



Girl Scouts - Illinois Crossroads Council

2008 Annual Corporate Meeting
February 23, 2008

Survey Results

1. I received a copy of the Representative Packet for voting Members of the Corporation for the February 23, 2008 Annual Corporate Meeting in the mail or from my VISTA Manager/United Way Ambassador (or designee)? Those who answered: Yes: 48 No: 5 No Answer: 0
- 2a. I know where to locate the following items: Current bylaws of the council
Those who answered: Yes: 41 No: 8 No Answer: 5
- 2b. I know where to locate the following items: Corporate goals
Those who answered: Yes: 40 No: 8 No Answer: 6
- 2c. I know where to locate the following items: Annual Report
Those who answered: Yes: 45 No: 4 No Answer: 5
3. As a training tool, certain sections of the Representatives Packet for Voting Members of the Corporation were punctuated with frequently asked questions and answers. Did you find this helpful?
Those who answered: Yes: 41 No: 4 No Answer: 9
4. Did you attend the training for Representatives prior to the meeting?
Those who answered: Yes: 8 No: 44 No Answer: 1
5. What key message(s) did you gain from the State of the Council, Regional Realignment, and the GSUSA *Transforming Leadership* information?

State of Council:

- Illinois Crossroads Council is financially strong. Board leadership is trying to make decision that are right for the girls.
- Change is good.
- The council is sound; GSUSA is changing.
- There are too many changes over the last few years.
- We have full confidence in Stephanie Springs (Chair) and our board.
- Leaders, VISTA members and cabinet are really tired of too much change in the last couple of years.
- Volunteers need consistent information.
- Our council board is working hard and is extremely competent.
- It's imperative that we Girl Scout leaders understand what's going on and the benefits of board/CEO actions will bring.
- I respect and have total confidence in Wende Wilson, CEO.

Regional Realignment:

- Learned more about realignment; successful realignment will happen by June 1, 2008; realignment will occur.
- Reaffirmation of our goals for realignment as a seven (7) council merger.
- Well prepared presentation.
- This is a horrible decision.
- You are working hard for the togetherness of the new council.

GSUSA's *Transforming Leadership* information:

- Information about the *New Leadership Experience*; sounds exciting; "I will be glad to get new programming ideas."
- The Girl Scout Mission is to give girls leadership skills through *Journeys*. These *Journeys* will help girls *Discover, Connect, and Take Action*.
- The goal is to achieve positive outcomes.
- Girl Scouts will change from age levels to grade levels; level names will change too.

Girl Scout Daisy, Grades K – 1

Girl Scout Brownie, Grades 2 – 3

Girl Scout Junior, Grades 4 – 5
Girl Scout Cadette, Grades 6 – 8
Girl Scout Senior, Grades 9 – 10
Girl Scout Ambassador, Grades 11 – 12

- Changes are good with a girl focus.
 - Transforming leadership *Journeys* will roll out slowly.
 - Keep using current Girl Scout Program for now. Eventually, add *New Leadership Experience*; will be able to blend both – it's up to the girls.
 - Not all girls want to be leaders; GSUSA studies show girls aspire to be a different type of leader.
 - All types of personalities and level of desires will be addressed.
 - We all have a responsibility to all girls.
 - Facilitator's guides will be available with the girls' *Journeys*.
 - The new teen level title, Ambassador, is confusing with VISTA usage.
 - Lots of information to take back to girls and adults, as well as Girl Scout troop leaders.
6. Do you have any questions regarding the councils' realignment?
- How will it change my VISTA?
 - Need information about the Girl Scout Bronze Award, Girl Scout Silver Award, and Girl Scout Gold Award requirement changes that will occur in fall of 2009. This information needs to be verified and given to leaders especially for the Girl Scout Gold Award.
 - How will girl programming be enhanced by the realignment?
 - How will support staff be distributed across the new council?
 - Will the VISTA model continue? If so, will the model be incorporated into those councils currently using service unit model? If not, will the current VISTA areas simply become service units?
 - Will there be packets to provide to Girl Scout leaders explaining all the changes?
 - A council that will be this large could have problems in delivery since there is no current council that large.
 - What about training the trainers?
 - What about Beamon Denoyer awards for 2008 year?
 - Will we still be able to do adult recognitions for Illinois Crossroads Council for 2007-08 year?
 - Will there be financial assistance for all the new books, patches, etc. to replace what we already have?
 - Specifically, why 7 councils? Why such a large resulting council? Why not try something smaller and easier to manage?

Key Take-Aways:

Journeys are one nationally "packaged" approach to engaging girls and volunteers in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. They will be rolled-out at the 2008 National General Session in late October. Flexibility to customize the approach for long and short term Girl Scout experiences, community partnerships, and more will be present in the New Leadership Experience. In the meantime, continue to use the Girl Scout Program materials that are in place now.

As our merger progresses, new plans and processes will be discussed and developed. We will share answers to these questions on this Web site as they become available.