

**GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL OF THE NATION'S CAPITAL**

**COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING**

**APRIL 19, 2008**

**REMARKS OF PRESIDENT ELECT**

**DIANE TIPTON**

I was fortunate enough to grow up in a scouting family – so it is not surprising that I earned my “first class” and my brother his “eagle.” My father was a Boy Scout leader for over 20 years and both of my parents volunteered for the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts for as long as their health allowed. I can not imagine how proud they would feel of me today. The values I learned at home – the values I learned in Girl Scouting – the values that we practice in our home today are all connected. They are about honesty, kindness, responsibility, commitment and giving back to the communities where we live and where we work. That is who I am – and who I will be as your President.

I do believe that I am inheriting from Angela – and the long line of exceptional Presidents who preceded her – the finest council in the country. Our membership is growing, our energy is high, and our bottom line is strong. Our image in the community is unequaled and our potential is unlimited. And as far as I am concerned, that is the perfect place to be – energized and ready for the opportunities ahead.

Three years from today – when I look back at my term – I would like to report the following successes:

- Our new fund raising efforts produced many large gifts from new donors to support expanded program for girls.
- Our camp construction is complete and camps are filled each weekend and all summer long.
- Our membership has grown – not only with the addition of three new counties in Virginia – but with increases in every corner of our vast jurisdiction.
- And, that we have ambitious and exciting plans in place to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Girl Scouting in 2012.

Along the way, we will have new GSUSA programs to learn and enjoy, a National Council Session to attend in Indianapolis, new corporate goals to put in place, and I am sure some unexpected opportunities and challenges to keep our life interesting.

One of my first official tasks will be to lead our delegation of 37 – and who knows how many visitors – to the National Council Session this fall. I have had a quick peak at the slate of nominees and the proposals that will be on the Agenda. Our Board hasn't seen this yet – but I have Angela's permission to provide a quick preview.

**Nominees:** Two of our Nation's Capital family are nominees for the National Board. Rhea Schwartz is running for a second term (hooray!) and Marie Johns, who co-chaired our Capital Campaign, is also a candidate for the National Board.

**Proposals:** There are six proposals on the agenda – some with multiple parts – all are important and will be posted on the website soon. Some of the proposals follow action we took today...like allowing vote by acclamation. Others that will probably lead to interesting discussion are:

- Cut the size of the delegate body at the National Council session in half from 2,000 to 1,000.
- Change the “constitution” to open the door for membership categories beyond “annual” and “lifetime.” An example of this would be “multi-year membership.”
- Transfer to the National Board the responsibility of setting national dues (this is currently done by National Delegates).
- Increase dues from \$10 to \$12.

Information on how to sign-up as a visitor will soon be posted on the website. Be watching.

The trip to the National Council Session will be the first of many adventures and I am looking forward to all of them. I am delighted to be working with an exceptional Board of Directors, a wonderful new Officer Team, and with all of you as together we build a strong and vibrant future for our council and our girls.

Thank you.