

Delegate Conference Call (10/19/2009) Q & A

An open conference call was held for anyone with questions on the new Service Unit Delegate election process. This was announced at the Service Unit Manager's Kick off meeting, on the GSHNJ Website and emails sent to SU delegates on record.

The Governance Task group members Nancy Faulks, Sue Jacques and Laurie Brooks hosted the call, briefly reviewed the process and answered questions. There were few participants that dialed in, but they engaged in questions for the task group. We are sharing these with the other members in an effort to also answer your questions.

Question:

There wasn't much notice given for this teleconference, will there be another one held?

Response:

Notice for the teleconference did go out later than originally intended and apologies were extended. Questions and answers from this meeting will be posted on the Delegate webpage for all to see. Hopefully this will address most of the questions from those who were unable to join, or they may send any additional questions to the governance@gshnj.org email address. If the Governance Task group sees the need, based on emails received, an additional teleconference may be scheduled.

Comment:

The flexibility built into the Delegate Election Process was noted and appreciated.

Response:

There was a considerable effort made by the Task group to provide flexibility in the process to the Service Units, primarily due to the vast size differences in the Service Units as they exist today. It was emphasized that process is provided as a means to service a democratic election, there will be no 'Delegate Election police' to enforce the process, however if complaints from members are registered, they will be looked into.

Question:

The existing wording of the bylaws indicates that delegates must be 18. Has there been any consideration for older girls, not yet 18 that may want to serve as delegates?

Response:

GSUSA allows girls ages 14 and up to participate as National Delegates, GSHNJ stipulates that Council Delegates (representing their Service Units) must be 18 in order to vote at GSHNJ meetings. This is New Jersey State Law. Service Units may elect delegates under 18, however they would not be allowed to vote and therefore the Service Unit would "lose a vote". Girls ages 14 and up, as well as all adult members are always welcome to attend Council Meetings, voice their opinions and bring information back to the Service Units with a "girl's perspective"

The Governance Task Group has discussed the possibility of creating some form of "Girls Congress" to engage the girls under 18 in the democratic process.

Comment:

Clarification was requested in the procedures for #4 under the VOTING section and #3 under the REPORTING OF RESULTS.

Response:

The "two eligible members, who are not on the ballot" in #4 and the "two members who tabulated the votes" in #3 are the same two. These will be referred to as the "tellers" in both sections for clarification.

Follow-up Question:

So that means that a Service Unit Manager may not tally the votes.

Response:

That is correct.

Question:

I have more than one email address, one I check during the week and the other on weekends, is there a way to have emails sent to both addresses?

Response:

Yes, please send you information (name, service unit and all email addresses you would like included to the governance@gshnj.org email address and we will update our records.

Question:

How many delegate meetings will there be? And when will they happen?

Response:

As required by our bylaws, there will be a minimum of one Council meeting a year, to occur before the end of March each year. Additional meetings may be scheduled if required for some "vote", however there are none planned at this time. Delegate meetings for communicating important information to the Service Units have also been discussed by the Governance Task Group. These may take place regionally or in the form of teleconferences or "chat room" type venues out of consideration of the delegate's time and resources.

Question:

Will there be any follow-ups to the breakout groups at the last annual meeting?

Response:

It is still a work in progress, but we are looking in to teleconferences and blogs or bulletin boards.

Question:

It says that there will be between 10 and 30 days notice of the annual meeting. How likely is that we will hear earlier than 10 days?

Response:

The date, time and location will likely be notified earlier so that delegates can schedule the time, but the mailing may be closer to 10 days.