

# Girl Scouts–Arizona Cactus-Pine Council, Inc. (GSACPC)

## 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Council Meeting Minutes

Draft April 26, 2025 (convened in-person and virtually via Zoom) (BOARD APPROVED)

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### ATTENDANCE: A QUORUM WAS PRESENT BY WAY OF IN-PERSON MEETING AND ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

#### BUSINESS SESSION

- Call to order by Susan Trujillo, Board Chair, at 9:14 a.m. at Phoenix College in-person and hybrid.

#### Opening Ceremony

- Girl Scout Troop Members of the Desert Sunset Service Unit presented the colors.
- Addison Cowan from Troop 484 led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance
- The Girl Scout Promise and Law, in English was led by Addison Cowan, in Spanish was led by Council staff member Dulce Rivas, and in Navajo was led by Council staff member Shannon Hadley.
- Addison Cowan, Troop 484, dismissed the color guard.

#### Credentials Report presented by Susan Trujillo, Board Chair

- Voting was conducted through an electronic online process on Thursday, April 24, 2025, between the hours of 6:00 am to 9:00 pm and in person at the business meeting. This credentials report reflected the number of registered voting members who took part in the voting process.
- The number of registered voting members present and in person totaled 147 voting members, representing 24 Governing Areas, 18 members of the Board of Directors, 4 members of the Board Development Committee, and 3 former Presidents.
- Therefore, out of a grand total of 251 voting members, 172 took part in the voting from 24 governing areas. This total exceeded the 63 voting members and representation from 12 governing areas needed for a quorum.
- With no objections, the Credentials Report was adopted into the minutes.

#### Adoption of 2024 Annual Council Meeting Minutes by Gordon Lewis, Treasurer

- A copy of the 2023 - 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Council Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2024, was enclosed in the voting member packet. Mr. Lewis reviewed the minutes and stated that they were adopted for presentation to the board of directors by the membership on September 28, 2024. Mr. Lewis asked if there were any corrections. Hearing none, he stated the minutes stand as adopted by the board.

#### Treasurer's Report by Brian Hemmerle, Treasurer

- Mr. Hemmerle, council Treasurer, reviewed the October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, financial statements.
- The 2024 Statement of Activities indicates that the total operating revenue was \$15,682,389. Operating expenses reported in the 2024 Annual Report totaled \$17,456,804, creating a change in Net Assets of (\$1,774,415).

- This spending deficit represents the continuation of the strategic investment of significant gifts and federal resources received during the pandemic years. It is to rebuild our membership, support our volunteers and families, and provide additional training and staff development.
  - We are re-engaging community partnerships and adaptive delivery models to better reach our membership's underrepresented communities, particularly marginalized communities.
  - The stock market was up this year, resulting in a net gain of \$1.2 million in our investments.
- The Operating Expenses for the year are reported in the major activities of the council.
  - Girl Program reflects council-wide programming, including outdoor activities. The 2024 report indicates expenses of \$8,897,620.
  - Membership Support reflects the work of our staff in recruiting, retaining, and supporting our membership, as well as collaborations with our community partners. The 2024 report indicates expenses in this area of \$3,786,905.
  - Volunteer Support includes adult training and education and activities related to recruiting adults. The expenses in this area are \$2,077,000.
  - The council's total expenses for these three program areas were \$14,761,525 or 85% of total operating expenses. In addition, we had the following expenses: \$1,922,388 or 11% for management and general expenses and \$772,891 or 4% for fund development.
- Our Statement of Financial Position indicates our continued strong financial condition. As of September 30, 2024, the council had significant net assets (our value after liabilities) of \$43,057,987. These assets consist of cash and cash equivalents, investments, receivables, inventories and prepaid amounts, and land, buildings, and equipment.
- Our investments continue to grow with the uptick in the stock market, resulting in an increase of \$2.4M of our investment balances.
- Of this amount, \$1,217,159 is temporarily restricted by donors for programs; the remainder of the net assets are either unrestricted or designated by the board of directors.
- These financial statements received an unqualified audit opinion from our council's audit firm, Eide Bailly. An unqualified audit opinion indicates that the council's financial statements have been "fairly" presented and comply with all required accounting standards.

**Board Development Committee Report by Gema Duarte Luna, Board Member-at-Large**

Ms. Duarte Luna, a Member of the Board Development Committee, presented the slate of nominees for election at the direction of the Board Development Committee.

- For the Three-year term of 2025-2028 as Officers: Jenny Holsman Tetreault, Javier Torres, Pele Peacock Fischer. These three (3) officers were inadvertently left off the script, but all three (3) were elected to an officer position as noted. These three (3) officers were not on the slate, but all three (3) were elected to an officer position as noted.  
For a Three-year term of 2025-2028 as Members-at-Large of the Board of Directors: Ana Colombo, Jennifer Ho, Alice Pike, Megan Pitas
- For the One-year term of 2025-2026 as Girl Advisory Members of the Board of Directors: Violet Anderson, Anjini Ghorpade, Kennadi Gramlich, Kiana Jeskewitz, Anisha Thaly
- For a One-year term of 2025-2026 as Board Development Committee Chair: Gema Duarte Luna
- For the One-year term of 2025-2026 as Girl Advisory Members on the Board Development Committee: Leah Christiansen, Savannah Guzman
- For the Three-year term 2026 National Council Session: Adult Voting Members – Cassandra Fohrman, Amanda Halamka, Erin Long, Kristen Pablo, Christina Spicer. Girl Voting Members: Violet Anderson, Amber Chem, Addison Cowan, Juliana Curtin, Kira Schwimmer, Adult Alternates: Jessica Brown, Summer Christiansen, Kori Cowan, Jennifer Fischer, Girl Alternates: Abigail Hurst

### Elections by Susan Trujillo, Board Chair

- No substitute nominations were submitted in accordance with council bylaws. Thereby, the Board Chair declared the nominations closed.
- The Board Chair then conducted a voting process for those who did not vote during the online voting on Thursday, April 24, 2025, or for those who wished to change their vote. The in-person delegates completed a paper ballot and submitted it to Tellers in the meeting room aisles. Online, virtual delegates completed their vote or change of vote through an online link provided to these delegates.
- At the conclusion of the final voting process, the Board Chair declared that the motion is carried, and the slate of nominees has been ELECTED as presented.
- The Elder's Circle performed the installation of Board members by sharing with them their wisdom and experience, as they took up their honored places as members of the Council Board of Directors.

### GSUSA Board Member Remarks by Lupe Camargo

Lupe Camargo, GSUSA National Board member and former GSACPC Board Chair, delivered remarks. Ms. Camargo reflected on her time spent at GSACPC, an organization with outstanding leadership, led by the board chair, co-CEOs, and a team of volunteers. She deeply appreciated our volunteers and all they do for the council. This past March, Ms. Camargo and the National Board joined thousands of Girl Scouts and supporters in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the release of the Juliette Gordon Low quarter officially in circulation. Ms. Camargo announced she had a gift for everyone. She presented everyone with a Juliette Gordon Low quarter!

### GSACPC Strategic Refresh by Christina Spicer and Mary Mitchell, Co-CEOs

Ms. Mitchell acknowledged and thanked our council delegates, volunteers, Board Chair Susan Trujillo, Board of Directors, and Board Committees for another fantastic and purposeful year of leadership and commitment, as well as our staff for their partnership and dedication to girls. Ms. Mitchell reflected on our beloved Camp Stephens, which had been leased by GSACPC for decades. It was decided that effective May 27, 2025, the lease will be terminated. Ms. Mitchell discussed all the wins, successes, and commitments for 2024.

Ms. Spicer shared some remarkable work that had been done, as requested by the girls and volunteers in the last session, specifically the older Girl Program. As Mary mentioned, we continue to host more Northern Arizona Programs. We will continue to design additional programs for the coming year in the trades and life skills area. There is so much more to highlight, but we wanted to ensure that you understand how we incorporated your feedback into our innovation and program design.

### Remarks by Susan Trujillo, Board Chair

Ms. Trujillo opened her closing remarks by asking the question, "Do you know light has momentum?" Ms. Trujillo provided a bit of a physics lesson by telling everyone the light of the sun has enough force to push spacecraft and asteroids, and how it makes her think of the Girl Scout Movement. Even as individuals, the light we generate has force, and as we come together —girls in a tent, a troop in a classroom, our council at its Annual Meeting —we create more momentum. We are a force that gets things done! Together with all these experiences, troop leaders, community members, and staff came together to create light and momentum for our girls. Ms. Trujillo concluded by expressing deep gratitude to everyone for their dedication, commitment, passion, and unwavering support of the Girl Scout Movement. Ms. Trujillo acknowledged one volunteer in particular, namely Board Treasurer/Board Member Gordon Lewis. Following today's meeting, Gordon will step down from the board, resigning after 16 years of service as a Board Member.

### Adjournment

Ms. Trujillo thanked the staff and volunteers who worked hard to make the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting a success and adjourned the 88th Annual Meeting of the Girl Scouts—Arizona Cactus-Pine Council at 10:42 a.m.

*Pele P Fischer*

Pele Peacock Fischer, Secretary  
Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine Council

*9/27/25*

Date