



Empire Quilters Board Meeting Minutes May 16, 2011

Attendees: Paula Kenney, Alice Brody, Beth Pile, Anna Krassy, Jennifer Bigelow, JoAnn Gatch, Beth Pile, Gail Lefton, Mary Butler, Mindy Wexler Marks, Véronique Milliez, Lisa Kehrle, Larry Gifford, Sylvia Hughes, Sandi Howell

Meeting called to order by Paula Kenney at 11:00 AM.

Minutes of the April 9, 2011 meeting accepted and April Treasurer's Report

Report approved as appeared in the Newsletter.

Website: Cindy Russell has written a letter to the Board stating that as of the end of this year, she will no longer be able to update and maintain our website. She will update the site until the end of this year's meeting cycle. She further states as the technology for websites has changed so much since she created ours, we will need to develop a new one. We need to make decisions as to how to proceed from here. We need to decide what we want on the site, can we afford a website as complete as the one we currently have, etc.? We will explore website designers and look at the set-up costs. We also must explore costs for ongoing maintenance of the site.

We will ask if any members have experience in website design and maintenance and can volunteer to work on it. We are establishing a project team to evaluate our needs and explore website designers. Jennifer Bigelow will organize a meeting. Several board members volunteered to participate.

Programs and Workshops: This year's expenses are \$12,000 which is within our budget. Costs are going up, and we must look carefully at our expenses for the next couple of years. Mary Butler suggests that we plan to limit ourselves to two speakers who are coming from far away as travel costs are escalating rapidly. She also said that BJ Adams is staying at a place which is far less expensive than the hotels we have used in the past. She will explore our using this place for subsequent speakers. We can save expense money for Anna Hergert as she will be staying with Alice Brody.

Treasurer's Report and Show Expenses: We still have not gotten all the bills for the show, so do not have a final accounting. It does appear as though we will have made a small profit, and there will be no loss to the Guild from show expenses.

Red and White Challenge: Beth Pile and Diane Rhode Schneck suggest that we have a Red and White challenge to the Guild members for the fall. People will be encouraged to make anything they wish using red and white as the color scheme. People can make a quilt, a garment, a doll or anything else which appeals. The items will be due at the October meeting and the items will be displayed. There will be Viewer's choice ballots distributed, and the winner will receive a small prize. The challenge will be announced at today's membership meeting.

Advertising rates for the Newsletter : The Board has agreed in principle that rates need to be raised for next year. Specifics will be discussed at the June Board meeting. Mindy Wexler-Marks, who is taking over newsletter advertising tasks, should bring copy of current rates sheet for review.

Membership Show Survey: JoAnn Gatch, Lisa Kehrle and Jennifer Bigelow are developing a survey to ask the Membership their opinion about the show, whether or not we should pursue a show again in two years, and how to elicit more membership participation if we are to go forward. The survey will be e-mailed to members with e-mail address and results presented after review by JoAnn, Lisa and Jennifer.

June Members Flea Market: Larry Gifford announced that all tables have been booked. No additional tables are available.

Submitted by Alice Brody