

# **Executive Summary**

## **NYPENN Board of Directors Meeting — June 21, 2025**

The NYPENN Board of Directors met via Zoom. Key highlights:

### **Board Transitions & Welcome**

- The board welcomed new member **Faith Vavra**.
- Two members, **Sheri Seguin** and **Amanda Sprague**, have stepped down for personal/professional reasons.
- The board may add new members mid-year—recommendations are welcome!

### **Fundraising & Events**

- The board is gearing up for a major fall silent auction fundraiser, **“S’more to Give”**
  - Aims to raise **\$40K** this **October 2025**. They're looking for about 50 exciting silent auction items—especially unique experiences and services.
  - The fundraiser wraps on **Juliette Gordon Low’s birthday**, October 31.
  - Board members will actively support the event—stay tuned for announcements!

### **Budget & Staffing Updates**

- Like many councils across the country, NYPENN is facing **declining membership and cookie sales**, leading to a **budget shortfall**.
- Leadership made the tough decision to **lay off 12 staff members** to help stabilize finances.
- Despite these cuts, the team is committed to long-term sustainability through:
  - New membership strategies and recruitment roles
  - Partnerships with schools and Head Start
  - Leveraging the four council properties for sustainable income generation
  - Updates to the cookie program launching later this winter (details to come!)

## Camp & Property News

- Camps are opening for summer, and **Camp Amahami** continues to benefit from generous donor support—including cabin upgrades and a new walk-in freezer!
- The council is also working on a **long-term property plan** to reduce costs and generate income.

## DEIB Spotlight

One board member shared her personal story as an immigrant and the unique challenges faced by women of color, immigrants, and their families. Her powerful reflection sparked meaningful conversation around inclusion and empathy in decision-making.

## Looking Ahead

- The **2026 Annual Meeting** will be held **May 1-2** in **Seneca Falls**, honoring our council's commitment to women's rights and history.
- The **September Board Retreat** will take place **right after the Women of Distinction Breakfast on September 18**.
- Upcoming board meetings and planning dates were approved and are now on the calendar.

## Mission Moment

A recent **“Think Like an Engineer”** STEM event, led by a board member, brought over 30 Girl Scouts together with partners from the Airforce Research Lab. The event received glowing feedback!

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Next Board Meeting: **September 18, 2025**

*For governance information or to schedule a meeting with a board representative for your Service Unit, reach out to: [boardofdirectors@gsnypenn.org](mailto:boardofdirectors@gsnypenn.org).*