



## Empire Quilters Board Meeting Minutes January 10, 2009

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**Attendees:** Jennifer Bigelow, Mary Butler, Betty Chen, Aleeda Crawley, Lauren Dieterich, Lee Ebs, Anna Faustino, Carole Hoffman, Sylvia Hughes, Paula Kenney, Claire Leffel, Gail Lefton, Debra Levin, Veronique Milliez, Beth Pile, Rita Reid, Kitty Squire.

The meeting was called to order at 11:12 AM

**Minutes:** Kitty Squire made a motion to accept the minutes of December's meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Lauren Dieterich and passed by the Board.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Kitty Squire noted that she had found errors in the December report. She will redo the report for the February meeting and present the report of two (2) months at that time.

**Revoking of Membership:** President Jennifer Bigelow told us that today we would be discussing the revoking of membership of Nancy Castel. First we had to discuss some items regarding revoking a membership, since the by-laws do not have specifics regarding this point.

The following was decided:

- This year we will revoke the membership pro-rata, returning part of the member's dues that are left to the year if they are requested. If requested, the dues will be returned when the Membership Card is returned.
- After this, we will amend the By-Laws to reflect the following: The member will receive notice of the charges brought against him or her, and will have an opportunity to speak at the Board Meeting. In the future, membership will be revoked forever and the remaining dues will not be forfeited. The Membership Card must be returned.
- In addition, the person will not be able to participate in activities that are open to non-members, such as workshops, bus trips, etc. Such activities will be monitored and a "do not admit" list will be generated.

**Revoking of Nancy Castel's Membership:** The reasons given for the revoking of Nancy's membership were twofold:

1. In October, Paula Kenney had purchased six handmade bags from another member. Two of the bags were stolen from Paula during our meeting. In December, Nancy told Jennifer that she had been the person who stole the bags.
2. The director of **Materials for the Arts** told Jennifer that Nancy had posed as the representative of the Guild and obtained various items from them which had nothing to do with our organization. She told Jennifer that it was either "Nancy or us." Jennifer spoke to Nancy about this, but it was decided at that time that nothing would be done about it. When the theft took place, it was decided that it was an added reason to revoke Nancy's membership.

In defense of her actions, Nancy told us that when she took the bags, she thought they belonged to the person who sold them to Paula. She said that this third party had taken items from her and that when they were returned, she would return the bags to Paula.

Most members of the Board felt that any argument that Nancy had with a third party should have had nothing to do with the theft. Kitty Squire made a motion to revoke Nancy Castel's membership in the **Empire Quilters Guild** for cause. The motion was seconded by Lauren Dieterich. The vote was 17 Yes and 2 No. Nancy will be informed of our decision.

**Bus Trips:** Aleeda Crawley reported that there would be a trip to Winterthur on January 31st. In addition, she is ironing out the details for the trip to Paducah. The final details will appear on the website and in the newsletter.

**Workshops:** Mary Butler reported that we have 18 people for the Nancy Eha workshop. She needs white tablecloths for this workshop.

**Community Outreach:** We have been invited to once again do quilting demonstrations at the Morris-Jumel Mansion on February 21st and the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum on May 2nd. All interested parties should contact Mary Butler for more information.

**Programs:** Lee Ebs reported that we have had requests from a lot of guests for admission to the Jennifer Chiaverini program in April. We established that the main room on the 8th floor holds 200 people. The Auditorium holds 270 people. Kitty Squire made a motion to use the auditorium for the program in April. The motion was seconded by Lee Ebs and passed by the Board. Jennifer will confirm with FIT. We will put information on the web asking people to reserve seats and to pay in advance..

**Barnes and Noble** will be selling books at the April meeting, and the Guild will not be getting a fee. However, we will not be paying Jennifer for her appearance.

Gail Lefton made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Betty Chen and passed by the Board.

**Submitted by:** Gail Lefton, Secretary