
Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York, Inc.

May 2009 Annual Meeting

Slate of Members at Large of the Board of Directors effective October 2009

Dr. Meg Benke (Continuing a two year term)

Dr. Meg Benke has been actively involved in distance learning since 1983 and oversees undergraduate online programs in 11 areas of study for 5000 students with over 25,000 course enrollments per year. During her tenure, the Center for Distance Learning has made the transition to offering all of its degree programs online.

Dr. Benke's work in education has focused on the connections between work, employers, unions and education. She teaches on the graduate and undergraduate levels in adult and online education, leadership, human resource development, and performance measurement. She is on the national Board of Directors for Sloan-C, the leading professional association for online educators and chaired the last two national conferences. Her recent efforts with the college have been to expand partnerships with unions, corporations and the military to increase access to higher education for adult learners. She has also been part of a team working on a project from the Charitable Leadership Foundation to create high-quality online courses in math and science for adult learners. "Through this project, we are hoping to improve adult learners' quantitative and scientific literacy. In the past, some women have had limited access to science and math, so as older students they become avoidant of these important aspects of informed citizenry. I see a strong relationship to what is happening in girl scouts of today. The leadership programs and work that scouting is doing in areas such as science and math, in addition to the already strong emphasis on confidence building, seems a natural way for young women to connect with science and math in their daily lives."

Dr. Benke earned her B.S. in business administration from Youngstown State University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in student personnel from Ohio University.

"I was impressed by the presence of the Girl Scouts in the local community. They have a track record of organizational experience that really impacts girls. I naturally wanted to be a part of it.", Dr. Benke attests when asked why she wanted to get involved.

Jane Carpenter (Accepting a two year term)

Jane is an Associate Professor of Business/Office Technology. She holds a B.S. degree from Bryant University, and M.A.L.S from SUNY Plattsburgh. She is an Associate Professor and Coordinator in the Career Programs Department at North Country Community College. Jane has been an active member on the Brand Development Committee for Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York, Inc. since 2007.

Karen Ferrer-Muñiz (Continuing a two year term)

Karen Ferrer-Muniz is the Director of Multicultural Affairs at Union College in Schenectady, New York. She is responsible for the development and implementation of diversity leadership programs for the Union College community. Prior to this position, she was the Associate Dean of Students and Director of Minority Student Affairs & HEOP at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. She received her Bachelors Degree from the Inter American University of Puerto Rico with majors in Political Science and Social Science. She also received her Master's Degree from State University of New York at Albany in Social Sciences and Latin American Studies. Presently, she is pursuing her PhD in Latin American Studies and Educational Administration Departments at SUNY Albany. She served as a Board Member at Girl Scouts, Hudson Valley Council from 2003-2007 and was a member of the Pluralism and Nominating Committees. She was active as a girl member in Puerto Rico and is the President of the Board of Centro Civico Hispanoamericano, Inc. Karen is currently active on the Pluralism and Outreach Committee through Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York and the GSNENY Hispanic Advisory Committee. Karen's personal interest and mission is to provide tools for success to underrepresented and underserved students, especially in higher education. She came from the Island of Puerto Rico 17 years ago and since then she has volunteered and dedicated her time to work with community-based organizations throughout the NY capital region.

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Donna Rae Gelder (Continuing a two year term)

Donna is retired from Queensbury School after 33 years as an elementary and reading teacher. She has been active in Girl Scouts for 59 years, and is a lifetime member. She was born into a Scouting family and has always been very passionate about Girl Scouting. From 1950 until the merger into Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York Donna's Girl Scouting was in Adirondack Girl Scout Council where she earned the highest rank of Curve Bar. After college she was Secretary of the Board for a time in the 60's and then started working on Board Committees. She served on the Adirondack Girl Scout Board 2000-2007, and as Council President 2002-2007, chairing a successful \$1,000,000 capital campaign. It is this time in her life that she has come to realize how important philanthropy is to Girl Scouting. Philanthropy offers all of us a way to preserve leadership building for our girls and give all girls the opportunity for a tremendous Girl Scout experience.

Donna is also active on the Board of Twin Rivers Boy Scout Council and is currently president of the Glens Falls Community Theatre after being a member for forty-three years

Catherine Lewis (Continuing a two year term)

Cathy is a Senior Tax Specialist for the General Electric Company. Cathy served on the Board of Directors for Girl Scouts, Mohawk Pathways Council and also served on the Finance and Fund Development Committees. Cathy is also active in the Zonta Club, the Junior League, has served numerous community agencies and has served as a member of the Schenectady City Council.

Jacqueline Madison (Continuing a two year term)

Jackie is a Principal Information Analyst at Wyeth Research. She is active with the AAUW, ACS and SLA. Jackie is also an active member in the North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association. Jackie was a volunteer for Girl Scouts Tri-Cities out of Washington, was the Board Chair for Girl Scouts of the North Country, and was a member of the Council Realignment Committee. She is currently an active member on the Human Resources Committee for Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York.

Sherman Parker (Accepting a two year term)

Sherm is a retired school district superintendant. He served as a Board Member of the former Girl Scouts of the Adirondacks Council, and has served on the Board of Directors as a Member at Large for Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York, Inc. since 2007. He currently serves as Chair of the Properties Committee for Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York.

Renee Sayers (Continuing a two year term)

Renee is the VP of Operations at Fusco Personnel, Inc. located in Albany, NY. Prior to 2006 Renee worked in the accounting industry for over 15 years. She obtained an A.A.S. from Maria College in Business Management, and is enrolled as a part-time student at Siena College seeking a B.S. degree in Accounting.

Renee is the proud mother of two sons Nicholas and Christopher, and volunteers with their school's Booster Club. Renee enjoys staying connected to her community through being active through Juvenile Diabetes-Walk for a Cure, WAMS-Women Against Multiple Sclerosis, American Hear Association-Go Red, Bellevue Hospital-Women's Night Out, and March of Dimes as a committee member.

Jennifer Sunderlin, Esq. (Accepting a two year term)

Ms. Sunderlin practices family & matrimonial law and criminal defense. In addition, she represents clients with disabilities in school and educational proceedings and helps develop and implement Individualized Education Plans (IEP) & 504 plans. She is a certified mediator and also participates in the Modest Means Panel Program, which offers reduced fee legal services to low-income litigants in Schenectady County.

Jennifer Sunderlin, Esq. (Continued)

Sunderlin received her BA from Hamilton College, with a concentration in American government and went on to study public policy and foreign affairs at Stockholm University, in Stockholm, Sweden.

After college, Jennifer earned her JD at Albany Law School. While at Albany Law, she served as Executive Editor for Business of the Albany Law Review, and published a case note, “One Nation, Indivisible: American “Indian Country” in the Wake of City of Sherrill v. Oneida Indian Nation,” 70 ALB. L. REV. (2007).

Prior to joining Tully Rinckey, Ms. Sunderlin worked for the Civil Rights & Disabilities Law Project at the Albany Law Clinic & Justice Center, representing special needs clients in education matters. She interned with the Honorable David N. Hurd at the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York, and with the Oneida County District Attorney's Office.

Ms. Sunderlin is a member of the New York State Bar Association and volunteers at pro bono legal clinics through the Legal Project. She is a member of the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce GenNEXT Council as well as the Capital Alliance of Young Professionals. In her spare time, she actively volunteers in activities with the American Cancer Society.

“I am a former Girl Scout, and remember what a wonderful experience it was for me. I am very interested in child advocacy and hope to use my legal skills to help girls within our council with issues that they may be facing, and to be a role model,” explains Ms. Sunderlin about being a new board member for Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York.

Cynthia Swadba (Continuing a two year term)

Cindy is a resourceful career development professional, skilled in guiding candidates through the myriad of challenges in search of their next career opportunity. She is known as a “connector”; linking people with resources.

Cindy directed a Career Transition Center serving candidates in engineering, manufacturing, technology, human resources, procurement, research and development. Cindy has also worked with candidates in the fields of health care, customer service, call centers and transportation. She conducted career transition workshops, facilitated successful teams, and provided individual consulting.

Prior to involvement in the field of career development Cindy was a practitioner in the nonprofit community eighteen years. Cindy’s extensive experience in management, organization development, fundraising, volunteer development, strategic planning, training, facility management and communications, place her in a category that is comprehensive, unique and practical – successful delivery of services key to nonprofit organizations.

As a consultant Cindy has lead strategic planning retreats, needs assessments, feasibility studies, marketing and branding campaigns, and capital campaigns. Cindy also serves as an adjunct professor at Empire State College, State University of New York.

Cindy earned a Master’s degree in Education from Springfield College and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Massachusetts. An active community volunteer, Cindy is the past president of the Albany Rotary Club and a member of the Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York and serves as a Big Sister to a 7-year-old girl.

Current Vacancies on the Board of Directors:

Currently there are no replacements for vote in the following vacancies

(4) two year vacancies term ending Oct 2011

****Those in bold require voting**