



**North Pittsburgh Quilters Guild
December 2021 Newsletter**

President's Message

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving, full of family, friends, food and fun. Christmas will be soon upon us and I am sure Santa's little elves are working very hard. Our year is almost finished and we will be starting a new year, hopefully we will have a much better 2022, putting Covid behind us.

I hope everyone has a blessed Christmas and New Year. I hope you and your family have safe travel over the holiday season to celebrate together as a family again so we can continue holiday traditions and make a few new ones.

December's meeting will be the last in-person meeting, as well as being Zoomed. (Thank you Stacy !!!) Our January and February meetings will be Zoomed and we resume our regular meetings in March.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
See you all again in 2022

Kathleen Mohr ~~ President

Membership

Did you know that the **Membership Guide** is now available online ? Well, there you go, look at npqg.org.
(A lot of information can be found on the website, thanks to **Tracey Zigo**)

Harvene Lynch ~~ Membership

Programs

December

After having blown through 3...that's right, THREE....potential speakers for our December meeting (Apparently no one wants to present in December....just because it's cold, it's dark, we're too far away, they have no one to drive with, we meet at night and they're busy????) So we will be having a **Homegrown Holiday meeting**, which will include:

Make it Quick: Red, Green and Other Compliments. Color Schemes and tricks that won't make your eyes jiggle.

Special Holiday Show and Tell: Bring in your holiday quilts! They don't have to be new. They can be any size or technique. Traditional, Modern, Glitzy, Rustic...we don't care! They can be the worse for wear / well-loved. Whatever you get out and put on your bed, your couch, your wall, your door or your table at this time of year, bring it! We just want a holiday quilt show.

Quilty Kids Book Story Corner: You'll see.

Yummy Holiday Fat Quarter: Our usual goodies plus some special treats.

Reindeer Games: Fun and Prizes. Don't worry. No one has to get up on the roof!

See you there!

*****NEW YEARS MYSTERY QUILT

This year we are going to participate in the next Merry Mayhem Mystery Quilt project. I am still working out the details (It looks like she made a few changes to her distribution system.) Assuming all goes well, I will send out solid information, the materials list and cutting instructions in the next few weeks.

*****PEACE OUT" DECEMBER QUILTER'S COFFEE

Mark your calendar. Take a break from all the Hoo Haa of the Holidays Season with a quick break to sit and do nothing for a while with your quilting friends on Tuesday, December 21 at 3:00 PM. Invitation etc. to follow.

January

Starting in January, we will go to a few months of virtual meetings to get us through the worst of the cold and the dark this winter. January's meeting will be a repeat of last year's very popular

book review meeting, with an addition. This year, come with a recommendation of a book you've read, that you enjoyed or that made you think and that other people might enjoy also. Fiction, non-fiction, cooking, reference, quilting....anything you've enjoyed. It doesn't have to be newly published. AND you can also bring a recommendation of a movie or series that you've enjoyed. Again, it doesn't have to be something new. Reading and watching are good winter activities and we're going to have plenty of time for that the next few months!

Stacy Koehler ~~ Programs

And while we're on the subject of December's meeting/party — —

Hospitality

Let's kick off this season and bring a favorite holiday treat to share. Show off those gourmet baking skills! Or those cheese slicing skills. Or those chip and dip purchasing skills. It's all good (and much appreciated)!

Alice Gibson ~~ Hospitality

Quilt Show Committee Update for the December Newsletter 2021

The raffle quilt is now at Quilters Corner in Finleyville. This is the second stop in its road tour.

There are still members who have not picked up their 20 raffle tickets. Please do so at the next meeting or make arrangements with another member to get them if you are not coming to the December meeting. The January and February meetings will be virtual, so no tickets will be exchanged then. If you need additional tickets, please contact Janie Walker at jnewalker_98@yahoo.com.

NPQG has the ability now to take payments from a debit / credit card. See Anne Shearon, treasurer for that transaction.

13 Vendors have signed up for the 2022 quilt show! We will have 12 inside and one outside in the parking lot. Bee Happy Quilting now has a van and it is a quilt shop on wheels.

Keep working on those mini's and Flowers of Hope theme quilts!

Lisa Sauer and Sandra Schott ~~ Co-Chairs ~~ 2022 Quilt Show

Treasure Chest

As planned, we will be meeting everyone at the entrance doors so you can drop off your donations. Since our next few meetings are scheduled to be on ZOOM, if you have any donations, please contact me (Denise Friedrich) or Alice Gibson to make arrangements. Our contact information is listed in the NPQG membership list. Take care and stay safe!

Denise Friedrich and the Treasure Chest Committee

Treasurer’s Report

Show Me the Money

Our bank balance as of November 30, 2021 was \$15,421. We have been able to maintain this healthy amount over the last several months for a number of reasons, including prompt member dues payment, signing up a number of vendors for next year’s Quilt Show and quite a few members paying for their raffle tickets already. We have been very lucky not to have to pay deposits or spend a lot of money so far on the Quilt Show but that will change in the new year and it is great to start off with some money in the bank. Let’s all keep it up.

More on NPQG as a 501(c)(3) organization below, but we filed the annually required IRS Form 990N. Because we are an organization with less than \$50,000 in annual gross receipts we can file this ridiculously easy, online form. I think it is just designed for the IRS to keep track of how many millions of 501(c)(3)’s there are out there. But it is required and if you don’t do it, an organization can lose its tax exempt status (we’ve been there, done that, and don’t want to do it again).

I hope to have a year to date budget report for the membership for the January meeting.

I do not know who all knows this, but the North Pittsburgh Quilters Guild is organized under Pennsylvania law as a non-profit corporation. We also have federal tax exempt status under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3).

There is a lot written about 501(c)(3) organizations, for example, how generally they need to be organized for charitable purposes, not to benefit the organization officers and directors and not to be engaged in political activities. I looked at a number of articles and found some things I want to follow up on for us after the holidays. While I cannot vouch for its accuracy, I found the article at www.file990.org/blog/2019/01/10/501c3-non-profit-complete-guide more straightforward than a number of other writings. And for the masochists among our group, there's IRS Publication 557 Tax Exempt Status of Your Organization. There are a couple basic advantages to being a 501(c)(3) organization. First, the organization is generally exempt from federal income tax. And that's great, especially for a large organization that although organized on a charitable basis has a lot of income. It's not as big a deal for an organization like ours. Our income is always low and we generally have plenty of expenses to offset it, so that if we were not tax exempt, the likelihood of us being subject to any substantial federal tax liability is, well, very slight. I guess it's better than the chance of me waking up tomorrow, 30, blonde and 120 pounds, but I'm not sure it is too much better at all. The same is probably true for other small charities with which you might be associated. But, there's more

The second major advantage to being a 501(c)(3), is that donations made to the organization may be tax deductible to the donor. As they say, "consult your tax advisor" (or TurboTax or your tax return instructions). To my knowledge, our organization has never actively sought donations. Looking through old financial records, I think I have seen two outright donations as well as a few bequests from the estates of deceased members or their families. But I mention this now because I think we all just throw around the term and idea that an organization is a 501(c)(3) because it's a positive thing — it confirms an organization's

charitable purpose and generally gives one confidence that a big profit is not the motive behind an organization's activities. (Scandals involving charitable organizations and crazy executive compensation aside.)

There are so many worthy places to spend your precious charitable dollar. And the financial demands on our lives can make those charitable dollars very limited. This is not a call out: DONATE TO NPQG. My purpose in this article was to remind us of what a 501(c)(3) organization is and what that means in the context of a small organization like ours.

But if anyone does chose to make a donation to NPQG we would be extremely appreciative. We would acknowledge your donation in the newsletter, unless you indicated that you would prefer to remain anonymous, where we would respect that of course.

Best holiday wishes to all.

Anne Shearon ~~ Treasurer

Newsletter submitted by Jan Merritt

