

NBQA General Membership Meeting

April 16, 2026 – United Methodist Church of East Greenwich

6:30-8:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Robin Gardner set up the computer and explained that this was the first time that she had set up a Zoom for NBQA. There were some technical difficulties that were overcome with some teamwork to get the visual and audio to cooperate. Robin quickly introduced Pam Weeks, from the New England Quilt Museum, the speaker for the evening. Pam explained that she was the person responsible for organizing exhibits and creating collections of various themes. The concept for the museum began in the 1970's when a group of women gathered and wanted to gather materials to educate and inspire others in the art of quilting. During the 1980's they worked to create an inventory and earn money for the project by creating a huge mural. In 1988 they opened in a small space where they were housed until 1992. At that point they moved to the current location which is a building in an area that was bringing an historic area back to life. This building used to be a bank and has served the museum well.

There are always 10 quilts on display quarterly in the Main Gallery. In addition to that they also have a Genre Gallery and an area that displays antique quilts. Over the years that Genre Gallery has displayed Contemporary and Traditional Exhibits, Art Quilts and has a few repeating exhibits with 16 contemporary quilts and another featuring a miniature collection. Other exhibits include their Summer Celebration featuring that work of local guilds, the New England Artist exhibit, and the Political/Social Justice Sewing Academy, Clothing from the 19th century and soft sculpture that features books and dolls made of fabric. Pam pointed out that they also have a large lending library with an online catalogue. The museum will send the book to you.

In the permanent collection they have over 500 quilts, 200 objects related to quilting, antique sewing machines, thimbles, unfinished tops and blocks, doll beds and miniature quilts for them.

You can contact the museum at www.NEQM.org

At 7:12 Gail called the meeting to order and asked Louise to explain the next field trip which will be going to the NEQM. It has been scheduled for May 13, 2026. The cost will be \$60.00. The bus will leave at 8:30 a.m. and drop everyone off at the museum. After that they will go to Bits and Pieces in New Hampshire.

She welcomed everyone and asked if there were any new members present and got no response.

The next order of business was to accept the minutes from the last meeting. She asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the March 19, 2026, General Membership meeting that was emailed to all? There were no corrections, so Gail made the motion to accept the minutes of the March 19, 2026, meeting. All were in favor: the motion passed.

REPORTS

Gail Macera, President

Gail reminded the audience that there are going to be vacancies on the Board at the end of the year. Robin Gardner, Nomination Chair, spoke and let everyone know that names that have been put forth at this time will not be released prior to the election. Historically, when that is done people don't/won't offer to run because they feel it has already been taken care of. All members have skills and talents and are welcome to offer to use them to contribute to the board. Please consider volunteering for a position.

Tina Zuffoletti, Vice President

Raffle tickets are still available and will be for sale at the Quilt Show. The drawing will be held and the last meeting of the year.

Joan Potter, Quilt Show update

All hanging equipment will be picked up at the Seabee Museum at 10:45 a.m. and dropped off at the West Warwick Civic Center immediately.

There is a sign-up sheet at the front door. Please check it and fill in the blanks.

For those who have volunteered be sure to get tickets at the NBQA table during the show. You get 1 ticket for every hour that you help. This includes those who worked at the Exeter Library for the judging as well.

Food on Friday and throughout the show will be on a pot luck basis. Please bring what you can. There is a classroom set aside for this so that you can eat and take a break away from the crowd.

There will be a list of volunteers and their positions at the NBQA table.

Quilts will be dropped off from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. During that time other volunteers will be setting up the hanging units and then will work in teams to hang all of the pieces submitted.

Members will be allowed to attend the show for free. All others will pay \$10.00 which will allow them entry for both days.

There are anniversary tote bags available for \$30.00.

There are 3 scrap books that will be available at the meeting and at the show. When you are looking through them, please add information if you can. There will be pencils available.

If you have baskets for the basket raffle you can bring them to the table at the Civic Center around 10:00a.m.

Marylou Umbriano, Traveling Treasurer

The report was given by Gail. Marylou was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances.

Marylou moved \$5,000 from the saving account to the checking account to cover the expenses of the quilt show and cash boxes. The balance is now \$15,247.00. The account made \$18.65 in interest for the month of March. The CD balance is \$8,406.88. The checking account is \$9,445.41 minus the outstanding checks totaling \$4,517.06 when cashed leaving a balance of \$4,928.35. She will have the check book with her on Saturday and Sunday if you have any expenses you need to be reimbursed for, please fill out an expense sheet for reimbursement along with your receipts. She gave Gail some expense sheets that will be available this evening and at the show. All the money cash bags are assembled and ready to go for Saturday morning.

Gail made a motion to accept the Treasurers' report. There were no objections: the motion passed

Karen Iris, Secretary

Quilts of Valor: Karen reported that all is going very well. Currently, we are still sewing on Wednesday mornings. The Seabees will be opening on Friday May 1st so that we will have an available restroom. In addition, the auxiliary bathroom will have running water so that we will be able to sew on days when the Museum is closed. We will be able to hold presentation ceremonies on Sundays from now until winter as needed.

For planning purposes, the hut will continue to be open for sewing on Wednesdays and folks can sew on:

Friday May 1st and Saturday May 2nd

Friday May 15th and Saturday May 16th

Friday June 5th and Saturday June 6th

The last dates are QOV National Catch-Up days to make quilt tops to be able to drape over 400 veterans across the country who have been waiting for up to and over 2 years to receive a quilt.

Programs, Lisa Bagian and Robin Gardner

Kassie and Billie will be holding their workshop on May 23, 2026. At this point it will be at the church

The title of the class is "Potato Chip Twist. Be sure to sign up.

Sheri Bolduc, Pat Hendrickson, Membership

Membership now is at 175. There were 70 members at this evenings meeting.

Michele Varin, Newsletter

Michele had to teach and was not at the meeting.

Roxanne Williams, Historian

Roxanne was celebrating her husband's birthday.

Pat Kiley

Peggy Lane, Education Committee

Peggy reported that her committee will be having two sessions at the Narragansett Library prior to the start of warmer weather and beach traffic. She will also be having a session at the Warwick Library using a patriotic theme. She is talking with the staff at the North Kingstown Library to make plans to start a class there.

Patricia Andraka, Maria Knight, Website

The website is OK.

Comfort Quilts

There will be a Boutique at the May meeting, but it will be on a smaller scale. The Boutique has brought in \$11,000.

Tina Zuffoletti, Facebook Status

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Alice Hourihan, New England Quilt Museum

The silent auction has 78 items currently. A few people brought more items to donate. These will be held and used for the next quilt show.

Cindy Corey, Door Prizes

Nancy and Cindy had handmade origami flower bouquets in origami vases to use as door prizes.

The colors of the various flowers were just beautiful and there were many happy winners taking flowers home.

Show and Tell: There was no time set aside for Show and Tell at this meeting.

OTHER

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. The next General Membership in-person meeting will be May 21st, 2026. We will hold our annual Strawberry Social and elect Officers.

The drawing for the raffle quilt will also be held, and the Summer Challenge will be introduced.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Iris, Secretary