


Minutes - MMQG General Meeting, November 14, 2022

Meeting called to order at 1:01 pm by president Leslie Boone.

1. **Minutes:** Approved as published on the web site.
2. **Old Business:** None.
3. **New business:**
 - a. **Quilt Show 2023:** Tim Strike reported that we have confirmed use of the Union County Sports Complex for Sept 21 (set up date), 22 and 23, 2023. If you are interested in helping with organizing this event, there will be a meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 1 pm in the Civic Center conference room, following the longarm group meeting.
 - b. **Food Bank collections:** We collected \$115 in October. [Note: we collected about \$117 at the November meeting].
 - c. **New Members and Guests:** None today
4. **Sewing group meetings**
 - a. **Longarm:** Will meet Tuesday, December 6 in the Civic Center Conference Room.
 - b. **Hugs & Kisses:** Next workday will be in January.
 - c. **Heart 2 Heart:** Next workday will be in February. Deliveries to nursing homes will be after the December 13 general meeting, and on Wednesday, December 14.
 - d. **Quilts of Valor:** Sue Young is taking orders for QoV block pattern books; our group gets a percentage of the sales. Linda Gorman gave a presentation about the history of our QoV group, and about the Veterans Day Award Ceremony at Union County High School, where eight quilts were awarded. [Note: there is detailed coverage of this event in this week's North Georgia News].
 - e. **Art Quilts:** Meeting Monday, November 21, 10 am. They are looking for a larger meeting space.
 - f. **Comfort Quilts:** Sarah Sorenson reports that there are block kits available on a table at the back. She is planning to schedule a workday at her house to cut strips and assemble kits. Let her know if you are interested in helping.
5. **Next Meeting, December 13: Program: luncheon and gift exchange**

- a. Arrive at 11:30 am, for a potluck lunch at 12:00. Bring whatever you'd like to share, and don't forget a serving utensil!
- b. Gift Swap: We'll do a gift swap just like we did last year. (Details:  MMQG Holiday Santa Swap 2022.pdf) Key information: Don't spend ANY money; make something out of scraps. It must be homemade.
- c. There will not be a Sew and Tell, nor raffle table.
- d. If you did not sign the list at the November meeting, please contact Tracy Phillips (tracyphillips2323@gmail.com) so she will have an accurate count for setting up tables.

6. Show and Tell: See the December newsletter for photos.

7. Break

8. Program: Susan Slaton, "What Judges Look for in Show Quilts"

Susan is not a certified quilt judge, but she has had a lot of her quilts judged, and recently judged a show in Franklin, NC. Here are some of the key points she made:

- Be sure your quilt is entered in the correct category. At most shows, an "Art Quilt" must be YOUR original artwork, not from a pattern. "Miniature" quilts are generally small versions of full size quilts, with very small pieced blocks. Read the entry form descriptions carefully.
- At a show, the judges take a first pass through all the quilts by "fanning," with "fanners" rapidly opening up each quilt for a quick analysis by the judges.
- Most shows use some kind of form for judging. Some are simply checkboxes, others require "scribes" to write down exactly what a judge says about a quilt.
- Things judges are looking for:
 - Does the quilt hang flat? (Susan suggests using wool batting for show quilts: it doesn't crease!)
 - Visual impact
 - Choice of fabrics
 - Design, scale and composition
 - Are the borders appropriately sized for the quilt?

- Is the piecing neat and accurate?
- Is applique stitched evenly and neatly? Are the curves smooth? The starting and ending points of your stitching should not overlap, but should meet cleanly. Knots should not be visible; pull threads through and bury on the back. You can use a Pixma pen to fix any visible errors!
- BINDING: is the binding fully “stuffed?” Is the cleavage on both sides of the corners stitched down? Is the binding sturdy, as it takes the most wear-and-tear on a quilt.
- Pressing: really avoid pressing a dark to a light; if the dark is visible, the judges won’t approve. Never press seams open unless absolutely necessary; if necessary, use a very fine thread and shorter stitch so they don’t spread apart.
- Be sure your piecing thread doesn’t show. Use an appropriate color thread for the fabric.
- If you stitch-in-the-ditch, be sure you are stitching on the low side of the ditch, not directly on the seam.
- They’re looking at tension, threads and knots on the back.
- Don’t go overboard with embellishments; crystals do not photograph well.
- Save your judging forms: judging is to help you improve your quilting. Judges will not say negative things about your quilt, and should not be judging based on personal preferences.
- Photos of many of Susan’s example quilts are in the December newsletter.

9. Raffle Prizes

Meeting adjourned at 3:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Traylor, Secretary