

STIOUX FALLS QUILTERS' GUILD NEW MEMBER GUIDE

Purpose of SFQG

- a) Encourage a wider appreciation of quilting
- b) Promote individual ideas and expression
- c) Provide education
- d) Increase interest by promoting local quilt projects, programs and charitable work

Membership/Dues

Dues are set annually by the Executive Board with approval by the membership. Dues must be paid annually by the February meeting each year in order for membership to continue. There are 3 classifications of membership: (1) Individual--individuals interested in quilting (2) Student--students age 8 to 18 (3) Business--businesses who wish to be listed in the annual membership directory.

Meetings

Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Southern Hills United Methodist Church (3400 E. 49th St.), Sioux Falls. Meetings begin at 6:45; however, please feel free to come early to visit or take care of business beforehand. We will start with announcements at 6:45, program at 7:00, a short break, show & tell (open to all who wish to participate) and the last part of the meeting will be the business meeting/committee reports. In the event of inclement weather, a notice is sent to all members by e-mail as soon as the decision to cancel a meeting is made. If you do not have e-mail, please ask your friends who do have e-mail to alert you to these notices.

Name Badges

Members are asked to wear the official SFQG name badge at each meeting. Members who do not wear their badges pay a 25-cent fine at the registration desk and a stick on name badge. New members are given a copy of the badge pattern and asked to make their badge as soon as possible. The badge pattern is attached to this document.

Visitors

Please feel free to bring friends to SFQG meetings. Visitors may attend two monthly meetings before being asked to join.

Newsletter

The SFQG monthly newsletter is published monthly, usually by the first of the month following the monthly meeting. It is an excellent source of information about SFQG activities. It is sent by e-mail to those with computer access and is mailed to those who do not have e-mail. Be certain that your e-mail and mailing addresses are kept current; our Membership Committee should be advised of any address changes. If you have information you wish to submit to be published in the newsletter, please submit it to the Newsletter by the 20th of the month.

Officers/Executive Board

The offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are elected annually by the membership. The Executive Board consists of these officers and the two most recent Past Presidents, 4 Members-at-large and a Parliamentarian. Notices of Executive Board meetings are held 4 times per year; notices of meetings are sent by e-mail or newsletter and all SFQG members are invited to attend Executive Board meetings.

Committees and Activities

The numerous activities of the Guild are conducted by committees, usually ranging in membership from 1 to 4 volunteers. The following is a brief summary of those committees/activities. We encourage you to jump in and contact the committees who are of interest to you since volunteerism is the heart of the Guild and is one of the best ways to meet new people. In addition, the Nomination Committee should be made aware if you are interested in becoming an officer; this process takes place at year-end each year. Also, from time to time there will be opportunities to volunteer for various projects and activities mentioned at the monthly meetings. .

Mystery Quilt/Block of the Month: Early each year a pattern is chosen for the block of the month activity or a mystery quilt.

Members who are interested purchase a pattern and may show their works in progress at our monthly show-and-tells. At the Christmas party each year members may display their completed quilts and Guild members vote on their favorite.

Bus Trips: Once or twice per year the SFQG charts a bus and plans a trip for Guild members to places of interest to quilters.

Previous trips have included shop hops and quilt shows.

By-Laws: The Quilt Guild is subject to its by-laws which are reviewed every two years or as needed. A copy of the latest by-laws is attached.

Charity Quilts: SFQG is very active in charity quilt projects. Each year our Guild makes and presents to local charities (Children's Inn, churches, etc.) over 100 quilts. The Charity Quilt committee handles the dissemination of fabric/batting to Guild members and schedules workshops for the purpose of working together to prepare charity quilts.

Christmas Party: Each year the Guild sponsors a widely attended Christmas party for members. This party takes place in lieu of the December monthly meeting of the Guild and consists of a catered dinner with entertainment and prize drawings.

Church Quilt Donation: Southern Hills Methodist Church allows us to use their facility for meetings at no charge. Each year a completed quilt is given to the Church for the purpose of fundraising.

Comfort: SFQG acknowledges births, deaths, illnesses and other life events when the Committee is made aware of this information. A report of comfort activities is listed monthly in the Newsletter. Members are encouraged to report these events to the Comfort Committee when they hear of such events affecting Guild members.

Complimentary Gifts: Visitors will receive a complimentary Fat Quarter during the meeting. Presidents will introduce visitors that register at the registration table. New members will receive a Recycle Bag. The month of a member's birthday they will receive a Birthday Coaster.

Hospitality/Greeters: This Committee welcomes visitors and members to the monthly meetings, arranging for the sign-in process and coordinating the entry table activities. The greeters are also responsible for collecting the 25-cent fines for members not wearing name badges and will give them a stick on badge.

Fat Quarter Exchange: This is themed exchange of fat quarters for members who wish to bring a fat quarter to the monthly meetings. The fabric theme for the coming month is announced in the Newsletter (Easter, Halloween, summer, etc.) All contributed fat quarters are combined to make a nice package and a drawing is held; the winner receives all those in the package.

Membership: This committee collects membership dues, provides membership cards and keeps the membership data base current.

Newsletter: This is a monthly publication of the SFQG and is the source of valuable information about the guild, its officers, committees and members and all of its activities. It is published monthly and is sent primarily by e-mail to members. Deadline for information to be included in the newsletter is the 20th of the month.

Nominating Committee: This committee seeks candidates for officers on an annual basis and conducts the annual election of officers.

Programs/Education: This activity is handled by the Vice President of the SFQG and consists of identifying and scheduling programs and educational efforts for the program portion of the monthly guild meetings.

Publicity: This committee handles all necessary publicity needed by the Guild for its activities.

Quilt Show - Dakota Pieces: The SFQG sponsors a quilt show in odd numbered years which started in 1991. Members display their quilts and quilted projects. The show offers vendors, demonstrations, door prizes, donated items for sale or auction, and a raffle quilt which is made by Guild members. Guild members are encouraged to participate fully in preparing for and during the Quilt Show and to sell raffle tickets since this is the largest fundraiser for the Guild.

Quilts of Valor: Is another charity quilt project that makes war time quilts to honor our soldiers that were wounded at war.

Raffle Quilts: Currently SFQG is a sponsor of the local "Festival of Trees" event held annually in Sioux Falls. To this event we donate a decorated Christmas tree usually accompanied by a quilted tree skirt and/or quilt. The tree and quilts are auctioned at the event in support of Southeastern Mental Health. As previously mentioned, there is also a raffle quilt prepared for Southern Hills Methodist Church as a fundraiser for the church, and a raffle quilt is featured at the bi-annual Quilt Show.

Reporter: This person or committee serves as a reporter of SFQG information to the State Quilt Guild (SDQG).

Show and Tell: This is a popular part of monthly meetings wherein members display their works in progress or finished works. This portion of the meeting takes place after the program; everyone enjoys seeing the other members' accomplishments and getting inspiration from them. All members are encouraged to participate as often as possible.

Small Groups: One of the best ways to get acquainted with other quilters with like interests is by joining a small group who meet outside the Quilters' Guild. There are several small groups operating at any given time within the Guild, and periodically the President will circulate an interest form for the use of those who would like to form or join a group of their own.

Set-Up and Take Down: Volunteers are always needed to help in preparing the meeting place for our meetings and in being sure everything is returned to its original position after the meetings. In addition, volunteers are solicited from the audience when we need quilt holders and folders during presentations and show and tell.

Website Development: Our website, siouxfallsquiltersguild.com, contains general information about the guild and our upcoming events and activities.

Workshop: In non-quilt show years, the Guild sponsors a workshop for purposes of continuing education. In the past, they have brought nationally known quilt artists to Sioux Falls, including Karen Stone, Elly Sienkiewicz, and Ruth McDowell to conduct workshops. This committee works two years in advance, since booking of popular teachers requires this type of advance and there are many arrangements involved in conducting these workshops. Members are encouraged to give their suggestions for workshop teachers to this committee.