

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts

Slate of Nominees

GSCWM Board of Directors (2 year term, 2011-2013) – Voting Members

Joan L. Bertrand - Joan is the V.P of Human Resources at AdCare Hospital of Worcester, Inc. Joan actively served for five years on the board of Girls, Inc. and served as Secretary, VP and President. Joan currently serves on the board of Nature's Classroom and is a member of the Fallon Community Employers Advisory Board of Directors. In addition, Joan was awarded the Woman of Distinction award in 2004, received the Best Practices Award granted by New England Employee Benefits Council and was recognized by the Worcester Business Journal as a Health Care Hero in 2006. Joan holds an MBA degree in Personnel Management and PHR certification from Society of Human Resource Management. She was active in Girl Scouting as a girl and recently served on the Camp Green Eyrie 85th Anniversary committee.

Bonnie Dufault - Bonnie has over 30 years experience in human resources most recently as Director of Human Resources for a mid-sized professional services firm. During this time, she instituted many programs to advance women in the workforce including an award winning Women's Leadership group. Her earlier career was as an elementary classroom teacher. Bonnie has been very active in her community including receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award for her work with the Northborough Junior Women's Club and as Girl Scout leader for four years. Recently retired, Bonnie is thoroughly enjoying her time doing pro-bono career consulting for people in transition and playing with her two grandchildren.

Mathew Geffin - Mathew is Vice President of Business Development at Webber and Grinnell Insurance Agency, a Northampton-based Personal and Business Insurance Company. In this role, Mat is responsible for managing the direction of agency new business marketing, sales process and overall direct selling activities. Prior to this position, Mat worked for Ceridian Corporation in new business development, selling human resource services to companies with over 1,500 employees throughout the Northeast. Originally from Southampton, Mat now resides in Chicopee with his wife, Tamara, a first grade teacher in the Palmer Public school system. Mat holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Westfield State College.

Dr. Lindsey Grossman - Lindsey received both her bachelor's and medical degrees from Boston University and completed her pediatric residency at the University of Maryland. Following a fellowship at Johns Hopkins University, she held faculty positions at the Ohio State University, Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Maryland. She has achieved national recognition for her work in breastfeeding support and primary care utilization among high risk, economically deprived children and, more recently, with care coordination for children with chronic medical conditions. In 2008, Dr. Grossman joined the faculty of Baystate Children's Hospital as the Chair of Pediatrics and Professor of Pediatrics at Tufts University School of Medicine. At the age of seven, Dr. Grossman joined the Brownies and continued through Girl Scout Seniors while growing up in Pennsylvania. Both of her daughters were Girl Scouts. Girl Scouting was a very important influence on her life, having had a profound effect upon the development of her self-confidence as a woman.

Deb Leonczyk - Deborah serves as Northeast Center for Youth and Families' Chief Financial and Administrative Officer. Deb is a CPA, holds an MBA, and possesses over 27 years of non-profit accounting and executive management experience. Deb is a former Girl Scout Leader, former Chairperson of the Montague Finance Committee, served as a Finance Committee member and CCD teacher for Sacred Heart Parish and volunteers in numerous other capacities within the Western Mass community. Deb is a member of the Massachusetts and Connecticut Societies of Certified Public Accountants, sits on the MSCPA's Nonprofit Accounting and Auditing Committee and is the recipient of the MSCPA Certificate of Achievement Award.

Suzanne Parsons - Suzanne is the Vice President of Human Resources at Marlborough Hospital, responsible for its HR strategies and programs that advance their commitment to be Simply the Best. In addition to directing the HR function, Suzanne is also responsible for the Interpreter Services, Volunteer Services and Telecommunications functions. She is also the Co-Chair of the Community Benefits Advisory Committee. Suzanne was previously employed at the Dunkin' Donuts Distribution Centers where she was their Director of Human Resources. She not only started up their Human Resources function, she also consolidated the northeast and southeast distribution centers. Suzanne is an active volunteer with GSCWM. She resides in Grafton with her husband, Jeff, son, Robert, and two Girl Scout daughters, Nicole and Samantha.

Dr. Anne Perschel – Anne is a leadership psychologist and president of Germane Consulting. She has over twenty years experience in organization and leadership development. She has held senior management positions in two Fortune 100 companies, as well. Anne has a master's degree in Organization Development and a doctorate in Psychology. She has conducted research on women's leadership and works with multinational and mid-size firms to ensure the success and promotion of women in leadership roles. In addition, she is an executive coach to up and coming talent, senior managers and executives at a variety of companies across the U.S. and Canada. Dr. Perschel lives in the greater Worcester area with her husband, Robert, and son, Jordan.

Kirti Nagpal Ratan –Kirti has been a Pediatrician at Baystate's Mary Lane Hospital in Ware, Massachusetts for the last 5 years. She did her residency in New York at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. She has special interests in obesity control, smoking cessation and asthma management in children. She was awarded the Community Service Award by American Medical Associates in 2010. She has been recognized as one of America's top Pediatricians by Consumer's Research Council of America. Kirti is interested in working with Girl Scouts because she strongly believes in encouraging the girls to develop self esteem, confidence, and leadership qualities, and at the same time, have compassion for others. This will help them achieve success in their life and keep them away from peer pressure and other vices of modern society. Dr. Nagpal lives in Millbury with her husband and daughter.

GSCWM Board of Directors - Girl Members (2 year term 2011-2013)

Katharine Cooney - Katharine is a sophomore at Wachusett Regional High School in Holden. She's been a Girl Scout for 11 years and loves it! She earned her Girl Scout Silver Award last year by leading local Girl Scouts in a Memorial Day parade, after teaching them patriotic songs and making lyric books. She is currently beginning work on her Girl Scout Gold Award. Katharine also enjoys writing for her school newspaper and being a part of her local Venture Scout crew. She is very excited to be a girl board member and delegate.

Maricel Ferraro - Maricel has been a Girl Scout for 10 years. She lives in Wilbraham and is a freshman at Minnechaug Regional High School. A Girl Scout Senior, Maricel is a recipient of the Girl Scout Bronze and Silver Awards, and is now starting her Girl Scout Gold Award. She is a member of the newly organized Girl Leadership Board, which is a group of girls, of all age levels, who give feedback about what is going on in Girl Scouting. Maricel is also on a core group which plans an annual Christian Scout retreat each September.

Kira R. Higgins Simmons - Kira is a 14-year-old freshman at Claremont Academy in Worcester. She lives in Worcester with her mom and has been a Girl Scout for six years. She is an active member of group 35015, working with the younger girls as a mentor. She actively participates in community service by volunteering to work at fundraising events such as the Junior Diabetes Research Foundation Walk, Taking Steps Walk for the Rape Crisis Center of Central MA and First Night Worcester. She also does community service projects with Girl Scouts, such as the service unit blood drive, making Meals on Wheels cards each month, working a water table for the Walk for the Homeless (Central MA Housing Alliance) and participating in National Public Lands Day. Kira has been selected to do the Girl Scout flag ceremony twice and has performed the national anthem with her school at Worcester Sharks hockey games. Kira participates in many extracurricular activities, including programs at Clark University through her school, dance, robotics, and finally her school play and talent show. Kira's experience with Girl Scouts has taught her to be confident in herself, think about others and not to be afraid to have new adventures.

Hannah Schur - Hannah is currently a freshman at Westborough High School and is in her tenth year of Girl Scouting. She has been an avid member of Girl Scouts since she began as a Daisy. Hannah has become a mentor for many troops in her town with girls between the levels of Girl Scout Daisy and Girl Scout Junior. She is also very involved in her school community. She is a member of Best Buddies, Community Cooking, MADMAC (her school's substance free group), the cross-country team, and is a clarinet player in her school's symphonic band and marching band. Hannah has been a high honor roll student since middle school. She is also an active member of her church's youth group and altar serving team. Hannah is thoroughly looking forward to being a member of the GSCWM Board of Directors and a delegate to the National Council, and having the opportunity to voice her thoughts among other involved Girl Scouts.

GSCWM Board Development Committee (2 year term, 2011 – 2013)

Joan L. Bertrand - Joan is the V.P of Human Resources at AdCare Hospital of Worcester, Inc. Joan actively served for five years on the board of Girls, Inc. and served as Secretary, VP and President. Joan currently serves on the board of Nature's Classroom and is a member of the Fallon Community Employers Advisory Board of Directors. In addition, Joan was awarded the Woman of Distinction award in 2004, received the Best Practices Award granted by New England Employee Benefits Council and was recognized by the Worcester Business Journal as a Health Care Hero in 2006. Joan holds an MBA degree in Personnel Management and PHR certification from Society of Human Resource Management. She was active in Girl Scouting as a girl and recently served on the Camp Green Eyrie 85th Anniversary committee.

Bonnie Dufault - Bonnie has over 30 years experience in human resources most recently as Director of Human Resources for a mid-sized professional services firm. During this time, she instituted many programs to advance women in the workforce including an award winning Women's Leadership group. Her earlier career was as an elementary classroom teacher. Bonnie has been very active in her community including receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award for her work with the Northborough Junior Women's Club and as Girl Scout leader for four years. Recently retired, Bonnie is thoroughly enjoying her time doing pro-bono career consulting for people in transition and playing with her two grandchildren.

Julie R. Lackner - Julie is an estate planning attorney with the law firm of Bacon/Wilson, P.C. and works out of their Springfield, Amherst and Northampton offices. She was previously an associate at the Boston-based law firm of Ropes & Gray, LLP and also spent time at G.W. & Wade, an investment advisory firm in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Julie received her law degree from Boston College Law School and her A.B. in Economics from Princeton University. Julie is committed to the mission of Girl Scouting and is thrilled to have the opportunity to be a part of such a vibrant organization. A recent transplant to the area, Julie lives in Northampton with her husband, Matthew.

Carol J. Pederzani - Carol is the Executive Assistant to the President of Eastern States Exposition and lives in Springfield, MA. She served on numerous committees and held all Officer positions for the Women's Partnership (a division of the ACCGS) and became its President in 2000. She has also served on various committees for the Zonta International Club of Springfield and became its Vice President in 2005. Carol currently serves on the Board of the Exchange Club of Springfield and is its Treasurer. She is also a Director on the Board of Weston Center for Women in Holyoke. As a young girl, Carol was known for being the youngest "Brownie" ever (age 4) because her mother was a Leader and Carol accompanied her to all the meetings. Carol stayed in this capacity until she was old enough to become a Girl Scout. She has many fond memories of her involvement.

Delegates to the 2011 Girl Scout National Council Session

Andrea Aiello – Andrea is the Assistant Dean at the Graduate School of Management, Clark University. She has been an administrator at Clark for the past 8 years. In this role, she schedules courses for close to 500 undergraduate and graduate students, coordinates faculty coverage in accordance with accreditation standards, works closely with the Dean and other administrators on budgeting for the department, oversees the advising, registration, student accounts and student services functions for the department. In addition, she is a member of numerous department and University committees. Prior to coming to Clark, Andrea served as an administrator for several other area colleges. She has been working in higher education for over 20 years. She holds an MBA and an undergraduate degree in Public Administration. She is currently a co-advisor for the Sutton, MA Venture Crew and serves as a member of the Women's Initiative for the United Way.

Paulette Billiel - Polly has been a Girl Scout for 34 years and a Lifetime member since 1996. She retired as a staff member in 2007, after just under 19 ½ years of service and returned as a volunteer after the merger. From 1979-1988 Polly held various volunteer positions with her legacy council including troop leader, association chair, association product chair, trainer, and camp site volunteer with her husband Fred. She currently volunteers as a cookie cupboard and service unit product chair and is a council facilitator and serves on various committees. Polly is a volunteer Special Education Surrogate Parent and is active in her church. She resides in Turners Falls with her husband Fred, also a registered Girl Scout for over 30 years.

Susan C. Brackett – Sue is a civil engineer/environmental consultant retired after more than 25 years of public and private employment. A Girl Scout for 35 years, she has served as troop leader, consultant, service unit manager, board member and board committee member. She is also an avid gardener involved with Northborough Garden Club activities. Sue has two children, who were involved in both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, and has seven grandchildren, one of whom is a Girl Scout Brownie in Maine. Sue and husband Bill live in Northborough.

Patricia Breen - Patricia Breen is a Girl Scout Ambassador and is now in her twelfth year of Girl Scouting. She has always loved working with younger Girl Scouts and volunteers at day camp, in troops, and at events held by the council, such as the Cookie Kick Off, camp cookouts, training weekends, programs, and sleepovers. She loves volunteering and helps at events the Girl Scouts hold in her town, such as their Scouting For Food program, their Senior Citizen dinner, and helping at all town programs. Patricia earned the Program Aide pin and patch, Girl Scout Bronze and Silver Awards, and is now a candidate for the Girl Scout Gold Award. Patricia is a junior at North Middlesex Regional High School in Townsend. For the last two years, she has enjoyed being a part of her school's Relay For Life Committee, where she helps make their relay event a huge success as chair of the Publicity and Mission Education subcommittees, and sits on the Latin Club. She can't wait to serve our council as a National Delegate!

Katharine Cooney - Katharine is a sophomore at Wachusett Regional High School in Holden. She's been a Girl Scout for 11 years and loves it! She earned her Girl Scout Silver Award last year by leading local Girl Scouts in a Memorial Day parade, after teaching them patriotic songs and making lyric books. She is currently beginning work on her Girl Scout Gold Award. Katharine also enjoys writing for her school newspaper and being a part of her local Venture Scout crew. She is very excited to be a girl board member and delegate.

Pattie Hallberg - Pattie is the CEO of the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts. She came to Girl Scouts to lead the merger of three councils into one organization on January 1, 2008 with 20,000 members committed to developing girls' leadership potential throughout central and western Massachusetts. Pattie moved to Massachusetts from Northeast Ohio where she was the CEO of Invent Now Kids, Inc, a subsidiary of the National Inventors Hall of Fame. She created and led all of the educational programming and outreach initiatives for the Hall of Fame. The premier program of Invent Now Kids, Camp Invention, has grown from a local, outreach program in Akron, Ohio to a nationally recognized leader in inquiry-based, hands-on creative and inventive thinking programming. When she left the organization in 2007, camps were run in 48 states and the company had grown to a \$12 million a year business in just 11 years.

In 2005, Ms. Hallberg was selected as a finalist for the Athena awards for her "professional excellence, community service and for actively and generously assisting women in their attainment of professional excellence." Over the years, she has been a volunteer for Women's Network, the PTA, ETC School of Performing Arts, Denison University Admissions Office, and the Akron Food Bank. Pattie and her husband have four daughters and live in Wilbraham, MA.

Allison R. Lane, President - Allison is an officer at the law firm of Fletcher, Tilton & Whipple, P.C. where she specializes in real estate and commercial lending law. Allison is currently President of the Board of Directors for Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts. She served on the Nominating Committee of the Girl Scouts of Montachussets Council, as a member of the GSCWM Board of Directors, a member of the GSCWM Board Development Committee, Chair of the GSCWM Board Development Committee and a National Delegate for GSCWM in 2008. She received the Woman of Distinction award from Girl Scouts and she was named "Forty Under Forty" by the Worcester Business Journal. She is very active in the central Massachusetts community, including serving as judge for the Worcester Business Journal's Women in Business award for two years. She lives in Oxford with her husband and two sons, who are very active in Cub Scouts.

Hannah Schur - Hannah is currently a freshman at Westborough High School and is in her tenth year of Girl Scouting. She has been an avid member of Girl Scouts since she began as a Daisy. Hannah has become a mentor for many troops in her town with girls between the levels of Girl Scout Daisy and Girl Scout Junior. She is also very involved in her school community. She is a member of Best Buddies, Community Cooking, MADMAC (her school's substance free group), the cross-country team, and is a clarinet player in her school's symphonic band and marching band. Hannah has been a high honor roll student since middle school. She is also an active member of her church's youth group and altar serving team. Hannah is thoroughly looking forward to being a member of the GSCWM Board of Directors and a delegate to the National Council, and having the opportunity to voice her thoughts among other involved Girl Scouts.

Judith Ameen Wilchynski - Judy has a B.S. and M.S. in Physical Therapy from Boston University and Northeastern University respectively. She is a lifetime member of Girl Scouts. She has been active in Rhode Island and Massachusetts Girl Scouts for 47 years. As a professional volunteer, she works as a troop leader and service unit manager in Westborough. She is currently on the Service Delivery Redesign Committee and the 100th Anniversary committee for GSCWM. Other activities in her spare time include the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). She has served as her club president for 4 years, state federation chairman for fundraising and scholarships and co-chaired the GFWC New England Region conference in 2009. She received the Massachusetts 2008 Outstanding Parent Advocacy Award from the Massachusetts Arts Education Collaborative for her efforts in advocating arts education. She has been an active member and past president of the Westborough Music Parents Association since 1995. Her community involvement includes being a member of the Westborough Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for 14 years.