Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
Saturday, November 1, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Starwoods Outdoor Center
Clearwater, Kansas

Presiding: Helen Wimsatt, Chair

The Annual Council Meeting of the Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland was convened at Starwoods Outdoor Center in Clearwater, KS on November 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was made accessible via Teams to those participating remotely. Notice was made available to all members of the Council in accordance with the Bylaws.

Helen Wimsatt, Chair of the Board of Directors, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

The flag ceremony was performed by members of Girl Scout Troops 41319, 41599, and 40277 representing Derby, Goddard, and Rose Hill. Attendees recited the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Council Business

Helen Wimsatt welcomed all attendees to the 18th Annual Meeting of the Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland. She announced the appointment of the following:

- Beth Bosch, Credentials Chair,
- Jeanette Martin, Cecilia Thibault, and Brenda McKenney as the Minutes Approval Committee,
- Mark Young as Timekeeper, and
- Lisa Cech as Head Teller; Muriel Boyce, Monica Legleiter, and Michelle Daniels as Tellers.

Beth Bosch, Credentials Chair, was introduced. Beth confirmed that the total number and geographic representation of voting members in attendance exceeded the minimum required. Helen Wimsatt declared that a quorum was present. The Credentials Report was adopted as presented, without objection.

Annual Meeting Standing Rules for 2025 were made available to the membership in accordance with the bylaws and presented to those members in attendance. Following a request from the membership, Helen Wimsatt read the rules aloud. There was no discussion and **the Annual Meeting Standing Rules for 2025 were adopted without objection.**

The Agenda for the 2025 Annual Council Meeting was made available to the membership in accordance with the bylaws and presented to participating members. There was no discussion. **The Agenda for the 2025 Annual Council Meeting was adopted without objection.**

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Council Meeting were approved by the committee appointed at that meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Kara Mosley, Treasurer, was introduced and presented a brief report of the financial health of the council over the previous year. She shared information based on the audited financial statements for the years ending 2024 and 2023.

Bylaws

Beth Bosch, board and committee member, was introduced to present proposed amendments to the Bylaws. The proposed revisions were made available to the membership in accordance with the bylaws. Beth shared a summary of the proposals:

1. Clarify language throughout, such as references to other documents, spelling corrections, numerical elucidation, and removal of redundancies.

2. Reference GSUSA Blue Book of Basic Documents for current membership age language.

3. Better define terms for Board Development Committee members.

4. Update responsibilities of the Board Secretary

5. Better define composition of the Board of Directors

6. Remove resolution requirement for board meeting notices.

7. Better define committees and task groups.

8. Include Board Chair and CEO on Slate of Nominees for National Delegate roles.

9. Expand instances when legal counsel may be retained by the Board of Directors.

10. Mirror language from Articles of Incorporation regarding, "Assets Upon Dissolution".

There was no discussion. **The Bylaw Amendments were adopted as presented with one dissenting vote**.

State of Girl Scouts

Helen Wimsatt began her final address as Board Chair by formally recognizing Kara Mosley and Cecilia Thibault whose terms also end today. They were thanked for their service to the council.

Helen reflected on the past year and commended Girl Scouts for championing their causes, embodying the mission, and making a profound impact in their communities. While acknowledging a declining membership, Helen shared that significant changes have been made to the strategic plan to increase diversity, expand ways to experience Girl Scouting, develop branding models, and create financial stability.

Property updates were shared including the difficult decision to divest of Camp Four Winds, and the addition of The Heartland Activity Center, a new multi-use facility at Starwoods.

Rolinda Sample, CEO, expanded on Helen's remarks about the strategic focus of the council, and highlighted examples including the utilization of Girl Scout Experience Boxes, expansion of program delivery methods like Juliettes, staff-led troops and school/community-based troops, as well as participation in a national pilot to close the opportunity and membership gaps for Black girls. Property upgrades were listed and supporters were acknowledged and thanked for generous contributions toward the new building at Starwoods.

The new cookie for 2026, Exploremores, was debuted for all to try, and Rolinda announced a proposal from GSKH relating to the preservation of GS Leadership Experience will be placed on the agenda for consideration at the National Council Session in July 2026.

Board Development Committee Report

Jennifer Bellinger-Sipes, Board Development Committee Chair, was introduced and presented the slate of nominees to the National Council Delegates and Alternates.

For National Council Delegates:

Sharon Bastian

Patty Dengler

Jeff Janssen

Rolinda Sample, and

Allison de la Garza

As a youth member, only Allison's first name was provided to membership in advance of this meeting, so Jennifer shared more information with those present.

For National Council Alternates:

Jen Ashcraft

Peggy Bearth, and

Patty Zies

Helen Wimsatt acknowledged there were no nominations from the floor submitted to the Board Development Committee, and declared the nominations closed and the nominees elected by acclamation.

Jennifer recognized two board members whose terms are ending, Kara Mosley and Cecilia Thibault, as well as two members of the Board Development Committee whose terms also end at this meeting, Jeff Janssen and Julianna Rieschick.

Jennifer then presented the slate of nominees to the Board of Directors and Board Development Committee.

For the Board of Directors:

Chair, two-year term, 2025-2027

Patty Dengler

Second Vice-Chair, two-year term, 2025-2027

Jeff Janssen

Treasurer, two-year term, 2025-2027

Lesley Hazleton

Secretary, two-year term, 2025-2027

Nici Duncan

Members-at-Large, three-year term, 2025-2028

Martha Brewer

Natalie Ellis

Vanessa Gaytan

Michelle Green

Kari Oglesby

Mandy Stark

For the Board Development Committee:

Board Member, three-year term, 2025-2028

Sarah Buchanan

Helen Wimsatt acknowledged there were no nominations from the floor submitted to the Board Development Committee, and declared the nominations closed and nominees elected by acclamation.

Jennifer Bellinger-Sipes administered the oath of office to newly elected members of the Board of Directors and the Board Development Committee.

Helen congratulated all new members and turned the meeting over to Patty Dengler.

Patty acknowledged the many accomplishments of Helen Wimsatt and thanked her for her hard work and dedication to Girl Scouting. Looking forward, Patty shared the direction GSUSA is setting for the next few years, Vision 2030, which will be a bold path for the future of Girl Scouting.

With no further business to conduct, the business meeting was conlcuded at 10:52 a.m.

(Minutes Approval Committee)