

LIGHTHOUSE QUILT GUILD BOARD MEETING\
JULY 19, 2022 6:30 PM
CHURCH OF THE DUNES CLASSROOM #4

Present: Chris Bussell, Elizabeth Clark, Barbara Dryer, Jackie Fisher, Alicia Gilewski, Dianne Gustafson, Marilew Helmers, Beth Hwacinski, Marie Huyge, Wendy Rice, Amy Stuparits, Marianne Stuparits, Adele Williams, Kay Wilton, Susan Yancer-Hatcher.

WELCOME

Co-chair Susan Yancer-Hatcher called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

AGENDA

SECRETARY: Minutes from March 22 were accepted as corrected. Alicia moved to accept, seconded by Elizabeth.

TREASURER: Our balance as of June 30, 2022, is \$13,765.11. Barb explained some revisions to the current Treasurer's Report and announced she had been admonished to stay in office until she got it right!

Program chairs Joan Thomas and Marie Huyge were commended for the virtually free June program with Schmetz Needle representative Rhonda Pierce, who required only an overnight hotel room. We had a full workshop with July presenter Valina James, a Laura Heine-trained collage artist. Valina charged only \$50 for her talk/trunk show at the guild meeting.

A question was raised about the Program Tuition Reserve, originally set aside as an incentive for officers and program chairs to enroll free in guild-sponsored programs and classes. It was decided that any board member who enrolled in the Laura Heine class would be tuition-free, leaving a balance in the reserve of \$415.

This grant is due to expire and the Program Tuition Reserve will go away at the end of August unless we decide to renew it.

Barb announced that tonight's report will be filed for audit, and she may ask the new auditor to review both last year's and this year's records because 2021 was such an unusual year.

She explained that traditionally July is our last board meeting for this fiscal year. At an earlier board meeting we discussed having a joint meeting of old and new board members. There are three important areas to be discussed: budgeting, policies and procedures, and turnover. Susan proposed August 16 at 6:30 pm for a meeting of new and old board members. Adele seconded and this meeting was unanimously approved. Barb will email those members to attend the August meeting, asking them to consider budgeting expenses, possible equipment purchases and other needs for the coming year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Elizabeth said they have a significant amount of donated fabric, mostly fat quarters, to use or sell to benefit Community Outreach. She would like to plan a sale at an appropriate guild meeting. Program co-chairs suggested the December meeting, which has only a social evening planned, could be a good choice.

Elizabeth also brought up the importance of anonymity to protect the privacy of breast cancer patients for whom we supply quilts. Many of these recipients write appreciative notes. The committee's policy is to use only first names or no names in sharing these notes with the membership.

MEMBERSHIP: Barb read information sent by Kathy Schripsema, who was unable to attend. We have 126 members as of July 11. Kathy asked if we might mail out a membership "packet" to welcome new people. Jackie shared the information sheet she had received on joining Lighthouse, and explained how welcome she had felt at her first meeting. It was agreed that more could be done to help new members find a comfortable place in our guild. Dianne approached Carol some time ago about updating this new members' flyer, and both she and Carol had written to members who had not renewed by November, 2021. It was noted that we do not send notices of lapsed membership, but expect members to understand that our modest dues of \$20 are due in August of each year.

LIBRARIAN: Marianne, nothing new to report.

HISTORIAN: Amy has updated our Facebook page with all current information about the Quilt Show, and added a thank-you to members who volunteer to walk around at meetings to give close-up views of featured speakers' work.

HOSPITALITY: Neither Virginia or Marie were present. At our August meeting with Quilt Show winners, members are expected to bring appetizers or desserts.

NEWSLETTER AND BLOG: Wendy asked whether we should consider adding other interested people to our mailing list. She may be able to activate a "share" button on Mailerlite. Consensus was that the newsletter was a privilege of membership and members could always share to family and friends by forwarding their own newsletter. Wendy also said she is considering a scavenger hunt or Bingo card in the fall to stimulate visits to the website, perhaps with prizes awarded.

Chris brought up the information we get from Mailerlite regarding the number of “opens” with each newsletter. We are even able to identify those members who routinely don’t open the newsletter. Discussion followed about whether this mail could be going to a spam folder. Beth suggested that perhaps more info could be gathered at a guild meeting—“Are you getting the newsletter?” “What improvements would you like to see?”

PROGRAMS: August meeting will feature Quilt Show winners and our traditional appetizer and dessert buffet. September is our joint meeting with PALS hosting. Featured speaker and workshop leader is Lynn Carson Harris, a Michigan native. Her “Tiny Piecing” workshop will be at Quilted Memories in Montague on Monday, September 12, 9 am to 4 pm. Joan has arranged with Vicki Gale at PALS for several places in this class be set aside for Lighthouse members. Fee is \$65 to be paid to Vicki. More information is on the website.

Kay Wilton joined our meeting, announcing that she is the new liaison between PALS and Lighthouse, hoping to improve information sharing between the two guilds.

Joan brought up whether we should set aside places in our workshops for other guild members to participate. Consensus was that Joan and Marie should use their judgment about when to open a workshop and offer it to other guild members. PALS would receive our member price. A small increase would be charged to outsiders.

PUBLICITY: Dianne reported that she has sent press releases to all Michigan guilds who might possibly attend, posting on their websites when possible, or on Facebook pages. She has had several positive responses. Eric Kaelin from WAWL radio 103.5 FM Grand Haven, will interview Quilt Show chairs Jackie and Alicia on the air a few days before the show. As soon as this date is firm, Dianne will share this info with guild members.

QUILT SHOW: Big news at the May board meeting was that Quilt Show in 2023 would move to Grand Haven Christian School because St. Pat’s wanted to keep more of their own space for church-sponsored functions. Big news tonight is that our 2023 Quilt Show is “GO” at St. Pat’s again. Jackie and Alicia have been negotiating with them and they have been very cooperative. They really want to host our Quilt Show. A few changes have been made in rooms available, but all the show quilts will be in the main area.

Jackie hopes they can send one email blast to members with final details about the show. This will include a list of volunteers and their assignments, driving and parking directions, especially for volunteers, and information about the Fulton St.

closing, which will continue. Our Raffle Ticket chair is out of town, so there was some confusion about where to turn in money for tickets sold. Field's continues to sell tickets in Spring Lake.

TAKE-A-CHANCE: Adele brought up budgeting for next year and whether she would be able to request an increase in order to offer better prizes. Barb said all positions would have input into budget needs.

ZOOM COORDINATOR: Beth has begun using a helpful chart of Zoom responsibilities created by Carol Keen. She said it would make a real difference if a few members could learn how to handle various jobs, especially when we are offering programs both in-person at the church and via Zoom to members' homes. In addition to the equipment the guild owns, Alicia recommended we purchase a laptop. There was broad agreement about this.

OLD BUSINESS: Susan said the officers had met and considered all the comments sent regarding Zoom. They decided that we will continue to offer meetings via Zoom for the foreseeable future. Members should remember that social interaction among friends is important and in-person meetings at the church should be their first choice. Zoom should be reserved for bad weather situations, or to enable us to offer a national speaker and workshop without prohibitive travel and lodging costs.

Nominations and Elections: Susan is still looking for a Co-chair, and Historian and Librarian positions are open. At the August general meeting, only officers will be elected.

Special Joint Board meeting, by email invitation, will be Tuesday, August 16 at 6:30 pm at the church.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Minutes submitted by _____ Date _____
Dianne Gustafson for Linda Engel

Minutes approved by _____ Date _____
Susan Yancer-Hatcher, co-chair