

**FEBRUARY
2026**



Inside this issue:

Welcome Back 2 One Board Member, Wel- come to Three New Board Members, and Thank You Very Much to an Outgoing Board Member	
Board 3 Members (continued)	
Introducing 4 Emily Schmall – Welcome!	
New Archives 4 Storage Building	
2025 Board 5 Retreat	
Save the Date 6 and Send Us Stories	

Do Not Miss the Founders Hall Fundraiser and Recognition Event!

On Saturday, April 18, 2026, the Founders Hall fundraiser and recognition event returns to the Museum. Check-in opens at 2:30 p.m. and the event itself runs from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Museum. Heavy appetizers and dessert will be served following the ceremony. Registration is only \$50.

Founders Hall is a “must do” event. There are so many reasons to attend. In addition to supporting the Museum, the event gives you a chance to recognize a new class of Founders, Builders, and Trailblazers. The honorees will be announced shortly. Look for a separate announcement coming your way.

Another reason to attend is our keynote speaker. Our 2026 Founders Hall attendees have the opportunity to hear and meet a national figure. Our keynote speaker is Noorain Kahn, the national President of Girl Scouts of the USA! In addition to her volunteer service with GSUSA, Ms. Kahn is the Chief Innovation Officer at the Ford Foundation. Ms. Kahn was previously a Senior Policy Advisor on the National Economic Council at the White House and a Term Member on the Council on Foreign Relations. She has served on the boards of Vote.org, the Association of American Rhodes Scholars, Pillars Fund, and the Brooklyn Children’s



**National GSUSA President
Noorain Kahn.**

Museum. She is the recipient of the George Parkin Service Award for outstanding contributions to the Rhodes Trust and was named to Forbes’ 30 Under 30 list.

Finally, for our members with Scouting America connections, you can make the Founders Hall event part of a day of recognition. In the morning and early afternoon, you can attend the Northern Star Council Recognition Court of Honor at Base Camp and then head straight over to the Museum for the Founders Hall recognition event. You won’t miss a thing.

There are so many reasons to attend the Founders Hall recognition event, you will not want to pass on the opportunity to attend. Register today! To register, go to the Museum’s website (nssm.org) and register on line. It is quick and easy. See you on April 18!

**Mark Your Calendar for the
Founders Hall Fundraiser and Recognition Event on April 18!**



Welcome Back One Board Member, Welcome to Three New Board Members, and Thank You Very Much to an Outgoing Board Member

Every year, the Museum's Nominating Committee identifies potential new board members to serve on the Museum's Board of Directors. Once identified, the candidates are vetted and approved by the Board to stand for election. Occasionally, a mid-term vacancy occurs and the vacancy is filled by the board. Sometimes, board members or officers whose terms are ending remain on the board, albeit in a different capacity. Late 2025 was an incredibly busy time for the Nominating Committee and the board because of the above-mentioned possibilities, they all happened!

First, we must thank **Gary Gorman** for his years of service on the board. He brought to the Museum a depth of knowledge gained through his years as a Scoutmaster and his service at every level of Northern Star Council. The board will miss his wisdom.

To fill the final year of Gary's term, the board appointed **Rob Schultz**. Rob has worked in the nonprofit sector for most of his career. At the National Audubon Society, Rob leads Audubon's conservation, advocacy and community engagement work in Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri in partnership with a staff team based out of multiple office locations, 30

Audubon Chapters operating across the region, and more than 56,000 Audubon members. Rob also served in executive director roles with the International Wolf Center, the YMCA, and the International Peace Garden. He has been active in Scouting having earned the Eagle Scout Award, Vigil and Founders Award in the Order of the Arrow, serving on the President's Cabinet of Northern Star Scouting, and having worked professionally for Northern Star Scouting as a Capital Campaign Director. Rob is a Trustee of the Cheetah Conservation Fund (Africa), and is a board member of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership. He holds a Master's degree in biology from Miami University's Global Field Program where he studied cheetah conservation in Otjiwarongo, Namibia; desert ecology in Baja, Mexico; marine biology in the Sea of Cortez; and neotropical ecosystems in Costa Rica.



Rob Schultz

A year ago, Joe Glenski was elected as the new board chair following six years of effective service by **Lorena Palm**. Lorena remained on the board as the immediate past chair. With the conclusion of her year as immediate past chair, Lorena could have left the board. Instead, she accepted a position provided for in our by-laws – board member emeritus. That means the board and the Museum will continue to benefit from Lorena's wisdom and experience.

Finally, the Nominating Committee considered the addition of two new board members and the reelection of a third. **Kurt Leichtle** has served on the board for many years, returning after more than one year-long absence pursuant to the term limit provision in our by-laws. Eligible for a second three-year term, Kurt agreed to stand for election by the Museum's membership and he was duly elected. It is time to get reacquainted with Kurt. Kurt is a Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls. He has broad experience both in Boy Scouts, history, museums, and the use of three-dimensional artifacts to teach history. Previous experience includes work for the Ramsey County Historical Society, including management
(Continued on page 3)

Welcome Back One Board Member, Welcome to Three New Board Members, and Thank You Very Much to an Outgoing Board Member (continued)

responsibility for the Gibbs Farm Museum. Kurt serves on the Museum's Program and Exhibits Committees. He previously served for two years as the volunteer Acting Executive Director of the Museum.



Ben Coder

In December, the Board of Directors held a retreat. We were fortunate to recruit **Ben Coder** to facilitate the retreat and we are even more fortunate that Ben agreed to stand for election to the Board of Directors. The Museum is happy to announce his election. Ben is an Eagle Scout, current Scouting volunteer, and has more than a decade of prior professional Scouting experience. He currently serves as the President of the Southwest Metro Minneapolis Kiwanis Club. Professionally, Ben works as the Midwestern Higher Education Compact's (MHEC) Programs and Contracts Manager. At MHEC, he increases the awareness and utilization of MHEC's cooperative technology and insurance programs, in addition

to convening fora for cross state and cross institution collaboration. Ben, welcome to the Board of Directors.



Molly Pirjevec

The final new director is **Molly Pirjevec**. She was also elected to the board following the recently completed member vote. Molly is the eldest of six children. She fondly recalls attending Girl Scout-day camp as a child. She attended Normandale Community College and Hamline University and has dedicated more than forty years to serving youth and families through nonprofit work. Molly began her career with the Girl Scouts, working at two councils in roles spanning membership, program management, adult development, and community relations. She later joined Gillette Children's, where she spent seven years in healthcare philanthropy. Thereafter, Molly joined Indianhead Council, legacy council of the present-day Northern Star Council. At

NSC, she led product sales, events, and grant writing efforts. For the past six years, she has raised funds for The Salvation Army Northern Division. Molly is a grandmother and the single mother of two young adult daughters, both proud Girl Scouts alumnae.

The Board of Directors is thrilled that such a diverse and talented group are returning to and joining the Board of Directors. Greet them and thank them next time you see one of them. Thank you, Lorena, Kurt, Rob, Ben, and Molly!



Introducing Emily Schmall – Welcome!

EDITOR'S NOTE: What better way for you to meet the Museum's new Administrative Assistant than to have her introduce herself!

Hello! My name is Emily Schmall and I'm excited to join the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting as the new Administrative Assistant.

My past involvement with Girl Scouts connected me personally to the Museum's mission. Some of you may recognize me from my time on staff at Girl Scouts River Valleys, where I spent nearly a decade in roles ranging from program support to recruitment and volunteer resources. I was also a Girl Scout growing up, served as a troop leader for my daughter's troop for 13 years (we had nine youth continue through their senior year!), and am now a Lifetime Member. Girl Scouts helped shape my love of learn-

ing, leadership, and volunteerism.

My professional background is in nonprofit and community-focused work, where I've supported programs through organization, strategic-planning, and problem-solving. I enjoy being the person behind the scenes who helps ideas move forward and keeps day-to-day operations running smoothly.

A few years ago, I sustained a traumatic brain injury, which led me to a vibrant community, including my involvement with the Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance and the LoveYourBrain Foundation—organizations dedicated to advocacy and support for people with invisible disabilities. This lived experience has deepened my appreciation for accessible and welcoming spaces, as well as the importance of thoughtful systems and supportive communities.



Emily Schmall

Outside of work, I enjoy art and music, yoga, getting outdoors, and tending to my many succulents and houseplants. I'm a University of Minnesota alum (go Gophers!) with degrees in visual art and K-12 art education, and I'm a lifelong Minnesota resident.

I'm grateful to be part of the team and look forward to connecting with our volunteers and supporters soon. Whether you call, email, or stop in for a visit, please be sure to say hello and introduce yourself!



In December, ground was broken to start construction on an Archives Storage Building for the Museum's use at the Northern Star Council's Andersen Scout Camp. The building will be almost entirely funded as part of a gift from the Katherine B. Andersen Foundation to Northern Star Council. The Museum has entered into a long-term lease for the use of the building. It should be ready for occupancy some time in May.

The building rests across the parking lot from the Swanson Lodge. The January photos demonstrate the substantial progress that was made in only one month. Stay tuned for future announcements about the grand opening of the building and our own campaign to fund a share of the construction cost and to furnish the building's interior.

2025 Board Retreat



Late last year, the Museum's Board of Directors conducted its first Board Retreat in many years. The retreat was facilitated by newly elected Board member Ben Coder. Ben had not yet been invited to serve on the Board at the time of the retreat. We thank him for deciding that he saw something he liked about us.

During the retreat, the Board took a break long enough for this picture. In the top row, left to right are David Novy, Emily White, Kim Andreas, Kurt Leichtle, Board Treasurer Beth Voermans, Tom Welna, John Guthmann, and Board Secretary Terri Anderson. In the front row, left to right, are Board Chair Joe Glenski, Mary Degel, Immediate Past Chair Lorena Palm, Executive Director Linda Crosson Posavad, and Board Vice Chair Bonna Scherer.



Ben Coder facilitated the Museum's Board retreat late in 2025. This photo shows him in action with the Board and the ubiquitous flip charts that populated the room during the exercises he led.

DATED MATERIAL



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**FEBRUARY
2026**

North Star Museum
of Boy Scouting
and Girl Scouting
2640 East 7th Avenue
North St. Paul, MN
55109

Phone: 651-748-2880

**We're on the web
www.nssm.org**



Save the Date and Send Us Your Stories

As you may recall from the article in the October *Museum News*, this year marks the 50th anniversary of our founding and our 20th year owning the museum building in North St. Paul. To commemorate these events, we are holding a celebration at the Museum on Sunday, June 28 in the afternoon. Please mark this date on your calendar.

In addition to you reserving the date and planning to attend, we could use some additional assistance. It involves your memories. To make the celebration more personal, please send us your stories about the early years of the Museum and/or the building. Please send your museum memories

and any associated digital pictures to the Museum using the following dedicated email address: info@nssm.org. See you at the anniversary celebration!



Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, John Guthmann, and John Raymond.

North Star Scouting Memorabilia Inc. is a Minnesota non-profit corporation, a member of the American Association of Museums, Association of Midwest Museums, and the Association of Scout Museums International. We are a 501(c)(3) with the mission to collect, preserve, share and interpret the history and significance of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the upper Midwest. We adhere to the Code of Ethics of the American Association of Museums and the Donor Bill of Rights.

© 2026 North Star Scouting Memorabilia Inc.