



A Message from Carol O'Dell, President

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As Christmas and New Year's have come and gone, we look forward to what lies ahead. Are we going to organize something we've looked at that needs addressing? Are we going to try something new? Are we going to take a class?

We have some openings coming up on our board and I would encourage you to give it a try when you're asked. There are so many benefits to taking that step. A few might be: you'll meet and get to work with some amazing people that you didn't know, you'll get to know your fellow guild members better and you'll get to be a part of moving the guild forward. I encourage you to step forward and be a part of the solution! We have a great guild!!

MEMBER INFO

Our Guild tries to send notes of encouragement or sympathy to our members who are ill, have had an accident or lost a loved one.

Because we are a large group, we need your help to do this. Please let

Kathy Beitzel

(kkbeitzel@att.net) know of anyone who might need a card.

Thanks.

And finally, our quilt show is around the corner. We've been talking about it for so long and many have been working behind the scenes to help continue our heritage of having fabulous quilt shows.

How are your quilts coming? Quilting that needs to be done? Binding or, do you still have some piecing to do? There is plenty of time if you're in any one of those camps.

Have you started working on the registration forms yet? Are you a "paper girl" (paper registration forms) or are you one of the willing to try the new online version of the registration form?

Over the next 2 guild meetings we'll have the opportunity to see the steps needed to enter our quilts into the show. Do not miss these opportunities to see what is offered and ask questions. Remember, if you have a question quilt show related, someone else probably has the same question. Please be willing to ask someone so we can get it answered and clarified for everyone.

Happy New Year to each of you! See you at our next guild meeting.

Carol O'Dell



Upcoming Events...

2026:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| January 5 | Board Meeting 5:45pm
Quilt Show Meeting 7:15pm
Both at Zion Lutheran Church |
| January 15 | Guild Meeting at Zion Lutheran Church 7pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guild Membership Renewal• Quilt Registration forms due tonight• Review proposed changes to the By-Laws• Slate of 2026/2027 Officers Proposed |
| January 24 | Strip Search Work Day 10:30 – 2:30
Measure & Price items for show |
| February 19 | Guild Meeting at Zion Lutheran Church 7pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elections of 2026/2027 Officers |
| Late February | Transition Meeting with New Board <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Date and time to be determined by new president |
| March 13 | Quilt Show Set-up |
| March 14-15 | Quilt Show |

In Case You Couldn't Make It:

Please refer to the attached minutes from the November/December guild meetings for happenings at those meetings.

Membership

The updated membership form is on the website.
Annual dues continue to be \$30.
Please make checks out to Pride of the Prairie Quilters
Forms can be found on the website and are available at the meeting
Checks and forms can also be mailed to:

Pride of the Prairie Quilters
Po Box 501
Plainfield, IL 60544



A Head's Up Regarding Membership Renewal:

Our membership form has been updated and can be found on the guild's website. It includes a disclosure about photography. As you are completing your membership renewal form for the January meeting, please read it over carefully.

Also, another note regarding membership renewal. Please remember that in order to have your quilts hung in the show, your membership renewal must be completed and turned in to the membership team. The best time to do this is in January because that is when all of the registration forms for the quilt show are due.

Upcoming meeting/program information

If you have any questions about the presentations or workshops, please contact Melanie Hinds (melanie.hinds1259@gmail.com) or Eileen Uchima (Eileen.uchima@gmail.com) – Programs Committee.

Information can also be found at the [Pride of the Prairie website](#), under “Activities.” There is an area for Presentations and a separate area for Workshops.

Just a reminder about the upcoming programs for the next few months:

JANUARY 15, 2026 - This is the deadline to submit your online forms or to turn in your paper forms for the 2026 Quilt Show!

The January & February meetings will be devoted to helping everyone get ready for our Quilt Show in March.

In February we'll have demonstrations on how to add hanging sleeves and labels to our quilts, and how to make our bindings more attractive.

FEBRUARY 19, 2026 - We'll continue getting ready for the Quilt Show in March. We will also discuss Quilt Show Drop Off and Pick Up procedures, and how to pack up your quilt in a pillowcase. And any additional quilt show-related questions you might have can be addressed in this meeting.

Some Important Information For Those of You Coming From the North...

Sharon Thomsen has brought the following to our attention:

“The DuPage Water Commission (DWC) is expanding its water infrastructure to provide Lake Michigan drinking water to the suburban communities of Montgomery, Oswego and Yorkville (WaterLink Communities)”. The “WaterLink” project is a partnership between DWC and the WaterLink Communities that includes the design and construction of a 30-mile-long water main extension beginning in Naperville and extending west to several connection points throughout the three WaterLink communities.

The first phase of construction is anticipated to begin in early December 2025 and will include full road closures along Book Road from just north of 75th Street, extending south to 103rd Street. This entire alignment will not be closed all at once, but rather one “section” at a time. During these closures crews will be making the connection into DWC’s existing infrastructure and installing a 54” water main beneath the roadway. The total construction duration along Book Road is anticipated to last into early 2027.

Please make note of this should it affect you and consider alternate routes or additional drive times once construction has begun.

Quilt Show 2026

Thursday, January 15th At our Guild Meeting –

THE DEADLINE FOR HANDING IN QUILT REGISTRATION FORMS IS JAN. 15TH!

**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!
YOU MUST BE A GUILD MEMBER TO ENTER YOUR QUILTS IN THE QUILT SHOW.**

Quilt Show Schoolhouse Part 1: We will DEMO Quilt Binding and Hanging Sleeves.

Thursday, February 19th

Quilt Show Schoolhouse Part 2: We will DEMO Quilt Labels and Pillowcases. We will also review the Check In/Check Out process for your quilts coming to the show.



In January and February there will be sign-up sheets for volunteers for the Quilt Show. We need everyone to participate to make the show a success. There are many opportunities to help during the Quilt Show and still be able to sit down.

Quilt Show FAQs

1. Do I need a Google account to use the online Quilt Registration form?

Yes, you do need a Google account to use the online Quilt Registration form, but you do **not** need a Google gmail address.

2. Do our quilts need to be finished by the January 15th deadline?

No. The January 15th deadline only applies to the Registration Forms. If your quilt is not finished at the time you register, there is a box on the form which you can check.

3. Will our quilts be judged?

Yes, all the quilts will be judged, **EXCEPT** Category 14 which is the 40th Anniversary Challenge Quilts and Category 17 which is the Found and Finished Quilts.

4. Will we receive written feedback from the Judge?

No. Written feedback is very time-consuming and would require 2 judges.

5. If you are part of the committee for the show, do you work at your station the entire time?

No. We have sign-up sheets for people to volunteer to work (2) 2-hour shifts.

6. If you are part of a committee for the show, do you need to volunteer for (2) 2-hour shifts?

Yes. All of our members are expected to help.

7. Are all the guild members expected to help with set-up on Friday night/take down on Sunday?

Those of us on the Quilt Show Committees would love as much help as we can get. Hanging the quilts and setting everything up is a big job. Husbands and family are also welcome to help!

Raffle Baskets

Happy New Year everyone! We are down to the final stretch before the big quilt show. And there are a couple of items we still need to complete some of the raffle baskets including bottles of wine, sport theme fabrics and/or memorabilia (Bears, White Sox, Cubs?), items for a scrapbooking basket, game basket and a garden basket including garden gloves and/or tools. Gift cards to favorite restaurants and/or shops are also welcome.

We will start to put raffle baskets together this month. So please bring any final donations to the January guild meeting and we will set out our large plastic tub one more time.

Again, thank you so very much for your generosity and support. We hope to put together some great raffle baskets for the quilt show. Health and happiness to all in this New Year!

The Raffle Basket Committee

Kathy MacKenzie 708/299-6610 kjmackenzie@sbcglobal.net

Jean Yates 630/271-0140 jmrej@prodigy.net

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact those on the Quilt Show committees –

Chairperson - Jennifer Henry Jenhenry@aol.com

Challenge Quilt – Lynn Scheimann lscheimann@comcast.net

Vendors – Sharon Thomsen sharonkthomsen@aol.com

Silent Auction – Anita Marsh anitamarsh@aol.com and Anita Baranski ALJB1Asbcglobal.net

Strip Search – Melanie Hinds melaniehinds1259@gmail.com, Jean Black jeanblack@att.net,

Karen Shibley kms50@aol.com and Karen Jameson Karen542@aol.com

Books, Magazines and Patterns – Teena Giliberto teenalp@outlook.com and Vicky Pampe

vickyv11@yahoo.com

Raffle Baskets – Kathy MacKenzie kjmackenzie@sbcglobal.net and Jean Yates jmrej@prodigy.net

Volunteers – Lynn Poulos lpoulo1@gmail.com

Philanthropy

We are looking forward to a new year.....so many quilts to start & finish and new techniques to learn! In November, Sandy delivered 18 quilts to Deeper Still, in Hickory Hills. Wow!

During November and December, we have been busy making kits – complete with fabric for the top, backing, batting & binding. A big **'thank you'** to Sharon Thomsen, Susan Janacik, Valli Schiller & Carol O'Dell who worked hard on our sew day in November. We put together 25 kits that day!

The number of quilts to be pieced or quilted is about 40. We would like to challenge you to help us out by taking a kit at the January meeting. Keep in mind that the quilting need not be intricate – simple cross-hatching, wavy lines, straight lines, in the ditch.

The speaker for our March 19 th meeting is Aimee Merritt, representing the Pregnancy Resource Center. She will inform us about their programs. Please bring a donation of baby wipes and diapers, size 4, 5 or 6. To date we have 22 baby quilts to donate to her. In addition, we have 5 pieced tops complete with backing, batting & binding, needing to be quilted. Won't you help us? These should be returned to us by the end of February so we can label & wash them. Thank you!!

This month we will be drawing the names of 2 members who made quilts in November & December. They will receive a gift card to a local quilt shop!

Piecefully, Sandy & Jill



Newsletter Article Submissions:

Newsletter

March/April 2026
May/June 2026
July/Aug 2026

Article Due Date

February 28,2026
April 28,2026
June 28, 2026

Publication Date

March 10,2026
May 10, 2026
July 10, 2026

January and February Birthdays

Jan 10	Anita Baranski
Jan 11	Vicki Pampe
Jan 15	Carole Naughton
Jan 19	Karen Shibley
Jan 23	Christine Schwartz
Jan 26	Judi Arand
Jan 27	Mary Kelly
Jan 31	Carol Gruchala
Feb 3	Cheryl Parker
Feb 13	Jennifer Henry
Feb 13	Mary Winegar
Feb 27	Stephanie Ferrara
Feb 28	Kathy MacKenzie



Monthly Guild Meeting Checklist

- **Name Tag** (you are eligible for a prize ONLY if you are wearing yours!)
- **Show and Tell Items**
- **Items for the Freebies Table** (remember that this is not for junk but rather items or bagged scraps in good condition)
- **Your checkbook** in order to pay for your, Workshop fees and any traveling quilt tickets that might be attending our meeting



NEWSLETTER AD INFORMATION

The Guild newsletter is published six times per year in January, March, May, July, September and November. Articles should be sent to the editor, Jane Stevens at jmssampler@earthlink.net no later than the last day of the previous month.

Advertising rates are as follows:

Ad Size	Yearly (6 issues)	Single Issue
Business card	\$50	\$10
Quarter Page	\$60	\$15
Half Page	\$80	\$20
Full Page	\$160	\$40

Ads must be prepaid and received by the Editor before the 1st of the month to appear in the next newsletter

2025-2026 Pride of the Prairie Officers

President – Carol O'Dell

Vice President – Kathy Beitzel

Secretary – Marjorie McNichols

Treasurer – Pat Herman

Programs - Melanie Hinds & Eileen Uchima

Contracts – Cathy Formanek & Vicky Pampe

Publicity:

Newsletter – Jane Stevens

Philanthropy – Sandy Piatak & Jill Stuck

Membership – Donna Borowiec & Laura McCormack & Anita Marsh

Website: Ann Jordan