



## NBQA General Membership Meeting

February 20, 2025

6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Zoom

Amended Minutes

Gail opened the Zoom window at 6:00 and members began signing on. The meeting was opened with a welcome to everyone at 6:30. Gail introduced Michelle Banton, the speaker for the evening. Michelle's topic was the History of Dresden Plates. While Michelle typically presents in person and has many quilts to share and pass around, she did a wonderful job using Zoom. She used her camera very well and was able to show close ups of her many quilts. Within her presentation she described the development of a variety of quilt forms starting from 1785 and explained that Dresden plates were the inspiration for this technique. While her focus was on the Dresden Plate pattern, she explained that Grandmother's Garden, Double Wedding Ring, Churn Dash and Sun Bonnet Sue patterns were also patterns that have been used for years. She explained that in 1934 patterns were printed and available in the newspapers. While women used quilting as a social opportunity it also allowed quilters to share their skills and create home businesses including the opportunity to quilt by machine. Her explanation of early 'kits' of precut fabric was unexpected, as was her explanation of some sneaky behavior of contestants who submitted quilts for judging at the Chicago World's Fair. She concluded her presentation with information for her class on Saturday.

Gail reconvened the General Membership Meeting at 7:37 p.m.

The first order of business was to accept the minutes from the January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, General Membership meeting. There were no corrections made to the minutes that were sent to the members via email. A motion was made to accept the minutes as written. All were in favor. The motion passed.

The Treasurer's report was the next order of business. Blaire reported that the checking account balance is \$26,053. The savings account balance is \$2,417.00, and the CD balance is \$8,000+. A motion was made to accept the Treasurers' report. All were in favor: the motion passed.

### **REPORTS**

## **Gail Macera, President**

Friendly reminder: The Quilters by the Sea Guild will be selling tickets for their raffle quilt on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the NBQA General Membership meeting in March.

The position of Treasurer is still available. Please contact Blaire Gagnon directly so she can fill you in on the position. There are two people who have indicated their interest and we are thankful to them for their interest. Blaire will report on this soon.

The Boutique will be up and running at the March meeting. There will be lots of fabric and kits to stock up on for your upcoming projects.

## **Tina Zuffoletti, Vice President**

The theme for the Summer Challenge has been changed. Information is being finalized and a flyer will be available soon.

Joan Potter announced that the Golden Threads Quilt Show will be held on April 11 and 12, **2026**. The set up for the quilt show will be on Thursday and Friday prior to the show. There are openings on the committee. If you are interested, please contact Tina Zuffoletti.

## **Blaire Gagnon, Raffle Quilt**

There has been an ongoing discussion regarding the Raffle Quilt specifically on when will the tickets be sold and when will the drawing be. With the Golden Threads Quilt Show coming up it has been suggested that a 'community quilt' be pieced and quilted this summer. Tickets would then be sold starting in the fall and the winner drawn at the show in April. Details are being considered and will be available soon. Blaire has contacted Pat Sloan and has permission to use her Shoo Fly pattern. This pattern consists of 3", 6" and 9" squares. The concept is to create the quilt using analogous colors on the color wheel; aqua, yellow and lime green. The quilt is created using squares and half square triangles. The final product will be light and springy. The goal is to have the quilt pieced and sent to a long armer by August.

Peggy Lane asked about the use of the 50 States quilt that was donated to the organization. The blocks are all completed, and it just needs to be assembled. This would provide a quilt that would be available as well. At an earlier meeting this quilt was discussed and a suggestion made to check to see if the New England Quilt Museum would like it. They already had one. It was suggested that the University of RI and Rhode Island School of Design be approached as well. The suggestion was made that it could possibly be completed and offered as a second raffle. This discussion will continue.

## **Karen Iris, Secretary/Group Leader for Quilts of Valor**

We are delighted to announce that we were able to award a Quilt of Valor to Kurt Sprengel on Wednesday February 19, 2025. Kurt served in the Army National Guard and deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. For the time being we will be sewing on Wednesdays from 9:30 until 1:00 or so. We suggest that you dress in layers and wear heavy socks or warm shoes or boots. Once the heat is on it is very comfortable but at the start of the day it is chilly. We have had several donations of fabric and have a growing library of patterns. If you would like to join us and are not feeling like you want to sew you can help with cutting, ironing, or binding. We are very fortunate as a group to have folks that longarm for us. As always, we will have kits available when we return to in person meetings. If you signed out a kit/kits, please return them to us so that we can keep track of our inventory. If you would like to become a member of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, I will have applications at our in-person meetings. I can also help you to register online as well. Last but not least-please think about your family, friends and relatives. Do you know a veteran? Please consider nominating them. Please contact me and we'll make it happen.

## **Gail: Programs**

The Survey Results have been collated and the data showed that 87% of the membership would like to have more workshops/classes on technique while 82% want skill building and 60% want traditional, 55% want embroidery, 54% want modern, 53% want art quilts, 45% want surface designs.

We still need volunteers to join the Programs Committee. We have pretty much booked the entire 2025-2026 year, but we need a committee to run it. The format for the committee has been modified so that the commitment will be doable for you with less stress.

Please note we are doing a Sit and Sew on Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup> at Blaine's Sewing Center from 10 to 3. The registration fee is \$5.00, and that check should be sent to Blaire. It is going to be a fun day with demos, and you may work on whatever you choose to work on.

We also need volunteers to help with the Silent Auction on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Gail if you are available.

## **Sheri Bolduc, Pat Hendrickson, Membership**

The organization now has 183 members. 53 members attended the Zoom meeting

## **Barbara Stetson, Maybeth Cost, Publicity Status Quo**

## **Paula Weston, Michele Varin, Newsletter**

Paula and Michele met and are working on the next newsletter now. They got many responses to the quilters question and will get the newsletter out by March 8 or 9.

### **Roxanne Williams, Historian Status Quo**

### **Patricia Andraka, Maria Knight, Website Status Quo**

Congratulations to Pat on her new grandchild. That makes 2 for this year.

### **Gail Macera, Comfort Quilts**

Nicole Silva, a social worker at Rhode Island Hospital contacted Gail to request quilts for the Honor Walk Program at RIH. This is a new addition to our list of donations points. The Honor Walk is held when an individual has come to the end of life and has donated their organs. The staff lines up along the corridor to the surgery suite as the patient is taken from their room. The quilt is placed on the patient and then given to the family. If you have never heard of this there are videos available on YouTube that are truly touching.

### **Lynn Medeiros, Door Prizes**

All is going well.

### **Peggy Lane, Education Committee**

Peggy and Nancy Messier worked together to create and print a new bookmark that explains the organization and will be available to pass out at events for PR. She has contacted the Narraganset Library, and the committee will be doing a workshop there on April 2, 2025. She has also contacted the Warwick Library. The committee will provide a hands on activity for the participants at these events.

### **Louise Pankiewicz, Special Events**

Louise has been working with the NEQM to arrange a field trip for us. The goal is to try for either April or June. The trip will be on a Tuesday or Wednesday with a bus provided. Details should be available for the March meeting.

### **Tina Zuffoletti, Facebook Status quo.**

### **Alice Hourihan - New England Quilt Museum**

We welcomed Alice as the liaison between the NBQA and the NEQM. Alice will coordinate opportunities for the guild to have guided tours at the museum and will work to arrange for a speaker from the NEQM hopefully for the April meeting next year. The guild provides a sizable donation to the museum and because of that donation we are eligible for the benefits.

**OTHER:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05. Next General Membership meeting in person will be March 20<sup>th</sup> with Timna Tarr as our speaker and she will talk about Flying Colors.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Iris, Secretary, NBQA