

## ***President's Message***

Gourd Greetings. As I write this, northern Indiana has already received more snow than any recent year. They now are forecasting extremely cold temperatures. This can only mean one thing; we are in the home stretch to another Indiana Gourd Society State Show. This year's show has, as you know, been moved to the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds, in South Bend, Indiana. If you have looked at maps printed in your newsletter, you can see that getting to the fairgrounds is very easy. Renee Meyers and her show committee have been hard at work. This year's show brings a unique set of situations because of the new building. We of course, had become very comfortable with our previous setting and I am sure that the committee will triumph over all of these new challenges and present an excellent show.

I want to remind all of the membership that our election of officers will take place at our spring meeting in Peru, at the Miami County Fairgrounds, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. I again, encourage all members to consider serving on

our executive board. All officers serve for 2 years. This election is very important because some members who have served for a number of years have chosen to step aside at this time. Yes, it does take a commitment of some time, but, the satisfaction of knowing that you contributed to the operations of your society can be very rewarding. If you think you might be interested in serving in any position, I encourage you to contact me. You can call, write or email.

One area that has been very rewarding for me is the progress that our pure seed committee has made under Steve Sullivan's leadership. We now have some varieties entering their 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years of repeated pureness. As we move closer to our goal of pure seeds, it is becoming more and more obvious how much of a positive impact this project can have on our society. If you are interested in knowing more, Steve is always willing to share.

Until next time, get working on your entries for the state show. Let's show non-gourdheads from northern Indiana just how amazing our gourd can be.

**Sid Meyers**

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