

Board minutes March 2020 -2

Kathe Letulle, President opened the meeting at 1:17 pm on March 11, 2020. There were 14 voting members present.

Evelyn Fincher recommended two students for academic scholarships, Jeong Eun Jang and Monserath Guel. There was discussion about the amount to be awarded. Marty Morrison moved the Board approve the committee recommendations for awards. It was seconded by Karyn Heaney. The motion carried. Plans were made to provide press releases to media about these academic awards and the recipients.

The minutes of the prior board meeting were reviewed. There was a suggestion to remove six words in the sixth paragraph. The sentence "More fabric is needed for quilt tops, also known as flimsies" was changed to "They need additional fabric". The motion to change the one sentence and accept the rest of the minutes was made by Pam Manley and seconded, motion passed. The motion carried. A second motion was made by Bonnie Hall and seconded by Judy Brown to remove reference to Weeks Ringle, motion passed.

The Treasurer's report was a beginning balance Feb 1, 2020 of \$9,483.81, expenditures of \$1,305.29, income of \$1429.69 leaving an ending balance of \$9,828.21. As part of the year end reconciliation, Diane Tewell discovered there are five outstanding and stale dated checks. Some solutions were discussed. The discussion was tabled until more information is gathered about how to handle stale dated checks.

Evelyn Fischer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and it was seconded by Judy Brown. The motion passed.

Kathe Letulle led a discussion about the amount of the checks for the Academic scholarships awarded by the Guild. The initial letters to prospects to apply stated a \$2,000 award. The budget adopted by the Guild was set at \$1,000 per award for each of two recipients. Much discussion about how to add funds to the Guild bank accounts occurred. For the next year academic scholarships provided in the Guild's budget, the amount is to be set at \$1,000.00 in the budget to be adopted for 2021. Agreement was reached to honor the original \$2,000 award listed in the Academic scholarships letter.

Susan Coleman, Librarian, shared we need to go through the Guild's library books and cull. She recently received six more boxes of donated books for the library. We do not presently have sturdy enough bookshelf storage for present holdings. Laural Powell moved the librarian be given authority to weed out the present holdings including donations to date. It was seconded by Marsha Santow. The motion carried.

Bonnie Hall requested a single person be designated to contact Trophy Gardens. Gail Steinbeck, Guild member and Hospitality chair, is to communicate about Guild activities with Susan Hudson, Activities Director, or the Park Manager.

Judy Brown wanted to inquire how many Guild members wanted to form a bee within the RGVQG with an emphasis on learning about and making modern quilts. The group could take advantage of educational opportunities from the Modern Quilt Guild at less expense to their members. This modern quilt bee would not be in competition with the RGVQG and its activities. There is an interest to pursue

this effort and more information is to be placed in the next newsletter. No objections were heard from Board members.

Judy Brown requested guidance for the newsletter about requests from other Guild's about their shows. They are requesting an entire page each month for up to three months before their show. It was decided three months would be the maximum time, and the size to be determined by the newsletter editor.

Laurie Magee, Show Chair for 2021, announced the show challenge for next year. The Show theme for 2021 will be From Vintage to Modern, Quilts for All Time. Laurie Magee would like to avoid any quilts at next year's show that require special handling.

Military Service gave over 65 quilts since November 3rd. Pam Manley and Lucy Klaas congratulated the Community Service booth at the Quilt Show for their wonderful help making blocks for the service quilts. They received two nominations for Service quilts to be presented to South Padre Island residents. There was also a service quilt presented during the Quilt Show. Saturday, two quilts will be presented to two Guild members, Kristina and Michael Stillsmoking, who are both veterans. Lupita Perez who is the Ambassador for the upper and lower Valley for the VFW has a presentation planned for April 19th for five WW II veterans and would like the Guild's members to be present during the presentation. Ms. Perez is veteran from Iraq, and Lucy and Pam planned to present her with a quilt at the Guild meeting on Saturday. Ms. Perez will be asking for fabric donations to give to the Military Service committee. During discussion, it was decided that Ms. Perez can request cash donations from VFW members as a VFW activity, and Ms. Perez is not to be representing or soliciting for the RGVQG in any way. The donation can then be given to the Guild treasurer, who can then put the cash from the donation into the line item for Military Service quilts line item budget.

A disk with patterns for military service quilts was given to Bonnie Hall with the intent for the patterns to be posted online for member use when making these quilts. There were also several quilt tops ready to be bundled but no batting at present to complete the bundling. The committee has not yet spent any of this year's budget. Batting pricing is to be investigated.

Laural Powell is picking up our national speaker, Angela Walters. Laural will get her to the class the next day. Program classes were scheduled for 20 each day but several had dropped. She proposed limiting any Guild classes to 18 because of space limitations at Trophy Gardens. Improvements to the space at Trophy Gardens are planned. She is trying to find national program speakers at lower prices for programs later this year. If there is a non-sewing class as it would use less electricity, we could have more students in the class, and possibly hold it in a larger room.

It was noted that one of the results of the member survey was that members want more classes. The challenge is booking speakers who would hold classes for only one day and trying to meet member wishes, especially if Program and Schoolhouse classes will be limited to 18 if sewing machines are used. Bonnie Hall moved that program classes and schoolhouse classes have a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 16 participants with sewing machines. The motion was seconded by Marty Morrison and it passed. Bonnie Hall moved that program classes and a lecture style schoolhouse class have a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 30 participants. Judy Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next Guild meeting scheduled is to be the Member's Garage Sale. Laural will share more details about it at the Guild meeting on Saturday. She encouraged board members to promote the event at their bees and beyond.

Summer programs are planned to be:

Rosario Garza - August

Jean Waufle to present information about fusible interfacing and stabilizers in September.

Other possibilities could include Edna Butler would present a trunk show about some very interesting heirloom quilts with special family meanings, and an occupational therapist for a program on stretches for quilters.

Pam Manley made a motion to have a Guild table of donated items at the next Members Garage Sale. Seconded by Marty Morrison. The motion carried. The donated items should be priced before dropped off for the sale. The donated items prices can be adjusted downward during the sale.

Sarah Reed, Publicity chair, wants to visit quilting activities and events throughout the Valley to include in the Guild's Facebook page. She wondered if the publication of monthly newspapers targeted toward Winter Texans occurred during the off-season months and planned to check further with the prior chair. Bee activity pictures should be coordinated between the Beekeeper and Publicity.

Karen Heaney stated the Retreat is ready, on schedule, and the advance team is scheduled to leave the following Sunday. Retreat dates are set for next year. The facility has made preparations to deal with the corona virus situation, such as hand sanitizer. Their normal facility cleaning procedures already met guidelines currently in effect and no changes were required. It was planned to omit holding hands during prayers, to avoid hugging, clean the sewing tables more often, and take other measures as the situation warrants. Any Guild members who shows signs of illness will be asked to leave. If you already don't feel well, please don't come.

There are ten new attendees in Friendship Star and four in Blue Bonnet. The Blue Bonnet challenge will proceed, and Karen has the prizes to be awarded. The list of shops participating in the Shop Hop will be put on the Guild's webpage. More details are available there. Paula McCutchan and Ellen Kizzar are outstanding finding door prizes for the event.

Marty Morrison, Membership chair, reported membership is currently 303.

Bonnie Hall will be doing some website maintenance, especially on some forms and removing some 404 errors.

Quilt Show financials were distributed by Marsha Santow, Show Chair for 2020. She reported a net profit of \$15,967.11. The Show Board met in the morning. The Show Board decided on Saturday at the Guild general meeting, they will be giving a check for \$12,000.00 for the Guild's general funds. If needed, there may be more funds available during the year. However, the expenses for next year's show are uncertain. More information about the Show expenses will be available from the SPI Convention Center in April. Additionally, the corona virus situation early next year could impact the Quilt Show and its expenses.

Laural Powell noted the pandemic could affect public attendance, the number of vendors, and many other revenue producing activities around the show. It would be good to bear that in mind as the Guild's budget for 2021 is being developed next fall. The President, Kathe Letulle, pointed out that the Guild savings account is an available contingency for uncertain expenses in times like this. It would be possible the return of the Winter Texas would be significantly reduced.

Several vendors shared that their revenues have been trending downward for at least twelve months, whether as event vendors or for brick and mortar sales.

Kathe Letulle closed the meeting with these remarks, "Be prepared next month to discuss the member survey in depth. Bring possible solutions to streamline Guild processes, to solve problems or address issues that arose in the survey. It is vital to our Guild".

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Diana Wolf, Secretary