

# FROM THE PRESIDENT



MARY JANE SARAS  
SUGARLOAF

Welcome to another exciting year in Girl Scouts. Where Girls Grow Strong. Penn's Woods Girl Scout Council is looking forward to a year full of fun and adventure for girls, Leaders and families. This year, as Girl Scouts and their leaders are exploring the environment, gaining computer skills, serving their communities and having fun, "our" Board of Directors will be busy making sure that Girl Scouting has a strong tomorrow.

The volunteer Board of Directors is made up of dedicated individuals with diverse talents from all corners of Penn's Woods. I want you to meet some of these committed folks, tell you about some of our recent accomplishments and share some of our vision for the future of Girl Scouting in Penn's Woods.

Sandi Caspersen, Secretary of the Board of Directors, recently chaired the Council Performance Assessment (CPA). The CPA, an evaluation process Councils are required to conduct every four years in order to retain their charters with Girl Scouts of the USA, assesses a Council's strengths and challenges. Many of you may remember answering a survey from the CPA Team last fall. I am proud to report that the results show Penn's Woods offers strong girl programming and enjoys good adult involvement. Our volunteers and girls understand and use the Promise and Law. The Board is skilled, the staff is highly qualified and the Council has enjoyed an increase in adult generated funds.

There are challenges Penn's Woods faces as we move into the future. We need to use existing Forum meetings and the Annual Meeting to better communicate with our delegates and total membership. Please consider attending the Annual Meeting by completing and sending the reservation form on page 11. Our priorities need to be managed with a long-range plan, we need to develop a comprehensive membership plan and we need to continue to support and build upon a firmly established financial foundation.

Our Girl Scout members' ideas and input is vital to the future of Girl Scouting. Our delegation to the Girl Scout National Council Meeting, Eileen Patrick, Ginny Denn, Sue Urban, Barbara Naranche and I, want to make sure that our members are well represented and that the proposals our delegates will be asked to act upon are understood and supported by Girl Scout members in Penn's Woods. Please read the article "Your Delegation ..." on page 6 in this issue of SPLINTERS and plan to attend one of the National Council Session Membership Input Meetings being held in Schuylkill Haven, Hazleton and Kingston in September.

The Fund Development Committee, Co-chaired by Eileen Patrick and Gerry Wall, has established a firm foundation for the Council's Fund Development efforts. Funds raised through Family Partnership and the Annual Appeal will be hard at work insuring the Girl Scout program is available for all girls. Please read the Family Partnership article on page 4 and watch for Family Partnership information from your Troop in September - one more way parents and families can get involved in Girl Scouting.

Under the leadership of Sally Teller Lotlick, past Board President, Penn's Woods has begun to develop a strategic plan (see the article below). This 12 to 14 month process will provide Penn's Woods with goals and a plan of work that will guide our Council into the next millennium. It will involve examining our current demographics, incorporating trends and visioning the future. A Rick Wright will chair the Long-Range Property Planning Task Force, Gerry Wall will chair a Visioning Conference and a Communications Task Force is being convened.

"Your" Board members have an important task ahead of them. They volunteer year round to insure the mission of Girl Scouting remains strong and true. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Fran Paciga, is always seeking people who wish to put their skills to work for girls and Girl Scouting. If you are interested in serving on the Board or one of its committees or know of someone to recommend, you may contact the office for a Volunteer Profile Form.

The Board of Directors, volunteers like you, are committed to guaranteeing a secure future for Penn's Woods, where girls will grow strong in Girl Scouting.

## PENN'S WOODS STEPPING FORWARD FOR A STRONG FUTURE

What will the new millennium bring for girls, Girl Scouting and Penn's Woods? How will we assure that girls continue to grow strong through the Girl Scout program? What will it take to make our vision a reality? These are some of the questions that the Strategic Planning Task Force and its subcommittees will be working to answer over the next year.

Penn's Wood's Board of Directors is launching a 12 to 14 month strategic planning process which will culminate in a vision and work plan designed to carry the Council forward into the 21st century. The committee will glean information and seek input from individuals and Girl Scout members from communities across the Council. All issues critical to the Council's success will be examined. If you are asked to participate in this process, it is a wonderful way to help to shape the future face of Girl Scouting.

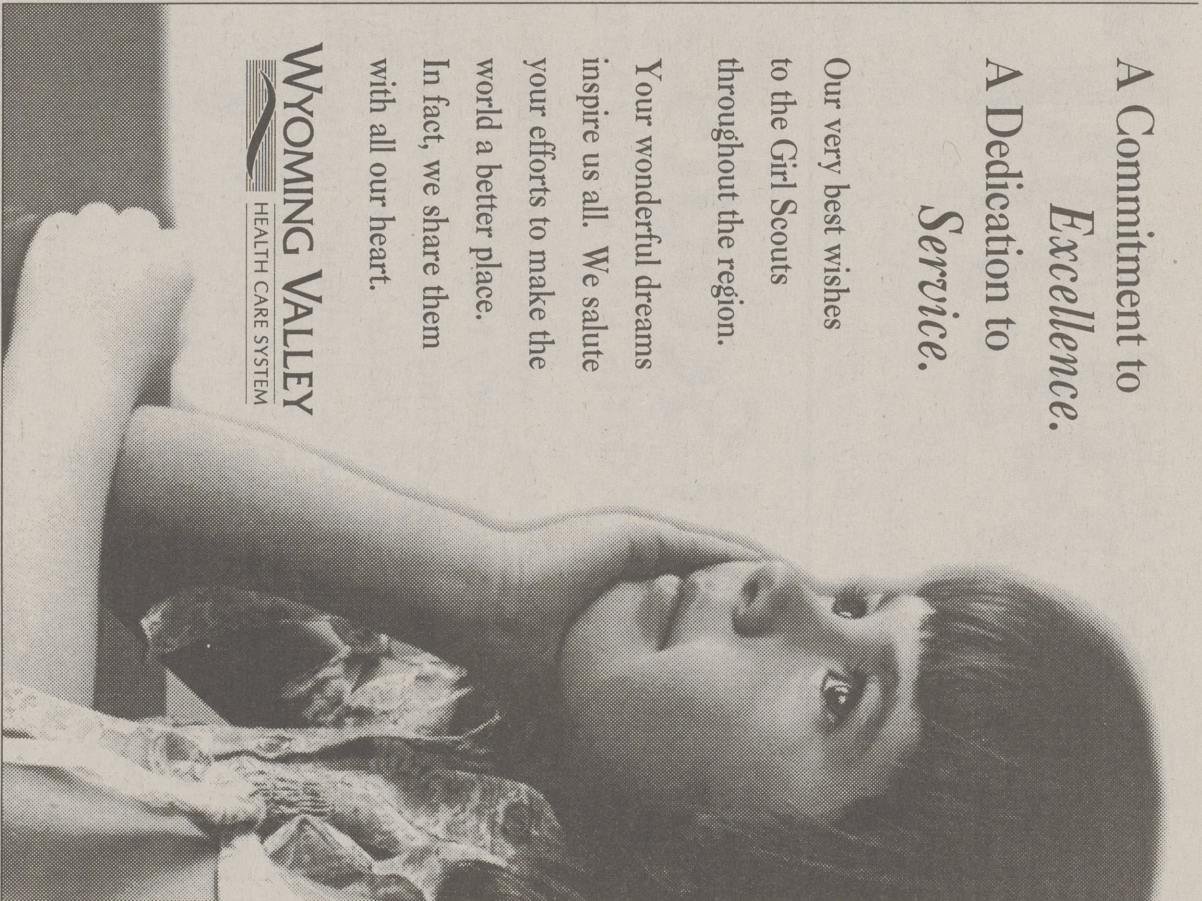
Sally Teller Lotlick, past Council President, has been appointed to chair the Strategic Planning Task Force. Board member and former Leader, Gerry Wall will Chair a Visioning Conference scheduled for the late fall and A. Rick Wright will chair the Long-Range Property Planning Task Force.

A Commitment to  
*Excellence.*  
A Dedication to  
*Service.*

Our very best wishes to the Girl Scouts throughout the region.

Your wonderful dreams inspire us all. We salute your efforts to make the world a better place. In fact, we share them with all our heart.

WYOMING VALLEY  
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BACK TO TROOP

Once again Girl Scouts have a rousing year ahead of them. New friends, new adventures and new discoveries are right around the corner. There's also these great looking uniforms and new accessories that are not to be missed. To see all the official uniform components and accessories for Daisies, Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts, come to

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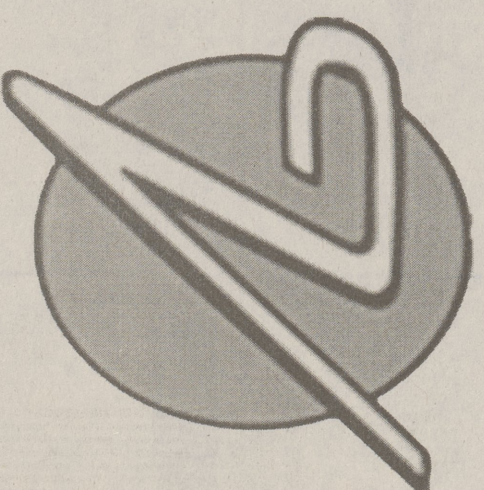
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