



**Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 29, 2025 5:00PM
Zoom Meeting**

PRESENT:

Voting Board Members:	Voting Board Members Absent:
Linda Manley, Chair	Trish Manning
Steven Bushong	Julia Deien
Elizabeth Shore	
Marianne Doll	
Gloria Sweida	
Kathryn Diak	
Michelle Yates	
Lesley Sanchez	
D-Lori Newsome-Pitts	
Norma Trimble	
Kevin Doak	
	Staff members:
	Loretta Graham, CEO
	Jessica Upchurch, COO
	Carrie Smith, CHRO
	Heidi Koehl-Weaver, Development Director
	Ashley Green-Bryant, Governance Coordinator
	Ron Buerges, FCFO, Archford
Non-Voting Board Members:	
Jackie Bushong – Girl Ex-Officio Member	

**Note any late arrivals or early departures here:*

1. Mission Moment – Jackie Bushong – Cookie Sales Pitch to Board

Jackie shared her cookie link for Board members to buy if interested, she also shared about her future trip and Gold Award Goals.

2. Approval of the Consent Agenda

- Board of Directors Minutes 11.13.2024
- Finance Partial Packet 1.22.2025
- Property Task Force Partial Packet 11.25.2024
- Bylaws Committee Partial Packet 11.18.2024

Motion: To Approve Consent Agenda Items.

Moved: Kathryn Diak

Seconded: D-Lori Newsome - Pitts

MOTION CARRIED

3. CEO Summary & Operations Update

Town Hall meeting was successful and well received, lots of cookie questions.

Loretta was a keynote for MLK day event in Marion, amazing event, lots of good contacts made.

Cookies - SAFB helped with our Cookie Mega Drop in Belleville, great partnership with base.

Cookie update – cookie booths will start this weekend, lots of cookie booths in all areas, some troops are almost sold out and will be needing to refill at cupboards. Troops are pleasantly pleased that cookies are selling well. Had to open up our cookie cupboard a week earlier than planned. Donation program going well also. At 50% of our council cookie goal.

Overall Membership – 94% GSUSA is trending down, so we are looking good. 105% of adult membership goal.

FD – funders are reevaluating grants and grantees, several grants we usually receive we are not receiving this year, some are inundated with applications.

United Way update – why are we \$17K short, it's nothing GSofSI has done, UW funding is down overall, all recipients only getting 90% of last year's allocations.

Death by Chocolate – Crawford Co Fundraiser – March 7, Civic Center in Robinson \$25 at door.

Cocktails at Camp – May 8th at Camp Torqua

Annual Meeting – April 27th at Doubletree in Mt. Vernon, Board Training 8:30AM, 11:30AM – AM, 2PM – Awards

4. Board Chair Summary

Please go out and visit cookie booths in your area, support our cookie program.

Make sure you get Annual Meeting/Board Training on your calendar, it's just a great day of collaboration. April 27, 2025

Board Giving – very important to funders and United Way – 11 of 13 board members have given already this year – thank you!

5. Finance Committee Updates

- **Finance Reports through December 2024**

A little behind on FD budget, still seeking grants to make up difference.

A bit down on Fall Product Sales.

Expenses are all in check, pointed out Salaries & Wages, DOL decision was overturned, Bottom line is still good with salaries and wages.

Happy with Line of credit, significantly better than last year.

Balance sheet is strong.

Cookie procedures are starting to come in.

Hoping to pay off LOC in the near future.

Council really knows their budget and analyzing it on a monthly basis.

Motion: To Approve Financial Reports Through 12/31/2024.

Moved: Gloria Sweida

Seconded: Norma Trimble

MOTION CARRIED

- **The Pines/Pumpkin Patch Beds/Mattresses**

Do not have bunk beds yet, last thing holding us up from opening the new cabins to be rented. Fund Development is working on an ask from funders for the bunk beds.

Pumpkin patch beds also need replaced, they are a fall hazard, breaking, bolted to wall.

Council would really like to start renting out "The Pines" before camp season starts.

Absolutely need the beds for Overnight Camp Season, have already factored the new cabins in Camp participation numbers. Council needs to just go ahead and purchase the beds.

Cocktails at Camp could be used to make pledges, "pay back" the Council for the purchase of the beds/mattresses.

Motion: Do you approve of the purchase of 54 beds (including mattresses, etc.) included in the quote for Camp Torqua of \$51,624 using the Property Improvement Funds, and any funds that are collected from pledges and funders for the bunk beds (including pledges at Cocktails at Camp) will be "paid back" to the Property Improvement Fund?

Moved: Coming Out of Committee.

Seconded: Marianne Doll

Opposed: Steve Bushong

MOTION CARRIED

6. Property Task Force – Steve Bushong

- **Property Updates**

- Camp Torqua Updates

Lots of great updates, shower house, benches, etc

- The Pines Pricing - \$50/cabin

4 new cabins + pavilion will be available this spring when the beds are installed.

- Camp Torqua Sub-Committee – Marianne

Committee & Board approved shorter camp reservations, 1 night, ½ day, 2-hour time slots, volunteers very happy with this change. Announced in newsletter & Town Hall, already using these time slots.

Everyone wants water at Camp Torqua, working with a Committee member that can get us some rough figures on what it would cost. Major cost would just be excavating the land & hauling the dirt away.

Interest in Outdoor Amphitheatre, this will be our next big discussion item at the committee level.

Camp Pricing will stay the same for 2025, look at a price increase or different funding structure for 2026.

Volunteers on this committee have been very helpful for their insight for camp.

7. Fund Development

- Updates
- Death by Chocolate more of a friend raising, not a strong ask event.
- LOTS of grant writing
- Cocktails at Camp planning & donor meetings have begun.
- Gala planning coming along
- Getting Loretta in front of donors for sponsorships for all Development events.

8. Girl Scout Experience Fund Committee

- **Updates –**

Continuing to approve applications, getting to a busy season for applications with summer camp and summer activities, Day Camps.

The committee's goal is to always say yes to applications, but it must fall under a pillar.

9. Governance

- **Updates**

We had a great response to our board survey — 11 out of 13 board members participated. The vast majority felt that onboard training for the board of directors' position met expectations (82% or 9 out of 11 respondents). Just over half of respondents felt that onboard training for committees were below expectations (55% or 6 out of 11 respondents).

We'll be communicating with committee chairs about the training needs and ideas identified from the survey. We are also creating a board mentor program to pair newer board members with more seasoned ones.

We are ready with a full slate for the annual meeting; Beth Flowers, Paul Gansauer, and Brooke Alf joining the Board.

10. Bylaws Committee Update

- **Bylaws Update for 2025 Annual Meeting**

Committee has met twice; draft bylaws are almost complete. They will be shared before the Annual Meeting.

11. Open Discussion

- **2025 Save the Date's**

- o Death by Chocolate – March 7th, Robinson, IL
- o Annual Meeting & Board Training – April 27, Mt. Vernon, IL
- o Cocktails at Camp – May 8th, Camp Torqua, Edwardsville, IL
- o Gala – September 5, Edwardsville, IL

12. Adjournment

Motion: To Adjourn the January 29, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting.

Moved: Gloria Sweida

Seconded: Steve Bushong

MOTION CARRIED