

# April 10, 2024 IDGS board of directors meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 p.m. by President Alan Sweeney. Before tackling agenda items, director Radenne English asked Corlis Kent to represent her if a vote was needed at the April 20 Spring general membership meeting. Secretary Karen Hibdon agreed to be director Christy Pletcher's proxy at that meeting.

1. Much discussion took place on the recent Idaho Artistry in Wood show and whether it was worthwhile for IDGS to continue with its involvement in the show. While the 2024 show did great – better attendance and more cash – IDGS put in much more time than some of the other organizations involved. If IDGS stays involved, two representatives will be needed to start attending all meetings. Also, IDGS is slated to oversee the 2025 show and if we are going to bow out, it is best to do it now rather than later. Webmaster Chris Peters said IAW never says much about gourds in its advertising, despite the fact many IDGS members volunteer and that gourds are a big draw for the public. Future involvement was questioned. The club does receive monetary proceeds from the show, but Alan asked if we should continue with IAW or if instead turn all our focus on our annual gourd festival and let the IAW show go. He added the membership needs to focus on one thing at a time.

Past President Ron Swank noted IDGS is 100 percent self-sustaining and we do not need the money. He also suggested leaving IAW. Christy made a motion to present the idea of bowing out of IAW to the membership at the April 20 general meeting. Chris seconded the motion and all agreed.

2. AGS is offering a Zoom judging class April 16 and 17. Cost is \$20. A refresher course for judges will be offered Sept. 18, the Wednesday before our festival.
3. Treasurer Janet Melligh provided an in-depth financial report including paying the 2022 IRS fees owed and paying the \$10 membership fee to Garden Clubs of Idaho. She also gave a report on the various insurance companies she contacted and what they would cost to cover a 501C-7 group like IDGS. Her research will continue as we look for a new and improved insurance policy.
4. Alan asked the board what he should do with IDGS paperwork dating 2017 and before. He suggested getting it out of the trailer and storing it in his barn if there is a reason to keep it. No decision was made.

5. The question was raised if we should donate to the Canyon County Fair in which we will participate. There were no objections but everyone voted to wait to make a decision.
6. Most of the meeting centered around the Sept. 20-22 IDGS Gourd Festival. Alan unveiled the new "Gourd Festival" banners that will be hung on the Franz Witte fencing on Highway 26 and 11<sup>th</sup> St. South. All agreed the banners are fantastic and liked that the cost came in under budget.
7. The board voted to keep, for now, the old black tablecloths, but to get rid of wood and the clay pot risers used for past shows. We also looked at laying "Gourden" to rest because he is falling apart. The gourd man was made by Sue Kostka and first used at the gourd show at the American Legion Hall. Veletta Murphey bought and then sold him. He has been in storage, has had several makeovers in recent years, and was displayed at several of the last festivals. It was decided to store him in the trailer - if there is still room.
8. Christy and Radenne, 2024 festival gourd store chairpersons, announced several upcoming events to garner items to sell in the store, including a new twist on the traditional Jack-O-Lantern fundraiser. This year the contest theme has been expanded to anything fall. First and second place winners will each receive a free 2025 IDGS membership. Winners will be determined by membership voting at the August meeting when the items will be donated to the gourd store. Christy and Radenne are also hosting a pop-up event to create fairy cottage birdhouses which will be for sale in the gourd store. They also handed out a wish list of donations needed.
9. During the meeting entry fees to the competition couldn't be decided but were decided by 4/12/24 by a committee (authorized by the BOD) comprised of Chris Peters, Ron Swank and LaRae Palmanteer to be: Those entering festival competition gourds are limited to a total of six entries, with no more than two per category. Pre-registration is through Sept. 14 and the first three entries per person are free for IDGS members. Additional entries are \$3 each. After the Sept. 14 deadline all entries are \$3 for members and non-members alike. A full list of categories and other rules regarding entries are in the Idaho Gourd Festival prospectus on the IDGS website.
10. The festival handbook and subcommittee reports and the sound system review were put off until a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.