

## AGS Full Board Meeting 1/23/25 via Zoom

**Called to order** at 8:04 by president Regan Bitler

### **Introductions**

Officers present: Reagan (President), Terry (Secretary), Phil (Treasurer)

Vice Presidents: Troy & Robin (Celia absent)

Directors: Barbara & Christy (Marla, excused)

Chapter presidents/delegates present: Dahl (AZ), Flynn (FL), English (ID), Watermon (MO), Fleming (NC), Mustad (OH), Craver (PA), Whiteman (VA), Becky (TX), Baldwin (WA),

### **Announcements**

- Judi Fleming – 1 year sabbatical due to health-related issues
- Troy Tatum – 1 year assuming VP eastern region

### **Implementation of *New Regional Structure* (Reagan)**

- Increase two-way communication between chapter and AGS via new regional structure.
- Three Director vacancies to be filled ASAP: one in each region. Please nominate Director candidates and send contact info to [americangourdsociety@gmail.com](mailto:americangourdsociety@gmail.com)
- They can be appointed by the president to fill the vacancy until the next election (in the Fall)
- They will each have a few chapters to be the main contact for ideas, resources and issues; sharing

### **2025 Activities Overview**

**Leadership & Planning team:** leadership development & training, AGS membership mtg (may change due to conflict w/home college football game and hotel availability); leadership summit plans

**Education team:** strengthen our outreach program, instructor development, tutorials, website/magazine

**Seed team:** investigate saving pure seed

**Judging team:** Continue to update the training and implementation of judge and clerk training

**Award teams:** Continue to promote and reward excellence in gourd artistry and gourd manipulation

## **Old Business**

### **Possible Non-profit "Umbrella" (Phil)**

#### **Would the umbrella save chapters money?**

- Cost to chapters to file for 501 (c )(3) can be costly
- Insurance for events, officers, workshops are expensive
- AGS would file (income/expenses) for all chapters
- Fund raising is possible from big donors who limit their donations to national organizations

#### **Limitations**

- No insurer covers all states, thus need more than one carrier

#### **Discussion**

- How will it impact chapters that are 501-c3 already? Do they lose it?
- How will it impact chapters that are other 501-c types?
- What does that mean for chapters' funds, dues, etc?
- Can chapters choose to not be included?
- How does a member be a member in more than one chapter?
- How does AGS afford to cover insurance for every chapter? Will chapters be billed for their share (and hopefully save \$\$)
- Would insurance cover more than the venue? Officers, etc?
- Some venues require the chapter to use the insurer of the venue?
- Chapter maintains autonomy to operate – not governed by AGS
- Membership: how do we want to set it up? Join both chapter and AGS as one fee – or- one and not the other?

#### **Approve to Investigate**

- Need budget to hire a lawyer

Motion: (Madonna) \$1,000 to hire a lawyer to continue investigate the parent-child 501-c3; if additional funds are needed, the request would come back to the board. (Christy 2nd)

Vote: approved unanimously

## **Treasurer's Report (see attachments)**

- General Account is separate from two sub-accounts (Jim Story Award and Artistry Award) and money in these sub-accounts can only be used for the winners of those awards.
- Reviewed major expenses and how it affects the balance of the General account. Reviewed which line items missed, met or exceeded projected income/expenses for 2024 and what is projected for 2025.
- May need to revisit dues to help cover the increased expenses (fees, cost of postage, printing, etc).
- Last slide compared balances in General account to CPI (Consumer Price Index) and see the increasing gap (which means we're not keeping up...i.e. losing \$\$). We're okay for now, but we may need to stop doing something or increase income to stay in good shape.
- 60% dues by PayPal; 40% by check

\*Note: Chapter may request Phil to join your meeting (by zoom) to explain these charts.

Reagan added explanation about expense regarding travel by officers to AGS membership meeting and inquired if AGS presence at meetings in ID & GA was beneficial? Unanimously positive. Great dialogue with members and participating with judging.

## **Brief Team Reports (Team Leaders)**

- Leadership team -Zoom mtg 2/20. We'll be discussing Leadership Development for VPs and Directors, chapter leaders and up & coming leaders; Leadership summit with annual meeting
- Education team – met by zoom 1/10 to kick-off how to involve regional teams in identifying needs of chapters. Next mtg is 2/10. Communicating possible uses of Bonnie Gibson tutorials to be explained. Clarified that the “copyright protection” and possible liability was overstated and we really want chapters to stress their participants may not copy or share tutorials with other non-AGS members
- Seed team – met by zoom 1/20 to discuss and revise goals. Low interest in doing the work for pure seeds by sellers; how to engage home gardeners to protect some male and female blossoms to yield pure seed; investigating best

practices to advise home gardeners on when and how to harvest seed and store it. Next mtg is 2/17 to finalize educational materials.

- Judging team – met by email to discuss process for certification of Judge Instructors for in-person training and recertification. Online training for new judges and recertifications will be offered quarterly and upon request. Online Class is scheduled 4/6 & 4/7 and open to AGS members from any chapter. Notify [americangourdsociety@gmail.com](mailto:americangourdsociety@gmail.com) to receive Zoom invitations.
  - Inquiry by Troy: has there been any discussion or decision regarding Epoxy-coated gourds being recognized as it's own category vs just a finish for gourds in any category. Judging team was not aware of the discussions in GA; Terry will follow-up with Troy and bring AGS Judging Team up-to-date for next mtg.
  - Bead chain. Does it belong in beading?
  - My Way. Not where a gourd that could be in a category is placed (catch-call). It's for entries that don't fit into any class at that show. Entry table needs to reject.
    - Does your show allow only 1 per category per person? Some allow 2 entries/category.
  - What division do you enter in at different shows. If you won Best in Show in CA, can you still enter as a Master/Grand Master in another show?
  - Clerk training (not certifying) – is it a good idea? What about at least for Head Clerk?

### **Closing...**

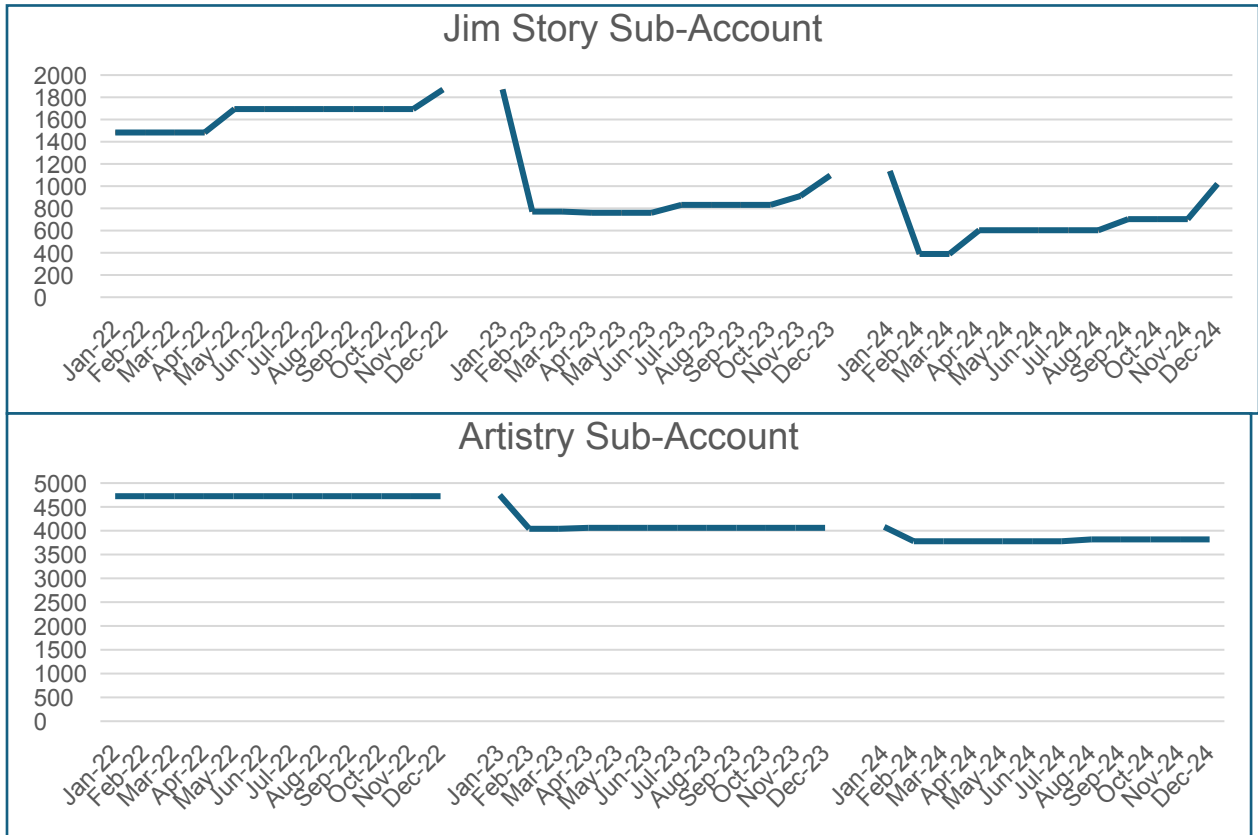
If anyone interested in joining a team? Let us know.

Reminder to pass forward nominations for vacancies.

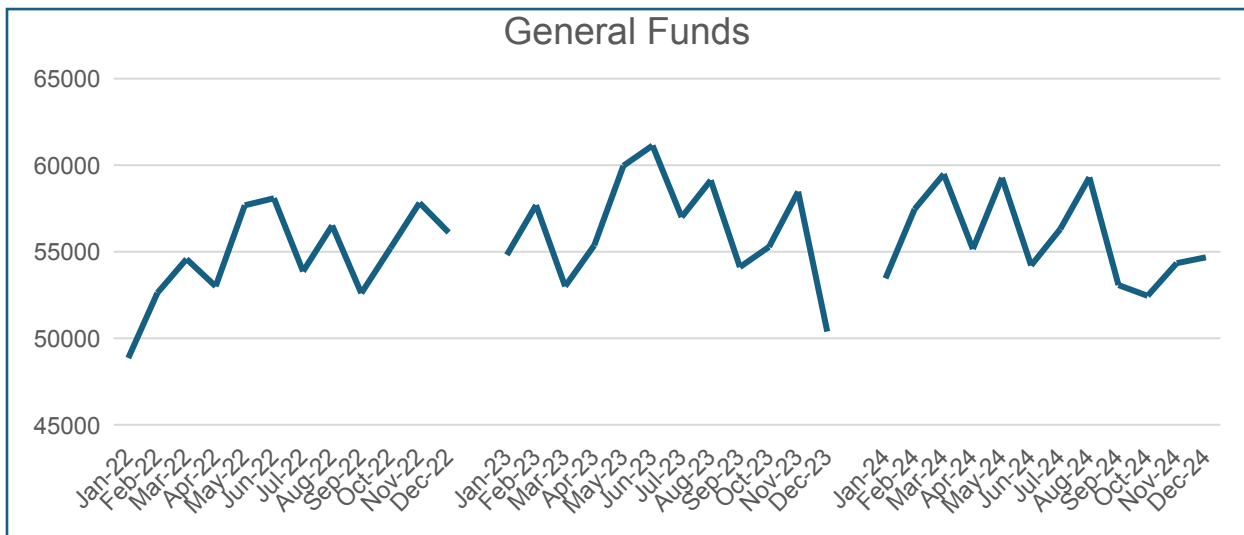
9:38 Motion to Adjourn: Robin, Madonna 2<sup>nd</sup>, All agreed.

# AGS Treasurer's Report FYE2024

## Funds History



NOTE: The Artistry Award fund has a large balance because of the gracious donation from Bonnie Gibson.



## AGS Treasurer's Report FYE2024

### General Fund

Highest Income Items	2024 Projecti on	2024 Actual	+/-	2025 Projectio n
Dues	42000	40982.28	-1017.72	43000
Advertising	6600	7055.00	455.00	7000
Mag Sales	400	521.00	121.00	300
Judge Training Fees	350	466.00	116.00	350
<b>Total</b>	<b>49350</b>	<b>49024.28</b>	<b>-325.72</b>	<b>50650</b>

Highest Expense Items	2024 Projecti on	2024 Actual	+/-	2025 Projectio n
Magazine printing	21000	20125.15	-874.85	21500
Prof services	12800	12800.00	0.00	12800
Postage	9500	9393.03	-106.97	11000
Travel *2	2000	3858.47	1858.47	6000
Web services *1	1800	1591.16	-208.84	2100
PayPal Fees	1800	1495.59	-304.41	1500
Office supplies	1000	674.98	-325.02	800
Misc Expenses	500	637.67	137.67	500
Storage Unit	600	605.00	5.00	650
Judging Expenses	400	260.69	-139.31	300
Insurance	300	132.00	-168.00	200
Chapter support	2500	0.00	-2500.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>56950.00</b>	<b>51621.80</b>	<b>-5328.20</b>	

**Notes:**

\*1 - This includes ShareFile, Zoom, Survey Monkey, website, software

\*2 - This is travel to AGS membership mtg for President, Secretary, and Treasurer

Highlighted sections did not reach projection goals

**AGS Treasurer's Report  
FYE2024**

## Encumbered Funds - Jim Story

<b>Jim Story Award Income</b>	<b>2024 Projecti on</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>2025 Projectio n</b>
Jim Story Donations	400	637.00	237.00	250

<b>Jim Story Award Expense</b>	<b>2024 Projecti on</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>2025 Projectio n</b>
Jim Story Disbursement	400	753.28	353.28	400

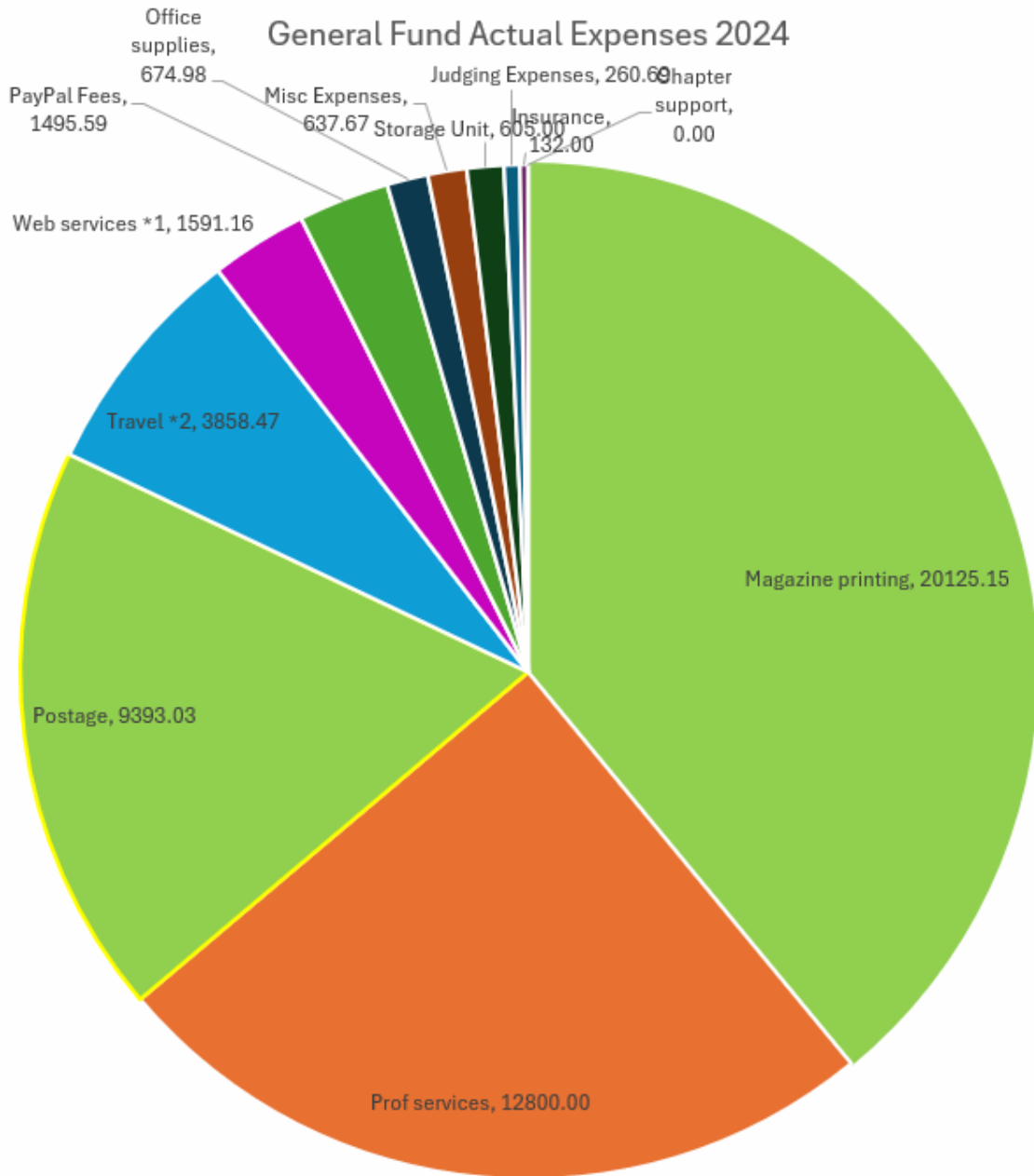
## Encumbered Funds - Artistry

<b>Artistry Award Income</b>	<b>2024 Projecti on</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>2025 Projectio n</b>
Artistry Donations	400	86.99	313.01	0

<b>Artistry Award Expense</b>	<b>2024 Projecti on</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>+/-</b>	<b>2025 Projectio n</b>
Artistry Disbursement	350	350.00	0.00	350

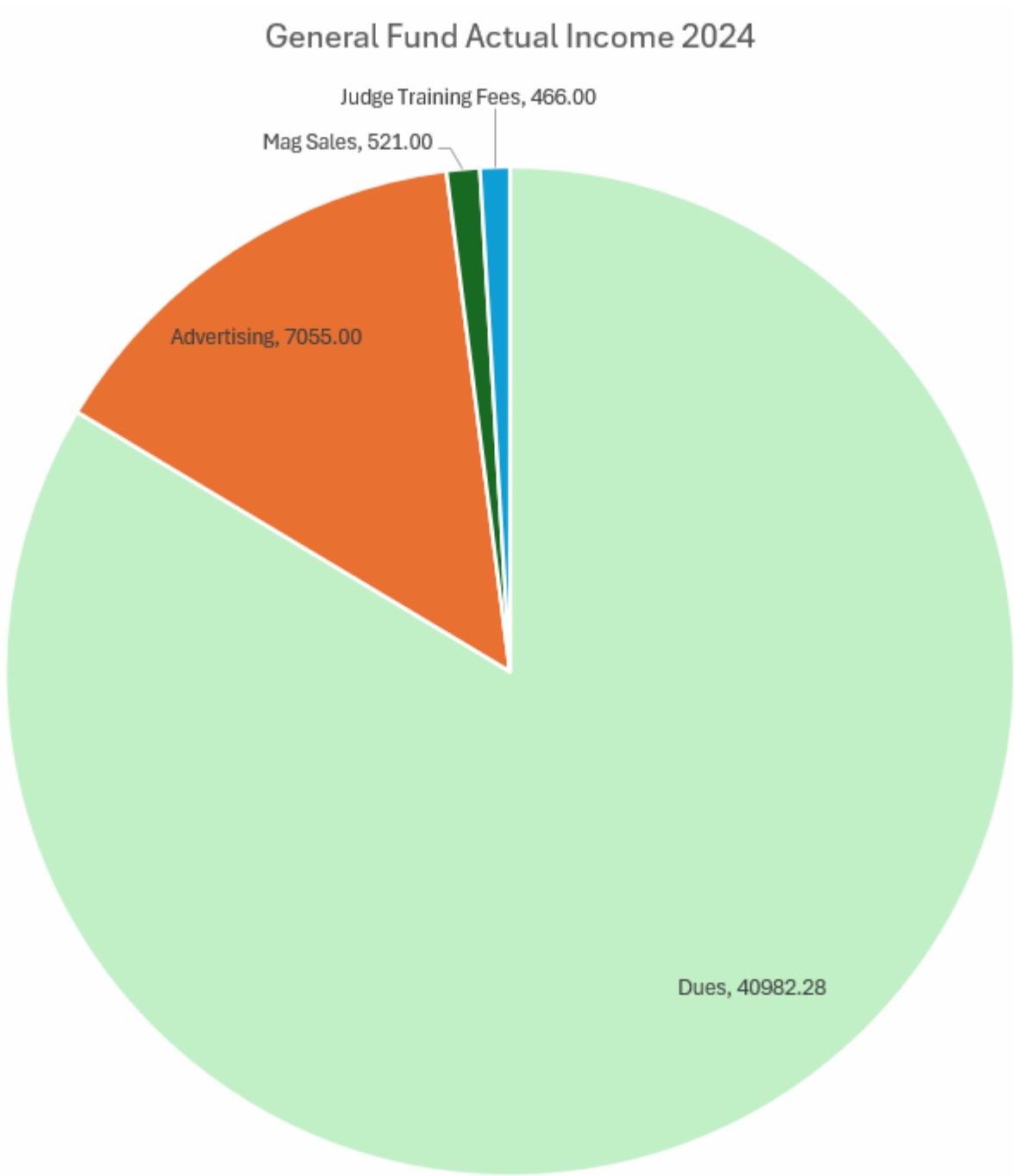
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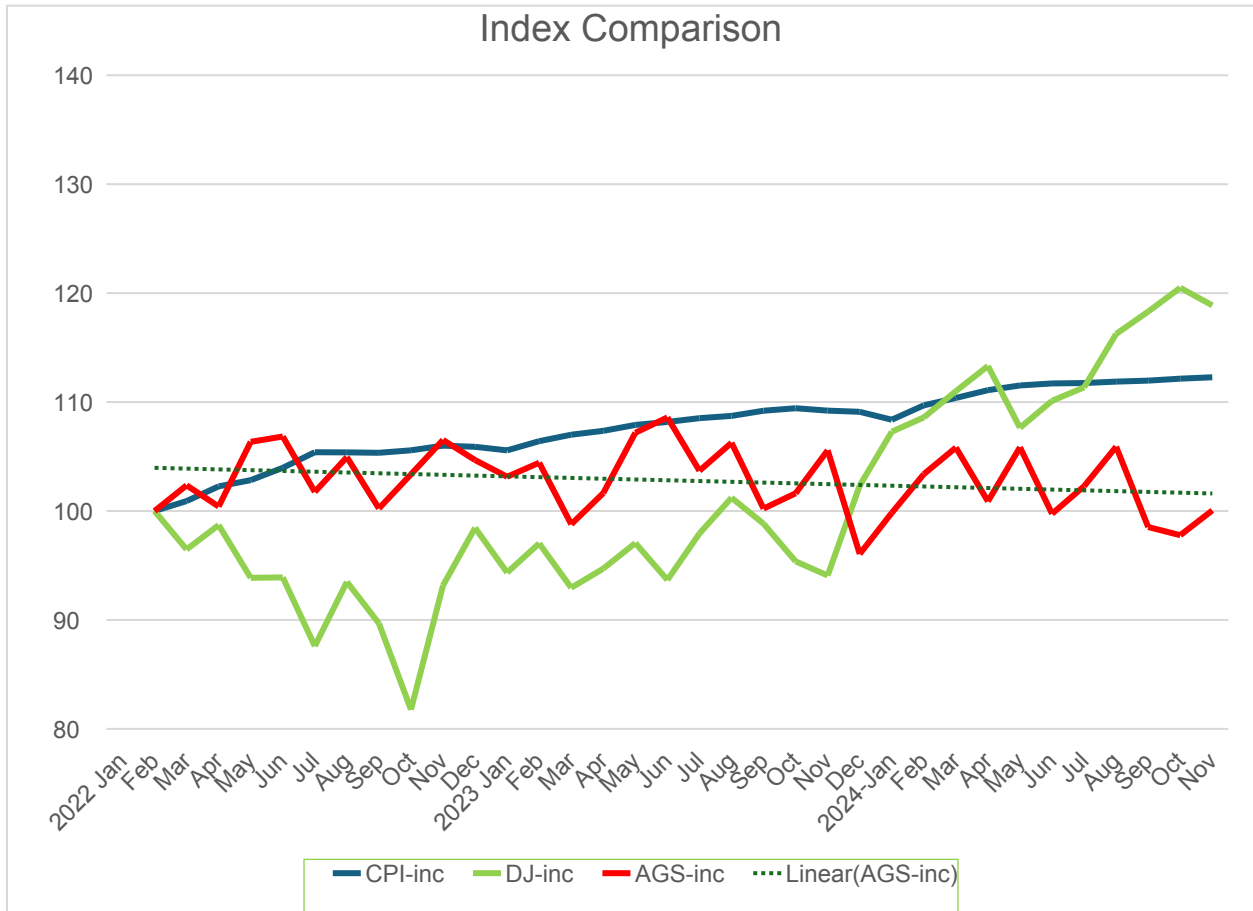


**AGS Treasurer's Report  
FYE2024**



NOTE: Magazine printing/postage was 50% of total expenses for the year.

## AGS Treasurer's Report FYE2024



**NOTES:**

- 1) Dues payment method: 40% pay by check
- 2) Dues length: 86% of members pay yearly, 3% pay three-year increments