



Remarks from the President

Barbara Krumsiek

Girl Scouts Nation's Capital 59th Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 17, 2021

In October, one of my first official duties was to lead the Council's delegation to the Girl Scout National Council Session – virtually, of course. But it was an amazing experience.

Between the extremely active chat log and a socially distanced in-person gathering for half the delegation at the DC office, it was a true bonding experience. We spent over 36 hours together, helping to ensure our voices were heard on all proposals. Importantly, I am thrilled to report that our positions prevailed and members will have a voice in decisions related to membership dues. I was proud to be part of this important milestone and it was all thanks to Girl Scouts Nation's Cap (as we are known in the Movement).

I grew up a Girl Scout in Queens, NY and it had a profound and lasting influence on my choices and successes.

At age 8/9 a rather “cranky” Girl Scout Cookie customer in my neighborhood challenged me to add three numbers really fast in my head. I quickly arrived at the answer. He told me I was good at Math and because I passed his “test” he bought cookies.

Through my teens I was proud to be a Camp Counselor at Camp Henry Kaufmann in New York State. Later when I headed to college to be a Math major, my participation in Girl Scouting provided access to a scholarship that paid 25% of my tuition for all four years.

I know very well that Girl Scouting continues to impact the lives of thousands of girls every year at Girl Scouts Nation's Capital. I see it in the engagement of our teen delegates at our Forums. I see it in the projects of my fellow Gold Award Girl Scouts.

I enjoy visiting cookie booths and I have to say that handing out the Cool Cookie Customer patch was a highlight of my year -- shout out to my friends in West Virginia (especially Troop 40235).

And to our dedicated volunteers, I appreciate each one of you. While there have been few opportunities for me to meet you in-person over the past year due to COVID protocol, it was my privilege to travel to the homes of many of today's honorees to present awards. Regardless of volunteer role -- troop leader, Share Chair, Service Unit Manager, Adult Educator, Camp Volunteer or Board member -- your passion and dedication truly make a difference in the lives of each and every Girl Scout. You are incredible!

And, our members don't just give their time, but share their love of Girl Scouting with financial support – their treasure. So many of our volunteers, families, and friends give generously to our annual family campaign, SHARE. In fact, two Associations—34 & 42--have already met or exceeded their goals for this year. Accept our virtual congratulations for joining this year's Green Ribbon Club. I also want to recognize the 22 Service Units that have met or exceeded their SHARE goals already this year. We have so much to be proud of!

We are 64.2% to our goal of \$700,000, but we know our service unit and troop SHARE Chairs continue their creative efforts to spread the word about the importance of the SHARE Your Love of Girl Scouting campaign. I want to assure you that your Board is a partner in your efforts to increase investment in our girls. We each make our own personal meaningful gift every year and actively work to introduce our business colleagues and friends to the Girl Scout mission.

One example of this is Board member Mary Karen Wills. She led a committee that planned our first Girl Scout Golf Classic. Masked and socially distanced, we hosted old and new friends and raised approximately \$127,000 in August 2020. And we are doing it again on Monday, October 25, 2021.

But we have more work to do in our Council, and frankly in this country, to increase the financial investment in our girls' future. In 2017, the Women's Philanthropy Institute found less than 2% of overall charitable giving from individuals, foundations, and corporations support nonprofits focused on women

and girls. Our girls deserve much more. And the funding challenges and financial need continues to be real.

We are thrilled to be opening our camps—day, evening, community-based and sleep away—this summer. But to do that safely for our Girl Scouts, volunteers, and staff, we have to purchase over \$100,000 worth of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to serve – fingers crossed – about 4,000 girls. We will be sharing more details about the need in early June. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

In September of last year, the Board formed an Ad Hoc Strategy Planning Committee, charged with developing corporate goals for the next four years. Based on the work completed thus far, we remain firm in our belief that girls are best served in a troop. And affirm our belief that volunteer delivery of high-quality program is vital to our growth and sustainability. You confirmed during Forums that a combination of virtual and in-person experiences will be our future.

Additionally, we are proud that our Council has a strong history of diversity, equity, and inclusion, but we recognize that there is more work to be done. It is not enough for Girl Scouts to be welcoming – we need to make sure every girl, family, and volunteer feel that they belong.

Girl Scouts Nation's Capital has survived this past year much stronger, but I do not want us to survive, I want us to THRIVE in every possible way. From growing membership to serving our girls, from supporting our volunteers to sustainable finances, our Council has an important leadership role to play in our community and in the Movement. I am honored to lead this Council of inspiring girls, dedicated volunteers, and generous donors. Together, I know that we are stronger.

Thank you.