girl scouts of tropical florida

96th Annual Meeting
March 11, 2026
4:30pm
Via Zoom

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ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

96th ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Call to Order	Tami Blanco, *Chair of the Board*, Presiding	
Pledge of Allegiance, Girl Scout Promise	Isabella Benitez, *Girl Board Representative*	
Verification of Quorum	Ana VeigaMilton, *First Vice Chair*	
Adoption – 95th Annual Meeting Minutes	Tami Blanco	**Motion**
Membership Moment	TBD, *Gold Award Girl Scout*	
2025 Council Accomplishments	Tami Blanco	
Development Committee Report	Debbie Johnson, *Development Committee*	
Election of Slate		**Motion**
58th National Council Session Delegation Presentation	*GSTF National Delegates* Savannah Sanin, Julies Barreras	
Close of Annual Meeting/ Transition to Regular Board Meeting	Tami Blanco, *Chair of the Board*	

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95th Annual Meeting Minutes

DATE:	March 19, 2025	**MEETING:**	Zoom Meeting
CALLED TO ORDER:	4:00 pm	**TIME ADJOURNED:**	4:31 pm
QUORUM CERTIFICATION OF	27 Delegates present with 35 people in attendance – Tami Blanco, First Vice Chair		
PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY:	Dawn McKenzie		

Agenda Item	Discussion/Conclusion	Recommendations/Actions/ Motions
Called to Order	Meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Sarah Artecona at 4:00 pm	
Pledge and Girl Scout Law and Promise	Presented via PowerPoint slide - Featured Troops 1924 and 2013 representing Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida at Mayor Daniella Levine Cava's 2025 State of the County Address.	***Pledge and Promise lead by Juliana Barreras***
Certification of Delegates	27 Delegates present with 35 people in attendance – Tami Blanco, First Vice Chair	
Adoption of Minutes	The 94th Annual Meeting Minutes were accepted and adopted unanimously.	**Motion to approve minutes** by C. Patricia Cruz and seconded by Gloria Velazquez
In Remembrance	**Grace O'Donnell** was a trailblazer and leader. She was the first ever Cuban female police officer to serve in the Miami-Dade County police department. As a Girl Scout, she served in multiple capacities including as a board member and interim CEO. Grace passed away in January. We remember her for always living the Girl Scout promise and law.	

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	Mark Trowbridge grew up in a Girl Scout household - his grandmother, mother, and sister were all Girl Scouts. He understood the importance of opening doors and providing opportunities for girls to begin their leadership journey. Mark was a founding member of the Trefoil Society. In his role as CEO of the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, Mark generously shared the spotlight, featuring GSTF in chamber events, awards, social media, and more. Mark's warmth and spirit will be greatly missed.	
Membership Moment	**PRESENTED BY PENELOPE HELLER, GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUT, FORMER GIRL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE AND NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATE:** Penelope Heller spoke about her experiences throughout her twelve years with Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida and how it has shaped her life in many ways.	
Treasurer's Report	**PRESENTED BY MICHELLE HARRIS, BOARD TREASURER AND J.P. MADARIAGA (GUEST), CPA:** Gutierrrez Madariaga CPA presented highlights from Girl Scout of Tropical Florida fiscal year 2024 audit. Smooth audit, with a clean opinion, with no findings, no material weaknesses. FY23-FY24 Increase in total asset from 4.3 million (2023) to 5.1 million (2024) majority stems from mainly increase of employee retention receivable. **Fixed Assets:** Five roofs replaced, and mower purchased at Mahachee and office equipment for Choee. **Liability:** Main increase stemmed from deferred revenue from increase in Second Century sponsors. Financial position looks excellent; assets exceed liabilities.	

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	Profit and Loss: Increase in cookie sales; increase in Government grants mainly from the employee retention; increase in contribution from Second Century partners fundraising; increase in investment incomes and unrealized gains. **Expenses:** Increase in the cost of goods sold, due to the increase in cookie prices; increase in salaries and professional fees. **Overall highlights:** Three percent increase in Cookie sales; employee retention credit funding to assist utilizing funds for salaries; implementation of electronic purchasing program with virtual and physical cards; revamped employee benefits package. Annual Report is included in the meeting package.	
Development Committee Report:	**PRESENTED BY TAMI BLANCO, BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR:** The board development committee is responsible for partnering with the board to build a high performing board by recruiting and slating nominees for council leadership. It works closely with the board to ensure board orientation, ongoing education, and assessment. Thank you to the committee members who are both board members and non-board members, Kyle Paige, C. Patricia Cruz, Tami Blanco and Sarah Artecona. **Officers with terms ending in 2027:** • Tami Blanco – Chair of the Board • Ana VeigaMilton – First Vice Chair • Patricia Cruz – Second Vice Chair • Debbie Johnson - Secretary **Members at large joining for the first term ending in 2027:** The following is a brief bio of each of the nominees for first term members at large, a full bio is included in the meeting materials: • **Adriana Verdeja** is a community leader and connector. She has worked in higher education for more than a decade, serving in various roles from fundraising as Senior Director of Development to deputy chief of staff to the president of University of Miami.	**Motion for approval of the Slate as presented**: Sheryl Alonso **Seconded by:** Andrea Graham **Motion** carried unanimously.

Agenda Item	Discussion/Conclusion	Recommendations/Actions/ Motions
	She is a proud former troop leader and founding member of the Trefoil Society. • **Kitty Dumas** is executive director of the Ryder Charitable Foundation, the corporate giving arm of Ryder System. She is also a writer and former journalist. Kitty has been instrumental in the development of the Girl Scouts Rock the Supply Chain patch – which girls from across the country have earned. • **Miriam Ramos Soler** is a partner at Holland & Knight, where she practices land use and zoning, procurement, government and legal ethics law. She's the former city attorney for the City of Coral Gables. Additionally, Miriam is the proud parent of a Girl Scout Ambassador. • **Shivani Joshi** is the Chief Advancement Officer at Gulliver Prep, with over 18 years of experience in philanthropy, partnership, business development, and higher education. Shivani holds a deep commitment to the Girl Scout mission and building partnerships to deliver on that mission. • **Tiffany Wilson-Worsely** serves as the Director of Collective Impact at the Miami Foundation, where she spearheads initiatives that mobilize resources, convenes leaders, and drives measurable outcomes to enhance equity and inclusion across our community. She is a champion for girl ambition and leadership. **Members at large, renewing for a third term are:** • Christina Boomer Vazquez • Emily Gresham • Brent Muckridge Additionally, on the slate for this year are our National Council Delegates. Each triennium, the National Council Session is convened by Girl Scouts of the USA for a major governance meeting. Each council is allocated a number of delegates, based on the council girl membership size. For the 2025-2028 triennium, Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida holds four delegate seats.	

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	National Council Delegates for this triennium: • Savannah Sanin • Juliana Barreras • Tami Blanco • Chelsea Wilkerson **Alternates:** • Maria Sanin • Danielle Barreras • Haley Karl Every year we invite Girl Scouts aged 14 or older to apply to serve as Girl Board Representatives. The Girl Board Representatives serve for a one-year term and are appointed by the board chair. **Our 2025 Girl Board member (Appointed, Not Elected):** • Juliana Barreras **GSTF Board Outgoing Members:** • Laura Martinez • Christine Rupert • Carolyn Thompson	
Passing of the Gavel	**WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE NEW SLATE, THE GAVEL WAS PASSED FROM SARAH ARTECONA TO TAMI BLANCO.** Tami Blanco gave a brief thank you to Sarah Artecona for her accomplishments during her tenure as Board Chair: • Successfully concluded GSTF's centennial celebration and launched into our Second Century • Released of first ever State of the Florida Girl report • Grew girl membership by 15%, nearly to our pre-Covid numbers • Increased council financial reserves through fundraising and other initiatives, resulting in 16% increase in net assets • Received our first-ever federal appropriations for Camp Mahachee, our largest single grant in council history	

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	• Continued restoration efforts of Camp Mahachee Sarah Artecona was presented with the Girl Scout Thanks Badge, the highest award given in Girl Scouting, reserved for an individual member whose service to the organization has been truly outstanding. The Thanks Badge honors an individual whose ongoing commitment, leadership, and service have had an exceptional, measurable impact on meeting mission-delivery goals and priorities of the entire council or the entire Girl Scout Movement.	
Closing of Meeting:	**TAMI BLANCO**: ➢ Motion for adjournment of meeting at 4:31 pm	

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Slate of Officers

Board of Directors – Officers – 2 Year Term (2026-2028)

Michelle Harris - Treasurer

Board of Directors – Directors at Large – 2 Year Term (2026-2028)

First Term
Dr. Bridgette Cram
Leah Sylvester
Chelsea Lunn

Second Term
Raymond Duenas
Aslynn Rivera-Tigera

Third Term
Gloria Velazquez
Andrea Graham Rechichi

2026 Girl Board Representative (Appointed, Not Elected)
Isabella Benitez