

Annual Meeting 2024

President of the Board, Barbara Krumsiek, Remarks

Thank you to the **Recognition Panel** and congratulations to today's honorees. Your stories of dedicated service to **Girl Scouts** clearly illustrate that you have made your mark, you have changed lives and you have lived by the principle that we **ALL belong in Girl Scouts**.

This past year we achieved so much and I along with the rest of the board members are in awe of the boundless potential we see in every Girl Scout.

To our board (past and present) I want to thank you for believing in our mission and investing your support and time in building Girl Scouts of courage, confidence, and character.

To our volunteers. I want to thank you for the energy, passion, the guidance you share with our Girl Scouts, and your commitment.

Because of your commitment we can continue to support and invest in young leaders who are making a difference. Together, we're providing the tools and resources our young leaders need to build a future *they* want to see.

And let me tell you, Cookie Season is one of my favorite times, not only because I get to share my "cool cookie customer patch." But because I get to visit booths and learn about all the remarkable things our Girl Scouts will fund with their proceeds.

Caroline Carlson from Troop 80225, put her entrepreneurship skills to work and encouraged customers to donate a box of cookies to Troops2Troops, a program built for customers to donate cookie boxes or proceeds to a local cause of the Girl Scout Troop's choice, and for each box of cookies donated she gave a pair of socks to a local hypothermia center. Caroline donated 120 pairs of socks!

Caroline is a Daisy, AND she is already making the world a better place.

Your donations play a crucial role in sustaining and enhancing our program pillars that will ensure more girls, like **Caroline**, in our region have access to high-quality, impactful, and empowering experiences that help them grow into confident, capable, and compassionate leaders.

In 2018, the Pleasants Companies gifted our Council approximately 640 acres of undeveloped land in Prince Georges County, Maryland.

This year, the **Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission** purchased over 500 acres of that land to ensure its conservation and a beautiful park for the community. This is the largest land purchase in the history of the state of Maryland.

I was thrilled to have the opportunity to present the **Thanks Badge** to **Wendy White** just moments ago for her significant contribution of professional expertise to this land initiative since 2018.

The land purchase enabled us to establish an Outdoor Legacy Fund which will allow the council to maximize the impact of outdoor programming that will inspire our Girl Scouts to become environmental stewards and increase accessibility and inclusion in the outdoors. Things that we could only dream of before-- because our vision extends far beyond our annual budget limitations.

The ongoing support from major donors like **Barbara Ostrom** and an anonymous contributor has been instrumental in funding the White Rock Shower House Renovation.

I love all our camps, but White Rocks holds a special place for me and my late husband, Bart.

Many thanks to 79-year-young Girl Scout camper, **Mary Lou Spottswood** for sponsoring the **Camp May Flather** Pool Renovation and reminding us there is a **Camp May Flather** Song!

These contributions not only revitalize our facilities but also demonstrate the deep impact community involvement has in preserving our Girl Scout traditions and spaces.

I'm excited to share that we have some amazing events on the horizon.

We'll be celebrating the **50th Anniversary of Congressional Aide Program** on **May 22nd**, an event on Capitol Hill that will bring together 100 teen Girl Scouts for a speed mentoring session, followed by insights from Congressional staff about their roles, and a private tour of the Visitors' Center.

Next, we're gearing up for the **20th Anniversary of Women of Distinction**, a significant event benefiting Girl Scouting in the West Virginia region.

A heartfelt thank you to **Berniece Collis** for her dedicated leadership as the committee chair.

And mark your calendars for the **5th annual Golf Classic on Monday, September 30th**, where players will come together to champion the cause of empowering Girl Scouts.

For more details on these exciting events, check out the digital program.

Lastly, I mentioned earlier **Noorain Khan**, National President of Girl Scouts of the USA was with us today.

Now, **Noorain** is a D.C. local at least until July, which means we can claim her as one of our own for a little longer!

I'm only half-kidding... please join me in welcoming Noorain to the stage!

<Noorain Khan, National President of Girl Scouts of the USA, gives remarks>

Thank you, Noorain.

Before you head off the stage, I have a special gift.

We're known for our fancy hats at convention, and we're excited to share a bit of that tradition with you today, with an honorary hat from NCS 2023.

Convention is always so energizing, and 2026 will be a special one.

With that, I would like to turn it over to your **Chief Operating Officer, Colleen Cibula**, for an update on Council operations.