

Official Fall 2024 Membership Meeting, Nov. 9, 2024

1. President Alan Sweeney called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., thanking several individuals for providing refreshments and welcoming newcomer Kristen Vollrath of Wilder. Approximately 40 people attended the meeting. A collection of 50 cents was taken of those who had not worn their name badge to the meeting.
2. As with each of the two IDGS official membership meetings per year, Alan then read the Idaho Gourd Society's statement of purpose.
3. He then introduced the current board of directors:
 - a. President - Alan Sweeney
 - b. Vice President - Robi Hathorn
 - c. Treasurer – Janet Melligh
 - d. Secretary – Karen Hibdon
 - e. Membership secretary – Madlen Tarlton
 - f. Elected directors – Radenne English, Christy Pletcher and Steve Kiser
 - g. Webmaster and social media – Chris Peters (absent)
 - h. Gourd Shards newsletter author – Carolyn (Karo) Frazier
4. Prior to the meeting a copy of the minutes from the official May 20, 2024 minutes was sent to the membership. Alan asked if there were any questions. There were none. Corlis Kent moved to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Karo and all approved.
5. Treasurer Janet provided a comprehensive report of the state of the IDGS income and expenses. Income in October was \$176.53, \$96.50 of which came from the Wheel of Goodies. Expenses totaled \$1,132.42 which included \$515.88 in sales tax from the Idaho Gourd Festival and \$486. 54 for the new sound system. As of the end of October, there was a balance of \$13,718.52 in the IDGS checking account. As directed by the board, Janet put \$2,500 into a CD for reserve in the event it is needed in the future. Corlis moved to accept the budget as presented and Karo seconded it. The motion carried.
6. Membership secretary Madlen reported there are 161 paid members. A single membership is \$15 annually, with a \$5 additional fee for each member joining in the household.
7. The election of officers is held each year at the November membership meeting. Once again, Bill Tarlton volunteered to coordinate seeking officers and handling the election. This year there were four positions open for two-year terms. Those seeking office ran unopposed so there was no official ballot, just a simple yay or nay vote. New officers elected are:
 - a. Radenne English – president
 - b. Karen Hibdon – secretary
 - c. Randy Lentell – director replacing Steve Kiser

d. Christy Pletcher – director

Because Radenne still has one year left on her term as director, the board of directors will appoint a replacement in January.

8. The new sound system was shown to the gathering.
9. Prior to the meeting the members were asked to submit suggestions for their “wish list” of items to be purchased with the new budget. Among the suggestions were several more tables. As they are currently on sale at Costco, it was decided to go ahead and get them now.
10. Following this year’s gourd festival competitions, several questions arose about judging and various options available. Also to be addressed will be show staging. To that end, a meeting was set up for Friday, Nov. 15 at Alan’s.
11. The annual Christmas party will take place Dec. 14, again at the Eagles Lodge in Boise. The club will provide chicken, water and juice and paper goods. Past President Ron Swank will coordinate the gift exchange and handle the timer so we can get through the process in a timely manner.
12. Alan, Janet, Chris and Radenne met with officials from Franz Witte to discuss the 2025 gourd festival next September. The dates will be Sept. 19-21, with set up on Thursday, Sept. 18. Although there had been talk of the venue raising its cost to us, Franz Witte said they would keep the cost at \$2,500. Alan noted this was a great deal because of what we receive in addition to the venue – help in setting up, advertising and coordinating outside teachers.
13. Alan then called for patch reports, with Sunshine, Dancing Dog, Woodcraft and Kuna giving their meeting times. Alan noted the patches are “where the fun is.”
14. Because this was his last official membership meeting as president, Alan thanked everyone for the support he has been given. “I’m not going away. I will always be supportive. It’s been a great experience and together we have done some wonderful thing.”
He called Janet “armed and dangerous” in regard to the budget and noted there will be room in the future for expanded gourd education and outreach.
15. The meeting concluded with Show and Tell and the monthly prize giveaway in which Bill actually won a prize for the first time.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hibdon, secretary