

Executive Summary

NYPENN Board of Directors Meeting – November 22, 2025

The NYPENN Board of Directors met in person prior to the Gold Award Girl Scout Celebration in Syracuse, NY. Several members joined the meeting via Zoom. Key Highlights:

The September meeting minutes were approved with one correction (a potential grant referenced for Camp Comstock should have referred to Camp Hoover).

Advancement

- The S'more to Give auction is live, thanks to staff and board support. Members are encouraged to help share the auction to boost bids.
- The Advancement team reported the passing of a longtime friend of the council. She and her husband have made decades of generous contributions, including major improvements at Camp Amahami.
- The online retail shop is busy, especially with the free-shipping promotion.

Annual Meeting (Seneca Falls)

- Venues are secured, and planning continues for both youth and adult programming.
- Delegate recruitment strongly emphasizes that youth aged 14+ are able & encouraged to serve as Annual Meeting delegates. We hope to increase the number of Service Units participating in 2026.
- A special 2026 patch design may be developed.

Board Development

- The council expects to fill six or more board positions this year.
- Recruitment is underway across the council footprint, with an emphasis on geographic diversity (particularly Northern and Western New York) and community partnerships.

Finance

- Preliminary financials for Member Year 25 show an expected loss tied to lower cookie sales, mostly offset by budget adjustments and staff reductions.
- The council successfully exited the GSUSA pension plan at a lower-than-expected cost, creating long-term savings.

Property

- Camps are shutting down for winter.
- Thanks to a donor's generosity, new refrigeration units and generators were installed at Amahami.
- Staff are making progress on improvements at Camp Comstock, including foundation repairs to the troop house.

- Preparations continue for the Maple Syrup Brunch at Trefoil in March.

Leadership Update

CEO Julie Dale shared efforts underway to strengthen membership and funding:

- New opportunities for board members to support cookie sellers by “championing” individual girls.
- Expansion of staff-led and community-based programs, including after-school programs, starter troops, and outreach in urban areas.
- Strong attendance at Veni Vidi Vici (V3) and improved per-girl average and participation percentage for Fall Product sales.
- Ongoing membership recruitment, including GSUSA’s partnership with Head Start.
- Continued focus on improving volunteer recruitment & support, including a discussion on recruitment through community groups and alumni networks.
- Discussion about responsible communication with members about council decision making.

Board Engagement Discussion

The board reflected on how to strengthen participation and expectations. Major themes included:

- Scheduling board meetings alongside in-person events to increase visibility and connection.
- Encouraging more in-person attendance while still allowing Zoom as needed.
- Creating a shared calendar of key events where board presence is requested.
- Establishing a minimum giving level of \$19.12 per month, tied to Girl Scouting’s founding year, with a gentle annual “give a little more” reminder.

Next Board Meeting: January 24, 2026

For governance information or to schedule a meeting with a board representative for your Service Unit, reach out to: boardofdirectors@gsnypenn.org.