

MEMO

Attachment H



Date: September 11, 2020
To: Board of Directors
From: Roni Luckenbill, CEO
Subject: 2020 National Council Session

The National Council is the membership body charged with giving broad policy direction to the future of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States. The National Council's responsibilities, eligibility requirements, composition, size, and how and when its meetings are held is outlined in the Congressional Charter and the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the United States of America, as found in the *Blue Book of Basic Documents*.

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Board made the difficult decision to hold the National Council Session virtually in order to protect the safety of all members. The National Council convenes every three years and its responsibilities are to elect the officers and other members of the National Board and National Board Development Committee; amend the Girl Scout Constitution as needed; establish requirements for certificates of membership, council charters, and all other credentials; and to act on proposals to foster and improve Girl Scouting and give guidance to the National Board on general lines of direction.

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio has 26 delegates and 19 alternate delegates. The National Council Session will take place October 23-25, 2020 by electronic means. Our delegation has been hard at work, attending training sessions, listening sessions, and webinars to prepare for the deliberations. Delegates should come to the deliberations informed, but not instructed. They are each voting, based on their own views; however, we seek to ensure that delegates understand the implications of votes for and against the proposals.

There are six proposals before the National Council for deliberation and decisions. The following is a summary of each proposal:

- **Proposal 1: Establishment of a Task Force to Examine the Feasibility of a National Gold Award Scholarship Foundation** – originated by Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana. This proposal requests that the National Council establish a task group, charged with examining the feasibility of developing a college scholarship foundation to benefit Gold Award Girl Scouts. The task group will report back on the feasibility, recommendation, and timeline for potential establishment of the foundation by the 2023 National Council Session. The National Board recommends a vote in favor of this proposal so that all implications can be studied, including the legal, tax, and financial aspects of a foundation and the source of funding.
- **Proposal 2: Constitutional Amendment on Membership Dues** – originated by the National Board, on recommendation of the National Council Session Advisory Team and Dues Subgroup. This proposal seeks to amend the Constitution to clarify that membership dues are set by the National Council or the National Board. It further states that the National Board shall implement procedures for communicating with and seeking input from Girl Scout councils and National Council delegates prior to any membership dues change by the National Council. The National Board recommends a vote in favor of this proposal to clarify to all that the will of the body is that either party may set dues.

- **Proposal 3: Adoption of a Procedure for Communication on Dues Actions by the National Board** – originated by the National Board, on recommendation of the National Council Session Advisory Team and Dues Subgroup. This proposal mandates that, prior to any vote of the National Board to change membership dues structure or amount, Girl Scouts of the USA shall communicate with and seek input from local Girl Scout councils and National Council delegates on the proposed changes, intended use of the funds, and potential impact on the Girl Scout Movement. The National Board recommends a vote in favor of this proposal so that a process can be put in place to ensure that input is sought by the National Board before a dues increase is determined. This is an opportunity for the delegate body to discuss and reflect on the dues-setting process and to move forward as a Movement at a critical time in our history, united in our understanding of dues setting.
- **Proposal 4: Membership Dues Increase Restriction** – originated by Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana. This proposal seeks to amend the current procedures to mandate that the National Board must seek approval from the National Council whenever a planned dues increase will result in dues increasing more than a total of 25% in any one triennium. The council brought this proposal forward because they believe that this will affirm that any increase would not prove to be too burdensome on the members, families, and councils. The National Board recommends a vote for this proposal.
- **Proposal 5: Constitutional Amendment on Consistency in Delegate Terms** – originated by Girl Scouts of Central and Southern New Jersey and Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England. This proposal suggests that delegates should be elected in the second year of the triennium, in the year preceding the National Council Session. Currently, most councils elect delegates in the third year of the triennium, so they only have about six months to be engaged in the process before the National Council Session. The National Board recommends approval of this constitutional amendment. They believe that the proposal would improve the delegate experience and engagement.
- **Proposal 6: Lifetime Membership Discounts** – originated by Girl Scouts of Connecticut. This proposal allows for discounted lifetime membership dues of \$200 will be offered to anyone who is a registered member and has served as a volunteer for a period of ten or more years. The council that brought this proposal forward believes that this will recognize the continued support and commitment to the Girl Scout Movement that such long-term volunteers have shown and encourage volunteer retention. The National Board recommends a vote for this proposal.

We would be happy to answer questions about any of the proposals or share other information about the National Council Session. We look forward to sharing results of the convention at our November board meeting.

