

THE MACHINE QUILTER

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 2

SPRING 2023

APRIL 22, 2023 MTG

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Sandy Gard

Vice Pres: Audrey Gramling

Secretary: Rita Tornaten

Treasurer: Colleen Billen

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Website: Alan Hawkins

Membership: Annette Bean

Publicity: **OPEN**

Programs: **OPEN**

Newsletter: Audrey Gramling



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

SANDY GARD

Hello Quilters,

As most of you know I am stepping in for Diane as president. I have been away from our group for awhile due to family issue but coming back stepping in for Diane has felt like being home. What I have missed so much is the true friendship we share as a group. We met at our new location, Beth's Quilting Quarters in Blanchard. We had a wonderfully large and very well lit room where we will have opportunity to use the longarm machines or set up to sew on our own projects. Beth's sister, Laura, spoke to us and gave us a wonderful overview of the shop and their quilting operation. The shop is beautiful and is very well stocked. We had a shopping time and we enjoyed shopping and visiting.

Our next meeting we will have Mary Fisher as our speaker. It will be a very informative and hands on meeting so please plan to attend.

When I joined the group, Al Coster was president. He gave a talk on machine tension and I have used his advice every time I have an issue. When I was exploring buying the Intelliquilter, I called Al, Marilyn Karper, Leignann Dalke and Nancy Griffin. I knew they would have excellent advice. Al said buy the best you can afford. I was leaning toward buying the lower package but after talking to him, I bought the best and I am glad I did. He always had good advice and always had a smile on his face. When I heard of his passing I just couldn't hold back the tears. He is the kind of guy you thought would be there forever. I was blessed to have him as a friend and I will miss him. Please say extra prayers for his wife Carol as she navigates her new journey.

See you at the next meeting.

Piece out,
Sandy

A NOTE FROM THE VP: Audrey Gramling

Greetings! Like Gerald Ford I'm now in a position to which I was never elected. Yikes! I have also agreed to put together this quarter's newsletter but we are going to need to find someone willing to take one of these positions at our summer meeting. So...be thinking about volunteering before we have to institute a draft. 😊



I was excited when Beth offered her space for our meetings since this store is only a few miles from my house. Then I had to miss our first meeting there. Mike and I took a two week road trip, during which we spent a weekend with my mom in Searcy, Arkansas and visited Paducah during “Quilt Week” (us and a billion other folks). Of course, one of my sisters brought me a quilt to quilt for her when I was with Mom and I picked up a ‘little’ fabric in Paducah. Now, I’m playing catch up and making plans to attend the Kansas City quilt show next month on a bus with the Edmond Guild. Hope you are taking time to refresh and take in a little inspiration too. I look forward to seeing you in July! Audrey

OKMQA Minutes of April 22, 2023

Meeting Location: Beth’s Quilting Quarters, 114 N. Main, Blanchard, OK

1. Meeting was called to order at our new location by President, Sandy Gard.
2. We welcomed three (3) new members to the group who introduced themselves and shared a little about the machines they are using.
3. Minutes from the January 14, 2023 meeting were presented to members for review/comment. Nancy Griffin moved to approve the minutes as written, Mary Marlatt seconded, and the motion was approved by member vote.
4. Members were provided with an updated Budget/Treasury report. Due to errors in the January 2023 budget report, a revised report was presented showing updated 2023 projected expenses. After discussion, a motion was made by Cathy Holdeman to re-approve the budget as corrected, Joyce Curtis seconded the motion, and it was approved by member vote.
5. Committee reports:
 - a. Same-but-Different quilts are being stored by Annette Bean who will be checking with COQG in anticipation of displaying them in the upcoming quilt show/booth to promote OKMQA.
 - b. Newsletter: If you have something to include in the next newsletter, email to Audrey Gramling as soon as possible (audreylms@yahoo.com).

- c. Membership: Annette Bean reported that we have 29 members, including 3 who joined today! (Note: OKMQA website for mailing membership registration needs to be updated with Annette's new address).
 - d. Positive Tomorrow Quilt Project: As previously stated, Joyce Curtis can use additional machine quilters if anyone has time and is willing. She has several groups who assist with sewing the tops, and finishing the binding, but the backlog occurs with trying to get the machine quilting done.
6. Activities: Discussion of the proposed 2023 Mystery Project activity was held to see if there was enough member interest to continue. Special shout out for Nancy Griffin who presented a completed project from initial instructions! Based on group feedback, this activity will proceed as described below:
- January instructions: 1) Think about how you want to use your project. Will it be a gift, holiday decoration, table runner/topper, wall or bed quilt? With these thoughts in mind choose fabrics. 2) Piece or Appliqué 3 theme blocks. Size is your choice. Bonus: points for additional blocks.
 - April instructions: 1) Frame your 3 theme blocks as you wish (i.e., simple one color fabric frame on all four sides of the block, simple frame with multiple fabrics, etc.); 2) Each of the following must appear on the front of the quilt: A pinwheel, a Nine-patch, and a heart.
 - July hint: Something prominent will be assigned to serve as a focal point.
 - October: The big reveal and prizes will be awarded.
7. Old business: None
8. New business:
- a. Discussion was held at the January meeting related to possibly increasing membership dues for the Group. The intent is to generate additional funds which can be used to present speakers and programs that might stimulate interest and growth in the Group. The motion was made by Nancy Griffin to raise dues from \$15/year to \$25/year. The motion was seconded by Annette Bean and approved by member vote. New rates will go into effect at the next annual renewal in October.
 - b. Brochure Development: Discussed creating a brochure with information on OKMQA with names of those members who quilt for the public. Brochures could be distributed at quilt shows, local stores, etc. and provide additional advertising for the Group. Annette Bean has the list of individuals and Karen Candler agreed to work on creating a document which could be printed (tri-fold format) for distribution.
9. Program: Laura from Beth's Quilting Quarters (www.bethsquiltingquarters.com), spoke to the group, describing the history of how the shop began. She provided a comprehensive overview of the services offered from fabric, notions, patterns, thread, classes, and much more! Additionally, Beth's shop has four (4) Innova longarm machines used to provide customer machine quilting. Laura also offered advice for those interested in quilting for the public (importance of measuring top in both directions, wavy borders, documenting any issues identified).

FYI: In the presentation, Laura made mention of the fact that fabric softener should **NOT** be used on minky. Following is information found on the web (www.softminkyblankets.com) about

this: Minky Blanket fibers are very fine. If the blanket is washed with fabric softener, the water has a hard time pulling the softener from the blanket fibers. It will get trapped between the fibers and harden when it dries, leaving your blanket feeling crusty.”

10. Show & Share
11. Announcements: Remaining meetings for this year are July 15th and October 28th.
12. Door prizes
13. Meeting adjourned

(Minutes recorded by Rita Torneten)



REQUEST

Please fill out a **NEW** membership/registration form. [The new form includes additional information to help us serve our quilting community.]

***Form available on our webpage:**

<http://okmqa.org/Member%20Registration%20Form.pdf>

Mail to:

Annette Bean

OKMQA Membership

PO Box 720651

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73172

Thank you, Beth Soward for sharing your lovely “Gathering Place” space with our group!

&

Thank you, Laura Clark for giving us an overview of the shop and services available at Beth’s Quilting Quarters.

A few pictures from the April meeting's "Show and Share":













***Our next meeting is scheduled for
10 a.m., July 15, 2023 at
Beth's Quilting Quarters
114 N. Main Street, Blanchard, OK.
Bring a friend!***