

## October 11 IDGS board meeting minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Alan Sweeney. The room was full as board members were joined by festival committee chairmen. Board members Corlis Kent and Steve Kiser did not attend.

Before getting into festival discussion, Alan had several items for the board to discuss.

1. The Christmas party is set for Dec. 9. Because there was such a huge turnout last year, we are exploring other venues. IDGS will provide chicken, drinks, and paper goods. The majority felt there should be a 30-second rule during the gift exchange.
2. Alan wants to again have short demonstrations after the monthly meetings. He will do the first one Oct. 14 on how to use the mini jigsaw to create jack-o-lanterns.
3. Because Corlis is still out of town, Alan used the credit card to secure five \$10 cash prizes for the monthly giveaway at Saturday's meeting.
4. A local artist has created a gourd calendar featuring paintings she has done of decorated gourds, several of them made by IDGS members. It was decided we could support her by promoting the calendar to the membership.
5. We are still in need of at least one and possibly two representatives for the Idaho Artistry in Wood. If no one steps forward, we will likely have to bow out of involvement in the annual spring show at the JUMP Center.
6. IDGS board elections will be held at the Nov. 11 fall general membership meeting. Bill said three people have stepped up to fill the vice president, treasurer, and director positions.
7. Board members were invited to attend the Oct. 17 American Gourd Society zoom meeting.

### Festival discussion

1. Alan thanked everyone for organizing the bins following the festival. Items are now neatly stored in the trailer.
2. Franze Witte was pleased with us staging the festival at their facility and it was agreed the venue also served IDGS well. The dates for 2024 are tentatively Sept. 20-21 with an option for adding Sunday, Sept. 22 as we will be hosting a delegation from AGS for the event. AGS members will likely be offering classes which IDGS would coordinate.
3. Carol Joyce, who stepped in to handle finances while Corlis is out, gave a comprehensive report on the festival: registration for competition brought in \$139; silent auction \$1,833; gourd store \$5,457.15; 22 new memberships \$360; a \$20 donation – total of \$7,809.15. She paid \$420.52 Idaho sales tax and \$111.21 fee for use of the credit card square. Total festival proceeds \$7,277.42.
  - a. Carol said there should be a backup treasurer position, someone who has access to all accounts, bills, etc., in the event the treasurer is not available.
4. Advertising was good with Karen's articles in the Idaho Press, Middleton Gazette, Idaho Family and Star Spirit magazines, as well as members' social media notices. Need to look at radio and TV exposure and the possibility of signs along Hwy. 26.
5. Liz Meyer reported the demos went well and Bill said he recruited several new members during his demos.
6. Vice President Dee Smart said she should have done more with the display-only gourd section, including providing educational information and exhibits for the public. Others praised the display she created. Having an education kit available to take to schools, libraries, fairs, was discussed as a possibility.
7. Having the individual chairmen request supplies they needed for their area worked well, Alan said.
8. Setting up and breaking down this year went very smooth, with lots of volunteers and the use of the bins to stack in the trailer, Alan said.
9. Janet Meligh, gourd store chairman, reported huge success, with the cleaned gourds and the Jack-o-Lanterns as the top selling items. Christmas ornaments did not sell, while everything Halloween and fall went fast. Janet passed out a page of notes about what worked and didn't in the gourd store. She suggested at least three people at the gourd store, one to handle cash, one to handle credit cards and one working the floor and answering questions.
10. Judging and awards ribbons were coordinated by Steve – Alan said all went well – but suggested next year when AGS folks are here we offer a sanctioned judge training.

11. LaRae Palmanteer (and Caro Frazier) and Christy Pletcher coordinated make and take Friday and Saturday, respectively. Both days were busy, with both children and adults participating. Letting people choose what they wanted to make throughout both days seemed more relaxed than scheduling a specific time for a craft.
12. Ken Gordy said the membership/information table went well but suggested two tables next year – one at the entrance to Franz Witte and the other next to the competition barn. Folks saw the big tent and thought it was for a private party, not realizing the festival was going on unless they wandered that way or were directed to it.
13. Sandy Kock handled registration in Corlis' absence. She sent Alan a message that all went well but she suggested switching the competition gourds to the left wall because the wind was so bad if the big door was open. Barb Gamel pointed out that the wind next year could be blowing the other way, so no decision was made.
14. While we did not have a Saturday night dinner this year, it was suggested we have one next year since the AGS crew will be here.
15. Danny Mathis did an excellent job as "sheriff" handling security. However, it was an exhausting two days. Suggestion that next year we just have one or two people working inside the competition area to answer questions and keep people from touching the gourds.
16. Show staging – Barb said it went very well, although the tablecloths continue to be a problem. She had plenty of help with Gaylene, Leslie and Mike. She suggests more tablecloths (120" with square corners (not round)) and more flower pots for risers.
17. Signs – Chris did an awesome job making signs for any of the chairmen who asked. Signs for Hwy 26 are needed.
18. Silent auction chairwomen Pam Froom said while there was a good number of donated items, even more are needed. She had lots of volunteers. The biggest need is for a new sound system – folks just couldn't hear the announcements.
19. The teachers and classes just didn't work this year – the classes were designed to accommodate the public's wishes, but few signed up. Looking into us handling the classes rather than Franz Witte – one of the main advertisements for classes had their logo over pictures of what was being offered.
20. Chris did a great job coordinating the vendors and getting the tent spots mapped out. Suggestion that next year vendor prices might be raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10

*Prepared by Secretary Karen Hibdon*