



February 23, 2026

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am happy to share the following highlights from the February 23, 2026, meeting of the Board of Directors of Southern Arizona. This was a hybrid meeting and was conducted with attendees on Zoom and in person. As per our bylaws, we did have a quorum to conduct business.

Pamela Traficanti
Board Secretary

Present via Zoom and in person: Cheree Meeks, Elaine Becherer, Karen Riddle, Karyn Damschen, Lesah Sesmah, Lynn Borders, Melissa Arroyo, Nicholle Zarkower, Pamela Traficanti, Pamela Treadwell Rubin, Rukiya Higgins, Sheila Kressler Crowley, Tanisha Price Johnson, Tawnya Tretschok, Arcianna Jimenez, Leia Begay, Natali Behar

Staff present: Kristen Hernandez, MacGyver Tank, Melissa Tomlinson, Elizabeth Locke Thomas, Timalee Nevels

Call to order – Sheila Kressler Crowley, Chair of the Board

Sheila called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. with the Promise and Law.

CEO Update — Kristen Hernandez, CEO

Kristen provided an update that included the following highlights:

- We are continuing to trend below where we would like to be at this point in the cookie sale. We are down approximately 200 girls, which is a big factor. In cohort meetings, it's being shared that nearly every council is down. We anticipate being 18–20% down. We are, of course, running scenarios and options to mitigate the gap.
- KGUN 9 ran a story today following two of the Begay sisters.
- The Today Show featured a story featuring GSSOAZ and support for Savannah Guthrie.

Finance Update — Melissa Tomlinson, COO

Melissa presented an overview of the January financials. These were reviewed in depth and approved at the Finance Committee meeting last week. All documents were provided in the packets sent in advance of this meeting.

The annual audit has been completed. It was another good year, with no findings. Year over year, our balance sheet has stayed very stable and our income statement was much stronger. Cash flow was also improved over the prior year. Overall, great results.

Motion to accept the draft January financials as approved by the Finance Committee at their meeting this month. Motion by Nicholle Zarkower. Second by Lynn Borders.

Motion passes.

Motion to accept the draft FY2025 Audit as approved by the Finance Committee at their meeting this month. Motion by Pam Treadwell Rubin. Second by Lynn Borders.

Motion passes.

Governance Committee – Melissa Arroyo and Pam Treadwell Rubin

The Governance Committee has worked to bring forward a slate of well-qualified candidates to join our board beginning in April.

- Ryan Matchett – TEP
- Monica Prieto – Chief, Tucson Police Department
- Julie Sherrill – Retired, The Gregory School
- Ashley Teeters – Tucson Medical Center
- Averi Soulliard – Girl Director

Terming off the board this year are Melissa Arroyo, Pamela Traficanti, and Leia Begay.

Tanisha Price Johnson is assuming the role of Secretary.

Motion to accept the proposed slate for the 2026–2027 Board of Directors. Motion by Pam Treadwell Rubin. Second by Karyn Damschen.

Motion passes.

Motion to accept the proposed list of Delegates representing the Membership for the Annual Meeting and related votes. Motion by Pam Treadwell Rubin. Second by Tawnya Tretschok.

Motion passes.

Consent agenda – Sheila Kressler Crowley, Chair of the Board

Motion to accept the consent agenda, including the dashboard, leadership reports, agenda, and draft minutes from January. Motion by Nicholle Zarkower. Second by Karyn Damschen.

Motion passes.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.