

Welcome to Riverwalk Quilters Guild

(www.riverwalkquilters.com)

Welcome to our guild! This packet is designed to provide information to you and to answer frequently asked questions, whether you are new to the guild or to the Naperville area. We hope the information will enable you to understand the “guildspeak” you hear at meetings and will make your membership more enjoyable and productive.

In this packet you will find a pattern for a guild badge. Members are encouraged to sew their own name badge and wear it to our meetings. This official name badge is required for members to be eligible for the door prizes given out regularly at our monthly meetings.

Also included is a new member questionnaire. We ask that you take a few moments to fill out the questionnaire, so we can get to know you better. You can turn it in at the membership table or to any guild officer, or mail it to the guild at P.O. Box 5092, Naperville, IL 60567.

If you need specifics about any of the following information, a copy of the guild by-laws and policies and procedures is available on our website or upon request. And of course, you can always direct questions to any board member, who will be happy to help you.

History

RQG was officially founded in June 1994, by a dedicated group of quilters who thought there was a need for an organized group in Naperville. Nearly 200 people attended the first meeting. Many were inexperienced quilters who had never belonged to a guild. Many of the charter members are still members today!

Goals

The main goals of the guild are as follows:

- To promote a continuing interest in quilting in the Naperville area
- To work with other groups that have a similar interest in quilting
- To provide education for guild members on quilting and quilt-related topics
- To sponsor or support local philanthropic efforts

Organization

The guild is governed by a set of by-laws, and policies and procedures. A board of officers and chairpersons meet approximately once a month to discuss guild business and make decisions. A list of the board members and chairpersons is available on our website and in our monthly newsletter.

Meetings

Meetings are held 12 months per year, generally on the second Tuesday of the month, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church. Visitors are welcome (\$10.00 guest fee). A typical meeting consists of a short business meeting, followed by an

educational program conducted by a professional quilter/speaker. The guild tries to provide a varied mix of quilting topics. Refreshments are served. Meetings usually include a "Show N' Tell" segment, where members are able to share their recent quilting accomplishments. At most monthly meetings, the guild library is open so that members can borrow from our wide selection of quilting books, and see what new books the guild has acquired.

A few times during the year, the meeting takes on a different format. In January, the guild has a New Year's party, which generally consists of a potluck dinner, fun social activities, and a quilter's resale shop. In the fall, one month is set aside for the guild's annual small quilt auction. Quilts provided by RQG members are auctioned by a professional auctioneer in order to raise money for the guild's upcoming programs. It is an evening of excitement and fun, and guests are admitted free of charge. The guild has also held a fashion show with garments made by members, and a "schoolhouse" meeting, where continuing demonstrations are given on a variety of new techniques.

The guild also holds philanthropic sew-ins, which provide an opportunity for guild members to gather for several hours of sewing/quilting to make quilts for people in need. (See the section called "Philanthropic Activities" for more specifics.)

Workshops

The guild sponsors workshops several times per year, often the day of, or a few days after a speaker's program. Workshops are a fun and affordable way for guild members to learn new quilting techniques or improve their current skills. The fees charged for workshops are to cover costs, and guild members are given preference for available slots.

Membership

Membership is open to all interested individuals, from beginners to experienced quilters. Annual dues are \$35.00. The guild year runs from July 1 through June 30. Anyone wishing to join after January 1 is charged a pro-rated fee of \$20.00 for the remainder of the guild year. Guests who pay a guest fee one month, and join the guild the following month, can apply their \$10.00 guest fee to their annual dues. We ask that each person, member or guest, sign in at the membership table at monthly meetings and wear a name badge so we can get to know each other better.

Philanthropic Activities

As mentioned above, the guild sponsors an annual sew-in for charity. On an ongoing basis, guild members sew quilts to donate to non-profit charitable organizations such as The Sharing Connection or Edward Hospital's child abuse clinic. Quilt kits are available each month from the philanthropy chairperson, or members may make quilts using their own supplies. Members are welcome to donate fabric for the philanthropy kits. In the past, the guild has donated quilts, money, or supplies to area charities.

Fundraising Activities

RQG conducts three major fund-raising activities:

A quilt auction – held each Fall at a regular monthly meeting

A quilt raffle – held every other year, or more often if the membership chooses

A major quilt show or gathering which is open to the public, held when the membership chooses

Each of these events is important in providing the guild with revenue to finance programs. Each requires a separate chairperson(s) and long-range planning.

Communications

Each guild member receives a monthly newsletter as well as an annual membership directory, which are sent free by e-mail or by regular mail for an additional annual fee of \$12.00. Please contact either the newsletter editor or the membership chairpersons to receive the newsletter and the directory by US Mail. The membership directory is intended for personal use only.

Getting Involved

Volunteering is a great way for any new member to get to know other members and feel at home in the guild. With either a small or large job, short-term or long-term responsibility (such as a board member or committee chair), new members can make a contribution and make friends while doing so.

Bees The guild has several bees, which are small groups organized to meet separately from the guild. They offer members a chance to participate in hands-on quilting projects and share friendships. Bees are generally formed to match quilters who have similar goals, skills, and time availability.

Volunteering Each member is obliged to volunteer for guild activities. The guild has many opportunities for members to help at monthly meetings (hospitality, library assistants, “Show N’ Tell” or speaker’s assistants). There is also a great need for members to help on an annual basis either as board members or chairpersons. Most of the board or committee chair positions do not require any special knowledge or skill. For more information on volunteering, please consult the guild by-laws or contact one of the guild board members.

Finally, remember that each person in the guild, including a newcomer, is a valued member! Your questions, ideas and comments are welcome. Whether from experience with a previous guild, or work or volunteer experience, new members can bring a fresh perspective to our group, and that helps our guild to continually improve.

Welcome and enjoy being a part of the Riverwalk Quilters Guild!