



Town Hall Meeting Minutes

03/27/2019 Camp Torqua Pumpkin Patch 4725 Girl Scout Road, Edwardsville IL 62025

6:30-7:00 Delegates Only

7:00-8:00 Open to the Public

1. Meeting you where you are; GSOFSI movement
 - Mobile Shop success, rolling out STEM Mobile unit
 - Council Restructure: In your favor and to your advantage, more programs.
 - i. Please take into consideration Service Unit meeting times
 - ii. Previous restructure was rough
 - iii. You will “know” your staff member with the new restructure
2. Where in the Council is Loretta Graham Success
 - Program very successful, girls have loved it. Will continue into 2019-2020
 - Bullying came up a lot at these events, TALK about it Leaders
3. Annual Meeting: Rend Lake College, April 27th, 2019
 - No question and answer session: Town Hall meetings taking the place of Q &A. 2 Town Hall meetings/year.
 - Slate: only item to vote on
 - Will see deficit at Annual Meeting
 - No silent auction at Annual Meeting. Please bring any silent auction items you wish to donate to the Annual Meeting and they will be used for Leading Ladies events.
 - All that Glitters celebrations after the Annual Meeting
 - 2020: 100 Year Celebration, possible celebration weekend around Annual Meeting
 - Date of Annual Meeting brought up: looking at pushing date back into March, or even earlier in the year. All that Glitters would have to stay in April.

4. Donations & Pass through Donations 75%:25%

5. Fund Development

- Adult generated funding must increase: 68% of revenue comes from girls/products
- Gala will bring outside organizations/companies in to make connections and contributions to GSOFSI this is how we will increase our adult generated funding.
- Gala will have 1 Gold Awardee at every table
- Young Women of Distinction Award, can we bring awareness to it? These are 10 Gold Awardee recipients that have submitted their projects to GSUSA to be represented at the National Convention.
- Gala will generate more opportunities for scholarships for our graduating High School Seniors; last year only 1 scholarship for \$500, we MUST do better.

6. Property Updates

- Updates/improvements on all 4 camps provided
- Long Range Property Planning Committee led by John McCracken (Board Member) will finish up in November. They are focusing the research/survey on programs, membership/marketing, and facilities. They are getting to the root of “what the girls want”
- A question was raised, why aren’t we using more volunteer resources within GSOFSI? LRPP Committee is doing just that, they are compiling a list of “possible resources” within our own region to cut down on costs overall for our properties.

7. Program

- We will be increasing our programs to the girls, they want beneficial programs.
- Cost of camps was questioned: It’s hard for Girl Scouts to compete with church camps that are a fraction of the cost. Some camps are not affordable, the girls want to attend, but can’t because they can’t afford it (even with financial assistance).
- A questions was raised: is it possible to put all the programs on a PDF/spreadsheet, therefore it is easier to read, especially to print out and take to meetings? This was being discussed with the communications department already, process underway.
- Another question about program and parent to child ratio was raised; how can we limit parent participation? When there is a cap of 20 participants in an event, 8 of them don’t need to be parents. This limits the amount of girls that are able to participate.

8. Membership

- Early Bird starts April 1st
- Extended Membership (new members only) \$35, also starts April 1st

9. Product-Cookies

- Cookie sales are down, but it’s not just our council. It’s across the board.
- We can’t depend on this as our main source of revenue.
- A question was raised: Can we push back cookie sales to the Fall again? Research suggest it doesn’t matter what time of year we sell, we get the same results.

- Another question regarding cookies was raised: Troop Cookie goals were really high this year? Kristen and Cookie Department are really open to feedback and will ask for feedback regarding such inquiries.
- Another question: How is it determined what company we use as our cookie vendor? It all comes down to price when we are looking to sign a contract. If ABC is \$0.05 cheaper than another company, we will sign a contract (typically 3-5 years) with ABC, if “Little Brownie Baker” is cheaper, then we will use them.

10. Communications

- Social/Sensitive topics discussed: a handout was provided with FAQ’s for volunteers if they would like.
- Statement was made: “We do not Support Planned Parenthood, We do not fund Planned Parenthood and We do not have a partnership with Planned Parenthood”
- Social issues FAQ’s is also available online at gsfsi.org if need to reference in the future.

11. Fall Town Hall Meetings

- Dates/times: TBD

12. Open Discussion / Q&A

- Any updates with respect to Girl Scouts being allowed to shoot BB guns? GSUSA says NO, but Loretta will be bringing up this topic at her CEO conference in 2 weeks. It is all about safety, we have to ensure our Girls Safety. But we can’t be losing Girl Scouts to Boy Scouts because we do not have this program available. It all comes down to program and having that program available to our girls. One volunteer asked that we remove the “BB” and simply use “Firearm Safety” when talking about this program.
- Is it possible to use Alumni for Day camps? Yes this is something we are taking a look at, especially those Girls Scouts for life.
- Do we have a relationship with the Kappa Delta’s? Yes we are utilizing our relationship with them for the Gala and also the Leading Ladies events.
- Can we change the council office hours to include Fridays? This is also something we are looking at with respect to the restructure.