



Dear Friends,

We are very excited as we prepare for this year's Annual Meeting. We all hope next year our meeting will be in person, but from your input we will meet virtually this year.

As you know, many of us were working from home for parts of the 2020-2021 Girl Scout program year. However, we had many achievements during that difficult period that we are very proud of include:

- Our cookie and fall product programs were impacted by the pandemic due to a decline in membership; however, the per girl selling average was the highest ever!
- The Wahi renovation project was well underway this year, and everyone is excited about the major improvements at the camp.
- Excellent fiscal operations were maintained, and we ended the year strong financially. We had another "clean" audit report from our auditors.
- We received forgiveness on our Payroll Protection Loan through the CARES Act program. This greatly helped the organization hold on to its staff during such unprecedented times.
- We also applied for ERTC (Emergency Relief Tax Credits) and qualified for a significant amount. The funds should be received in the next few months.
- We were able to hold a few in-person program events, including summer resident camp.

As you have been on the front lines, you know this has been a very busy year at GSGMS for the girls, volunteers, and staff members. Together we have focused on recruiting girls, volunteers, and advancing property improvements. During this year, we focused heavily on recovering from the membership decline as a result of

Covid-19. I am pleased to report that GSGMS has been recognized by GSUSA for meeting hefty goals of membership numbers.

Also, we are very excited to have had the financial ability to develop a revitalization plan for Camp Wahi. Phase one of the plan is almost complete as we have brought life back to twenty aging buildings, made major road improvements, cut new trails, cut underbrush to enhance the beauty and safety of the camp, along with other improvements. A plan for future growth and attractions will be included and we will begin raising funds to give our girls the very best camp experience possible. Our goal is to attract and retain girls and their love of the outdoors. I want to thank our Board of Directors for their leadership in this project for the girls of today and the future by investing our camps.

We are also working on Camp Iti Kana at a slightly slower pace, but with exciting plans for the camp and attractions. Camp Iti Kana got off to a quick start with the new lodge and now we are focusing on more improvements. We greatly appreciate the partnership with the Civitans that help us make improvements every year at Camp Iti Kana.

We are excited about upcoming programs, camps, and travel opportunities for the girls. I want to thank all of you, our volunteers and parents for your partnership, patience, and determination as we just completed a very successful but frustrating cookie season due to the national cookie shortage. The delays and additional work on your part was exceptional – you took a difficult situation and turned it into a learning opportunity for the girls. Business is not always easy and to be flexible and determined is the path to success. Our girls had an outstanding year. I am very excited to see the plans that they have for their hard-earned program proceeds. Thank you as leaders for remaining steady and keeping the momentum going through that difficult situation.

You inspire us daily to hold the GSGMS family close at heart and reach for our shared dreams for the very best Girl Scout experience possible for our girls. We see every day, in our girls, volunteers, and staff that we do, in fact, have the power within each of us to make the world a better place. Thank you for your vital part of delivering on our promise to girls and our mission. The girls are the heart, and

you are the backbone of our Girl Scouts of Greater Mississippi culture and the mission of our nationwide Movement.

I hope that our progress as a Council ignites excitement and makes you even prouder to be a part of the GSGMS family. Each girl, volunteer, parent, staff member and community partner that gives of their time, talent, and heart is a part of every success at GSGMS. Thank you and may the year ahead be our best year ever!

Yours in Scouting,

Becky Traweek

CEO