention were designated as the "leadership team" and asked to take on the important role of delivering on our promise to girls.

NATIONAL YOUNG WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

Each of the ten National Young Women of Distinction (YWOD) were introduced to speak about her respective award-winning project. They were:

- Varsha Sathappan
- Julia Bache
- Camille Borders
- Haley Hanson
- Monique Tinglin
- Catherine Riordan
- Page Young
- Morgan Serventi
- Laura Robert Rivera
- Anna Krauss (via Video)

Anna Maria Chávez then introduced Pamela Elms, Executive Director of Kappa Delta Sorority, and the Kappa Delta Foundation, a steadfast supporter of GSUSA's YWOD program, providing each recipient with a \$5,000 college scholarship.. Since partnership with Kappa Delta began in 1998, the organization has provided \$680,000 in funding and countless number of volunteers to mentor and guide girls through Girl Scouts' programs.

The YWOD were awarded their YWOD pins by Kathy Hopinkah Hannan and Anna Maria Chávez.

Adjournment

At 11:41 a.m., Kathy Hopinkah Hannan declared the National Council Session adjourned sine die.

Debra Nakatomi
National Secretary
Girl Scouts of the USA

Addenda: Standing Rules for the 2014 National Council Session, as adopted
Program for the 2014 National Council Session

