

Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina, Inc.
19th Annual Council Meeting
April 25, 2026
Trident Technical College
North Charleston, South Carolina

REGISTRATION

GSESC staff registered Delegates, Board members and visitors at the registration table.

WELCOME AND OPENING

Courtney Cavatoni, Board Chair, welcomed everyone to the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina. The delegates were reminded that our bylaws were amended four years ago to have the ability to meet both in-person and electronically, allowing more people to participate in the Annual Meeting. Cindy Watson, Office/HR Director staff, conducted a roll call attendance of delegates joining by Zoom.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Cavatoni called the 2026 Annual Meeting to order at 12:10 pm. Girls from Troop 149, 3208 and 3215 in Service Unit 662 presented the Flag Ceremony. Benita Jacobs, Regional Membership Director staff, led the opening prayer. Mrs. Cavatoni asked the current members of the Board of Directors to stand and be recognized and thanked them for volunteering their time and dedication to Girl Scouts. Council staff was asked to stand and be recognized. The delegates were reminded that only delegates and board members were voting members and allowed to cast a vote. The in-person delegates received a red card for a no vote and a green card for a yes vote at registration, and they will be asked to raise those cards to vote. For delegates voting by Zoom, a roll call vote would be conducted.

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Due to Board Secretary, Jane Pelletier's absence, Mrs. Cavatoni recognized Dr. Shakitha Barner, Board 1st Vice Chair, to provide the Credentials report. According to our by-Laws Article I, Section 7, one quarter (25%) of the delegate assembly shall be present in person to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, provided that a majority of the service units shall have at least one of their elected delegates present at such meeting.

Of the 82 eligible delegates, there were 36 members present: 21 in-person members plus 15 members present by Zoom, representing 17 service units or 44% of the members of the assembly. Based on the credentials report, a quorum was declared for the transaction of business.

MINUTES

Dr. Barner also presented the 2025 Annual Meeting minutes that were received in delegate packets. There were no questions or corrections made, and Dr. Barner made the motion to accept the minutes. Jennifer Meador seconded the motion. The in-person delegates were asked to hold up their green voting card and say "aye". Cindy Watson conducted a roll call vote for the minutes' approval for delegates voting by Zoom. There were no "nay" votes, and the minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting were approved as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jennifer Meador, Finance Committee Chair, presented the September 30, 2025 Financial Report. She stated that the GSESC Board is a volunteer Board comprised of people from various backgrounds and locations who all have a vested interest in Girl Scouts, and that a major responsibility of the Board is to oversee the Council's finances. The Financial Report was for information purposes only and not subject to a vote by the delegates.

Davis & Company performed the GSESC independent audit for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. The audit was reviewed by the Council's Audit Committee and by the Board of Directors in January 2026. An unqualified opinion was received on the financial statements which is the highest opinion that can be received. For the 12th year in a row, GSESC Annual Meeting Minutes, April 25, 2026

the auditors reported no deficiencies. Fiscal Year 2025 ended with 29.5 months in operating reserves, compared to only 4.8 months in 2015. Mrs. Meador stated that this strong financial position gives us flexibility and an opportunity for discussions on the best ways to use our reserves for growth in our mission during our upcoming Strategic Planning process.

Our goal is for operations to cover depreciation expenses and our 2025 results exceeded depreciation by \$351,894. Council investments are managed by an external investment manager, Beacon Pointe Investment Advisors, per the GSESC investment policy statement. The Council had \$41,946 in interest and dividends income and \$121,368 in unrealized gains, resulting in a net change in assets of \$515,208.

The Fall Sale and Cookie Sale remain our largest source of funding for the Council of \$2,293,424, representing 80% of total operating revenue. Income from program fees and retail sales income of \$229,246 represents 8%, with adult-generated giving of \$96,212 representing 4%. Our Troops and Service Units received cookie incentives of \$1,119,193 in cash, in addition to the great girl cookie rewards.

Our financial performance has been consistently strong and reflects the dedication of every volunteer, staff member and supporter across the Council. Mrs. Cavatoni stated that the Finance Report was received as information, with she and Diane available for any questions after the meeting.

STATE OF THE COUNCIL REPORT

Mrs. Cavatoni introduced Diane Flanagan, CEO. Ms. Flanagan presented the Council Report slide show.

- 19 years since Council Realignment
- Membership as of 9/30/2025: 2,799 girls served; 1,998 adult members serving girls; retained 62% girls and 73% adults. Our membership department is fully staffed with ongoing recruitments, such as the Paid School Facilitator Program, Troop "Try It Series", National Head Start partnership and expanded Girl Scout Experience Boxes
- 8th year of Lead on Us! Initiative that Council pays for membership fee and background check fees for our leaders.
- SUDs will be held August 1, 2026
- Volunteer Appreciation Dinners being held in our five regions during month of April
- Volunteer Board of Directors with 16 officers and members
- Ceremonies, traditions and Take Action Projects: Troop 423 Girl Scout Sunday, SU650 Camporee, Troop 4104 California trip, Troop 15 JGL Birthday Bash, "Terrific Kids" Kiwanis Club girls, Wreaths Across America, Harleyville 9-11 Remembrance, Take Action Projects Cookies to Ethiopia, Pollinator Garden, Troop 392 built benches at Sandy Ridge. A 9-11 Remembrance was held in the Charleston office with special guest Dagoberto Cordova, SFC Army Retired, who worked at the Pentagon on 9-11 and shared his personal experience.
- 31 Council-led programs with 1,290 participants were held: The JCs (Junior Counselors) were started to design and deliver programs and help Troops. Contact Danielle Sykes for a JC Program. Other programs were the SC Legislative Page Program, Journey In a Day, Robo Explorers Day; Day Camps, Let's Glow Girls Party, Jewelry Making, Program Aide Sleepovers, Outdoor Skills Workshop, Wicked for Good screenings, Teacups and Charms soiree, Paint Swirls and Splatter, Novel Navigators, Horseback Riding, Ghost Pirates hockey game; Cookie Rally at Bee City Zoo
- Resident Camp had 284 campers over six weeks last summer
- New roofs have been installed at the Windy Hill bath house and Maintenance Shop for Sandy Ridge capital improvements
- Girl Recognition will be held May 2, 2026

- Mary Dean Brewer Women of Distinction will be held August 22, 2026

- College scholarships of \$1,000 awarded for Geraldynne Zimmerman Scholarship; \$3,000 awarded for Mary Dean Brewer Scholarships for Gold Award girls. Five \$2,500 general GSESC Scholarships awarded
- 2025 Cookie Sale had 108,449 cases sold; 1,301,388 boxes were sold and the per girl average was 659. There were 38 girls who sold 3,500+ boxes and 9 girls who sold 6,200+ boxes. Our top seller, Brooklyn, sold 8,210 boxes. Cookies for a Cause were 7,680 boxes.
- 2026 Cookie Sale price per box increased to \$5 and had 87,468 cases sold, with 1,049,616 boxes sold. 51 girls sold 3,200+ boxes and 1,808 girls earned their 2026-2027 GSUSA membership
- GSUSA National Council Session will be held in July and there will be three National Council delegates from our Council attending. There will be three proposals for a vote and two discussion topics
- Membership dues 2026-2027 will increase from \$35 to \$65 per girl. The 2025 TogetHER Initiative has ended; however, 1,808 girls earned their 2026-2027 membership through cookie girl rewards
- A new Teen Trefoil Talk postcard was mailed to girls 13 years and older
- The 2026 Board workplans include a Strategic Planning task group, Property task group and Impact and Belonging task Group. GSUSA has identified four metrics-based objects for the Impact and Belonging task group: increase multicultural membership diversity, reduce 1-year retention gap, increase Gold Award representation and increase voting body diversity

BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Anne Liebergall, Board Development Committee Chair, presented the Board Development Committee report. The biographies of all the nominees were included in the delegate packets. The charge was to fill two positions on the slate of Officers and four positions on the slate of Members-at-Large.

Mrs. Liebergall presented the 2026 slate:

Officer nominees for a 3-year term, 2026-2029:

3rd Vice Chair: Amanda Millen Cole
Secretary: Jane Pelletier

Member-At-Large nominees for a 3-year term, 2026-2029:

Nicole Gibson
Elizabeth Marlowe
Lesli McGee
Nancy Sulek

Mrs. Cavatoni stated that as this motion came from the Board Development Committee, a second was not required. For the vote of the slate of nominees for the Board Officers and Members-at-Large as presented, the in-person delegates were asked to hold up their green voting card and say “aye”. Cindy Watson conducted a roll call vote for delegates joining by Zoom. There were no “nay” votes, and the motion carried.

INSTALLATION CEREMONY

Mrs. Cavatoni invited the newly elected Board Officers and Members, along with the current Board Members to the front. She acknowledged the Board members joining on Zoom. Mrs. Cavatoni administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Board members and thanked them for reaffirming their commitment to our girls and to this movement.

CLOSING

Mrs. Cavatoni recognized and thanked Rachelle Jamerson-Holmes for her five years of service as 3rd Vice Chair of the Board of Directors. Her term on the Board of Directors ended with this Annual Meeting. Mrs. Cavatoni thanked our

The business portion of the 2026 Annual meeting was adjourned at 1:26 pm.

The next Annual Meeting will be held April 24, 2027.

GSESC: jj4/28/2026

DRAFT