

March 2024 IDGS board meetings

Due to the numerous items to discuss and several decisions to be made, the IDGS board had two meetings this month, March 6 and 13.

The first meeting was called to order by President Alan Sweeney at 9:30 a.m. March 6.

1. The first item addressed IDGS financials. Treasurer Janet Melligh prepared a comprehensive report closely following the budget the board laid out in January. The main difference was the new black tablecloths came in under budget - \$180 instead of \$200. As of Feb. 29, 2024, the IDGS cash balance at CapED Credit Union is \$11,562.53. Alan thanked Janet for her very detailed budget report and the many hours she spent preparing the report.
2. Next was a review of the task calendar updated by Chris Peters. Janet noted the need to file a report with the state in late September or early October and that a second amended filing should be made no later than January. The latter date needs to be included on the calendar as a reminder to file.
3. The decision was made by the board to send \$20 donations to AGS for the Jim Story and Artistry Awards. It was decided to hold off on deciding on donating \$20 awards to the Western Idaho State Fair for the Hobby Craft and Agriculture awards. IDGS was invited to join the Garden Clubs of Idaho. The membership fee is \$10 annually. Secretary Karen Hibdon moved to join the group and Membership Chair Madlen Tarlton seconded. It was approved.
4. Several items were brought up for the planning calendar regarding the annual festival, among them securing and hanging large banners on Hwy 26 and 11th Street. Janet suggested getting on the Chamber of Commerce calendars for cities in the Treasure Valley. Following much discussion, it was decided to purchase a half page color ad in the AGS summer magazine issue. In addition, Director Christy Pletcher moved to purchase a color quarter page ad in the fall issue which comes out right before the festival. Madlen seconded.
5. Alan attended the recent AGS zoom meeting for chapter presidents. Among items discussed were continuing to improve presence at meetings, changes to the Jim Story Award and AGS judges training. Also, and the creation of four teams addressing leadership and planning, growing membership, and creating chapter liaisons, a pure seed exploration team and an education team.

6. When it was decided earlier this year that IDGS is underinsured, Janet took on the task of following up on work already done by member Ken Gordy. She checked with several other state gourd organizations and made a comparison of what they have and what is covered by various insurance companies. She got responses to seven of the nine inquiries she made. She noted that IDGS is considered a 501C-7 which is a non-profit social club and not a 501C-3 which is considered a charitable group, which influences how they can be insured. She compared the various types of coverage and found our current policy lagging behind many of the groups which have liability insurance for their members and a much higher rate of coverage. AGS is exploring getting coverage for the chapters but it is more likely we will have to spend more on better coverage for IDGS before that becomes reality. Franz Witte has asked the club to carry a \$5 million policy for our festival.

Janet is going to pursue the overall insurance options available and Alan will see if Franz Witte will accept \$1 million coverage.

7. Leanna and Wanda are attending a meeting to finalize planning for the April 6 and 7 Idaho Artistry in Wood show at the JUMP. Alan will be sending out an email to remind members of the need for volunteers, for donation for the raffle, silent auction, and live auction as well as the details on how to register and enter the IDGS gourd competition. Donations are needed by the March 23 meeting. Corlis will do the registration and intake and Alan will be loading up items needed into his van and taking them to JUMP. Our new tablecloths and risers will make their debut.

8. We have not yet received a refund on our cleaning deposit for the Christmas party at the Eagle Lodge. Christy said Donna Kirk is handling it.

9. Christy announced 24 people, including several from out of state, indicated interest in attending a retreat the first weekend in August. She said the cost would be around \$200 and include two meals a day and snacks as well as the cabin accommodation. The issue of any money owed to IDGS for the past retreats was laid to rest with a motion from Chris. There was never any IDGS money used for a retreat. Director Radenne English seconded and all agreed.

10. The festival planning is already under way. Alan said several AGS board members have indicated they want to teach a class while they are attending the AGS annual meeting taking place at our festival as they will want to recoup some of the travel expenses to come to Idaho.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m. With many items left on the agenda, Alan asked if everyone was OK with another BOD meeting on March 13. Everyone agreed.

The Feb. 13 BOD meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Alan Sweeney, with the entire board present. The focus of the meeting was to update the festival handbook, planning and get folks lined up for the subcommittees.

1. There will be changes made to the welcome center which will now be outside the competition building and not at the main entrance to Franz Witte. Security and People's Choice will be in the competition building but the membership table will be at the Gourd Store.
2. Janet and Carol Joyce will keep track of sales and filing of taxes, including making sure the vendors file their taxes. Other positions filled are: Karen, publicity; Liz demonstrations; Steve, judges, ribbons, and winners' records; Chris, prospectus, signs, and vendors; Corlis, registration; Alan, overall chairman, teachers and classes and Saturday night dinner; Barbs Gamel, show staging; Janet and Carol Joyce, treasurers; and Ken Gordy, welcome and information table. There are still positions to fill, including someone to take charge of hanging banners and flags. No takers so far.
3. Director Steve Kiser is again heading up the judging and it will be up to him as senior judge to turn in the list of winners to AGS. He suggested having a gourd for visitors to drop their People's Choice ballots in. He noted that this is a non-juried show and that judges are all volunteers who do not have to be certified.
4. Chris and La-Rae Palmanteer revised the Festival Handbook and La-Rae led a discussion on plagiarism and encouraging originality. Chris mentioned the idea of having the vendors this year be juried since we may have more people wanting to sell than spaces available.

The concept drew criticism since there are such varied items being sold – fine art to smaller craft objects. To accommodate everyone, Bill Tarlton, suggested an overflow area outside the main tent or renting tables in addition to booths.

5. After much discussion it was decided to pursue purchasing two 8x4-foot banners for the fencing at Franz Witte – one facing Chinden (Hwy 26) and one on 11th St. The banner will include IDGS in the upper left corner, a gourd, and the wording Gourd Festival this weekend. Christy moved to purchase the two banners, Steve seconded and all approved.
6. AGS wants a 10x10 vendor booth. Several AGS members want to teach classes and we are waiting to see who and what they want to teach. Some may want to teach classes at Liz Meyer's studio before or after the festival, while others may want to offer classes to the public. Terry Noxel indicated she may want to do a make and take as well as teach classes. Those teaching at the festival must submit their class to Franz Witte which will handle publicity, registration and fees.
7. AGS is offering a new two-part judges training that includes printed materials and name badges to those completing the session. The board will decide later whether we want to be involved.
8. The discussion on a sound system for the festival's silent auction and other IDGS activities was tabled until the April meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m. The next monthly meeting is slated for March 25.