

MEETINGS

The guild meets from September through May every first Tuesday evening at 7:00 pm at the Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church, 517 Sangree Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15237. In June a dinner meeting is held when the new officers are installed and the new members who have joined during the year receive their pins. There is a member's picnic in July and a Quilt 'N' Wilt session is held in August.

PURPOSE

As stated in our by-laws, our Guild provides fellowship and educational opportunities to the members for their continued growth as quilters. Each year we try to accomplish these goals at our meetings through varied programs with well-known quilters and guild members often including additional workshops or classes. The types of classes range from mastering the quilting stitch or perfect piecing to learning about innovative concepts.

BRIEF HISTORY

This guild was started by students of Carol Jo Seapker's Beginning Quilting Classes at Community College of Allegheny County. Eleven women gathered at her home on 29 March 1981 for a planning meeting. Those attending were:

Ellie Boette	Marilyn Colerich	Dolly Simmons
Donna Boucher	Mary Lou Dunlop*	Janet Stinson
Patty Bowles	Pat Kratzer	Merry Kay Strohm
Dee Carioto*	Carol Jo Seapker	

*These two members are still with us!

Patty Bowles became the administrative leader of the group and the first meeting was held on 26 May 1981 at the home of Pat Kratzer. It was decided to hold the meetings on the last Tuesday of each month at the Northmont United Presbyterian Church. The name was selected, by-laws were approved, and the first election of officers was held in 1982. Meetings were moved to the first Tuesday, and the first fiscal year began in September with the payment of dues. In 1986 a newsletter was started, and in 1992 the guild was incorporated as a non-profit entity. In 1999 the by-laws were rewritten in their present form. In 2001 the Guild moved the meeting place to Kearns when the church was no longer available on the first Tuesday.

DUES

Dues are paid annually. If paid before August 15, the amount is \$20. This enables the Treasurer to work out the following year's budget. The amount goes to \$25 after August 15. In order to be included in the Membership Directory, dues must be paid by September 10.

NEWSLETTER

Every member receives a Newsletter by email or regular first class mail. This keeps members informed of programs, additions and changes for the membership directory, local quilt shows, reviews of new quilting books, etc.

NAME TAGS

In order to promote getting acquainted, every member wears a name tag of her/his own design. Paper substitutes cost a quarter when members sign in! Members who remember their tags are given a raffle ticket and may win the drawing at the meeting for the monies collected. Guests and new members are given a name tag to wear that evening.

OFFICERS

Officers of the Guild are president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. The Executive Board also includes two Members-at-Large. The Nominating Committee presents a slate at the April meeting and the election is held in May. Term of office is for one year (1 July to June 30), except for the Treasurer who is elected every other year. The vice-president becomes president the following year. The president appoints the chairs of each committee. The Executive Committee includes the officers, the immediate past president, and all committee chairs.

COMMITTEES

These help maintain our guild. Although membership in a committee is not required of any member, it is the best way to become involved in the guild.

PROGRAM

Plans the monthly guild meetings and schedules speakers and workshops. They arrange the accommodations for speakers, reserve classroom space for workshops, and collect the fees. Whenever possible they work with other area guilds in sharing speakers and workshop expenses.

MEMBERSHIP

Registers members at meetings and greets guests, providing them with information about the guild. This committee maintains the members' addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and receives registration forms and dues from new members and renewals. New members receive an information packet which includes a membership guide, directory, copy of the by-laws, and a membership card when they pay their dues. All new members are honored at the June dinner when they receive their pins.

HOSPITALITY

Organizes the Fat Quarter for each meeting. Guild members sign up to bring food, and this committee provides the coffee, utensils, napkins, and plates.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Plans and implements projects for the guild's community service each year. One guild meeting is devoted to working on these projects. Often members are asked to donate materials for them.

NEWSLETTER

Collects information, publishes, and distributes the newsletter.

QUILT SHOW

The NPQG show is biennial, taking place in even-numbered years. This is a major undertaking for the guild, and all members are asked to participate in some way—serving on the committee, working on the raffle quilt, submitting entries, and donating time during the show. The Raffle Quilt is one of our biggest fundraisers, and each member is asked to sell tickets.

FUND-RAISING

Coordinates fund-raising activities of the guild in the years when no Quilt Show is held.

HISTORIAN

Documents history of the guild's activities by collecting news articles, newsletters, and photographs taken of guild events

SUNSHINE

Sends cards to members for illnesses or special occasions. This committee also arranges for the purchase of a book to be donated to a library in sympathy for a death in a member's immediate family.

WEBSITE

Maintains an active website which publicizes the activities of the guild.

NOMINATING

The chair of this Ad Hoc Committee is appointed each year by the president in March to prepare a slate of officers for the following year to be presented in April. The vice-president is a member of this committee. The chair asks three other members to serve.

SPECIAL NPQG TERMS

FAT QUARTER

This is the name given to the break at the meeting when we have refreshments and an opportunity to talk with visitors, other members, and guest lecturers. As noted under the Hospitality Committee, the refreshments are supplied by the members who sign up to bring them.

ANNUAL DINNER

This is the end of the year meeting. Each member who can attend is responsible for paying for her/his own dinner. New officers are installed, and new members are honored.

JULY PICNIC

This social meeting is held annually for members in North Park. Members often work on service projects. Meat and cold drinks are provided by the Program Committee. Those attending bring a salad or dessert, their own utensils, and a chair!

QUILT 'N' WILT

The annual August evening activity where members can work on their own project, participate in a group activity, and converse with others until they wilt.

SHOW 'N' TELL

At some time during every meeting of the guild, members are encouraged to share their work. A finished project, work-in-progress, a recent discovery, a quilt show experience, or whatever a member would like to share, is welcomed by all.

