

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts
Annual Council Meeting
June 23, 2024

Call to Order

The annual meeting of the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) was called to order at 3:05 PM by Nicole Messier, Chair of the Board of Directors.

Opening Flag Ceremony

The opening flag ceremony was presented by Girl Scouts from across our jurisdiction who volunteered to participate in our ceremonies today.

Board Report – Nicole Messier

The past year brought about leadership changes with Nicole stepping into the role of President in January and Theresa Lynn beginning her role as CEO in February.

We are in the final year of a three-year strategic plan that includes fostering a more inclusive environment. The Board of Directors adopted a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion statement and furthered GSCWM's commitment by approving an Anti-racism Statement. Both are featured on our website.

Every three years the Board reviews GSCWM policies. This triennial review was completed and included board conduct, corporate resolutions, fund development, gift acceptance, personnel, human resources, and volunteer policies.

The Boston Women's Foundation awarded us a three-year grant of \$300,000; \$100,000 distributed each year. The grant will help us expand Girl Scouts in gateway cities across our jurisdiction.

In July, our five elected National Council Delegates participated in the 56th National Council Session in Orlando, FL. Heidi Gutekenst spoke of her experience, encouraged others to consider applying to be a delegate, and presented a short video of our delegates reflecting on the opportunity to represent our council and influence the national organization. Results of proposals voted on at the National Council Session were available on the tables.

CEO Report – Theresa Lynn

Unfortunately, Theresa was sick and unable to attend the meeting in-person. Fortunately, she prepared a video address where she expressed her appreciation for the warm welcome to GSCWM and the dedicated volunteers she has met and looks forward to working with in the coming years.

Membership in 2023 was strong with an increase in girl membership of nearly 4% and notably strong in Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts. Community based programming grew significantly, serving over 300 girls. We are running these programs at Clarke Street School in Worcester, Duggan Academy in Springfield, McKay School in Fitchburg, and the Valley Opportunity Council in Chicopee.

We increased the price this year to \$6/box and thanks to the creativity and tenacity of Girl Scouts and the dedication of volunteers, cookie program revenue exceeded the goal by 4.5%. While visiting cookie booth sales, Theresa saw, first-hand, how much girls are exercising their confidence, sales skills, and money management muscles.

Treasurer's Report – Sheryl Zarozny

Sheryl reported on the fiscal results of operations and announced that the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts is in good financial standing at the end of fiscal year 2023.

Total Revenues:	\$3.75 Million
Total Expenses:	\$4.23 Million (including depreciation expense of \$210,000)
Total Assets:	\$10.5 Million
Total Liabilities:	\$261,000
Net Assets:	\$10.24 Million

The audit firm of Stowe & Degon, LLC, provided a clean, unqualified opinion of the September 30, 2023 year-end financial statements. A copy of the audited financials is posted on our website.

Credentials Report – Ryan Matson, Secretary

GSCWM has a double quorum requirement for the transaction of business. A total of 82 voting members representing all five counties we serve were required for this meeting. A quorum with 113 members present and representing all five counties was established.

May 21, 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes – Nicole Messier, Chair of the Board

MOTION: to accept the May 21, 2023 Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts Annual Meeting Minutes as written. (Jean Popik/Donna Kokoszka). The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation of Slate – Ryan Matson, Board Development Committee

COMMITTEE MOTION: to adopt the slate of nominees, as presented, to fill at-large positions on the GSCWM Board of Directors, officer positions on the Board of Directors, girl members of the Board of Directors, and members of Board Development Committee. No additional nominations were received. The motion is made by the Board Development Committee and does not require a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Installation of Newly Elected and Recognition of Outgoing Board Members & Board Development Committee Members– Nicole Messier, President/Board Chair

Nicole led those newly elected in reciting an installation pledge. She thanked retiring board members who have completed their service.

MOTION: to adjourn the annual meeting. (Ann Marie Waller/Donna Kokoszka) The motion passed unanimously.