

Minutes of the Hybrid General Meeting, via Zoom

Oregon Coastal Quilters Guild

November 11, 2021

The meeting, a hybrid of in-person and via Zoom, was called to order by President Meralee Wilson at 1:07 p.m.

Becky Mershon moved to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2021, General meeting. Roseanne Berton seconded the Motion. The Motion passed, and the Minutes were approved without objection.

GENERAL AND COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Meralee Wilson announced the membership would vote on the slate of officers at the December General Meeting. Diane Tillotson moved to accept the slate of officers. Becky Mershon seconded the Motion. The Motion passed without objection.

Membership: Patti Stephens advised that the Guild has 168 members, and 37 members attended today's meeting in person. The Membership Committee is currently working on the 2022 Directory. Patti announced that if any member knows of a business interested in advertising in the Directory, that member should inform the Membership Committee.

Community Quilters: Melissa Hollenbeck announced that Quilt Kits are all cut out and ready to be picked up. Melissa also told the membership the yacht Club needs flags sewn.

Veterans' Projects: Rose Shaw announced some kits need to be sewn. There are four bags of leftover binding and elastic. In addition, the next sew-in is Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at the Siletz Grange, with a presentation at 2:30 p.m.

Quilter's Surprise: Debbie Mosley announced she would like four Christmas Quilts to hang at the Rec Center. Each Christmas Quilt must have a label and hanging sleeve.

Challenge Quilt: Nan Scott announced she would send out an announcement to all members. Nan Scott's proposal includes a provision that anything quilted will be auctioned at the end of the Challenge Quilt process and the proceeds donated to plant trees in Oregon.

Programs: Jane Szabo announced that the workshop on Disappearing Blocks starts on Friday, November 12, 2021, at 9:15 a.m. The program for the December General Meeting is "*Sometimes a Great Notion.*"

Having no further business, Jane Szabo introduced Mary Ann McCannon and her presentation entitled "Quilts for Empowerment."

Ms. McCannon began her presentation with the note that this was a story about bringing quilts to goats and girls. Ms. McCannon focuses on assisting marginalized women. She is retired and, beginning upon her retirement, taught quilting at Coffee Cree and then I Quadros, Mexico. She then learned about women in Kenya who suffer from Fistula, which occurs after a strenuous

birthing process. Although the condition can be repaired surgically, it is very difficult for these women to find the money or means for such medical treatment.

In 2015, Ms. McCannon was in Kenya working with teenage girls but says this was a wasted effort. So in 2017, she formed a not-for-profit in Oregon designed to empower women through quilting. In 2018, she welcomed her first three quilters to the not-for-profit. Her charity does not pay for Fistula repairs, which cost approximately \$400.00. Instead, the Fistula Foundation pays the surgery and medical expenses, a separate legal entity from her not-for-profit. Ms. McCannon teaches women who have never quilted basic stitches, but she runs into two problems. First, most Kenyans don't like criticism, and second, they do not like being told what to do.

By April 2018, the not-for-profit had eleven quilters who had learned to quilt and do applique. But there is no electricity and, therefore, the women have to sew outside in the daylight. The Kenyan quilters produce bags on treadle sewing machines, and they are paid each month for their products. The money is deposited into an account for a support group, and funds are withdrawn for health insurance. She struggles to teach the quilters to save the money they each earn because Kenyans are so generous they give their money to needy friends and relatives.

In April 2019, the not-for-profit sponsored a two-day training course on saving and investing \$100.00. As a result, many women purchased goats and, now, cows (each cow costs \$100.00). In addition, the goats require shelters which each costs \$120.00. By the end of 2019, the program became self-supporting.

In February 2019, the speaker created a program for girls living in abusive homes or victims of sexual violence. The first two girls in the program were Anne, who was eight, and Sharon, who was ten. The girls were both sick and malnourished and had to learn coping strategies. The two keys to the success of this program have been trauma therapy and group therapy. Each girl has a U.S. Sponsor who pays \$100.00 per month to help just one girl.

In 2020, the not-for-profit built an entire compound. In addition, there are preliminary plans to build a three-story structure that would be part of the compound. Ideally, the building will have a kitchen, dining room, laundry room with machines, therapy rooms on the first floor, a dormitory on the second floor, and residential assistants living on the third floor.

The initiatives for 2022 are to keep the girls in school and ensure the girls' continued safety by teaching safety and self-esteem behaviors. Unfortunately, the Kenyan government has not cooperated in any of the speaker's initiatives, and, more often than not, bribes are necessary to accomplish anything.

The speaker completed her presentation at 2:00 p.m., the meeting broke for ten minutes and resumed at 2:10 p.m.

Drawing for Nifty Notions:

Roseanne Berton won a "Stash and Store."

Jane Szabo won an Aliso Iron.

Show and Share:

Teecia Cornelius shared a Christmas Quilt in reds, greens, and browns, a black and white house quilt with colorful windows, and a quilt showcasing a thistle, the national flower of Scotland.

Lisa Taylor quilted the thistle quilt.

Diane Tillotson shared an autumn quilt in an Irish chain variation.

Jean Amundson shared her quilt of sweet peonies from the Emily Taylor collage workshop.

Jane Szabo shared her collage quilt of colorful flowers with green leaves from the Emily Taylor workshop and her colorful miniature quilt of 100 blocks.

Jackie Stankey shared one quilt in red, white, and black.

Pamela Potter shared her grouping of seven quilted placemats.

Toni Brody shared a lavishly embellished crazy quilt.

Darcy de la Rosa shared a quilt in a Churn Dash design which started from a Block of the Month in 2010 and a tote bag made out of mesh and fabric.

Paulette Stenberg shared a “leftovers” quilt of stars in a single Irish chain design.

REMINDERS:

A reminder to the executive board – the next meeting is Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

There will not be a meeting of the Executive Board in December.

The next guild meeting, via Zoom, is Thursday, December 9, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.

Community Quilters will meet on December 2, 2021

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara L. Kinzel, Secretary.