

Executive Summary

NYPENN Board of Directors Meeting – January 24, 2026

The Board of Directors met via Zoom. The meeting focused on financial oversight, governance planning, staff benefits, property matters, and preparations for the 2026 Annual Meeting.

Financial Oversight and Audit

The Board reviewed and approved the **Member Year 2025 financial audit**, which resulted in a **clean audit opinion with no material misstatements**. A small number of donations remain under documentation review, but no issues were identified that would affect the outcome. The Board commended staff and the finance team for strengthening internal controls and financial reporting. The audit will support timely completion of the organization's IRS Form 990.

2026 Annual Meeting Planning

The Board approved the **2026 Annual Meeting agenda**, scheduled for **May 2, 2026, in Seneca Falls, NY**. Approximately 45 delegates representing 39 Service Units—many of them youth—will attend. The meeting will feature three main tracks:

- **Governance**, including member feedback on upcoming national proposals
- **Adult programming**, with sessions still being finalized
- **Youth programming**, including local museum activities, national park experiences, Junior Ranger programming, and Girl Advisory Board-led sessions

Additional highlights include a State of the Council address open to all adults and affordable overnight options at the Seneca Falls Service Center or nearby lodging.

Board Development and Governance

The Board Development Committee recommended **Amanda Roberts** for election to the Board, with formal installation planned for May. Additional candidates are under review, and a former board member is expected to return following a required roll-off year.

The Board also began discussion on potential **Bylaws changes** to reduce the minimum number of at-large board members and improve recruitment, quorum flexibility, and geographic representation across the council's 26-county region. No decisions were made; further data and recommendations will be reviewed at a future meeting. Meeting scheduling challenges were also discussed, with interest in exploring more flexible or hybrid formats.

Staff Retirement Plan Update

The Board approved an amendment to the **403(b) retirement plan** to eliminate automatic enrollment. This change reduces financial hardship for employees while preserving the ability for staff to voluntarily enroll and contribute at any time. The council will continue providing education and onboarding support related to retirement benefits.

Property Sale

The Board approved moving forward with the **sale of a small, unusable parcel of land in Corning**, following an offer of approximately \$106,000 from an adjacent property owner. The property has no access and poses liability concerns. The Board recommended placing proceeds in a protected account.

Other Key Updates

- Council leadership is meeting with New York State February 4th to continue conversations related to long-term planning.
- Early reports from other councils indicate cookie sales may be down nationally approximately 15% compared to last year; board members were encouraged to support sales efforts.
- The Board discussed reports from other states involving immigration enforcement inquiries at cookie booths and emphasized prompt communication if similar situations arise locally.
- The council was recognized nationally for strong volunteer retention and invited to participate in a GSUSA task force on improving volunteer engagement.

Next Board Meeting: March 21, 2026

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