



## Meeting Report: 2022 Annual Membership Meeting

**Video Recording:** <https://americangourdsociety.sharefile.com/d-s979942c801914b348323acbb508718d1>

### Video Segments

- 1) Meeting: beginning to 12:55 min
- 2) Intro to Creativity Activity with Graham Ottoson: 12:55 to 25:54
- 3) Brainstorming Instructions with Betty Finch 25:54 to 32:41
- 4) Brainstorming Activity & Debrief (all) 32:41 to 44:30
- 5) Gourd Scrap post-meeting assignment – Terry Noxel 44:30 to end

## June 16<sup>th</sup> at the PA Gourd Festival

### Introductions of AGS officers present

- AGS President, Reagan Bitler (PA)
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Judi Fleming (NC)
- Secretary, Terry Noxel (NY)
- Treasurer, Phil Moorhead (IN)
- Director 2 Celia Shaneyfelt (TN)

### Accomplishments & Goals

- *Support to Chapters*, including grants to support losses related to cancelled shows due to Covid shutdowns, membership decreases, etc.
- *Magazine Satisfaction Survey*, to reassess what is of greatest interest to members
- *Website updates*, Website underwent a makeover 3 years ago and is tweaked from time to time to make finding what readers want easier
- *Monthly Newsletter*, short articles that are relevant to the time of year, reminders, an occasional tutorial, and interim & timely communications
- *Constitution & ByLaws* reviewed, and updated, mainly to adjust the month of voting from December to November for smooth transfer of duties before the next fiscal year begins on January 1. The full redlined-text of the Constitution & ByLaws have been approved by the Executive Board (elected officers) and the Full Board (Chapter Presidents). It must now be reviewed and approved by membership. This will be announced in the Fall issue of the magazine, newsletters and on the AGS website with a link to the voting survey.

- *Brainstorm for future initiatives.* AGS is looking for suggestions to consider for the development of future leaders in chapters as well as growth of membership. Suggestions can be made directly to AGS ([americangourdsociety@gmail.com](mailto:americangourdsociety@gmail.com)) or with your Chapter President to bring forward to the AGS Board
- *Nominating Committee & Nominations.*
  - 3 Volunteers needed for a *Nominating Committee*. Main duty is to interview candidates for the ballot. The majority of candidates volunteer/offer to hold an office. Ask position-holders if they might agree to run again. Occasionally we need to recruit folks to be on the ballot. To volunteer for the Nominating Committee, send an email to [americangourdsociety@gmail.com](mailto:americangourdsociety@gmail.com)
  - Positions for this year's election:
    - President
    - 1<sup>st</sup> VP
    - Secretary
    - Directors 3 & 4

**Treasurer's Report, Phil Moorhead** — See below

**AGS Treasurer's Composite Report to Membership  
June, 2022**

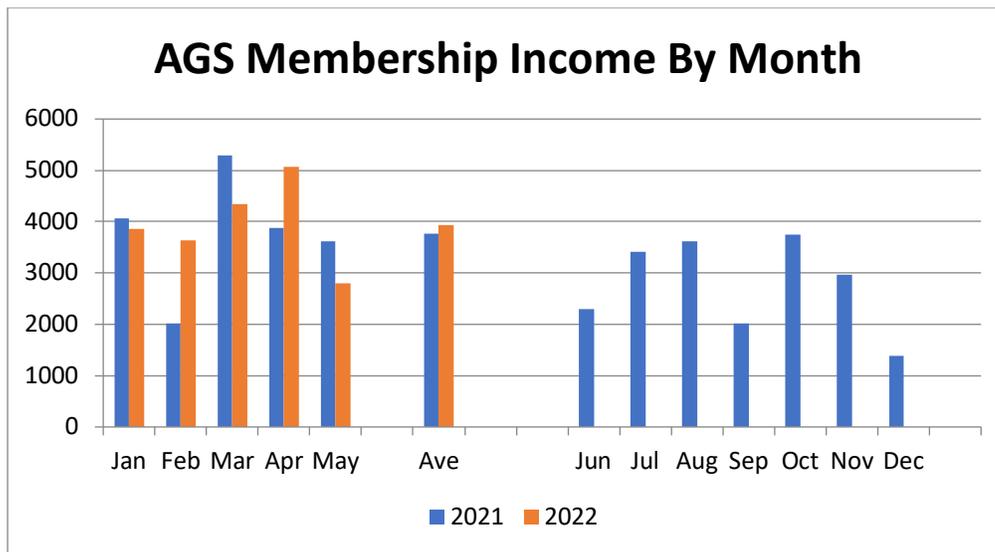
As of the close of business at the end of May (May 31, 2022) the society has a total of \$ 88,736.17 in funds available at the bank. The 2022 budget has been set at \$44,700 with a projected 2022 income of \$48,255.

The top three income streams are:

| <b>Stream</b>       | <b>2021</b> |                   | <b>2022 thru May</b> |                   |               |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
|                     | <b>Proj</b> | <b>Actual</b>     | <b>Proj</b>          | <b>Actual</b>     | <b>% Used</b> |
| <i>Total Income</i> | \$ 47,258   | \$ 47,469         | \$ 48,255            | \$ 24,609         | 51.0 %        |
| Dues from checks    | \$ 40,000   | \$ 19,693 (41.8%) | \$ 40,000            | \$ 9,517 (39.0%)  | 49.2 %        |
| Dues from PayPal    |             | \$ 18,589 (39.4%) |                      | \$ 10,161 (41.7%) |               |
| Advertising         |             | \$ 7,467 (15.8%)  | \$ 6,600             | \$ 4,181 (17.1%)  | 63.3 %        |
| Percent of total    |             | 97.1%             |                      | 97.8%             |               |

The top two expense streams are:

| <b>Stream</b>        | <b>2021</b>   |                   | <b>2022 thru May</b> |                  |               |
|----------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------|
|                      | <b>Budget</b> | <b>Actual</b>     | <b>Budget</b>        | <b>Actual</b>    | <b>% Used</b> |
| <i>Total Expense</i> | \$ 42,225     | \$ 41,527         | \$ 44,700            | \$ 15,168        | 33.9 %        |
| Magazine Printing    | \$ 16,000     | \$ 16,426 (39.6%) | \$ 17,300            | \$ 4,600 (30.3%) | 26.6 %        |
| Magazine Postage     | \$ 4,635      | \$ 4,969 (12.0%)  | \$ 4,700             | \$ 1,085 (7.2%)  | 23.1 %        |
| Percent of total     |               | 51.5%             |                      | 37.5%            |               |



### Voting in the Fall

- Constitution/ByLaws
- 2023 Budget
- Elections

### Group Creativity Activity

*Guest presenters:* Betty Finch (author & gourd manipulation guru, formerly from CA, now lives in TN) and Graham Ottoson (Gourdlandia, NY); introduction and wrap-up by Terry Noxel

*Purpose:* Where do artists go for inspiration? Are you called a creative person? Do you think you're creative? Do you take it for granted or sometimes get a "block" and need some sort of inspiration? This exercise will give you some ideas for where and how to get inspiration.

*Activity 1. What is your definition of creativity?* No consensus in scientific literature for a definition. Some associate it with intelligence and other with insanity 😊

*Activity 2. Are you aware of how your ideas come to you?* Graham shared Betty's signature on her gourd art which tells a story about the possible sources of her inspiration. Finch (bird) with/without an eye or on a branch are associated with "seeing" something when she awoke, the gourd spoke to her, or was something requested by a customer. Participants were given two 30-second assignments to sketch something based on different constraints. Debriefed.

*Activity 3. Start by answering these 3 questions:* (1) what were your favorite pastimes when you were around 12 years old? (2) List 3 hobbies or favorite activities. (3) What is/are your preferred gourd crafting medium/techniques?

*Brainstorm at the table.* Brainstorming rules explained.

#### Ground Rules

1. Goal is to generate as many ideas as possible
2. There are no bad ideas

3. OK to suggest the opposite of a suggestion already made
4. Disapproving of an idea is forbidden (no eye-rolling!)
5. Get consensus on how many minutes will be spent generating ideas (between 1-5 minutes)

How to complete this activity:

- Assign a scribe for the table
- First person tells the answer to the 3 questions and then the group offers ways for the answers to become incorporated into gourd art/projects
- Repeat for second person, and so on

### **Wrap-up**

- Take the 2.5" gourd shard home and craft on it. If you need ideas for what to do, refer to the ideas for yourself and even the others at your table.
  - \*\*for those at home, please "play along" by (1) focusing on creativity (even brainstorm with a gourd buddy, patch, others?) and (2) taking a gourd shard and doing something that reflects your interests, an inspiration, a suggestion
- Send a photo of your crafted gourd shard to [americangourdsociety@gmail.com](mailto:americangourdsociety@gmail.com) within the next 3 weeks (July 8<sup>th</sup>)
- We will be sharing your creativity in newsletters and maybe even the magazine.