

The GSMISTS Board of Directors held a two day retreat in late June to conduct business, receive some governance education and to do some vision on strategies for the next 24 months.

During the regular meeting committees were defined and members approved for the year members for Finance and Audit. In addition task groups were created for Human Resources (HR), Property and Bylaws. HR and Bylaws will be reviewing policies and making any needed recommendations to the board and for possible consideration of the membership. The property task group will be updating their study completed in 2014.

Finances were reviewed in depth and finance policies were approved to define signers, contract limits and other finance related guidelines.

Kim Hoffman, Senior Director of Development and Communication gave a report on board giving and outline ways the board can help staff to raise funds for items in the budget or secure gifts in kind.

Mary Charles gave an operational update on metrics the board has been reviewing over the past year. We are running about 5% behind in membership as of May 31<sup>st</sup>. She also shared some of the great work staff is doing to prepare for a successful fall recruitment season. Watch for more information in the Shore to Shore e-newsletter.

The second day of the retreat Mary Charles presented a five year review of the council and the board discussed in depth issues we are facing. We then spent time defining what priorities we will focus on over the next 15-24 months as we work to grow membership, support volunteers in direct service to girls and stabilize our finances. The board and Mary Charles will be working over the next two months to define those priorities and create measurements that we can monitor.

We also had a GSUSA Senior Governance staff member; Monna Loftis in who spent time helping us learn how to improve our governance work and oversight. Monna also spend some time before the board meeting with our Regional Chairs and Delegate Chair in answering questions regarding governance.

Region 2 Regional Chair will now be Mike Hintz. He is replacing Sally Ann Corners. We want to thank Sally Ann for her many years of service as well as welcome Mike in his new role.

Looking forward to moving forward into our 2016-2017 Year together with all of you! Thank You for your commitment to Girl Scouting in our mission of Building Girls of Courage, Confidence and Character, who make the world a better place.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Mary Becker-Witt, GSMIST Board Chairperson