



March 16th, 2021

Dear Friends:

We hope that you and your families are doing well. COVID-19 has disrupted our lives in ways none of us have ever seen. Our thoughts and prayers are with those families hit hardest by this pandemic.

The safety of our members, including volunteers, girls and staff, is always at the forefront of everything we do. The Board of Directors recently met and decided, with safety in mind, to hold the annual meeting again this year through a Zoom virtual meeting on Saturday, April 24th, 2021, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Mississippi Code has provisions for “emergency by-laws” that allows a board of directors to adopt special emergency actions for basic functioning of an organization during an emergency. (You may refer to MS CODE ANN 79-11-147, 1988)

Regretfully, we are not able to hold our Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. We will, however, recognize the recipients of awards in a surprising way very soon!. In the meantime, please know you have our heartfelt “Thank you!” for all your time and talents you give to the girls in our council!

During this year’s virtual annual meeting, we will present the proposed slate of nominees from the Board Development Committee. We will then vote on the slate to fill positions that will be open. For your review, attached please find your delegate packet including the following items:

- 2021 virtual annual meeting agenda
- Slate of Nominees for Board of Directors
- Meeting Minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting
- Standing Rules for the virtual meeting
- 2020 Audited Financials
- 2020 Impact Report

A link for the annual meeting will be sent out closer to the meeting date. On Thursday, April 15th, at 6:00pm, we will hold a “practice call” for voting on Zoom. That link will be sent out shortly.

As you review the information included in this Delegate Packet, we would like to share some of the accomplishments and major projects that the council has been working hard toward for the betterment of the Girl Scouts of Greater Mississippi.

- ✓ Excellent fiscal operations were maintained and we ended the year strong financially. We had another “clean” audit report from our auditors.

- ✓ Several foundation grants and corporate gifts were received to help us with our Health and Fitness programming and to help serve girls in our in-school settings.
- ✓ More opportunities for older girl activities are available through our own programming, as well as program partners.
- ✓ Our cookie program was the largest ever, with well over 1 million boxes sold. The girls were so fortunate to finish right before the pandemic.
- ✓ Despite the challenges, we had a successful fall product sale due to safety innovations developed by troop leaders, girls, and staff.
- ✓ Ongoing maintenance projects were completed at our properties, while big projects were put on hold due to the pandemic.
- ✓ Our organization received a significant Payroll Protection Loan through the SBA to help support its staff during the pandemic, which was recently forgiven and will be considered a contribution. This greatly helped the organization to hold on to its staff during such unprecedented times.
- ✓ During the spring and summer, GSGMS staff delivered Facebook Live activities for all girls twice a week. Also, virtual recruitments as well as starter troop meetings were held on Zoom.

If you would like clarification on any of these listed, please feel free to contact Sarah Edwards, COO (601.326.5645 or sedwards@gsgms.org), Pam Britt, CFO (601.326.5651 or pbritt@gsgms.org), or Becky Traweek, CEO (601.326.5656 or btraweek@gsgms.org) to discuss further. They are happy to help you understand the full scope of these activities and accomplishments in relation to the entire council and its future.

You, as a voting member, are essential to the governance of our council, and your vote on issues of importance to the council is critical. We look forward to welcoming you to the virtual annual meeting. Thank you for furthering the continuation of our mission, to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. And once again, please do not hesitate to call with questions or concerns, or if we may be of assistance to you and the girls we serve together. Stay well and we look forward to our review of the past year and how we will move forward together. Again, thank you for your dedication to Girl Scouts!

Sincerely,

Gloria Johnson, Board Chair
Becky Traweek, CEO

