

WASHINGTON STATE GOURD SOCIETY
Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2018

Present: Bev Lavdas, Sharon Watson, Evie Scribner, Kathryn Egan, Kathy Allison, Jeanette Chrane, Diane Frederick, Toni Davenport

Present via Zoom: Jim Martin, Debbie Cain, Shawna Stout

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report, Kathy Allison: For the months ending March/April, the balance was \$8,577.48.

Old business: Regarding communication with patches, Bev has contacted each patch leader. We need to have a way of reimbursing patches for expenses. The amount suggested was \$50 per venue, per day, to a maximum of \$125/day, for hosting workshops. We need to clarify where the profits go; the general feeling was that they should stay with the patch. Kathy Allison stated that would mean WSGS would not receive any revenue, and have only expenses. We are trying to get to non-profit status; our treasury should contain approximately \$2,000.00, and we currently have approximately \$8,000.00.

Discussion was held re. workshops scheduled for this summer. As an example, if a teacher needs to clear \$100/person, we would request that the teacher give permission for classes to cost say \$120 - \$145, to help cover expenses. We will need further discussion on this. Shawna suggested then WSGS would be laundering the money, but the answer is no, they would be getting a stipend. Kathy Allison suggested we use Ron Swank as an example, and it should also be noted that Ron Swank is willing to hold a workshop on the east side as well.

Bev has been in contact with people in the Yakima/Tri Cities area, and there is a possibility we will have another patch formed there.

Bev believes the wording regarding reimbursement to patches for venue costs of \$125 be amended to UP TO \$125. The charge for the classes will need to be determined between the teacher, etc., more or less on a case-by-case basis. We feel we should learn a lot from the first workshop this year!

Shawna stated her hesitation for going to Patch is that WSGS business was discussed during Patch. Kathryn said it has been clarified, and that we do our best now not to talk shop during Patch. It's all about having fun and creating!

Shawna commented that if a patch hosted a workshop for say 20 people, and if you need to be a WSGS member, you would get a \$15 discount. That would mean WSGS would actually be spending money to hold a class. It should be thought of as more of a learning process, and not just a way to put money into the coffers. Bev commented that was never our intent, but more to get more participation. We have been getting feedback from across the state; patches do not make any profit.

Vickie Echols could be available 10/18, for classes 10/19 and 10/20. Debbie Cain is planning to host Vickie Echols for classes 10/18, 10/19 and 10/20. Lorraine Hodges would be available around the end of

August; Claudia Herber would be available the end of July. They would be willing to go to the east side and south side also.

It is generally felt that we have great in-state teachers. There are a lot of details that need to be worked out. Jane Smith (Crystal Patch) has stated she does not need any help financially for the Bonnie Gibson workshop in October. It was noted that the Crystal Patch classes with Bonnie Gibson were planned in advance of the board beginning this process; however, Bev had hoped to get a reimbursement plan in place to help all patches that want to take advantage of the help, and hopes that there will be future classes at Crystal Patch that WSGS could help out.

Discussion held and Motion made and seconded that we should continue with our patch oriented workshops. Passed.

At the moment there are only three (3) patches involved. Kathy Allison suggested we need to have a meeting with the three patches. Bev stated we hope to have a Zoom meeting regarding the Patch workshops in two weeks; she will schedule it.

Discussion held on the April 1st deadline for joining WSGS in order to receive a discount for workshops. Toni feels we don't need a moving target as to the deadline for classes, because the renewal membership date is the end of December. We have new people brought into the patch who if they decide to become a member, can get the discount. Debbie Cain and Jim Martin agree. Shawna mentioned that if you change any info, we would need to update the bylaws, as listed on our website.

Because we used to hold our classes in September, we were covered. Kathy Allison will go through the bylaws to see what we need to change. Shawna stated there was never an agreement that patch members would need to be members of WSGS. It was just a way to introduce newcomers to the world of gourd art. Bev stated we welcome visitors and guests, and patches are listed on our website. Kathryn stated that in years past, many people became members the day before the workshops (like last year) just to get the discounted prices on classes. That in no way helps the WSGS organization. Shawna felt that if we make it mandatory to join, that wouldn't be right. Anything informal is not sufficient. Sharon stated we need to go through our bylaws. Any changes made to the bylaws, requires a 30-day notice to members, before a vote.

Ron Swank requires a minimum of 8 students, and prefers 2 days of classes. Diane offered to do an ocean drum class in conjunction with Ron Swank's class, to provide two different classes to attend.

Kathy Allison's estimate of insurance for WSGS is approximately \$600/year (it is cheaper that way than per event). It must be that the application states the workshop hosts are held harmless. She asked Shawna if the Ellensburg application has that information on it. Shawna will email that info to Kathy Allison. Shawna will keep the Ellensburg info in her dropbox until we contact her that we have all of the info from the thumb drive.

Insurance question: will it need to be modified so that the homeowner and patch group and WSGS will not be liable for injury, etc. Kathy stated that if a workshop is held in a person's home, if money changes hands, the homeowner's policy will not cover any accidents. It would be important to get additional insurance. Each venue has their own insurance requirements.

Shawna asked if Patch would need to have some kind of a license. Jim stated that WSGS had to have a business license for Ellensburg because we were selling items. This would be location specific; North Sound Patch will be the guinea pig!

Shawna wants to put a caution out there. If it has WSGS on it, it still comes back to WSGS, and we need to be sure to have it in writing. We are hoping the insurance costs would also cover the storage facility!

Are we going to put something in the bylaws saying if attending patch meetings you need to be a member? We may need to add this to the WSGS bylaws. Visitors are always welcome, but once the same person has attended two patches, it was suggested that they should be requested/encouraged to join WSGS. Shawna voiced her disagreement, citing that in the bylaws, the only thing mentioned about Patch is that you will provide a guideline for patches. It is just that, a guideline. Bev suggested we reach out to Patch leaders to get their opinions. We will table this amendment to the bylaws until more research is done.

We have a board member who has resigned (Kate Franchimon). Our bylaws state the president should appoint someone to fill the vacant director's spot. We would prefer someone from further out in the state and Bev asked for suggestions. Eve Lintner is moving to Colorado, and we already had an existing vacancy, so we have three director positions to fill.

Sharon will check with Diane Swanson from Gourders Without Borders. We would like to have someone from the Spokane area patch as well. Pat Woodell has offered to help with computer related problems, and Susan Potter has offered to help set up, so they might be interested.

Discussion was held regarding membership and bylaws. Kathy read Article III "... proposed members are recommended to have a current membership to the American Gourd Society". Shawna suggested we look at AGS bylaws and rules if we do that, and Kathy asked how do we know everyone there is a member? Shawna stated the AGS said that for us to become a society, we have to be members of them. Kathy will check the AGS website first.

Our bylaws state: ARTICLE III – Membership. Individual memberships are open to all persons interested in this state society, and will pay an assigned membership fee. Members must have current membership in the American Gourd Society.

Kathy read Section 2: Membership will be in increments of one (1) year and begins January 1. New members only, joining after September 1, will be paid through the following year.

Should we allow memberships for more than one year at a time? The consensus was no, we should not. The wording needs to be changed to cover memberships being paid one year at a time only.

Question: Is there anything in our bylaws about patch members needing to be members of WSGS?

Toni asked if we could amend the bylaws from needing six (6) directors to fewer like 3: Shawna suggested we refer to the AGS guidelines.

ARTICLE VI. – AMENDMENTS This State Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of members present at either the Spring or Fall meetings, with the provision that all members have been notified of such amendment thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

Discussion on inks: If it involves WSGS, the rules need to be followed. Kathryn thinks each patch should handle their own inks. If you want to order it on your own, do it! However, the discount only applies to WSGS. Bev stated she was glad to learn that Kate has a business license, as she did not know this until now. Kathy asked if we even need to continue taking ink orders. If so, she felt ink orders should be submitted quarterly. Other patches are ordering on their own. Kathy will contact each patch regarding ordering ink.

We hope to get more Zoom meetings and decide where they will be held while Bev is in Greece.

Diane has prepared a certificate honoring Patty Burke for being a lifetime member.

Jim suggested when you are talking to people in Yakima and the Tri Cities, tell them Jim has free non-perfect and non-cleaned gourds available for them. Sharon will get that information to the people interested.

Our next meeting (with Zoomers) will be with Sharon in charge, taking the helm for Bev!