

MMQG Executive Meeting January 3, 2020 Party Room at 39 Seapoint Rd., Dartmouth

Present: Christine (President),
Karen (new V.P.),
Aimee (outgoing treasurer)
Nora (new treasurer)
Julia (new charity co-ordinator)
Chantal (social media maven)
Barb (new swaps and challenges co-ordinator) via Facetime
Susan (Workshop co-ordinator)
Mary (Secretary)

Regrets: Ann (new Librarian)

Workshops

- Some possible workshop spaces discussed including the party room in the Seapoint building. Space needs depend on the size of the group which is often set by the instructor. So, it is good to keep ears open for a variety of suitable spaces for different sized groups.
- Some members indicated in last survey that they want more workshops. We would like to find local instructors that could help us reduce costs while providing a good workshop. In addition, we will look to our members to provide some smaller workshops.
- The survey from 2018-19 showed strong interest in bag making. Christine will contact Fiona of Tangled Blossoms about a possible workshop. She could also do a pop-up shop to make it more worthwhile for her. Corey Follet did that last fall.
- Since we have many new members, it would be a good time to repeat some workshops that our members have done in the past. For example, Andrea T.J.'s map quilt.

Finance

- Aimee and Nora are still in the process of handing over the financial responsibilities. The budget for 2020 is not ready yet. This will require a separate executive meeting.
- We have a few changes from last year. We now have a membership with the Canadian Quilt Association (which provides us with insurance coverage) and in 2020 we no longer have to pay for our sew-in space. (Thanks to Karen).
- We are now in a higher membership bracket with the Modern Quilt Guild (aka the Mothership). It works out to the same cost per member.
- Nora was seeking clarification on how things are paid for. A Mastercard offered by the Credit Union is no longer available so MMQG no longer has a card for online purchases. Nora and Aimee will discuss the options.
- Signing authority. The President, Vice-President and Treasurer have signing authority under the bylaws. Aimee will arrange the paperwork to transfer authority to Nora.

- Nora would like to set up an email address for the Treasurer. It will help with the transparency of money transfers.
- Because the budget will not be ready, the January meeting will not be the AGM. That will happen in February instead.
- Passing on other financial issues for now.

2020 Survey of Members

- This is normally done in November, but will go out shortly
- Survey Monkey's free survey utility limits users to 9 questions and Julia would like to include questions about charitable projects. Susan says that Google Docs can be used for surveys and has no question limit. She and Christine will discuss further.

Swaps and Challenges

- Barb has drawn up a draft plan for the year
- The Executive Challenge has previously just been set by the Swaps person. The Executive wished to have more input and it was decided to use improv as the theme. Barb will refine the idea further before presenting to the members in January.
- CQA Gateway to Adventure will be launched in January with submissions due in March. The entries will be voted on by paper ballot at the March meeting in order to choose a winner to send to Quilt Canada in Edmonton this summer.
- It has been decided that the UFO Challenge will become the Dream Challenge. Instead of focusing on unfinished projects, this challenge will push us to get started on new things and try new types of projects we haven't dared attempt before. The launch will be in February and the draw will be in November.
- The rules of the Dream Challenge will be essentially the same. Pay \$2 for each item on your list and get a ticket for each completed item.
- The Exec challenge can go on your Dream list.
- Barb is looking forward to seeing survey results to learn members' swap item preferences.

Programming

- The last membership survey listed a variety of topics, some of which have been covered since. Possible future topics include: colour theory, accurate cutting, curved piecing, foundation paper piecing, types of presser feet and how to use them, "not meant for quilting" (unconventional tools and fabrics), photography for social media, big stitch hand quilting.
- Executive members take turns providing or arranging programs for the meetings.
- The Plan so far:
 - January: Christine on Modern Quilting – what is it?
 - February: AGM
 - March: Barb -- quilted postcards
 - April: Nora
 - May: Mary
 - June: Susan

- July: Yard Sale
- August: Summer Social. Potluck at our regular meeting space.
- September: Julia
- October: Karen -- getting an earlier start on Christmas decorations
- November: MMQG Birthday Party
- December: Christmas Social. Potluck at our regular meeting space.

Tool Library Discussion

- Some members expressed an interest in having some specialty rulers available to borrow from the guild. The only tools to be considered are rulers and templates.
- Christine asked other guild leaders on Facebook about their guilds' practices. Many have rulers available but there are late fees to ensure prompt return and loss of borrowing privileges for the real delinquents.
- The late fees can help buy more rulers and some were donated by members.
- Christine will ask Ann the librarian (unable to attend tonight) if she is willing able to look after a collection of rulers in addition to the books.
- Can we store the rulers and books at our meeting space so they do not have to be lugged about? Christine will check with Danielle at the LeBrun Centre.
- Avonport has been selling a large tool tote for \$25 that could make rulers easier to carry.
- There was some discussion of getting a die cutter for members to borrow, but there was not much support for the idea.

Retreat at Whitepoint in April

- Amanda has been a one-woman show as the retreat organizer for the last several years. She has done a fabulous job and seems to love it, but in the interest of succession planning and avoiding burnout, it would be smart to have a Retreat Committee. Amanda would be chair and this could just be a more formal version of the helpers Amanda had last year. It will allow more members to have input.
- Christine will discuss it with her.
- Nora offered to be the executive liaison with the Retreat Committee.
- Discussion of how funds collected for the retreat should be managed. No general guild funds are used for the retreat, but it might be good to include it in the budget in the interests of transparency.

Charity Project for 2020

- Julia has discussed with past Charity co-ordinators how things were done in the past.
- Last year there were many small projects and some people felt a bit overwhelmed. Julia would like to streamline the projects and organize them so we don't have a small number of members doing the bulk of the work (piecing, quilting, binding) at the last minute.
- A team approach might be more efficient and more fair. Members would sign up for specific responsibilities within their comfort zone.

- There was discussion about how we could avoid taking on too many projects and making sure we follow through with the ones we do take on.
- Teams could be regional so people who live near one another can work together more easily.
- Each team would have a leader/coordinator.
- September sew-in could go on being used to focus on charity projects and getting them finished up. Also, Power Hour at retreat can be used for existing guild projects.
- Chantal suggested that members could use our website and FB page to post about other charity projects they are supporting and would like to share with others. Members are free to organize other charity projects and recruit others but those will not be official guild projects.
- We will encourage members to go on supporting the Royal LePage auction and the 87 Pillows project. Last year 50% of members donated to that effort.

Quilt Show

- We've talked for years of having a show of members' work. We want to make it happen this year and Barb is taking the lead.
- We will be looking for a suitable and affordable venue. One possibility is a large, bright space at Alderney Landing. Barb will enquire about the cost.
- It would happen over a weekend and members will have the chance to sell items if they wish. Not only quilts, we could have a pop-up shop for smaller items. Barb will look into how we can handle the sales side. She will do more research on how to mount the show and will make a presentation to the guild at a future meeting. A sub-committee could be formed to help her organize.

Social Media

- Chantal would like to speak to the members about sharing their social media posts in the MMQG account. If members use #MMQG on their posts it will be a signal that they are willing for their posts to be shared. Christine will put her on the agenda.

Other Business

- Christine is preparing the latest newsletter. Send all items to her by the 25th of the month for future months.
- Chantal asked for a copy of the membership list with contact information so she knows whom to let into our social media group. Karen will send it out.