

## Fall Town Halls 2018 – Q&A

### Edinboro location, October 15, 2018:

Q. Patricia Dewalt SU 3620: Regarding proposed amendment to Section 4.2 Term of Office, is there a limit to how many terms?

A. Yes, 2 years, 2 consecutive terms. If you become an officer, terms start over again.

Q. Rosemond Learn SU 3620: Regarding proposed amendment to Section 4.2 Term of Office, if you're off a year, can you return?

A. Yes

Q. Patricia Dewalt SU 3620: I'm concerned that the date/deadline in November is restricting time to bring up concerns prior to Annual Meeting.

A. Patricia's comment was noted.

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Q. Cassandra Williams SU 3618: Will the season change impact an interest in purchasing camp properties?

A. Pat Burkart: No, the real estate agent said camp properties do not have a season like homes.

Q. Rosemond Learn SU 3620: Is there a consideration to move our main office out of Allegheny to a place that offers free parking?

A. Pat Burkart: We are considering our options.

Q. Kathy Shaffer SU 3641: I would like to suggest Mercer County for the main office, which is off of I79 and is reasonably priced.

A. Kathy's suggestion was noted.

Q. Darlene Kinnear SU 3619: What offices do we own versus rent?

A. Pat Burkart: We own all with the exception of Pittsburgh.

Q. Kristen Eliason SU 3616: Can the Pittsburgh staff go mobile so there wouldn't be a need for more space?

A. Pat Burkart: Headquarters requires that office space.

Q: Hannah Dewalt SU 3620: Can we consider a central location so that volunteers/girls do not have to travel so far?

A: Hannah's comment was noted.

Q: Darcy Haun SU 3620: Can a MagNut and Cookie incentive include FREE Camp, option for a day camp experience instead of program rewards or select items?

A: Darcy's comment was noted.

Q: Hannah Dewalt SU 3620: Can GSWPA consider the lower populated/rural areas to meet higher product sales goals?

A: Hannah's comment was noted.

Q: Patricia Dewalt SU 3620: It is disappointing that the opt-out is only an additional 5 cents. The extra incentive of an additional nickel is for troops of 5 or more, but older girl troops limits the opportunity to receive additional incentive.

A: Deb Smith: We will talk to the product sales team about the troop numbers related to incentives.

Q. Patricia Dewalt SU 3620: Do cookie sales need to be in the winter when booth sales are primarily outside in subzero temperatures?

A: Deb Smith: Traditionally there are many other product sales going on at this time – schools and other groups. But primarily, troops are just forming in the fall. Not all troops would be up and running and not able to fully participate in the cookie program.

A: It was suggested by someone in the group that volunteers reach out to Walmart on Twitter to ask about selling inside storefronts.

A: Kristen Eliason SU 3616: Walmart will not allow you to sell at all if it is below a certain temperature which effects their sales.

Q: Hannah Dewalt SU 3620: No one knows about MagNut sales outside of the organization. She suggested we better market it. She also said the online sales are not user-friendly.

A: Deb Smith: We have had problems with our MagNut vendor in the past, however, we've heard very positive things about the online experience this year.

Q: Darcy Haun SU 3620: There is no longer an option to donate magazines to troops online. Can you bring it back?

A: Darcy's comment was noted.

Q: Amanda Carter SU 3614: Was there a meeting between BSA and Girl Scout councils to discuss working together?

A: Pat Burkart: There was a discussion around BSA and GSWPA's efforts surrounding it.

Q. Kathy Shaffer SU 3641: I would like to suggest that more seasoned volunteers (above a certain age, 60+) to have a discounted Lifetime membership like we do graduating seniors.

A: Lois Kuttesch: Good suggestion! This could be brought on to vote at the next National Convention in 2020. Please submit your proposal in fall 2019 to be discussed more at the Annual Meeting in April.

### **Homestead location, October 17, 2018:**

Q: Tara Noone SU 5100: Regarding the Girl Scout Difference, Boy Scouts can advertise to everyone in schools and younger girls are getting confused with marketing campaigns and free things they can get from Boy Scouts. It's confusing because Boy Scouts is pitching the scouting experience initially as a whole family affair, which is intentionally misleading for families. How can we work on an adult recruitment program?

A: Melissa Cooper: There's a need for us to work together and try to borrow ideas from other organizations to the fact that Girl Scouts creates a safe space for girls to have fun and grow

Q: Elaine Effort SU 5502: What is the market share percentage for GSWPA? Are you communicating with Boy Scouts because they are holding "Scout Nights" in the area, and if you have spoken with them, what is the response from that conversation?

A: Pat Burkart: We have sent out a letter to schools with cookies about not merging, and local media markets to get the message out. In more hostile situations, we recognize the issue that we weren't collecting names of offenders, and we've now overlain the BOY SCOUTS council map over GSWPA map to see where incidents are occurring and to try to get names (or pack numbers) from volunteers. If we receive names, we will report incident to the local Boy Scouts council.

Q: Leslie Brueggman SU 5707: Boy Scout recruiters are pushing the outdoor things. Girl Scout STEM badges are moving us too far away from the Girl Scout basics of outdoor survival.

A: Melissa Cooper: We want to focus on easy ways to get volunteers equipped to easily provide program and experiences for girls, so we're not a policing organization, but an organization that supports volunteers.

Q: Elaine Effort SU 5502: Regarding proposed amendment 4.2 Term of Office, how do we keep terms renewing without everyone being overturned at the same time?

A: Lois Kuttesch: This will be addressed in discussion of the following change about continuity.

Q: Regarding proposed amendment 4.2 Term of Office, what is the max number of board members?

A: Lois Kuttesch: 21

Q: Regarding Section 5.2 Duties of Officers, Is this a 1-year commitment for the chair of the board as part of the executive team?

A: Lois Kuttesch would be staying on as a mentor as new team comes on.

Q: Regarding proposed amendment to Section 7.3 Nominations from the Floor, when is the date for Annual Meeting?

A: April 13, 2019.

Q: Elaine Effort SU 5502: Regarding proposed amendment to Section 7.3 Nominations from the Floor, we shouldn't let process get in the way of nominating board members: 72 hours is too close, but 5-6 months seems like too large of a window. I'm concerned that volunteers working with girls shouldn't have time limited about input of who should be on the board.

A: Pat Burkart: We accept nominations all year long, so it's useful to have applications year-round so that there is a resource to pull from in event of vacancy.

A: Lois Kuttesch: Slate for 2019 is full, so nominations coming in will be for 2020 positions.

Q: Laurie Cybulski SU 5502: Regarding proposed amendment to Section 7.3 Nominations from the Floor, how often does the nomination push happen? If this hasn't happened before, why are we changing the date back?

A: Dot Brookes: In order to get something ready for Annual Meeting, the 11/15 deadline is necessary.

Q: Curtis Stratman SU 5502: What is the Skymeadow survey?

A: Pat Burkart: We don't have an accurate survey of the property, and we don't have contiguous property boundary, so we need to know where our properties and land extend so we can do property enhancements.

Q: Curtis Stratman SU 5502: Have we considered a fence around the property because it's easy to move off?

A: Pat Burkart: No, because we're not certain of the boundaries.

Q: Elaine Effort SU 5502: Is the Skymeadow survey to gear up for a property sale?

A: Pat Burkart: No, we have no intention of selling Skymeadow.

Q: Laurie Cybulski SU 5502: Regarding moving the Pittsburgh office, have you considered moving the Girl Scout Shop to a more accessible place, like a strip mall front, etc?

A: Pat Burkart: We will consider membership quantities and access in scouting a new location and acknowledges the current Pittsburgh Office and shops access issues with parking, especially with game day schedules.

Q: Laurie Cybulski SU 5502: In Girl Scouts Eastern PA, Girls can opt-out of product sales incentives for higher profit percentages or older girl travel accounts, giving girls the opportunity to earn \$200-400 extra for travel support.

A: Deb Smith: We're always looking at incentives and awards. We're look further into what that council is doing.

Q: Leslie Brueggman SU 5707: How much could be saved instead of tiny product patches for incentives? These should also be a part of the incentive opt-out.

A: Leslie's comment was noted.

Q: Elaine Effort SU 5502: I'd like to request more council-Daisy programming because they are great.

A: Elaine's comment was noted.

Q: Katey Muzy SU 2606: Regarding the increase in first-year Daisies joining, is there a focus on joining older girls?

A: Melissa Cooper: It's harder to bring older girls in because they think they need to start from the very beginning. We do a disservice by not focusing on travel, which appeals to older girl population and we are trying to have our older girls reach out to other girls to get the word out.

Q: Tara Noone SU 5100: Why did we get rid of Service Unit bonuses from the MagNut sale?

A: Deb Smith: We ran into many Service Units not claiming their funds that then had to be redistributed. The best use of profit proceeds is to go directly to the girls and troops.

### **Johnstown Location, October 24, 2018:**

Q: Dottie Neal SU 4641: Regarding the proposed amendment to Section 4.2 Term of Office, has it caused problems?

A: Becky Styles: No, not in accordance to laws as written.

Q: Dottie Neal SU 4641: Regarding the proposed amendment to Section 5.2 Term of Office, would the position be optional?

A: Becky Styles: Maybe.

Q: Jeannie George SU 4622: Regarding the proposed amendment to Section 5.2 Term of Office, is this the same proposal as stated previously?

A: Pat Burkart: No, it's a different proposal.

Q: Andrea Schissler SU 2664: Regarding the proposed amendment to Section 5.2 Term of Office, can this be optional? Would it be at the desire of both parties?

A: Dottie Neal: The suggested wording is "at the pleasure of the board".

Q: Amy Dobbins SU 4654: Regarding the proposed amendment to Section 7.3 Nominations from the Floor, can you make the date January 15 instead of November?

A: Pat Burkart: Names will be due in November. The board preparation and selection process begins in August. Applications are accepted year-round. Selection occurs in December and January to be ready for the April meeting so the board can fully vet the applicant.

Q: Andrea Schissler SU 2664: Regarding the proposed amendment to Section 7.3, when is the nomination period promoted?

A: Pat Burkart: Members receive notice in emails, service unit meetings, services unit agendas, and in council meetings.

Q: Jeannie George SU 4622: Regarding operations, who donated 11 acres?

A: The Costello Family.

Q: Jeannie George SU 4622: With camp changes, what is happening to CAT and other camp groups?

A: Melissa Cooper: All groups will continue with a focus/emphasis on longer term vision and planning for our camps and camp programming.

Q: Dottie Neal SU 4641: Why no Cookie Journey?

A: Melissa Cooper: We will look into it with GSUSA.

Q: Krystal Boburchock SU 4613: What do girls request for badges when they move up a level in GS?

A: Katie Thompson: Outdoor Badges are requested.

Q: Krystal Boburchock SU 4613: What are State Park/DCNR website/badges and where do we access the information? Can we promote this?

A: Katie Thompson: We will look into this.

Q: Krystal Boburchock SU 4613: Can we have temporary Pop-up Shops in our council offices or set locations in the fall to help parents and leaders access the items? Suggestion: Sept/Oct/Nov time frame? Possibly during November Open House Week?

A: Deb Smith: We (GSWPA) are aware that access to Girl Scout materials is a challenge and we want to assist leaders in accessing these materials. We will look into these suggestions.

Q: Krystal Boburchock SU 4613: Please make Kick-off NOT the last week in August because that is always "meet teacher night" at school and volunteers cannot attend Kick-offs.

A: Krystal's comment was noted.

Q: Lillian Marquez SU 4656: The delay in leaders getting badges has an impact on the girls. Girls are not seeing the impact of what they learned/earned because the leader only orders badges 1-2 times a year due to shipping costs. Girls should get badges as they are earned, so they have more meaning to the girls.

A: Lillian's comment was noted.

Q: Krystal Boburchock SU 4613: Can the cookie delivery schedule be alternated so that we are not always the area that gets their cookies last for delivery week? Also, many smashed boxes are on the truck resulting in the delivery being short cookies and having to wait for second delivery for replacement.

A: Deb Smith: We will look into alternating the schedule and Product Sales will be alerted.

Q: Jodi Nealen SU 4636: Paper magazine slips in the Fall Product Sale are missed by the elderly population who only use those to order magazines.

A: Jodi's comment was noted.

Q: Jodi Nealen SU 4636; Krystal Boburchock SU 4613; Amy Dobbins SU 4654: There is a lack of council activities in Region 3 at all age-levels; both council sponsored and event partnership programs. We need more, the girls want it. We've been asking for this for a while.

A: Jodi, Krystal, and Amy's request was noted.