



# Stitching Memories Quilt Guild

March 2017

## President's Message by Sharon Pulis

Easter is upon us, and the green grass is growing! Doesn't the whole outdoors look fresh, alive and thankful to our God for this beautiful world we live in, as we share these joys with our friends and neighbors.

The quilt show is now just 13 months away. Does that seem possible? I hope all those wonderful quilts are coming along, as well as the Challenge aprons and bonnets. I have a new idea for my apron & bonnet as I have the cutest granddaughter-in-law who has a new passion that she is so excited about. So, my challenge will be for her with a humorous story about her. She makes life so interesting and is such a joy to have in our family.

I might remind you again of the One Stop Two Shops April 20-22<sup>nd</sup> in Chickasha at Quilts by Gail and Steelman's. There are some very interesting programs coming up in the next few months. April's program is Leslie Lamb on "Modern Quilt Guild", so invite your quilting friends to come join us. The OHCE Barn Quilt Show is in October. All our guild members are invited to participate in this. More details about this will be given soon.

I want to thank Judy Hawkins for filling in for me in March. It allowed me to visit my sister again in St. Louis. It always pleases her so much when we show up and surprise her. I hope everyone has a blessed Easter and remember the real reason for celebrating this season. Hope to see all of you at our meeting the day after Easter.

- Reminder-Membership dues need to be paid at the April meeting

### Treasurer's Report by Brenda Keller

Beginning Balance	\$5,407.01
Disbursements Storage R us	102.00
Ending Balance	\$5,305.01

### SMQG Minutes

March 20, 2017

Stitching Memories Quilt Guild meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. Monday, February 20, 2017 by Vice President Judy Hawkins, in the absence of President Sharon Pulis, who welcomed all the members and thanked the hostesses.

Vice President Hawkins asked for prayer requests and received a request for Deb Curry's mother, who was having surgery.

Vice President Hawkins reminded the members of the class on Barn Quilts hosted by OHCE at the Fairgrounds March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, day class 9:30 am – 3:00 pm and evening class 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Also, the "One Stop Two Stops Shop Hop" April 20, 21 & 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 am – 5:30 pm in Chickasha at Quilts by Gail and Steelman's Framing, Gifts & Sew Much More.

The members were also reminded to bring fat quarters for the 2018 Quilt Show.

Claudette Atwood made a motion to accept the February member meeting minutes as presented in the newsletter. Linda Dennis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Donna Rice made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Cindy Long seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Those with March birthdays, Martha Walker and Jonni Bevins, were presented with a fat quarter. No further business, the meeting adjourned, and members presented their Show-n-Tell projects.

Gail Bush presented the program on "Preparing a Quilt for the Quilter".

Claudette Atwood  
Secretary



## Birthdays

Nonie Evans 14th



## Refreshments

### Savory

Cindy Long

Linda Dennis

Sharon Pulis

### Sweet

Cindy Long

Caroline McCarley

Judy Taff

## Feeling Froggy



This is an example of Shirley Burns' program

## 2017 Program Calendar

April	Leslie Lamb	Modern Quilt Guild
May	Donna Klein	Dresden Quilt Block
June	Shirley Burns	Feeling Froggy
July	Angie Lewis	Tips & Tricks
Aug	Carol Capshaw	Pieced Letters

If anyone hears of an interesting program, please contact Judy Hawkins.



### Tips from Gail-Preparing Your Quilt for Long Arm Quilting

- **Accuracy** is the single most important issue. Make sure top & backing are super square (90degrees corners). This prevents tucks, puckers, & wavy borders. Use large square ruler or two together to straighten your quilt.
- Press the top and stay stitch any pieced edges for stability(1/8" from raw edge)
- Remove extra threads & animal hair.
- To prevent wrinkling, fold the quilt in accordion fold that are parallel to top & bottom of quilt. Hang over a padded coat hanger.
- If you are providing batting, prewash or preshrink if necessary. Some batting has 6% shrinkage rate. Quilting also reduces the size of the quilt. If you don't preshrink, you can lose 10" on a 100 sq. inch quilt. Follow mfg. direction & discuss batting choices with your quilter. If your batting comes folded, open it & let it relax before taking it to the quilter. You may place it in the dryer w/damp cloth to eliminate wrinkles. Prewash cotton batting if it has cotton seed husks that will later leak oil. You will need to provide a batt & backing that is at least 6" larger than top.
- **Cotton vs Synthetic.**
- Batting is a critical component of your finished quilt. Poly batting may be less expensive, but can have their own set of issues. We have many quilts that are still in excellent conditions from the 1800s. Cotton batts were the only batting available & they've withstood the test of time. Poly can breakdown or stretch, & a quilt with a high loft when made may ultimately lose loft. They tend to dull needles faster. Poly is slippery & can lead to unintentional puckers & tuck.
- We prefer cotton, or an 80% cotton/20% poly blend or even wool. We carry 17 different types of batting & we do preshrink for our customers if they prefer.

Cotton/poly batting drape is wonderful & since cotton & cotton blends "stick" to the top & the back, there is never any shifting of the layers.

- **Wavy Border Syndrome**—walk a quilt show & you'll see loads of quilts hanging with wavy borders. Several problems cause them. Preparation & proper technique will prevent wavy borders.
- Borders should always be cut parallel to the selvage of the fabric. Cut the selvage off & purchase enough fabric (if possible) that you can cut the border in one piece. You can piece the borders if necessary, but you lose some of the strength of the long fibers in the weave. If you cut parallel to the selvage, these fibers are intact & won't stretch as much as if you cut the borders on the cross grain of the fabric.
- Fold your top in half, after pressing & squaring, measure along the center fold to determine the length of your borders. Cut the borders to this measurement & make the quilt edges fit the border. If you make the borders fit the edges, it is easy to have one side of the quilt longer than the other. You can end up with a great deal of distortion & tucks. After cutting the borders to the measurement of the center fold, fold the border & mark half & quarter points w/pins. Do the same to the edge of quilt, match these & sew the borders on. Measure each time you add another border.
- **Piecing the Backing**—There are now many wide-back fabrics on the market. Be aware that these generally shrink much worse than the standard widths of cotton. Buy plenty & preshrink it by evenly wetting it & putting it in a medium hot dryer. Stores usually use a rotary cutter to cut your yardage, which isn't very useful for wide-backs. Buy enough that you can tear each end to make sure the backing is truly on grain & square. An extra half yard is recommended. If you aren't using a wide-back fabric, chances are you will need to piece the backing. The best way to piece the backing is to have all seams parallel to the top & bottom edge of the quilt top. After removing all the selvages, sew the sections together using a 1/2" seam allowance, & press all seams to one side, not open. This strengthens the seam. If it's pressed open, the only thing holding the seam together is the threads that travel between the two pieces. Many quilts go on beds & are sat on, jumped on, etc. These seams can easily split if pressed open. Create a backing that is 6" larger than the quilt top. When delivering your quilt, pin a paper on front & back to indicate the top edges. If you have thoughts about how the backing needs to be positioned let your quilter know.
- Consider theme, design, and patterns for the quilting. Decide on threads. While waiting on your quilter to call make the label for quilt.



## Quilt Show News

- Keep bringing in your FQs for the Batiks/Brights and the Traditional/Mixed raffle baskets, also sewing notions for the Sewing Basket. Please give these to Kay Gray or Gloria O'Neal
- Country Store ideas. Quality not quantity. Trendy items, something you would buy.

Carol Capshaw, Quilt Show Chairman

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