

2018 American Gourd Society Annual Meeting

The 2018 American Gourd Society Annual Meeting was held at the PA Chapter's Gourd Gathering, Friday June 15, 2018. This year's meeting had the largest number of members present in the last 15 years, thanks to the scheduling genius of the host, Reagan Bitler. Members present: Raymond Konan (1st VP), Judi Flemming (3rd VP), Terry Noxel (NYSGS President), Reagan Bitler (PAGS President), 48 AGS members and 9 non-members (61 total present)

Minutes from April 8, 2017 AGS Annual Meeting at the Show Me State Festival in Springfield, Mo were reviewed and approved, Old Business was reviewed, various AGS Committee Reports were presented and New Business was discussed. A full report is available upon request (email Terry Noxel at noxelts@aol.com). Below are brief notes of the meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Current banking balances (as of 6/15/18) showed Checking \$24,263.46; Savings \$23,390.75
2. End of year 2017 showed a net positive of \$3,656.85. 2018 thanks to more new members/renewals than estimated and donations
3. 2018 Budget anticipates a smaller net positive
4. Non-Profit status: In good standing with IRS by filing 990EZ form online
5. Annual Audit: Audit completed in March and only found one error that was less than 1\$ when the cents were transposed when compared to the receipts for postage
6. Treasurer resigned due to serious medical illness; A Director was appointed by AGS President (as provided for by the Constitution) to take the Treasurer position and the transition is going well. We were able to maintain the Chase banking account so a smooth transition from Cheryl Trotter in TX to Maryland Fallon, CA is going well.

Membership Secretary's Report: # as of 1st April 2018

- Current US membership = 2192; International membership = 22
 - 17 from Canada, 2 China, 1 ea. Italy, New Zealand, Isle of Man
- Chapters:
 - Please provide changes in leadership to the Membership Chairman (agsmembership@comcast.net) in a timely manner.
- Members:
 - Change of address (including temporary changes) MUST be sent to agsmembership@comcast.net to insure magazine delivery
 - USPS validates mailing lists and produces a "bad address" list. We try to confirm if it is a typing error or if person has moved or is having mail being held/forwarded. Our magazine cannot be held or forwarded so it is destroyed.
 - It is recommended that people update their contact information (phone & email) so we can contact you if the USPS flags your address as "bad"

Committee Reports:

Jim Story Award Committee Report:

- 2017 Income \$610 from 14 Chapters and 5 personal donations; Expenses \$500 plus trophy
- 2018 Income \$390 from 7 Chapters and 3 personal donations; Expenses TBD
- Encourage eligible winners (JSA) to enter the AGS award competition
- New chairperson: Jim Ballard (IN) replaces Glenn Burkhalter after his many years of service.

Artistry Award Committee Report

- 2017 Income \$610 from 14 Chapters and 4 personal donations; Expenses \$300

- 2018 Income \$2990 from 7 Chapters and 3 personal donations; Expenses TBD
 - One personal donation (\$2,500) was from an auctioned piece donated by Bonnie Gibson.
- Encourage eligible winners (Best of Show, People's Choice, Grand Masters) to enter the AGS award competition

A Proposal for 2019 was approved unanimously: The Artistry and Jim Story Award Committees will both change award amounts to make them identical. 1st = \$200, 2nd = \$100, 3rd = \$50

Judging Program Committee Report

- 2017 Income \$450; Expenses \$131.94 (Diane is paying for some out of her own pocket)
 - 2018 Budgeted Income \$400
 - Training program updated (Judi Fleming)
 - Record Keeping being worked on (Diane Frankenfield). Current # of certified judges is unknown at this time.
 - Remember to notify Diane Franfield (agsjudge30@gmail.com) of the names of judges at your show for keeping active judges on the list.
 - New Judges badges are created following training and Diane manages that too.
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Magazine Editors Report

- Reminders for submitting ALL content: Advertising, Tutorials, Articles, Photos.
 - a. Due dates Due dates (listed on page 1 of each issue) 20th of January, April, July & October
 - See inside cover for who the key contacts are for content
 - b. Festival/Event updates to Kristy Dial (agseventcalendar@gmail.com)
 - c. Advertising to Lynne East-Itkin (LMEastDesign@gmail.com)
 - d. Chapter News to Vickie Echols (americangourdsociety@gmail.com)
 - e. Upload articles and photos directly to AGS' ShareFile. Link is on page 1 of magazine but can also be emailed to you (just ask Terry or the editor, Lynne)
 - f. Pictures of projects completed from AGS tutorials to Terry Noxel (noxelts@aol.com)
 - Magazine (e-delivery) Pilot: 2 international members get PDF copies and pay US membership dues rate. Offered to all International members but only 2 chose to receive it as a PDF instead of a printed copy
 - ShareFile: File storage service that enables you to directly upload large files without the difficulties of email service providers.
 - Reminder: Photos should be as large a file as possible so that they print well. Captions are also needed for photos
 - Wanted: Tutorials
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Website

- Web master has resigned; A committee is being formed to create a new AGS website and update the existing one in the meantime
 - Social Media
 - Facebook (Page owners - Terry Noxel, Cheryl Trotter (replacement needed), Cecile Garrison); Open to anyone who has a valid interest in gourds, even non-members. Please email Cecile or Terry if you can help.
 - BigTent (Owners Terry Noxel & Dallas Lunsford). Not much activity. BigTent is folding anyway, so no further action required.
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International Ambassador

- Vice President, Raymond Konan toured China and the Philippines in 2017.