

GULF STATES QUILTING ASSOCIATION  
General Meeting  
January 28, 2017

The quarterly general meeting of Gulf States Quilting Association was held on Saturday, January 28, 2017 at the main branch of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library, Baton Rouge, LA. President Cindy Champagne called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. President Champagne asked for all cell phones to be silenced. Laura Robertson opened the meeting with a prayer.

President Champagne thanked the host, River City Quilt Guild. She recognized guests, first meeting attendees, and new members. Announcements will be welcomed after the program. There were 145 members and 16 guests present at the meeting.

Renee Hoeprich explained the show and tell process.

**Minutes** – Recording Secretary Mary Ellen Leingang read an abbreviated version of the minutes of the October 22, 2016 General Meeting. Barbara Lankford made a motion to accept the minutes as read and Michelle DeLima seconded the motion which passed by a vote of the membership.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Loretta Webre read the treasurer's report covering the period October 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

Renee Hoeprich then covered housekeeping issues noting emergency exits.

**Historian** – In the absence of Historian Fran Fletcher, Renee Hoeprich read by-law changes which were approved by the GSQA Board and now require approval by the general membership. The changes as read are:

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of this organization shall be to create, stimulate, maintain and demonstrate an interest in all things relating to quilts and quilt making. This shall be accomplished through sponsoring community service endeavors through quilting shows, seminars, workshops, lectures and retreats.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

Section 1. The Board of Directors of GSQA shall consist of a President, President-Elect, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Director, Historian and Chairmen of Standing Committees. Standing Committees will consist of a Quilt Show Director, Seminar Director, Retreat Coordinator, Newsletter Editor and Chairmen for Circuit Teacher, Pursuit of Excellence, Ways and Means, Marion Maerke Scholarship Award Chairman, Media Director, Publicity Chairman and Nominations

Section 17. The Retreat Coordinator shall plan and direct a GSQA Quilt Connection Retreat as often as is feasible, in consultation with the board of Directors; present a budget and a plan for the location, schedule and activities.

A motion to accept the by-law changes was made by Angie Madden and seconded by Charlene Wilson and approved by a vote of the membership.

President Champagne, as outgoing president, thanked the membership for letting her be president. In the absence of Past President Cindy Baucum, President Champagne presented outgoing board members Diana Kelley and Rena Krol with a gift. This was followed by installation of new officers as follows:

Membership – Cena Harmon

Historian – Angie Madden

Newsletter Editor – Mary Ann Caruso

Media Director – Cheryl Armstrong

President Elect – Roberta Wilson

President – Renee Hoeprich

**President** – Renee Hoeprich gave a welcome address stating her goals for the year. She expressed her appreciation to Past President Cindy Champagne for her guidance during the past year and presented Cindy with a quilt made by board members.

Renee also shared member highlights such as Sue Eddy and the Sand Stitchers Quilt Guild in Biloxi who finished over 300 quilts for Louisiana flood victims. These along with pillow cases, were delivered to Baton Rouge first responders. Paula Touns and JoPaula Lantier also participated in this endeavor. Also, Judy Momenzadeh had two entries in the digital category at the Houston Quilt Festival, winning an honorable mention on one.

Renee also announced that there were open positions on the board for Publicity Chair and Retreat Coordinator. There is also an opening for a Marion Maerke committee member.

**Incoming President** – Roberta Wilson asked for volunteers for The Giving Quilt Show.

**Membership** – Cena Harmon conducted roll call of guilds. She then drew for the attendance award. There were 32 candidates and the winners of a \$100 gift certificate each to a member shop are: Linda Mitchell, Rose Corder, and Dottie Burkhardt.

Cena also reported that as of January 27, 2017, there were 588 members, 5 junior members, 41 member guilds, and 15 member quilt shops.

**Retreat** – Gaye Smith reported that the February retreat at Beckwith is fast approaching. There will be a total of 39 attendees. Everyone on the wait list had an opportunity to attend. There will be representatives of all four states at the retreat. New locations are being explored for future retreats.

**Seminar** – Gaye Smith reported that she has sign-up sheets available at the meeting for seminar classes. There are just over 100 registrants and no classes are completely full. All information regarding seminar is available on the GSQA web page as well as supply lists. The Yellow Pages will be e-mailed to students about 10 days before seminar. If anyone not signed up for classes would like to attend the lectures, they should contact Gaye for a reservation. Teacher Show and Tell will be Thursday night. Two quilts will be raffled at Seminar. Tickets are available in the lobby today. There is only one guild offering an Opportunity Basket for raffle at Seminar. Laura Robertson stated that Queen Bees is also working on a basket.

**POE** – Paula Mathews announced that there is a POE March 11 in Slidell, LA hosted by Camellia Quilters with openings still available. There is another POE scheduled for May with location to be announced at a later date. Contact Paula if you would like to host a POE in 2017. Requirements are a room large enough to sit 20 sewers comfortably and tables and chairs for those sewing.

**Newsletter** – Mary Ann Caruso requested that member guilds submit information concerning their guilds for inclusion in the newsletter.

**Media Director** – Cheryl Armstrong reported that the web site is being updated with new software. The old site will remain up while the new site is going up. Contact Cheryl or Kay Guillot if there is anything you need posted on the website.

**Ways and Means** – Glenda Spikes announced that she has bags, cups and seminar pins for sale. Charms and bracelets will be available soon.

Rose Corder announced that all Lotto Blocks were sold.

**Quilt Show** - Donita Qualey read the Quilt Show report in the absence of Laura Broders. Volunteers are needed in several areas for the Quilt Show as well as the Rose Bud Luncheon. A volunteer is needed to oversee the luncheon on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at the Crowne Point Hotel. Someone is needed to solicit auction gift baskets and items to be raffled at the luncheon. Volunteers for the quilt show are needed in the following areas:

Display and hanging of the quilts on Thursday, April 12 as well as take down at the close of the show on Saturday, April 14.

Organizing and presenting quilts for judging Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Solicit and collect the gifts raffled as entrance prizes at the show

Laura encourages everyone to enter quilts in the show and offer your time and talents in assisting at the show.

There have been 13 charity quilts completed. Completed quilts are shown during Show and Tell. Three members, Linda Mitchell, Dana Danzi, and Kathy Ayme have volunteered to bind quilts. Labels will be put on the quilts. There are also 41 quilts in the pipeline.

Renee Hoeprich reported on the status of the Raffle quilt blocks. There are still blocks available for sale. These blocks are due March 15 to be judged by seminar teachers. Renee also explained about collecting UPC labels from Hobbs batting in order to purchase batting used for community service quilts at a discounted price. She also stated that batting will be provided to guilds to be used in community service quilts. The first guild participating is Ozone Layers. They are making 50 quilts for children in Louisiana foster homes and fidget quilts for nursing home patients. Renee also thanked Wasted Women for the fabric donated for the last 50 community service quilts.

Cena Harmon reported on the Reading is Quiltamental program. The exhibit will be displayed at The Giving Quilt and later at the Beckwith Retreat. Anyone wanting to use the display can contact Cena. Requirements are a vehicle large enough to carry the two 5' x 8' panels flat. Cena is also working on a new idea for the next quilt show.

**Circuit Teacher** – Liz Linebrink reported that there were 12 circuit teacher classes scheduled in 2016 with two cancelled. There are five scheduled in 2017. Liz asked the circuit teachers to stand and be recognized.

**Program** – Renee presented the program report in the absence of Therese Springer. The April 22, 2017 meeting in Amite, hosted by Queen Bees will feature Sandy Turner from Idaho as speaker. She is known for Big Print Patchwork – patterns for large-scale prints. There will be a class prior to the meeting. The July 22 meeting needs a host guild and will feature Annette Ornelas from North Carolina. She is known for dimensional curved patchwork and peeled back applique. Ozone Layers is hosting the October 21 meeting. There is no speaker or location identified at this time. We are researching Rhonda Dart with hexies and vintage linens. We are also researching Barbara Yates Beasley for 2018, known as a fiber artist with thread painting.

### **Announcements**

Renee Hoeprich reminded the membership that there will be a Birds in the Air workshop with Sandy Turner prior to the April General Meeting. Cost of the workshop is \$55.

Renee thanked all who made donations at the last meeting for Bridge Over Troubled Waters and reminded members about collecting soft drink tabs for Ronald McDonald House. She also announced that there are still opportunity quilt blocks available.

There was a 45-minute lunch break after which door prizes given out and the name tag drawing was held. The winner of the name tag drawing was Alice Lowe.

**Program** – Renee Hoerprich introduced speaker Connie Silber, a certified judge by the National Association of Certified Quilt Judges (NACQJ). Connie has judged, lectured, and taught workshops throughout Texas and many other states. Connie spoke about what judges look for when judging quilts and provided many of her quilts for members to view.

Upon completion of the program additional announcement were made. There is a quilt show in Robertsdale, Al on February 2-4, 2017. There are also extra lunches which can be purchased for \$5.00.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Loretta Webre to adjourn the meeting. Linda Mitchell seconded the motion which passed by a vote of the membership.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 followed by Show and Tell.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ellen Leingang

Recording Secretary