

OGS Fall meeting minutes - Final
Meeting: October 17, 2020

Zoom attendees: Nelson Litzenberg, President; Judy Litzenberg, Treasurer; Vikkie Mustad, Secretary; Linda Rose, Membership; Lois Smith; Gordon Smith, Asst Treasurer; Celia Roberts, 1nd Vice President and Youth Program Coordinator; Norm Roberts; John Martin, Advisor; Donna Hutmacher, Director.

1. Secretary's report – approved.
2. Treasurer's report – \$9236.25 total balance. Monthly expense, \$25.00 to webmaster.
3. Fairground update – new building expected to be complete in May, 2021. Rental fee is unknown at this time, but contract typically signed in April, so should know by then.
4. Youth program – 2 participants participated the first year [Mckenna H (sponsor V Mustad); Sarah W (sponsor L Rose)]. Requirements for successful participation were adjusted due to cancellation of OGS events and is now based on completion of a gourd project. Mckenna completed her project and will receive the full \$50.00 award; partial compensation of \$20.00 to Sarah. Treasurer will send payments to sponsors who will give to participants. Planning for participants to record a short video to be uploaded onto the OGS website before end of year.
5. Silent Auction – Donna H is soliciting items for the silent auction. Does not have to be gourds, anything (paints, etc) can be useful.
6. Membership – 90 members (10 new from membership drive).
7. Ways and Means – A proposal to focus on increasing Show attendance was presented (V Mustad): 1. Create a strategic planning committee to present 5 year plan at Spring meeting (Mustad to lead) 2. Focus on Publicity; 3. Engage the local Delaware community. Discussion focused on need to fill the Publicity position, with a quote from Alice Foeller from SiteInsight presented by L Rose. Another meeting will be scheduled to focus on publicity, including a show budget breakdown, to help understand \$ available for hiring an external publicity group. Linda to send out Alice's quote before next meeting.
8. Judging Coordinator- Show book- Workshop Solicitor- As there have been no replacements found, John and Karen will continue to coordinate the judging for the 2021 Show but John will give up the Show Book and Workshop Solicitations. John will send out an email to "previous' 2020 workshop teachers to determine if they will teach same class at the 2021 show.
9. Facebook and Show Chair - L Rose volunteered to take over the Facebook update from Christine Voise. Previously, Chris' Show Chair responsibilities were shared by N Litzenberg.
10. Nominating Committee for 2022-2023 – Mustad and Rose volunteered to co-head nominating committee for offices that will be vacant
11. Spring Meeting – no date has been finalized.
12. 501 3c/3b status – Refund of \$275.00 from previous (rejected) submission has been returned; Nelson to attempt resubmission.

Action items:

1. Schedule follow-up Zoom meeting for Nov 7th, 7 pm (Mustad) – Completed.
2. Develop show budget breakdown (J Litzenberg).
3. Send SiteInsight proposal to board (L Rose).
4. Send youth participant awards to sponsors (J Litzenberg).
5. Identify strategic planning committee (Mustad)
6. Open positions to be filled now: Showbook and Workshop solicitor; Publicity and Show Chair.
7. Identify all board officers and nominees to be voted on in Spring 2021 for 2022-2023 (Mustad, Rose).
8. Nelson to resubmit for 5013c status. Update: see followup after meeting.

From: "Nelson & Judy Litzenberg" <jn.litzenberg@gmail.com>
To: "ANNA MILLER" <anna@quarryfarmgourds.com>, "Christina Voise" <cdvoise@gmail.com>, "Donna Hutmacher" <jeannedjh@aol.com>, "GORDON SMITH" <scoutfarmer@embargmail.com>, "John Martin" <martin.jf.kl@frontier.com>, "Nelson & Judy Litzenberg" <jn.litzenberg@gmail.com>, "Abe Martin" <aem1138@gmail.com>, "Vickie Mustad" <vmustad51@gmail.com>, "Norm and Celia Roberts" <nroberts3@woh.rr.com>, "Steve Murray and Nancy Travis" <njtarabians@gmail.com>, "Suzanne Rothhaar" <birdnestfarm@centurylink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 4:11:27 PM
Subject: OGS 501C4 status to 501C3

Hello Team! Several months ago it was suggested that we change our non-profit status from a C4 to a C3 in order to allow people to make tax deductible donations to the society. After some "how to" suggestions, I attempted to do that by filing a 1023 EZ form and completing the 1023 EZ Eligibility Worksheet as required. We were rejected!! I didn't want to do anything else until we had our \$275.00 refund back in our account. This took some time to happen due to the virus shutting down most offices. We did receive our refund 2 weeks ago, and after our zoom meeting I went ahead and reapplied. I didn't have a good feeling as is usually the case when dealing with any government office. Something just didn't seem right. From what I could find out on my own, we needed to fill out the 1023 form, all 40 pages, online, and submit that along with a payment of \$600.00!!!! There is a customer service number on the website, so I gave them a call yesterday and was connected to a recording that implied they were busy and to call back tomorrow. I called them today and after being on hold for 1/2 hour, I got a human. After explaining everything she looked up our transaction and reaffirmed that we were not eligible to file the 1023 EZ form because we were already a C4. One of the questions on the Eligibility Worksheet was question #11, which I answered as yes, because we were already a 501. That nullifies us from the simple application and forces us to use the 40 page 1023, not to mention the \$600.00 application fee. I am not willing to do that, filling out the 40 page form. If someone else wants to then we will need to decide if we want to spend the \$600.00. One thing that we have not discussed is how those who donate will get a receipt for their records and for the tax information. At any rate, that is where we are and I am frustrated and stressed that this has happened. My apologies! Think about it for our next zoom meeting. We need to be careful in our expenditures because of other things that were brought up at the last meeting. Judy and I haven't worked out a budget yet, but we will prior to the next zoom.
Nelson