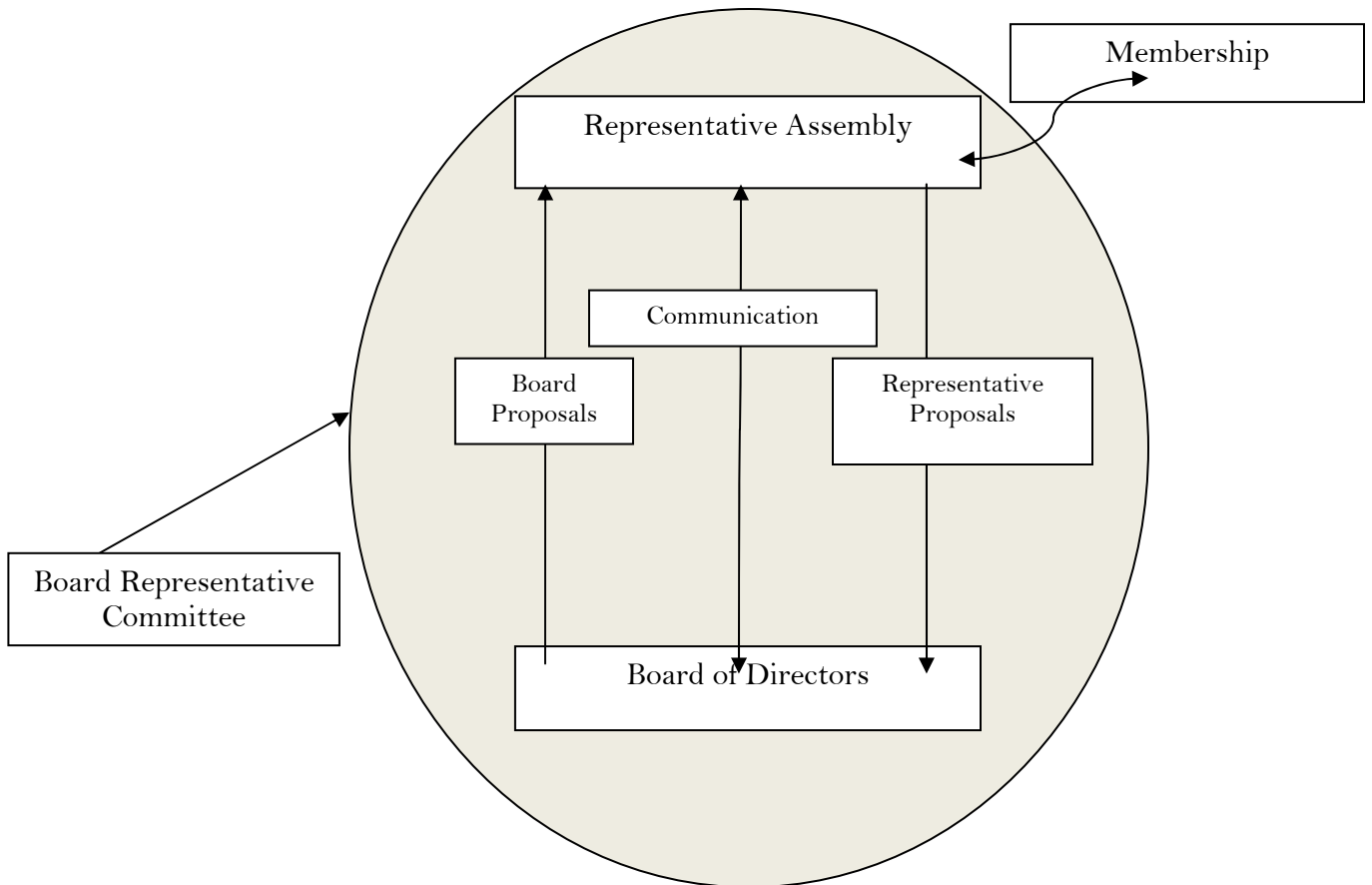


*Girl Scouts Heart of Central California*  
**GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

Governance structures are part of every Girl Scout Council and are defined in the Council bylaws. The governance structure for Girl Scouts Heart of Central California Council is depicted in the following chart:



The **Representative Assembly (Assembly)** is the body of all voting members of the Council. The Assembly members are responsible for electing the Board of Directors and National Council Delegates, providing input for policy decisions, giving broad direction to the Board of Directors, and amending the bylaws and articles of incorporation. The Assembly consists of the following members:

- Two Representatives from each service unit, appointed by the Service Unit Manager. Each service unit has the option of designating one Alternate Representative.
- Up to 10 girls-at-large from throughout the Council. These Representatives are selected by the Board Representative Committee via an application process.
- Up to 18 National Council Delegates, who are elected every three years by the Assembly.
- Directors-At-Large and elected officers of the council.

Representatives of the Assembly are responsible for keeping their members informed of Board communications, surveys, discussion items, etc. This should be done via regular attendance at service team and service unit leader meetings. All representatives are volunteers and all have the same responsibility.

The **Board Representative Committee** is an advisory committee and consists of at least five persons, of which at least two will be Directors-At-Large from the Board of Directors. The Directors-At-Large will appoint at least 3 volunteers to serve on this committee. The Directors-At-Large serve as “liaison” and communicate information between the Representative Assembly members and the board. This Committee is responsible for managing the functions of the Representative Assembly, facilitating the review of proposals submitted by the Assembly and/or the Board, and fostering two-way communication.

The **Board of Directors** consists of 17-21 volunteers. They are elected at the annual meeting by the Representative Assembly for 3 year terms (officers are 2 year terms). The major board responsibilities are:

- Policy making;
- Selection and evaluation of the chief executive director of the council;
- Long range planning;
- Fund development
- Fiduciary oversight;
- Manages the affairs of the Council between annual meetings;
- Community interaction, fulfilling charter obligations; and
- Ensuring a system for policy influencing between the membership and the board.

Here are some facts about the council **Membership:**

- There are nearly 29,000 girl members
- Almost 10,000 volunteers
- Over 2,300 troops
- Membership is spread over an 18 county jurisdiction which includes Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Mariposa, Merced, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Yuba.
- Our main council office is located in Sacramento with additional offices located in Stockton and Modesto.

## **TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION**

Representatives are information-gatherers; you are a link to the members of the Council. Two-way communication between the Council leadership and Council membership is established through Representatives as described below.

### **Fostering Two-Way Communication**

- *Email* will be one of the main forms of communication between GSHCC and the Assembly. Please keep your information up-to-date.
- *Forums* will be held to solicit input and hold discussions on relevant issues. Representatives should discuss issues with their membership and bring the results of those discussions to the meetings.

- The *Annual Meeting* is an opportunity for Representatives to share the feelings of their membership on Council and/or national proposals.
- A *Newsletter* for Representatives will be distributed at least two times per year. Representatives should share relevant information with their membership.
- *Opinion Surveys* may be conducted to gain quick opinions on various topics. Representatives should get membership input on the topics prior to responding to the survey.
- At *Board Meetings*, the Board Representatives will provide regular feedback on surveys and forum discussions as well as bring issues from the Board of Directors to the Assembly.
- The GSHCC *Web Site* will include a Governance page that Representatives should visit frequently to stay informed and provide updated information.