

**GIRL SCOUTS OF VIRGINIA SKYLINE COUNCIL, Inc.**  
**Minutes of the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, VA**  
**Saturday, January 25, 2020**

**OPENING: 10:08 AM**

Dr. Dawn Wiese, Chair of the Board of Directors of Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council, called the assembly to attention and welcomed everyone to the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council.

**HOUSEKEEPING DETAILS**

Dr. Wiese thanked Cathy Mays, director of hospitality, and Sweet Briar College for their hospitality and the pre-meeting breakfast. The membership added their thanks with a round of applause. Thanks were offered to troops in Lynchburg, Campbell County, Amherst, and Bedford for the table centerpieces. Troops included 40, 678, 1164, 1315, 295, 234, 1306, 440, 676, 3160 and 99. The troops were assisted by girl delegate, Helen Cohen and ranger, Marc Johnson. Favors were provided by the recognition committee.

**FLAG CEREMONY**

Presented by members of Troop 676 lead by Marion Stump of Lynchburg and Troop 1315 led by Tiffany Baxter from Amherst.

**BUSINESS MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Wiese called the 57<sup>th</sup> annual business meeting of the Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council to order at 10:20 am.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Dr. Wiese spoke on the 2020 Recognitions Program held Friday evening, January 24<sup>th</sup>, in the Boxwood room at Sweet Briar. The event had the largest attendance in recent years with over 110 people attending. The award recipients are wearing special corsages with ribbons identifying them as an Award Recipient this year. In addition, you will find more details about these incredible individuals in the Recognitions booklet found in the registration packet.

For our GSVSC Awards:

- Skyline Rising Star - Jayson Hudson
- Hidden Heroine/Hidden Hero Award - Maryann Russell
- Emergency Preparedness Award - Caitlin Powell
- Service to Volunteers - Jodi Brodtkin
- Service to Volunteers - Jennifer Burrell
- Service to Volunteers - Tim Ramsey
- Skyline Hall of Fame - Barbara Norris Duerk

And now for our GSUSA Awards:

Volunteer of Excellence - Aimee Bell

Volunteer of Excellence - Diane Benham  
Volunteer of Excellence - Donna Guill  
Volunteer of Excellence - Caroline Hecmanczuk  
Volunteer of Excellence - Janet Miller  
Thanks Badge – Jennifer Pfister  
Thanks Badge - Audrey Hawkins  
Thanks Badge - Diane Higgs

Recognition of the Adult Years of Service:

**20 years:** Debbie Clark  
**30 years:** Amy Swisher  
Betty Anderson  
Jinx Weary  
**35 years:** Andee Thomas

Recognition of milestone Membership years:

**20 years:** Amberleigh Powell  
**25 years:** Marla Swanson  
**30 years:** Tracy Castle  
**35 years:** Amy Hudson  
**40 years:** Cathy Natoli,  
Betty Anderson,  
Ellen McCarthy, and  
Jinx Weary  
**50 years:** Polly Greer  
**65 years:** Barbara Duerk  
Pat Lucas

Dr. Wiese introduced in attendance:

Former Council Presidents: Tricia McMahon 1982-86; Elaine Roy 1998–02; HelenRuth Burch 2012-18  
Front table: Anna Moncure, Parliamentarian; Nikki Williams, CEO; Diane Higgs, Secretary; K. Lanier, Technology; Meri Furst, Timer  
Current board members, officers and board development committee members  
Nominees for officers of the board, board of directors, board development committee  
Council Staff and particularly those filling special roles for the meeting

**APPOINTMENT OF MINUTES READERS**

Dr. Wiese advised the membership of the appointment of Susan Hodges and Nancy Copley to serve as readers of 2020 Annual Meeting minutes.

Dr. Wiese recognized Ms. Holli Drewry, Chair of the Membership Voice Committee, for the Credentials Report. Ms. Drewry thanked the check-in staff for their assistance.

**GSVSC CREDENTIALS REPORT FOR 2020 ANNUAL MEETING**

Written report supplied to Secretary following the report to the assembly.

- (1)   6   Board Members present of  15  eligible  
(2)   2   Board Development Committee present of  5  eligible who are not currently serving on

the board

(3) 3 National Council Delegates present of 3 eligible who are not currently serving on the board

(4) 38 GS Community Delegates present from 59 eligible

(5) 6 At-Large Group Council Delegates from 6 eligible

(6) \* 54 Total of Voting members present (TOTAL OF LINES 1-5) of 88 eligible (22 are needed)

*Note: Bylaws require 25% of voting members elected and eligible be present (25% of 88 = 22) as part of the quorum requirement*

(7) 15 GS Communities represented from 15 of 23 GS Communities eligible

(8) 3 At-Large Groups represented from 3 at large groups eligible

(9) \* 18 Total of GS Communities and At Large Groups represented (TOTAL OF LINES 7-8) of 26 eligible (14 are needed) *Note: Bylaws require a majority of the GS Communities and at-large groups who elect delegates to be present as part of the quorum requirement. Majority of 40 = 21*

*\*A quorum is met if both (6) and (9) have met the bylaws requirement for a quorum*

(10) 89 Total of non-voting members (guests, visitors) present

Dr. Wiese declared a quorum was present.

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTING MEMBERS**

Dr. Wiese identified the voting members' area and asked Tellers to verify that only voting members were seated at those tables. Dr. Wiese provided instructions to voting members and walked them through a practice vote with the green and yellow cards.

### **ADOPTION OF STANDING RULES**

Dr. Wiese recognized Ms. Higgs, Secretary of the Board.

**MOTION:** Ms. Higgs moved the adoption of the Standing Rules found on page 7 of the voting member workbook, page 4 of the program and on the screen in the front of the room.

Delegate Barbara Duerk moved to amend #2 of the Standing Rules to allow all council members to be able to participate in discussion while only members of the council with voting privileges may introduce motions and vote. The reasoning was that the GSUSA Preamble to the Constitution states that the ultimate responsibility for the GS movement is its membership. All members should be able voice their choice. Motion to amend was seconded by Elaine Roy. Discussion of motion followed. Clarification was requested on the duration of the amendment. Motion was made for only day of annual meeting. Questioned whether motion should include all meetings. Helen Ruth Burch cautioned against, expressing concern based on content of the meeting. Consensus of discussion was to amend meeting by meeting as needed.

Dr. Wiese called for a vote on the motion to amend. Motion passed. Dr. Wiese called for a vote on the Standing Rules as amended. Motion for adoption of the standing rules as amended was approved unanimously.

### **TIMEKEEPER**

For those segments where timing is needed according to the standing rules, time will be kept by the timekeeper, Ms. Furst.

### **ORDER OF THE DAY**

Dr. Wiese recognized Ms. Higgs, Secretary of the Board.

**MOTION:** Ms. Higgs moved that the Order of the Day as printed on page 6 of the workbook and page 3 of the program and on the screen be adopted.

Dr. Wiese noted a second was not required as the motion came from the Board of Directors.

- Motion for adoption of the Order of the Day as presented was approved unanimously.

## **ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REPORTS**

### **Finance Report**

Dr. Wiese advised the annual stewardship report will begin with the Treasurer's report followed by the Fund Development Report.

Libby Edwards-Allbaugh, nominee for Treasurer, presented the Financial information which was also available on page 9 of the workbook and page 14 of the Annual Report.

Key factors in determining the status of the Council's finances are Cash Balance, Cash from Operations, which should generate sufficient cash to cover our expenses and Operating Reserves, which tells us how many months of cash we have remaining to cover expenses at the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Edwards-Allbaugh stated at the fiscal year end the cash balance was \$1,109,254. Cash from Operations was \$207,949. Operating Reserves, targeted at six months of expenses, are another indicator of the improved financial health of the Council. In 2019, the Operating Reserves was 5.1 months. The improved position is based on increased membership, annual cookie sale success, and reduced expenses. She expressed her excitement at joining the Board.

### **Fund Development Report**

Dr. Wiese recognized Diane Higgs, member of the Fund Development Committee.

Ms. Higgs began by thanking everyone for donating their time or making a donation to advance the mission of Girl Scouting. The Council has had another very successful year in Fund Development. For the second year in a row, the council met and exceeded the goal, finishing the year by 7% ahead of budget. The Council welcomed new partners and sponsors including Bank of Botetourt, Member One, R.M. Johnson & Sons, Carter Machinery, Robert Dementi Photography and Sweet Briar College and re-engaged with AEP and Carilion Clinic. Virginia Skyline also secured new grants for STEM programs. Both general operating donations, restricted gifts and United Way contributions exceeded the budgeted amount. The events line item was the underachiever again this fiscal year, but first year events including the Green & Gold Gala and Women of Achievement were well received and well attended and will be continuing in fiscal year 2020. Donor support is a key component of the council's financial health and stability. The number of donors is down compared to last fiscal year, but the average gift increased 47% and most donors made more than one gift during the year. Staff continues to be committed to stewarding our donors and expanding our donor base. For the first time in several years VA Skyline had 100% staff and board giving. The Council offered a variety of other events, including beer and cookie pairings, "give back" events and restaurant donation nights. These events offered opportunities for visibility in our communities and engagement of non-Girl Scout supporters. The Annual Meeting Auction made a positive impact on the council's financial assistance program in 2019. Virginia Skyline held a Donor Appreciation event again this year. This year's event was held in conjunction with the Girl Scout Field Day at the Salem Red Sox field. And, while United Way funding continues shifting its focus to specific impact, the council retained all of its allocation support from the previous fiscal year and saw an increase in donor designations. United Way allocation funding is helping to support Girl Scouting in the cities of Martinsville, Radford, Roanoke, Waynesboro and Lynchburg and the counties of Wythe, Floyd and Montgomery. Ms. Higgs stated that our continued success has set the stage for additional growth

and achievement. The council has received a \$30,000 grant award from the Roanoke Women's Foundation for a Mobile STEM Center. This will allow the council to bring STEM experiences to girls across the council and supports GSUSA's commitment to add 2.5 million girls to the STEM pipeline by 2025. Grants from the Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia and Wells Fargo provided the council with chromebooks, Vidcode software and Lego robotics kits to get the ball rolling.

In 2020, the focus is on:

- Continuing to build and cultivate corporate partners.
- Stewarding our donors.
- Offering a variety of smaller-scale events, in addition to Women of Achievement and the Green & Gold Gala, to engage our communities and increase our visibility. We will add a new event; the Tough Cookie Challenge Race.
- Expanding our grant-writing efforts by increasing the number of asks. The Grants Specialist is committed to researching grant opportunities for the Girl Scout program pillars: STEM, Entrepreneurship, Life Skills and the Outdoors.
- Committed to advancing planned giving within the Council. Helen Ruth Burch, our planned giving champion, is going to add additional information on this initiative, the Juliette Gordon Low Society.

Questions from the floor on the Stewardship report were:

1. Janet Driscoll Miller asked for more information to be included in the reports on how we were meeting our national goals regarding membership numbers.
2. Also how are renewal numbers? How are we improving? Having better programs? Better delivery of programs?

Ms. Higgs recognized Ms. Helen Ruth Burch. Ms. Burch reminded the membership the on the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary the Girl Scout Councils and GSUSA decided to honor Juliette Gordon Low by creating a planned giving society. In Juliette's will was the bequest of her converted carriage house, the first Girl Scout national headquarters, to Girl Scouts. Her bequest was the beginning of planned giving to Girl Scouts. The Juliette Gordon Low Society recognizes those people who have made a gift to Girl Scouts in their will or other estate documents, leaving a financial legacy that will keep Girl Scouts strong after we are gone. Ms. Burch asked the members of the Juliette Gordon Low Society to stand as their names were read:

- Helen Ruth Burch
- Holli G. Drewry
- Kate Genaitis
- Diane Grant
- Gail Hassmer
- Donna Holdren
- Patricia McMahon
- Amberleigh Powell

- Kerri Smith, who passed away suddenly this year and is missed by all who knew her and worked with her during her years as a girl and an adult Girl Scout.
- Dawn and Larry Wiese
- Chris Wilson
- Nikki Williams

The membership is asked to stand for a moment of silence for Kerri Smith. Flowers were presented to all JGLS members in attendance.

Ms. Burch encourages all to join the Society. Informational brochures were included in attendees packets. Ms. Higgs thanked Ms. Burch and once again expressed her gratitude to our donors and volunteers. Dr. Wiese thanked Ms. Higgs and Ms. Burch for the report.

### **Operations and Governance Report**

Dr. Wiese stated she and Ms. Williams will take the membership through the highlights of the 2018-2019 year.

Ms. William shared that we have now been using CEI/Salesforce for a little over two and a half years and while we are still learning new and improved ways of work, CEI has highlighted places of real opportunity and growth. One of the most exciting benefits of CEI is the Volunteer Toolkit, or (VTK). The toolkit provides step-by-step instructions and guidelines on how to lead journeys and badges for the Daisy, Brownie, and Junior levels. For all levels, the VTK provides a way to communicate directly with troop parents and their volunteers. This fall there will be new and exciting features in the VTK including enhanced training, more detailed badge opportunities, and ways to communicate with other volunteers.

Of course, as with any significant changes in staff structure, tools, and other ways of work, CEI has not been without its challenges. While we know we still have a long way to go, CEI was a critical step for future growth and efficiencies. Ms. Williams thanked all for their grace, patience, and feedback as we continue down this path. A reminder we are at the mercy of GSUSA and the technology implementation team for these improvements, but we promise to keep you updated on the progress as we receive it.

Ms. Williams continued with an update on membership—

This year, Virginia Skyline’s membership over the last year totals 8,768 members. That means that 5,374 girls and 3,394 adults had the advantage of participating in Girl Scouts this year.

- Of those adults 769 are lifetime members with 32 being new lifetime members.
- 1,163 adult members are troop leaders

Ms. Williams referred to the power point presentation for the membership break down by program level with Brownies being the largest percentage of our members. This year we had 246 girls who had a Girl Scout troop experience through the community outreach program at sites in Lynchburg, Roanoke, Charlottesville, and Martinsville. That’s a 17% increase over last year. We are pleased that the MY19 numbers still show growth from our previous 10-year membership decline. We are focused on increasing recruitment in our Pre-K efforts and working to make improvement for our current members.

Service Units are growing. This year several Service units increased in membership. At this time, I would like to call Stacey Porter, Vice President of Mission Delivery, up while we recognize the three Service Units with the greatest percentage increase in membership.

- Buckingham SU: with 13 new members and a 35% increase over last year
- Appomattox SU: with 12 new members and a 100% increase over last year
- Craig SU: with 25 new members and a 2500% increase over last year. They went from 1 member to 26.

Providing training for volunteers and girls helps to provide quality troop program. We had an increase in the number of people receiving training this year. This year 1247 (627 last year) people participated in Online training sessions and 339 (202 last year) people participated in In-person training sessions. Topics include New Leader Orientation, GS 101-GS 105, Outdoor Education, Backpacker, Counselor-in-Training and Silver and Gold Award to name a few.

Ms. Williams reported the 2019 cookie sale was fantastic. 97% of our eligible troops and 3,886 girls participated in the cookie program. The girls in our council (with the help of their leaders and families) sold more than 744,000 boxes of cookies. 92 girls sold 1,000 or more boxes each; The top cookie achiever, Morgan C., a Cadette from Bedford, sold 2,493 boxes. As you heard in the Treasurers report the fantastic cookie sale and our ability to keep our expenses down ended our year on a positive note. Ms. Williams thanked everyone for making this year's sale a success.

Dr. Wiese began the discussion on programs. Program is what we all love—girls and adults alike. In the 2018-2019 year many activities happened in troops planned by girls and guided by leaders. Girls also participated in Girls & Ghouls, Daisy Fest, Mall Madness, Girl Scout Day at Massanutten Waterpark, Cookie College, and our 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Camp to name a few. During the summer almost 700 girls participated in summer camps. There were 15 summer camps with 230 adult volunteers and 118 CPSs/CITs (teen helpers) that served 697 girls in our council. Troops camped at Icimani Adventure Center, Camp Sacajawea and Camp Sugar Hollow as well as other outdoor camping areas in our council. The Adventurers hosted 23 trips and got 223 of our girls outdoors with 154 adult participants. These events included hiking, stand up paddle boarding, biking, horseback riding, kayaking, camping, learning about history. Multiple state parks were visited in multi-day trips. This year they are preparing for a trip to Our Chalet in Switzerland and a separate trip to Paris. Don't forget their annual Wild Women's Weekend this March 13-15th at our Camp Sacajawea.

Ms. Williams reported that the Highest Awards are an important part of the program. We have looked for as many opportunities as possible to highlight these awards, the incredible opportunities they can provide, and our wonderful girls who work hard for these awards. Booklets containing information on the girls who have achieved these awards this year were available. We had 22 Gold Award Girl Scout, 87 Silver Award Girl Scouts, 252 Bronze Award Girl Scouts and 8 Girls achieved the Triumph Award.

Dr. Wiese announced that because of a devoted Girl Scout and incredible supporter of the Virginia Skyline Council, Betty Norris and her family, who wanted to ensure the continued support of girls in our council who earn the Gold Award a scholarship, the Betty G. Norris Gold Award Scholarship, was founded. This year the annual Betty G. Norris Scholarship was awarded to Rachel Schweitzer of Crozet.

This is an academic scholarship for one chosen high school senior member of Virginia Skyline Girl Scouts who has earned the Gold Award or will have completed it before entering college. Rachel was a Girl Scout in Troop 874 and a girl member of the GSVSC Board of Directors during her time as an Ambassador Girl Scout. Rachel's Gold Award project was titled "The Little Library Project." Rachel made books available to those in her area without access to local libraries through her project. She placed a series of little library stations throughout the community where a 'take a book, leave a book' practice will help keep the community's little libraries sustainable throughout the years. Rachel shares: "The past thirteen years as a Girl Scout have helped to shape me into the person I am today. Girl Scouting has pushed me to be a leader, keep an open mind, grow in confidence, and more." Rachel earned her Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards as a Girl Scout, making her a Triumph Award winner. A GSVSC Triumph award comes with a lifetime membership. Rachel currently studies pre-pharmacy and Spanish at James Madison University.

Service has always been part of the Girl Scout program. As part of the Annual Meeting we like to highlight some of the service that has been performed by our troops, groups and service units. Some of the service completed in GSVSC this year includes:

- Rockburg Troop 1219, September 2019: planted 20 trees in Westover Park to replace the trees city staff took down in August due to the emerald ash borer infestation.
- Danville City Girl Scouts, March 2019: kicked-off Girl Scout Week by opening the Danville City Council meeting with a flag ceremony as well as affirming a proclamation claiming March 12 as Girl Scout Day in Danville.
- Radford Troop 80, March 2019: collected wands and brushes to help with cleaning of animals at the Appalachian Wildlife Refuge, in order to earn their Silver Awards. They received brush donations from more than 40 states, Canada, Great Britain and Hong Kong. They even received a large donation from Cosmopolitan magazine's makeup department and from makeup artists on the show "Blacklist."
- Amherst Troop 1315, November 2018: participated in a local Veterans Day event by presenting a banner reading "Thank You Veterans" at Ascension Episcopal Church in Amherst.

Ms. Williams shared a Girl Scout council charter defines the relationship between a council and Girl Scouts of the USA. It binds the elements of Girl Scouting across the nation into one large cohesive Girl Scout Movement and gives us a common purpose. Quote from the Blue Book of Basic Documents: "A charter is not something a council receives automatically every two years. Councils are evaluated on their progress. GSUSA is constantly reviewing data and reports to make sure that councils are healthy. "

What is a healthy council?

A healthy council:

- Drives positive impact for girls
- Has a membership that reflects the community it serves
- Has a sustainable volunteer and program delivery model
- Has a sustainable financial model
- Has a board engaged in governance and resource development
- Has a people environment that supports the mission



After several years of having a charter that included a Council Health Improvement Plan, Ms. Williams announced that we have received a three-year charter, the longest option available from GSUSA, without any provisions. We have also been removed from the Council Health Improvement Plan. This is wonderful news and is an acknowledgement from GSUSA to the progress that we have made in the last several years.

Dr. Wiese express the need for a variety of ways to communicate with the membership. Communication sources include:

- Facebook - You and 5,016 of your friends and neighbors have an opportunity to stay updated on the council happenings through Facebook.
- Pinterest
- Twitter - We have 717 followers.
- Instagram - We have 660 followers this year which is a 33% increase over last year.
- Weekly Girl Scout Connections newsletter by email - There are many interesting pieces of information and announcements and reminders of events in that publication. We will always include new, pertinent information in the Girl Scout Connections so please make sure you are on the list to receive it. If you aren't receiving the Girl Scout Connections email, please see Jennifer Pfister to have your name added.

Ms. Williams shared her excitement for the next National Council meeting and G.I.R.L. 2020 conference which will be held in Orlando, FL this October 21-25. Over 10,000 Girl Scouts are expected to be in attendance for the G.I.R.L. Conference where the events, speakers, and activities will all be planned by the "G Squad" which was a group of 20 Girl Scouts from around the country. This conference only happens every three years and with the proximity to Virginia, she hopes Virginia Skyline will be the council with the largest delegation in attendance. The Citrus Council has been busy having meetings, negotiating contracts, and preparing for an amazing conference. Please mark your calendars and hold the dates of October 23-25, 2020 and we will share more information as it becomes available. There is more information including estimated fees in your annual meeting program.

Dr. Wiese offered her thanks to volunteers, board, troop leaders, service team members, event directors, camp directors, staff, and girls. You have come through a year of hard work and dedication that shows in the progress we have made toward membership stability, financial stability and fund development efforts and all that took communications. Thank you for continuing to make Virginia Skyline better. We could NOT have done it without you!

### **Council Board Development Committee Report**

Dr. Wiese stated it is the responsibility of the Council Board Development Committee to present to the members of the Council at the annual meeting a single slate of nominees for officers, directors, and members of the council board development committee. You can find that information starting on page 11 of your Voting Member Workbook and page 7 of your program. Dr. Wiese recognized Virginia Newton, Chair of the Board Development Committee.

Ms. Newton began by introducing the members of the current Board Development Committee who have worked very hard this year to develop this slate of qualified nominees.

**List of Current Board Development committee members:**

Jonette “MJ” Carpenter  
Natalie Masri  
Anna Moncure  
Taisha Steele  
Leslie Schweitzer  
Lori Wimbush

Ms. Newton presented on behalf of the Board Development Committee, the single slate of nominees. The list can be found on page 7 of you program. Bios of nominees are on pages 8-13.

**Officers for the 2020-2022 term:**

Dawn Wiese, Ph.D., Chair  
Katrina Goode, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair  
Karen Ford, Ph.D., 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Libby Edwards-Allbaugh, Treasurer  
Diane Higgs, Secretary

**Directors for the 2020-2022 term:**

Holli Drewry, Blacksburg  
Charnika Elliott, Roanoke  
Sarah Johnson, Blacksburg  
Jennifer Taylor, Harrisonburg  
Georgia Costain, girl member, Earlysville

**Board Development Committee for the 2020-2022 term:**

Eve Noel, Lynchburg

**National Council Delegates for the 2020-2023 term:**

Dawn Wiese, Ph.D.  
Nikki Williams, Ed.S.  
Vicky Harte  
Kristin Lanier  
Shannon Wallace

**Alternate National Council Delegates for the 2020-2023 term:**

HelenRuth Burch  
Donna Holden  
Amberleigh Powell

Madam Chair, that completes the report of the Council Board Development Committee

Dr. Wiese thanked Ms. Newton.

## **ELECTIONS**

Dr. Wiese restates the presentation of the single slate of officers, directors, board development committee members, National Council Delegates and Alternate National Council Delegates and you see their names on the screen.

**Motion:** Ms. Newton moved that the slate be accepted as presented and as seen on the screen. Motion comes from committee so no second is needed. The slate of nominees is elected. Congratulations to all of you!

Dr. Wiese recognized Helen Ruth Burch, immediate past president of Virginia Skyline, for installation of the directors and board development committee members.

## **RECOGNITION OF RETIRING BOARD MEMBER**

Dr. Wiese thanked the four retiring members of the board.

- Rachel Schweitzer—girl member for the last two years. Rachel graduated in 2019 and is attending James Madison University.
- Melissa Richards – BOD Director from Sweet Briar College who made incredible contributions to the council including garnering this wonderful partnership with SBC. Melissa left us a little early as she had an amazing professional opportunity at Hamilton College in New York
- Mary Roberts-Baako -
- Audrey Hawkins – Audrey has been a part of the BOD several times and each time she has been so incredibly committed to this council and improving opportunities for the girls in Virginia Skyline. Audrey and the work that she has done will be irreplaceable and we are better for having her as a part of this Board and this council.

## **PROGRAM**

Dr. Wiese states that there will be no keynote speaker as a change it was decided to do something a little different this year. As she and Nikki traveled the council for the Open Council Dialog sessions we received wonderful feedback from members regarding suggestions for improvement in the council. We wanted to assure you that your voice was heard and that we are assessing all of the feedback so we will now have a short session entitled “What We Heard From You.” during our Open Council Dialogue meetings held throughout Fall 2019 as part of the work of the Membership Voice Committee, chaired by Director Holli Drewry (Blacksburg). Areas of concern include:

- Website improvements
- Property – one important note is we are out of alignment with national guidelines on property. We have a property committee which is planning property listening sessions in the upcoming months.
- Potential Volunteer Advisory Committee – is not needed. Membership Voice Committee is handling the need.

- Volunteers would like more voice in Operations, primarily programming.

Dr. Wiese spent a few minutes discussing the difference between Governance and Operations.

Governance is the work of the Board – your Board -- which is cultivated through a slate of nominees and then brought to the Annual Meeting each year. And, while the Board Nominating Committee offers a slate of nominees, that slate can be challenged and endorsed (or not endorsed) by the voting delegates of the Annual Meeting. The work of the Board includes:

Fiduciary – the Board is responsible for the financial health of the Council – this is likely the single-most important job of the Board for which we are legally responsible to maintain our non-profit organization status. The Board *literally* reviews our annual audit and we sign tax documents stating we believe we are in alignment. Director and Treasurer Libby Edwards-Allbaugh (Palmyra) pronounced that we are in a strong financial position – better than many non-profit organizations.

Strategic – the Board must think strategically to position GSVSC for long-term health – weighing the needs of our Council with the national Girl Scout movement. As CEO Nikki Williams shared that, for the first time in several years, we have received a three-year Charter from GSUSA without any provisions and we've been removed from the Council Health Improvement Plan program. In other words, GSUSA has scrutinized the direction of GSVSC and has stated it believes we are headed in the right direction. Procedural – the Board must follow the Council's policies and procedures. These are not the Board's policies and procedures – they are the Council's policies and procedures created by the membership which are entrusted to the Board to follow

Supervisory – the Board supervises the CEO (and the CEO supervises her staff). Therefore, the Board must understand the full work of the Council.

Your Board is made up of volunteers, some of whom have had lifelong involvement in Girl Scouts (also affectionately known as Green Bloods) and those who have had some involvement in Girl Scouts. Regardless, all of your Board has made financial (with 100% Board giving) and time commitment to promote the values of Girl Scouts and to support the work of GSVSC. I remind you, the Board works for you, the members. And we consider those items: the financial health, the strategic direction and the policies and procedures of the Council. Yet, the Board is only a small part of the equation of how our Council comes together.

So, if governance is part of the equation and the vehicle for members to influence the Board is through the Membership Voice Committee, how do members affect Operations -- the day-to-day work of the Council? It is the day-to-day work of the Council that we heard, through Open Council Dialogue meetings, is where members would like greater voice. To address that, CEO Nikki Williams is creating a Volunteer Advisory Committee with which she will work directly. We are fortunate to have a rock star of a CEO in Nikki and Nikki is leading a talented and capable staff. The Operations of the Council are not the work of the Board although we do have ultimate responsibility for overall sound operations. But, with a member-driven organization with program ultimately coming from our members and for our girls, it was Nikki's wisdom that led her to announce the creation of a Volunteer Advisory Committee to the CEO ... with a focus on Operations. If you have interest in being a part of that Committee – or if you know someone who would be just perfect for it – contact Nikki or any member of the Board.

**AUCTION**

Dr. Wiese introduced Beth Raynes to conduct the live auction of baskets, proceeds to go toward scholarships for girls. Ms. Raynes auctioned off the donated baskets. The silent auction of other baskets was also concluded.

Dr. Wiese thank all for attending and participating in the annual meeting. Before adjourning the meeting Dr. Wiese recognized the Annual Meeting Committee and the members who gave their time to prepare for the meeting; Sharon Nolley (Chair), Rebecca Duncan, Beth Raynes, Helen Ruth Burch, Tricia McMahon, Nancy Copley, Becky Caldwell, Judy Friant, Peggy Ferguson, and the troops and members of the Lynchburg/Campbell County/Bedford Service Units who made today’s meeting a success. and staff advisors Melissa Hildebrand, Jodi Brodtkin, Susan Hodges, Jennifer Pfister, Lillian Minix, and Nikki Williams.

Dr. Wiese expressed her appreciation for everyone’s support and willingness to share ideas, successes and concerns at the Open Council Dialogue meetings and at this meeting. The annual meeting will continue to move to various locations around the council. The 2021 annual meeting will take place on Saturday, January 23, 2021 in WYTHEVILLE/BLACKSBURG area. She reminded everyone to visit the “Auction Checkout Table” outside of this room to pick up and pay for your live or silent auction items.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Wiese adjourned the 57<sup>th</sup> annual business meeting of the Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline at 12:45 am.

Minutes Submitted by

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Dawn Wiese, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Diane Higgs, Secretary