

Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley

Delegate Bulletin

www.gsgv.org

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e-mail: board@rochester.rr.com

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What Does a Delegate Do?

Delegates are the Service Unit's link to the governing of the body. If the Board of Directors ("the Board") is the "Congress" of the council, then the Delegates are the "Lobbyists" who keep the general population informed and help requests make their way from the membership-at-large to the Board of Directors. A Delegate's term is 3 years; then (s)he should be replaced for at least one term.

Delegates attend Service Unit meetings, Fall and Spring Assemblies, the Annual Meeting, and other special meetings called by the Board of Directors. The membership-at-large who are over 14 years old are often invited to many of these meetings, but the Delegates have the voting privileges at the meetings. Delegates give reports from their Service Units to the Board and from the Board to their Service Units – the information from the reports is gathered at the meetings and from the Delegate Bulletin. Delegates are given the opportunity to raise governance issues to the Board's attention through the "Talk to Your Council" online and printed forms and the Open Forum at the semi-annual Assembly Meetings.

Delegates complete a two-part training; one part is the Homestudy, and the other part is the Homestudy Review class held just before the Fall Assembly Meeting. Delegates arrange for one of the Alternate Delegates to attend a meeting if they find they cannot attend.

Governance vs. Operations: What is the Difference?

Governance refers to the issues which deal with governing of the council. These are issues like the composition of the Board of Directors (e.g., how many Members-at-Large positions are on the board or electing the Board of Directors each year) or constitutional or bylaw changes for the council. The board also supports fund raising for the council. Governance is overseen by the President and the Board of Directors. Delegates deal directly with Governance.

Operations refers to the actual delivery of the Girl Scout program. Operations are overseen by the CEO who oversees the entire staff. Operations includes items like council programs and camp, Volunteer support, and the Leadership Development Model.

When Should Delegates be Named?

Delegates are officially elected by the Service Units in the Fall of each year. The Service Unit Manager then submits the roster of Delegates to the Program Center before the Annual Meeting. Delegates are then inducted as part of the Annual Meeting.

Considering the crunched timeline of the Fall season in GSGV (Fall recruitment, troops re-starting, Service Units re-starting, cookie sales, etc.), many Service Units identify or elect any incoming delegates in the Spring as one of the final items of the active Service Unit year. To keep the Democratic Process dynamic and proactive, it is important that multiple people in the Service Unit have the opportunity to become trained Delegates – this is one reason the 3-year term limit and appointing Alternate Delegates are vital.

If your Service Unit has Delegates that have served for more than 3 years or who wish to step down from the Delegate position, now is the time to begin identifying Delegates for next year. The Delegate Webpage (http://gsgv.homestead.com/Delegate_Page/Delegate_Page.html) has the formula used for calculating the number of Delegates that each Service Unit is entitled to.

Program/Service Delivery Sub-Committee

Primary Charge – Review and select a model for program and the delivery of services of the new Girl Scout council, recommending such to the CRC; develops the method for merging the service delivery systems and preparing systems for the future program operations of the new council; monitors the method for merging all service delivery operations of the new council, which could include membership, program, adult development, product sales and Girl Scout Shops. The committee shall be composed of no fewer than 6 members and not more than 12 members. This sub-committee is accountable to the CRC.

Member Qualifications – backgrounds in one or more of the following areas: GSUSA membership practices including recruitment & retention; program & leadership development; age & social development of girls; product sales; retail. **At least ½ of the members should be operational volunteers** and have experience in a variety of Girl Scout program delivery (i.e., troop/group, interest groups, individual girl members, out-of-school, in-school, community based, building based, funded initiatives) **and administrative volunteers** with experience in delivery of services to volunteers. The committee should represent the diversity of the jurisdiction.

Governance/Corporate Structure Sub-committee

Primary Charge – Research, review & select a governance structure for the new Girl Scout council; recommend such a structure to the CRC; develop the new bylaws; amend the articles of incorporation; agree on the method of combining jurisdictions to form the new council; oversee the preparation of appropriate legal documents. This sub-committee is accountable to the CRC. The committee shall be composed of between 6 and 12 members.

Member Qualifications – backgrounds in one or more of the following areas: not-for-profit governance, law, or not-for-profit or corporate mergers; possess an understanding of articles of incorporation, bylaws and the democratic process in Girl Scouting. The committee should represent the diversity of the jurisdiction.

Property Sub-Committee

Primary Charge – Review and assess all physical assets of the existing councils & provide recommendations for the new council to the CRC; develop the method for merging the current physical assets as properties of the new council; assess short-term & long-range maintenance and capital improvement needs for these assets; monitors the method for merging all physical assets of the council. This sub-committee is accountable to the CRC. The committee shall be composed of between 6 and 12 members.

Member Qualifications – backgrounds in one or more of the following areas: Real estate, appraisal, construction, park & recreational programming, engineering, public health/safety or natural resource management. At least two of the members should have experience in Girl Scout property management. The committee should represent the diversity of the jurisdiction.

Springboard...

Currently Asked Questions:

- Is there any timeline yet for our council as to when we will incorporate the Single Entry Process for volunteers?
- Is there a timeline from GSUSA as to when online orientation for volunteers will actually be available?
- When the new Leadership Development Model is put in place, will there be a “grandmothering” or transition period when girls in the middle of a level will be able to complete that level before moving on and girls working on the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards will be able to complete the award under the current guidelines without having to redo work?
- What will be the process for choosing a new council name, e.g., a contest or a sub-committee or will GSUSA just assign it?
- At least two of the four merging councils have “Council’s Own” earned recognition programs. Will those programs as well as regional patch programs remain available?
- Along the lines of a national training standard, could GSUSA be pressed to better organize the standards we have? *Safety-Wise* contains a lot of rules that are not really “safety” focused. Leaders have to wade through a lot of information sometimes to find something simple about fund-raising or donations.
- “Serial, Modular, Collectible” resources instead of bound badge books and handbooks translate to me as “overpriced items 1, 2, and 3 like with Studio 2B.” Could content please be put online for free to people with paid memberships (even if it means membership prices have to increase slightly) or available as a paid-for download from the shop or as a resource available to leaders with copying rights akin to those in educational resource books?

...from the Sample Council Realignment Timeline

Month 1

Adopt good faith resolution ~ Appoint members to the CRC ~ Select co-chairs ~ Conduct orientation for CRC and adopting guiding principles ~ Determine legal consul and make initial contact ~ Develop vision statement for new council ~ Circulate first communication from CRC to membership ~ Determine which sub-committees will be established & outline skill sets ~ Develop/adopt charges for the sub-committees ~ CRC member(s) chosen/identified to chair each sub-committee ~ Recruit members for sub-committees ~ Collect and share due diligence data ~ Establish frequency and dates of CRC meetings for an entire year (every other week to once a month) ~ Establish a CR budget

Month 2

Approve appointees to the sub-committees and establish initial meeting date(s) ~ Review charge with each sub-committee, provide necessary initial data, request a “plan of work” from each sub-committee after sharing dates when CRC wants “final” recommendations ~ Post or circulate communication messages for the membership on what’s the latest from the CRC ~ Sub-committees begin work and provide reports to the CRC

Month 3

Sub-committees continue due diligence work ~ Search committee convenes to determine search process for new CEO ~ Select new council name and send to Vicki Wright at GSUSA for approval