

# REPRESENTATIVE HEARTBEAT



GIRL SCOUTS HEART OF CENTRAL CALIFORNIA 3005 GOLD CANAL DRIVE RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670

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## WELCOME!

Welcome to Girl Scouts Heart of Central California's Representative Assembly and welcome to the first issue of "*Representative Heartbeat*". This newsletter will provide information about upcoming issues, updates on technology efforts and important dates. In addition, we will highlight some of the Representative Assembly Members. There will also be a FAQ section where you can find answers to important questions.

Please share this information with your service unit at leader or team meetings. If you have ideas for issues to cover in this newsletter or have a question for the FAQ section, please contact us at [governance@girlscoutshcc.org](mailto:governance@girlscoutshcc.org). This newsletter, which will be published twice yearly, is one of the ways we hope to increase two-way communication. We look forward to working with you as a Representative Assembly Member and we hope to see you at the Regional Forums in October.

*Your Board Representatives – Anita Rohn and Toni Rubin and  
Steering Committee Members – Marie Calkins, Nanette Langston and Roxann Phillips*

## REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY UPDATE

### Membership Status

Currently, the Representative Assembly which has a potential of 157 members, has 133:

- 2 Board Representatives appointed by the Board of Directors to serve on the Board Representative Committee
- 3 girls-at-large (potential for 10)
- 103 Service Unit Representatives (reflects 54 out of 60 service units). Also, service units have appointed 32 alternate representatives.
- 14 National Council Delegates
- 11 other Board Members who are not included above

The committee is actively working to ensure that all service units have representation and that additional girls who are interested in serving are appointed as girls-at-large.

### Trainings

Two trainings were held in June for new members of the Assembly. Forty-four representatives attended in Rancho Cordova and 12 in Modesto. The trainings were facilitated by members of the Board of Directors, the Board Representative Steering Committee members, Pam Saltenberger, CEO, and Jean DeCamilla, Vice President, Volunteer Services. All participants received a copy of the *Representative Manual*.

This was the first training under the new Representative Assembly Member structure. Through evaluations participants told us that they:

- learned valuable information;
- are ready to serve as communication facilitators to the service units; and
- are enthusiastic that the new Representative Assembly format will be a stronger governance structure.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

In each issue we will highlight at least one Representative Assembly Member in an effort to learn more about the members. In this issue you will learn more about the two Board of Director members appointed to serve on the Board Representative Committee.

### Meet Anita Rohn

Anita's involvement in Girl Scouts began 31 years ago when her daughter said "Mom, we need a Brownie leader." During these years she wore many hats such as troop leader, troop organizer, council trainer, camp volunteer, camp director, board liaison, board secretary, vice president and Board Chair of Muir Trail Council.

Anita works for the Hughson Elementary School in Hughson as an Instructional Assistant for Special Education. Anita credits her Girl Scout training as having given her the strength to deal with a variety of situations in many aspects of her life.

During her journey in Girl Scouts, she has learned many things, made life-long friendships, and is always astounded by what girls can do. She now has 3 granddaughters in Girl Scouts and is very excited to watch them progress through the levels and to share in helping the girls grow into amazing adults.

### Meet Toni Rubin

Like Anita, Toni became involved in Girl Scouting 20 years ago when her daughter also asked her to be a troop leader. Over the years Toni has seen her troop bridge to adults and earn all the important awards along the way. She also served on the service team in every position and currently serves as a council trainer.

Toni served on the Governance Task Group which was formed to develop a new governance structure for the council. Once the Governance Task Group completed their work, she applied for a Board of Director's position to assist in the implementation of the group's recommendations.

She recently retired after 35 years in state service where she worked for the Dept. of Public Health in the Emergency Preparedness Office. She fills her time with quilting projects, Board and Committee activities, and revising/creating classroom and online curriculum for the council's adult development department.

Toni has feels a strong commitment to the Girl Scout mission of building girls with courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

## TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Girl Scouts Heart of Central California has created an email address specifically for Governance – it is [governance@girlscoutshcc.org](mailto:governance@girlscoutshcc.org). If you receive mail from this address, please do not delete it. Instead, you should open the mail, read the information, and respond accordingly. The mail may ask you to respond to an opinion survey or provide information, or alert you to new information on the Web site, etc. You don't want to miss your opportunity to be involved in the governance process!

The Board Representative Committee and the Steering Committee are developing the content for the governance Web site. The Web site will contain lots of information as well as useful documents. You will receive an email from [governance@girlscoutshcc.org](mailto:governance@girlscoutshcc.org) when the site is up and running. Our target date for completion is September 30, 2009. We hope to have a Web site demonstration for you at the regional forums in October.

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## REGIONAL FORUM TOPIC SURVEY RESULTS

In addition to the Annual Meeting, we will be holding at least two regional forums each year where representatives can participate in discussion groups on relevant topics. At the representative trainings in June we asked you to tell us about the topics that were important to you. Discussion groups at the forums will come from among the topics you selected. The topics you chose were:

- How to retain girls in Girl Scouts especially at the older girl levels.
- What should be the major priorities for GSHCC for the next four years?
- Ways to make it easier to be a troop leader
- Identification of organizations in your community that could partner with Girl Scouts
- Ways to elevate the prestige of the Girl Scout Gold award
- Ideas for celebrating the 100 year anniversary of Girl Scouts in 2012

Thanks to everyone who provided input. Please discuss these topics with your service units and bring their comments to a Regional Forum in October.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' NEWS

The council's Board of Directors is charged with policy making, strategic planning, goal setting, fund development and financial management of the council. This elected group of volunteers meets six times a year. To learn more about the individuals who serve on the board [click here](#). To read the minutes from the last board meeting, [click here](#).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. Are the Board members and Representative Steering committee paid or volunteers? If they are paid how much do they make?

*Board members and members of the Representative Steering Committee are volunteers and receive no salary.*

### 2. Do Adult Service Unit representatives have different responsibilities than Girl Service Unit representatives or the Girl Representatives at-large?

*No. Representatives whether adult or girl, service unit, or at-large, all have the same responsibilities. Representatives for a Service Unit should be selected based on whether they are at least 14 years of age and how well they will represent their service unit; their responsibilities are the same (see the position description on page 2 of your Representative Manual).*

### 3. Who are the "voting members" of the Council?

*The voting members of our council are the "Representative Assembly" The members of the Representative Assembly are: Service Unit Representatives, 10 girls-at-large from throughout the Council, (chosen by application), the current National Council Delegates, and the Board of Directors*

### 4. Why are there 10 girls-at-large representatives?

*Having 10 girls-at-large representatives as part of the Representative Assembly insures we have girl influence/input in the actions of the Representative Assembly.*

### 5. How many meetings will I be expected to attend this year as a representative?

*Currently plans are to have you attend two, a Regional forum on either Wed. Oct. 14th (Rancho Cordova) or Thurs. Oct. 15th (Modesto), 2009 and the annual meeting Feb. 6th 2010. In the year of a Girl Scouts of the USA National Council Session (every third year) there will be an additional meeting in September or October to review National proposals. Each year in the spring there will also be a training class primarily for new representatives or those wishing for a review.*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

October 14, 2009 – Regional Forum, Girl Scout office in Rancho Cordova`

October 15, 2009 – Regional Form, Girl Scout office in Modesto

February 6, 2010 – Annual Meeting, CSUS Alumni Center

## CONTACT US

To contact a member of the Board Representative Committee please email us at: [governance@girlscoutshcc.org](mailto:governance@girlscoutshcc.org).