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Date: April 14, 2010
To: Board of Directors
From: Nancy C. Dawes, Chair
Subject: Policy Discussion on Membership

During the February Executive Session, a question was asked concerning whether “inclusion of membership numbers” was appropriate for the Executive Limitations. From a board/policy perspective, we will approach this per our Policy 3.1 – Governing Style:

2. The board will direct, control and inspire the organization through the careful establishment of board written policies reflecting the board’s values and perspectives...
3. In accordance with this discipline, the board will only allow itself to address a topic after it has answered these questions:
 - What is the nature of the issue?
 - What is the value that drives the concern?
 - Is this a shared issue?
 - Whose issue is this? Is it the board’s or the CEO’s?
 - Has the board dealt with this subject in a policy? If so, what has the board already said on this subject and how is this issue related? If the board has already addressed the matter, does the board wish to change what it has already said?
 - If the matter relates to an operational policy, what is the broadest way to address the issue so that it is still under existing board policy? Does that policy suffice to deal with our concern?

We will follow this process in the board meeting, and I encourage you to think about this issue as you prepare for the meeting. In addition to the Board Policy Manual, it will be helpful if you will review the *Blue Book of Basic Documents 2009* (found in the reference section of the board’s webpage). I have included a summary on the next page, from my perspective, on the specific information that we should consider, specifically around bullet five above (Has the board dealt with this subject in a policy?).

I have asked Barbara to respond from her perspective by providing her operational definitions around this issue. Her memo is Attachment E.

Our Mission

*Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character,
who make the world a better place.*

Supporting Documents

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio's Executive Limitation 2.0 (Global Executive Constraint):

“The CEO shall not fail to demonstrate added value to the organization... *or is contrary to Girl Scouts of the USA charter and policies...*” It is in this context that Barbara reports the membership data in her year end management report.

Girl Scouts of the USA's *Blue Book of Basic Documents 2009*

This defines GSUSA constitution, charter, policies and standards.

Purpose of the corporation (Article II): to “promote the Girl Scout Movement in the United States of America... by directing and coordinating the Movement, and by providing and administering the Girl Scout program in accordance with the purposes set forth in its Congressional Charter.”

The Girl Scout Program (Article III): “... Girl Scouting is a nonformal, experiential, and cooperative education program that promotes girls' personal growth and leadership development.”

Girl Scout Charter Standards (Blue Book, pages 27-28) - GSUSA has identified three criterion and 16 standards to delineate the way in which Girl Scout councils are expected to fulfill their charter requirements.

Criterion 1, states that “...the council attracts and retains membership from all areas of its jurisdiction and all segments of its population.” Standard 1 required that, “Based on a thorough understanding of the populations within its jurisdiction, the council attracts and retains membership from all areas of its jurisdiction and all segments of its population.”