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**Date:** April 14, 2010  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Nancy C. Dawes, Chair  
**Subject:** Annual Council Meeting Survey Summary

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Attached is a summary of the Annual Council Meeting survey completed recently by members of the council. We will briefly discuss the survey results at the April board meeting.

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## Our Mission

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



## Survey Results Future Annual Council Meetings

Total Surveys Completed = 119

1. Are you planning on attending the 2010 Annual Council Meeting on Saturday, April 24, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. in Dayton? (The Annual Council Meeting is the meeting where the Board of Directors provides the state of the council and the slate of board members is announced.)

	# Responses	Percentage
Yes	29	27.4%
No	66	62.3%
Not Sure	11	10.4%

2. How important is it to you to attend the Annual Council Meeting of Girl Scouts of Western Ohio?

	# Responses	Percentage
It is very important to me	27	25.5%
It is somewhat important to me	45	42.5%
It is not very important to me	26	24.5%
It is not at all important to me	8	7.5%

3. How important is it to you to hear a report which summarizes the state of the council, including progress toward our goals for girls, financial state of the council, and girl membership?

	# Responses	Percentage
It is very important to me	60	56.6%
It is somewhat important to me	38	35.8%
It is not very important to me	6	5.7%
It is not at all important to me	2	1.9%

4. How important is it to you to have access (via mail request or website) which summarizes the state of the council, including progress toward our goals for girls, financial state of the council, and girl membership?

	# Responses	Percentage
It is very important to me	74	70.5%
It is somewhat important to me	29	27.6%
It is not very important to me	2	1.9%
It is not at all important to me	0	0.0%

5. How important is it to you to elect the Officers, Board of Directors, Board Development Committee, and National Council Delegates?

	# Responses	Percentage
It is very important to me	57	54.3%
It is somewhat important to me	40	38.1%
It is not very important to me	6	5.7%
It is not at all important to me	2	1.9%

6. How important is it to you to have face-to-face interaction with board members of Girl Scouts of Western Ohio?

	# Responses	Percentage
It is very important to me	33	31.4%
It is somewhat important to me	51	48.6%
It is not very important to me	17	16.2%
It is not at all important to me	4	3.8%

7. If you are not planning on attending the 2010 Annual Council Meeting, what are the reason(s)?

	# Responses	Percentage
I don't have the time	16	21.1%
It is too far to travel	17	22.4%
Saturday morning is not a good time for me	11	14.5%
I am not available on that date	38	50.0%
I am not interested in the meeting	3	3.9%
I do not know about the meeting	2	2.6%
I was not invited	6	7.9%
I did not know that members can attend the meeting	6	7.9%
Other	15	19.7%

Other responses:

- Girl Scouts of Western Ohio "Give Water a Hand"
- Can get information shared by computer easily. Would only plan to attend if there were lots of opportunity to interact or give input.
- My attendance would not make any difference
- Work
- I don't drive
- Girl Scout outing already planned with troop
- Having knee surgery that day
- I am working in one my company's outer regions that day. Otherwise, I would be at the meeting.
- Personal reasons
- COTO – working in the kitchen
- Individual people's opinions don't count anyway
- I had previously scheduled an outing with my troop at the same time. I have to put the girls first.
- Will listen to meeting on webinar – more convenient than traveling.
- I work third shift and was not told about this until just now and my employer already has the schedule done for that week
- It's my weekend to work, can't afford to take off

8. Are you planning on participating in the 2010 Annual Council Meeting electronically?

	# Responses	Percentage
Yes	29	28.2%
No	62	60.2%
Not Sure	12	11.7%

9. If you are not planning on participating in the 2010 Annual Council Meeting electronically, what are the reason(s)?

	# Responses	Percentage
I don't have the time	5	8.6%
Saturday morning is not a good time for me	10	17.2%
I am not available on that date	23	39.7%
I am not interested in the meeting	3	5.2%
I do not know about the meeting	2	3.4%
I was not invited	4	6.9%
I did not know that members can attend the meeting	3	5.2%
I do not have a computer	1	1.7%
Other	19	32.8%

Other responses:

- Will attend in person = 8
- Would not accomplish anything
- I do not have access to internet at home
- Girl Scout outing already planned with troop
- Working the kitchen at COTO
- I have a previous commitment with my troop at the same time
- Not very computer savvy
- It will depend on whether I get off work in time
- Will be working
- Doesn't seem like a good use of time; lack of interaction
- I will be camping that weekend and doing day camp training
- It depends on whether my daughter has a soccer game

10. As we think about future Annual Council Meetings, how likely would you be to attend the meeting if it included an opportunity to participate in a training festival to complete required or supplemental training for your Girl Scout position?

	# Responses	Percentage
Very likely	29	28.4%
Somewhat likely	51	50.0%
Not likely	18	17.6%
Unlikely	4	3.9%

11. As we think about future Annual Council Meetings, how likely would you be to attend the meeting if it included an opportunity to hear a speaker on a topic about issues facing girls?

	# Responses	Percentage
Very likely	30	29.4%
Somewhat likely	59	57.8%
Not likely	10	9.8%
Unlikely	3	2.9%

12. As we think about future Annual Council Meetings, how likely would you be to attend the meeting if it was within a 30 minute drive of your residence?

	# Responses	Percentage
Very likely	52	51.0%
Somewhat likely	44	43.1%
Not likely	4	3.9%
Unlikely	2	2.0%

13. What would need to happen for you to attend an Annual Council Meeting?

- I always have and always will if I am able
- Not have anything else Girl Scout wise on that day, I am helping out with “Give Water a Hand” so I am not able to go. It would also have to be later on a Saturday due to the fact I am in college, so getting there is hard.
- Lots of interaction on topics of importance to the Council. Giving input/contributions/sharing are key to feeling my attendance is important.
- The Buckeye Trails Region not be treated with contempt by the Great Rivers Region. In spite of what you may think, we are not spoiled. We just know what works for us.
- I would need a ride
- If we are unable to attend, if the web session could be taped and available to be viewed when we were able
- Weekday evening time
- I would attend if it were not for surgery. I am disappointed I can’t attend. I am VERY interested in anything to do with our girls.
- Terrific speaker with relevant information for girl development
- Date/schedule balanced with commitments
- The distance that the meeting is from my house is irrelevant to me. I do feel that if there were enrichment opportunities either before or after the meeting that newer volunteers would be more encouraged to attend. A lot of new volunteers don’t understand what an Annual Council Meeting is – if there was an opportunity for them to attend and take something back to do with their girls, I think they would be more inclined to come and, as a result, come more in the future.
- All stars must align for a trip an hour and a half away that early in the morning on a Saturday when someone else may have other plans for me involving any of my grandchildren!
- It would need to take place on a date when I’m available, and there would need to be a perceived benefit of my attendance.
- More centralized location

- I probably would not attend any meeting as I believe our troop leader will do that
- It would have to be well organized and informative and I would need to feel that my input was valuable
- I've attended in the past but cannot this year
- For me this year a different day
- I would need to know the issues in advance, and how they affected the troop. Perhaps you already do that, and I haven't paid attention.
- It would help if the date were communicated early in the year before we plan/schedule troop activities. Spring is a busy time for troops. Also, it would be helpful to see an agenda in advance.
- I would have to be more involved, maybe considering becoming more active in Girl Scouting, etc.
- To not have other obligations in close proximity to the timeframe of the meeting.
- Advance notice. Worth my while.
- Have it fit into my busy schedule of work, school and three kids, etc.
- Perhaps a park and ride share from the regional office. Not every service unit has several people that can attend.
- Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday evenings
- To be informed of it in time to get the time off work, not every leader works a 9-5 job with weekends off
- Child care and transportation are issues during very challenging times
- Have enough programs I'm interested in attending
- Not sure – extremely busy as I work full time and am a single mother of 2...need a clone maybe?? Ha ha
- Rotation of regions hosting the Annual Council meeting. Regional meetings with delegates attending main Annual meeting for us non-delegates.
- Time free in my schedule
- Closer to my area, but realize that is not always possible. Not have a conflict on that day.
- It would need to be held on a weekend I was off of work. I work every other weekend. I am fully aware that you can not schedule for everyone's needs, but want you to know it's the date, not the subject.
- Not have a conflict with work or personal appointments
- Unsure
- Invitation, advance notice
- I think having it in one location and having the opportunity to have it webcast at the regional office is a great idea. I normally attend the meeting.
- Meeting would need to be during the week, not on weekends
- It's just a hard call because I volunteer much of my free time to Girl Scouts already and it is difficult to devote more. I would truly love to attend, but it's tough.

14. In what ways would you like to have interaction with board members from Girl Scouts of Western Ohio?

- Maybe mid-year/late summer roundtables with some of the board members especially those from other regions.
- Seeing board in person so I can identify who they are when hearing information about them or from them.
- No thank you
- I would like people not to jump down my throat when I disagree with them
- Small groups discussions surrounding specific topics
- Meet and greet
- Scheduled "town meetings"

- Maybe have a meeting with at least some of them at our local regional offices once a year to allow other leaders to attend
- Access to meeting minutes, key decisions, financial status/health, challenges and accomplishments
- Another date – meeting option in Fall
- I would like brief recaps of board meeting minutes (details not necessary, of course) on the website
- I think that more board members should be in face to face contact with leaders and service units
- Possibly a board member section on the website to share their views or what their involvement means to them, how Girl Scouting has impacted their lives, etc.
- I think a series of “town hall” style meetings, where leaders and older girls could have a Q&A with board members, as well as a chance to express their issues and concerns, would be helpful.
- Them to answer questions truthfully and not what they think we want to hear
- Email
- I would like them to be present at functions to see what we are doing with and for girls
- Seeing their faces and hearing them talk either as a speaker or one on one
- My service unit leader passes info to me
- Open forum to discuss Girl Scouting
- An open forum
- I am not sure. I get the emails.
- I would appreciate receiving communications/minutes from meetings. What issues are they addressing? What is the progress?
- Other than getting help from local advisors, I don't see a need for interaction with board members.
- Maybe have them attend a service unit meeting in our area to introduce themselves in person
- Have them come to my area, not the other way around
- Events where board members have the opportunity to visit with various groups
- Would love to personally meet them
- In every way imaginable
- Send out surveys on topics that we can give feedback – like on camps and day camps, etc.
- Where are they, when and where do they meet? 90% of us have no interaction with anyone higher than our regional director, or what processes go on behind the curtain. I feel they are not accessible to the volunteers, or interested in what we think.
- I would like to have town hall meetings with them so that they can hear what we hear from leaders, parents, and girls.
- Presence at important meetings or events, access to email updates or addresses
- Available via email
- I'd like to see them actually attend a service unit event. We had a concert and not even a single person from the local office came to see what we are trying to do for our girls.
- Not certain at this point.
- Small group discussion sessions would be nice. More online surveys.
- Updates

15. Do you have other comments for the Board of Directors of Girl Scouts of Western Ohio?

- Recently the Governor's office sponsored a conference for young women that would have been awesome for the Girl Scout organization. Momentum 2010 Conference for Young Women ages 12-18 held in Columbus, Ohio March 7, 2010. I took 4 of my Cadette girls and it was invaluable information for girls in that age group. I would be happy to share the information if the council is interested. Susan Russell, 513-675-7736
- I think that Western Ohio should be dissolved or at the very least the regional headquarters moved to the Lima office. It is more centrally located and the people are nicer there. They don't seem to lose everything that I send to them. I am referring to my service unit day camp reservations. I had to submit them 3 times online before they were passed on to Lima. Give us back our regional camps. Funneling everything through Cincinnati is stupid and does not seem to be working very well.
- It never made sense to me to have an election of officers where everyone on the slate is elected...voting makes no difference.
- It will not make any difference in participating in the meeting due to the current method of governance. The board really has very little power.
- About questions 10-12, what is the difference between Not likely and Unlikely? I suppose there could be a technical difference, but this is not a technical questionnaire, is it?
- Good luck with your new positions and welcome!
- I think the program we are to be following at this time should have had more planning and thought time. We as leaders, are scrambling to figure out what we are supposed to be doing. It is a lot to take in for a program that is supposed to be easier. Those that are supposed to have the answers seem to be at a loss sometimes for our questions.
- You all are doing a great job. As an adult member for 55 years, I see the ways you are improving our program for the girls.
- I am a volunteer trainer and Daisy Girl Scout leader and trust that the board is acting in the best interest of the girls and of me as a volunteer.
- Thank you and keep up the good work for the good of the girls!
- I think that council members in general should be in face to face contact with leaders and service units. How else will they know what we are doing and dealing with.
- Additional members from BT region
- Keep Girl Scouting active in the entire geographic area – leaders active at merge are not real positive 2 years later – especially today when Girl Scouting is needed in so many girls' lives
- Since the merger we have lost most of our staff and feel nothing we do makes an impact on anything above service unit level
- How are you nominated?
- Re-open Camp Greene in Yellow Springs!
- Not at this time. Thanks for all you do!
- I would like to know if we could please bank somewhere in my home town such as Fifth Third, having to drive 30+ miles to deposit cookie money is not good. Also I want our local Girl Scout camp re-opened. Dearborn County Indiana has a grant program, write for a grant and re-open our camp. Another thing I believe that BSA wants to see the Camp Luie Ernst in Madison used more often and girls can use the site. This should be public knowledge. As a leader we want to take our girls camping and have a local summer camp experience.
- Please work to see that GSWO properties are being fully funded to develop income stream and keep and protect every one of them for current/future generations of Girl Scouts
- Re-open day camps



- Am wondering in Buckeye Trails office is going to continue...seems like I am finding more and more I am interacting with staff from Great Rivers...
- People who run our council watch Undercover Boss and learn some lessons from that show, everyone could learn something new and useful. Our open door policy is truly not an open door, it is a swinging door that if opened to fast can bounce back and smack you in the face or rear depending on your direction of travel. As a reminder of the endless circle, volunteers can not do their jobs accurately without the proper tools which we are supposed to get from GSWO, but in turn without us volunteers, paid staff and board of directors would not have jobs at all, it truly takes all of us "working" together and valuing each and every opinion we can gather on a subject "before" a decision is made. Volunteer's opinions do not seem to make a difference so most keep them to themselves, but those raised the Girl Scout way have the courage to speak of their issues/opinions and are scrutinized, and or punished for making the opinions public.
- I understand the difficult in providing resources in a time of economic difficulty – however, I feel that my region has had many resources pulled from it (it was not what was promised when we merged) and we have less – this is also the consensus of my leaders in the service unit. Everything appears to be in Cincinnati and we do not seem to have a voice in Cincinnati. Our Council employees are doing an awesome job with less all of the time. They do not complain and are extremely supportive of the structure and of the merger – these are observations from leaders, service unit managers, parents, etc.
- I am concerned about the lack of communication with older adult members, (many life) who are not online. They have given many years to Girl Scouts as volunteers and are now ignored. These are volunteers who are most likely to support the council financially, if not presently, after their death.
- Keep in mind that in today's society, girls are able to be involved in so many other activities (4-H, sports, church groups, FFA – for older girls, other extracurricular clubs, etc.) that in the past weren't always open to them. Their attentions (and those of their parents) aren't always toward Girl Scouts, especially as they get older. It will be important to have Girl Scouts provide a program that will hold the girls interest and be affordable for the parents in this tough economy.