**Girl Scouts of Greater Mississippi**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 29, 2025**

**Virtual Meeting, 2:00 pm**

**Members in Attendance**: Kimberla Little, Henry Michel, Betty Mallett, Meredith Aldridge, Cindy Hollingsworth, Mary Hill, Derick Vance, Rosa Beckett, Charlotte Seals, Denise Cherry, Josh Thrash, Cindy Karlson, Tina Lakey, Barbara Travis, Laura Hearn, Jennifer Hall and Lauren McGraw.

**Members Absent**: Pam Ware and Cathy Watson.

**GSGMS staff members**: Becky Traweek, Pam Britt and Sarah Edwards.

**Guest:** Kimberly Strong, Harper, Raines, Knight and Company, PA

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by Mary Hill, Board Chair.

**Audit Committee Report:** Mary Hill introduced Kim Strong, Audit Director, from our audit firm, Harper, Raines, Knight and Company, PA. Kim reviewed the highlights of the report with the board and audit committee which had met previously.

Kim went over the Audit Report pointing out that the firm’s opinion on the financial statements is that we have a clean, unmodified report.  She went through the highlights, comparing the information to the prior year.  She mentioned this was a year that was consistent with last year, reporting that there were no significant changes, but a strong year financially.  She noted that our total program expenses were 94% of our total expenses, which was excellent.  She went over several of the key disclosures.  Kim also reported the highlights of the required Communication Letter to the Board, noting no problems or issues.  She also reviewed the Form 990, which is the information tax return for the non-profit.

**Finance Report:** Laura Hearn delivered the Finance Report. She pointed out that the  highlight of the month was the fall product program and that some additional revenue would post next month.  Our loss for the month is $118k and our year to date loss is  $334k.  Currently, the cookie program is underway. We always look forward when this moves us in a positive financial situation.

A motion to approve the audit report, Form 990 and finance report for fiscal year 2024, was made by Meredith Aldridge. Since it came from committee, no second is needed. The vote was held. The motion passed unanimously.

**CEO Report:** Becky Traweek delivered the CEO report. Over the years, the council has gotten a short-term loan to pay for our initial cookies; however, last year we used our own funds. This allows us to pay for them sooner and get the 1% discount, saving the council money. Again, this year, since we have the funds available, the council would like to use our own funds, instead of the loan, saving us the interest on that loan.

Becky reported that United Way funds are dwindling. The council just heard from the Pine Belt United Way that they have lost a major funder and will not be able to fund our program next year. The East Mississippi United Way is the only one we have left, only contributing $7,300 this year. However, with dues going up next year, we will not be able to serve as many in-school girls.

Cookie booth sales begin the weekend of Friday, February 7, 2025, and continue each weekend for the next 3 weeks.

Our annual meeting will be held Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. It will be followed by the Adult Award Luncheon at noon, then the Girl Award Ceremony at 2:30 p.m. Board members were encouraged to save the date and to be in attendance.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the November 24, 2024, meeting were presented by Betty Mallett, Board Secretary. A motion was made by Betty to accept the minutes as presented. It was seconded by Meredith Aldridge. Motion passed unanimously.

**COO Report:** Sarah Edwards delivered the COO report which is included in the meeting packet. She also shared that the council was approved by GSUSA to offer a “Destinations” experience to Girl Scouts all over the country. We will be hosting 18 girls from around the country in July on the coast. Besides enjoying educational activities along the coast, they will also learn about cyber security.

**Board Development Committee:** Charlotte Seals reported that the committee met to work on the slate for the upcoming meeting on January 14th with 100% participation. There is a need for one new board development committee member and six new board members. There are asks underway for these openings. They also selected our delegates for the next national council session being held in July 2026. She reported that the slate would be complete soon.

**Executive Committee:** Mary Hill reported that the Executive Committee did not meet.

**Other Business:** There was discussion regarding the possibility of allowing virtual meetings in certain circumstances for the annual meeting.

Mary Hill shared that she will be in New York for new board chair training March16th to March 19th.

There being no other business, Charlotte Seals moved that the meeting adjourn. It was seconded by Barbara Travis and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 pm.