



Girl Scouts of the USA
420 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10018-2798

PROPOSAL FOR 2020 NATIONAL COUNCIL AGENDA

Name of Girl Scout Council

Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana

City

Chicago

State

IL

Write the following information exactly as the council wishes it to appear in the *Workbook* if accepted for the agenda.

TITLE OF PROPOSAL

Membership Dues Increase Restriction

STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL (in the form of a motion)

TO amend provisions in the Membership Dues and Procedures for Registration section of the *Blue Book of Basic Documents p. 25*, by inserting **bolded wording**, as follows:

In order to be a member of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States of America, a person must to GSUSA within register with and pay annual, lifetime or other applicable membership dues to Girl Scouts of the United States of America. This is done locally through the Girl Scout council of USA Girl Scouts Overseas committee with which she or he is affiliated or through national headquarters if she or he has no council affiliation. **The National Board of Directors must seek approval from the National Council whenever a membership dues increase totaling more than 15% of the current dues rate is to be initiated in any triennium period.** Girl Scout councils account for membership dues in the custodian fund and transmit to GSUSA within two months of receipt all monies received for membership dues. These funds are not to be invested by the council for the purpose of generating income for the council.

REASONS

The most recent membership dues increase in 2017 came in at a rate of 67%. This increase, while financially advantageous for the national organization, posed a severe hardship for the councils. Since it is the responsibility of each council to provide financial assistance for girls in underserved and economically disadvantaged communities, the obligation for the membership dues for these girls falls upon the local councils. The councils are extremely committed to ensuring that Girl Scouting is available to all girls, no matter what their economic status might be. However, such an enormous increase at one time makes it difficult for the councils to provide the necessary funds for financial assistance, and may force some councils to decrease the number of assisted memberships available. This proposal would increase collaboration between the National Board and councils in two ways: 1) Allow the National Board of Directors to continue to determine the amount for membership dues; and 2) Affirm that any increase would not prove to be too burdensome on the members, families, or councils.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Indicate the projected expenditures and impact on resources for councils and the national organization, for a five (5) year period.

Although there will always be some budgetary impact for the councils when the membership dues are increased, this proposal would insure a more manageable impact by allowing councils to set their financial assistance budget based on the assumption of a membership dues increase below 15%.

Kathy Scherer



Signature and Printed Name of chair, or secretary, council board of directors

February 8, 2019

Date of council board meeting

On or before August 31, 2019, email to: BoardOffice@girlscouts.org

Or mail form to: Office of the National Board of Directors, Girl Scouts of the USA, 420 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018-2798.

Submission Deadline: August 31, 2019

If additional space is needed, please attach a separate page.