



NBQA General Membership Meeting
March 19, 2026 – United Methodist Church of East Greenwich
6:30-8:30 p.m.
MINUTES

At 6:30 p.m. Gail called the meeting to order and asked Lisa to introduce the speaker for the evening, Beth Helfter. Lisa explained that Beth was a national quilt designer who began in 2009. She works tirelessly to use her scraps and describes her approach as Conspiracy in Chaos. Beth introduced herself and explained that she had presented for the guild about 10 years ago. Her presentation was called Playing Well with Others and was a prelude to her workshop on Saturday. She explained that in her experience quilters tend to be very much individuals and find it difficult to work as a part of a group. She compared this idea to the feelings that many had when asked to do a group project in school. As a part of her work, she has developed a few different approaches to deal with this.

She suggests projects such as Round Robin Quilts with a variety of variations: Round Robin in a Day, Pizza Box, Creating a House, Block of the Month, Orphan Block, Temperature Quilt, Melon Baller Quilt. While Beth stated that there are no quilting police it is important to have some guidelines. She suggested to be sure to manage your expectations, everyone does their best work, there is no room for a “control freak”, keep a label available to add to the finished quilt to be able to remember who participated and when possible, provide little gifts for participants. When you are the leader you do not have concrete rules, and as a participant don’t ignore the request of the owner, don’t ignore time constraints and, most of all, don’t drop out.

At 7:25 p.m. Pat Harrison announced the Quilt Show Winners. These are attached.

Before naming the winners, Pat thanked all of the sewers who submitted their work for judging. She also thanked all the members who were a part of the judging team, and thanked Sarah Bannister in particular for all of her work in organization that kept the process moving in a timely manner. Finally, she mentioned Mary Walter who was the judge this year and thanked her for her timeliness and comments for so many quilts.

Before announcing the winners Pat defined the categories one more time: Artisan quilters basically quilt for themselves while Master quilters often work for fee by teaching, designing, lecturing and quilting for a client.

At approximately 6:45 p.m. Gail welcomed everyone and asked if there were any new members present tonight. Sue Eastman introduced herself.

The next order of business was to approve the prior minutes. Gail asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the February 19, 2026, General Membership meeting that was emailed to all. There were no corrections forwarded so she made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 19, 2026, meeting. All were in favor; the motion passed.

REPORTS

Gail Macera, President

Gail explained again that there were going to be vacancies on the Board at the end of the 2025-2026 year. Robin Gardner, the Nomination Chair explained that she and her committee had worked very hard to speak with all current members to ascertain what people wanted and to ask if individuals were interested in having their name on the upcoming ballot. She also requested that if members had not gotten a call to please get in touch with her.

Tina Zuffoletti, Vice President

The raffle tickets are still available for the Shoe fly raffle quilt. Please contact her if you need tickets. They will also be for sale throughout the quilt show.

Joan Potter, Quilt Show Update

Joan thanked Pat Harrison for the wonderful job she did to complete the judging for the show. There have been 192 quilts submitted.

There is a need for a volunteer to finalize the descriptions that will appear on the gallery cards for the show. These will be need to be printed on card stock to be attached to each quilt. Robin Gardner volunteered.

There is a need for volunteers:

- At the entry tables to welcome people to the show.

- To pick up and post signs in your neighborhoods.

- For picking up materials at the Seabee Museum on Thursday and getting these into the Civic Center.

- For setup on Friday and take down on Sunday.

- For loading materials into the truck and returning them to the Seabee Museum on Sunday evening.

- On Friday there will be a potluck lunch.

There will be two classrooms available during the show. One will be a 'rest room' where folks can get off their feet and have some time to relax. The other will be for storage and to use as a counting room. Please plan to bring food, snacks or treats for the rest room. The Big Dog Food Truck will also be on site.

The April General Membership meeting will be on April 16th. Do not bring a quilt for the show to this meeting unless you have made prior arrangements for a friend to take it and deliver it for you on Friday. Quilts will be dropped off on Friday morning, April 17th between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Your quilt will be put in a paper bag, and you will be given a receipt. You must have that receipt to pick up your quilt on Sunday after the show.

This year there is a requirement to have a person to count heads coming into the building, as well as a member of the Fire Department with EMT qualifications to deal with potential medical emergencies or issues. This is adding an additional cost to the show.

The admission to the show will cover entry for both days. All NBQA members will get in at no charge. The size of your quilt makes a difference as to how it will be hung. All big quilts will go on 10-foot poles. Smaller quilts will be hung back-to-back on a different type of hanger as much as possible. The guild has

purchased some free-standing quilt stands. You must have a sleeve on large quilts. They can be basted on and it is suggested that they be made of fabric that coordinates with your quilt just in case it shows.

Missy Smith is looking for ads to be included in the quilt show booklet Please contact her.

Joan has brought scrap books dating back to 1975 and will have them at the next meeting and the show. As you look through them if you notice something where you can add information, please do. This will help update them for the next show.

At the show it is suggested that you wear your NBQA buttons and vests to show that you are a part of the guild.

If you have any items that can be used in the silent auction please get them to Alice as soon as possible.

Marylou Umbriano, Traveling Treasurer

From now on please date any check that you write to the guild. All checks are going to be deposited as they are received. You must fill out each area completely and be sure to sign it

The checking account balance is \$3,330.38, the saving account balance is \$23,228.35, the CD balance is \$8,405.27. The motion was made to accept the Treasurers' report. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Karen Iris, Secretary

Quilting at the hut continues Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. until about 1:00 p.m. We are hoping that the weather will now cooperate so that we can sew there. Many have been at home working because of both the storms and the temperatures The museum will be opening again on Fridays on May 1st so that there will be additional days to join us then. The dates will be available by the April meeting. Stay tuned. Our next award ceremony will be on Saturday March 28th at 2:00 p.m. at the Chapel in the Pines for two very deserving veterans. You are welcome to join us.

The Quilts of Hope, RI have been invited to the State House by Representative Earl Read on May 19th, 2026. There is going to be a "Calling All Vets" program that day at 3:00. Many organizations that provide services to veterans will be there and we will have a table to pass out information. As we understand, we will have at least 3 representatives to join Mr. Read on the floor, and all other members will be allowed to sit in the gallery to be recognized from the floor.

Programs, Lisa Bagian and Robin Gardner

Lisa reported that there were seats available for Beth's program on Saturday and there would be someone available after the meeting to accept registrations Kassie and Billie's workshop will be in May. All information is available on the website and the NBQA Facebook page.

Sheri Bolduc, Pat Hendrickson, Membership

The membership to date is 176. There were 92 members at this evenings meeting.

Next year's application will be available next month and will be accepted until July 1st, 2026.

With the new year there will no longer be the pins that have been used in the past. Lanyards have been purchased and will come with your membership card. Lost lanyards will not be replaced.

Applications will be available to download and print off. They are not available to be completed on line.

The membership cost next year will continue to be \$35.00.

Michele Varin, Newsletter

The current newsletter has been sent out

Roxanne Williams, Historian
Status quo

Pat Kiley – Hospitality
Thank you for the wonderful treats.

Patricia Andraka, Maria Knight, Website

Status Quo

Comfort Quilts

The Boutique will be present at the May in-person meeting but on a smaller scale. Since it's inception the Boutique has raised over \$11,000. for our quild.

Cindy Cory, Door Prizes

Door prizes were presented beautifully wrapped and additional Jelly Roll sets were made available. Thank you for a wonderful job.

Peggy Lane, Education Committee

Peggy explained the story behind the quilt that she brought to display to the members. It was discovered by an older gentleman who found it in his aunt's attic after she had died. It is a quilt that was available through a newspaper ad in the 1960s. It is believed that the pattern cost a dollar for each part of the quilt. Represented on the quilt is each state and the corresponding state flower. It is all hand embroidered. When given to Peggy the quilt top was pieced but not quilted. Tina provided the batting, Karen provided the backing and Lisa Bagian provided the free motion quilting. The quilt was displayed to the membership and a discussion followed about what might be a reasonable price to attach to the quilt when it is put on display for sale at the quilt show. There were a few ideas on possible prices. The topic will continue at a future date.

Louise Pankiewicz, Special Events

The bus trip to Hartford, Connecticut is sold out and ready to go. There is a new trip planned to go to the New England Quilt Museum and then on to shop at the Bits and Pieces fabric store that is nearby. The cost will be \$60.00, and your reservation must be paid to be confirmed for the trip.

Louise also mentioned that Tina Craig is going to be teaching a quilting class on a Holland Cruise Line Quilting Cruise in September 2027.

Tina Zuffoletti, Facebook
Status quo.

Alice Hourihan, New England Quilt Museum

Alice thanked everyone who donated items for the silent auction. She believes that there will be over 60 items for the auction. She also thanked those who have volunteered to help with set up, staffing and breakdown on Sunday. She is still looking for another cashier for Sunday afternoon so if you are interested, please sign up on the quilt show sign up sheet (or let her know).

One of the current exhibits at the museum is "Blue on Blue: Quilts from 1825 - 2025" till April 11th. Alice will be visiting the museum shortly will tell you more about that exhibit after today's meeting.

From May 11 - 16th any NBQA members can visit the museum for free. Just give them your name. "Soul Stories: Threads of Existence," will be on exhibit at that time. This exhibit comes to the museum from the International Quilt Show in Houston. NBQA will be taking a bus trip to the museum during that week on Wednesday, May 13th.

In April at our membership meeting, our guest speaker will be Pam Weeks, curator of the museum.

Show and Tell

Many beautiful pieces were shared.

OTHER:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Next General Membership in-person meeting will be April 17th, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Iris, Secretary