

Overview of Quilters' Connection – Member's Handbook – Revised May 2017

History

In the fall of 1977, three friends, Linda Genovese, Nancy Nevola and Jane Phillips, met to a group that would become Quilters' Connection (QC). The first meeting was held on October 26, 1977. Within six months the group had grown to seventy members. In April 1978 the Guild held their first quilt show at the Unitarian Church in Arlington, MA. In these early days the stated purpose was 'to gather together all interested quilters to explore the world of patchwork and quilting, and to provide a meeting place for beginners as well as the experienced to exchange ideas, designs, techniques and workmanship.' The Articles of Organization Statement of Purpose is "to preserve and enhance the art and skill of quilting." In 2017 Quilters' Connection celebrates their 40th anniversary as an organized quilting guild.

Visions and Voices

Responding to the success of QC and the growing national recognition of the quilt as an art form—particularly although not exclusively a women's art form—QC completed a project that placed these issues in historical perspective. Compiled and edited by Verena Rybicki, former QC historian and archivist, the resulting book titled *Visions and Voices* (published in 2001) traces the history and development of QC and tells the stories of many of our members.

Organization

Quilters' Connection, Inc. is a nonprofit organization governed by an Executive Board and overseen by a Board of Directors. The eight voting members of the Executive Board are the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and the appointed chairs of the Membership, Newsletter, Program and Quilt Show committees. Executive Board meetings are held as needed, approximately 7-8 times each year. Any QC member can attend by notifying the President of his/her intention to do so. The time, date and place of each meeting is available through any Executive Board member. At our April Membership Meeting, a proposed slate of nominees for the following year's Executive Board is announced and also printed in the April issue of *Quiltations*. The slate is voted upon by the membership at our Annual Business Meeting in May. The Board of Directors consists of five voting members: they are the President, the immediate Past President and three members, each of whom has been a QC member for at least five years.

For twenty-seven years QC met at the Unitarian Church in Arlington, MA. Due to space limitations, the guild moved to the Arsenal Center for the Arts in 2005 and remained there until 2015. In 2015 we relocated to the Conference Center at Bentley University. At present the monthly Membership Meetings are held in Bentley's LaCava Building, 3rd Floor Executive Dining Room (EDR) at 175 Forest Street, Waltham, MA. Parking permits for Bentley are available at www.quiltersconnection.org

Membership Dues are \$45 per year.

Yearly membership, September 1 through August 31, is open to all who are interested in the art and craft of quilting. We welcome all levels of quilters; novice to more experienced. Those wishing to join QC should contact our Membership Chair via our website: www.quiltersconnection.org Our Membership Chair processes applications for new membership and renewals. Membership renewals are due by May 31st of each year.

QC has eight Membership Meetings annually. They are generally scheduled on Monday nights in September; October; November; January; February; March; April and May. Our Annual Business Meeting is held each May. We generally do not schedule a meeting in December.

QC members are encouraged to attend each of our membership meetings. Members are eligible for all workshops, may exhibit at the QC Quilt Show, have the right to vote, and may invite guests to our monthly meetings, at a fee of \$10/guest. We encourage members to volunteer. There are all sorts of great opportunities; assisting with the newsletter, helping with workshops, signing up to teach at our Winter Workshop event, making comfort quilts and Quilts of Valor for donations and helping with speaker set-up and take-down. You may also assist with advertising and quilt show planning, creation of our raffle quilts and ticket sales, as well as special events. Getting involved in the guild fosters new friendships and makes us a stronger guild. The more you volunteer, the more fun you will have!

Membership Meetings – Start Time is 7:00 PM The membership meeting generally lasts about 90 minutes. Once each year, QC schedules the ever popular Show & Tell. All members are encouraged to bring their latest work to share. Remaining monthly meetings feature speakers and sometimes trunk shows on all aspects of quilting—traditional to contemporary. Normally our evening's program starts with guild announcements followed by the scheduled program. Membership name cards should be worn at membership meetings and workshops for the benefit of all members. It is much easier to associate names with faces, and wearing your name tag is key! A membership list is available for members' use only and is not to be used for any commercial purposes.

Plan to arrive early, any time after 6:00 PM. Check in with Membership upon entering the meeting room. We generally have a variety of information tables, including but not limited to Adopt-A-Fabric (for members wishing to sell fabric, books and quilt related treasures) which enables each of us to get some bargains! Comfort Quilts usually has a table along with a variety of other informational stations. Members are welcome to leave handouts of general interest to QC members for shows, related workshops or fiber art events. There is generally space available near the Membership table.

It is the policy of QC to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and to accommodate members with special needs to the maximum extent possible. Our monthly meetings are held in a building that is multi elevator accessible to all. Seating is flexible and can be arranged to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers without difficulty.

Meeting Cancellations due to inclement weather or other emergencies follow the example of Bentley University. If in doubt, please check www.quiltersconnection.org as meeting or workshop cancellations will also be announced on the QC website. Emergency announcements are also sent to our email list by mid-afternoon of the meeting day. Further attempts will be made to contact members by phone or email.

Workshops

Throughout the year the guild sponsors a wide variety of workshops for QC members. Teachers include our own talented members, as well as visiting artists. A workshop schedule is posted on our

www.quiltersconnection.org website. Workshops are generally held at Bentley's Conference Center unless otherwise noted. QC members have the first option to sign up for upcoming workshops. Non-refundable payment is due at time of registration. If you are unable to attend, you can "sell" your space to another member.

Members' Quilt Show and Other Fund Raising Events

Our Quilt Show, held in the spring, is the culmination of our latest work. The non-juried exhibition of members' current work is open to all of our members. All exhibitors must volunteer a shift during the Show. As part of our fund-raising efforts, guild members are asked to contribute to a yearly raffle quilt by participating in the construction of the quilt and in the sale of raffle tickets. Each new design is anxiously awaited and the quilt is raffled at our Quilt Show. Money brought in by the sale of tickets helps defray the cost of operating our guild. The Quilt Show also includes a Boutique that sells the work of members. QC collects 20% of the selling price. Preparation begins several months in advance and volunteers are needed throughout the year for many jobs, large and small. The QC Members' Quilt Show displays the incredible talent of QC. In addition to our quilt show we also participate in other fund raising events.

Communications

Quiltations, our newsletter published monthly September through May, is emailed to all QC members. *Quiltations* includes articles by QC members and invited writers, a list of QC's monthly programs and workshops, and a "calendar" listing upcoming events of interest to quilters. It is our primary means of communication with QC members on the affairs of the guild. For Non-Members, a subscription to *Quiltations* alone is \$25 per year and is sent electronically.

Our **website** at www.quiltersconnection.org provides a wealth of information about QC to the public at large, and also archives QC documents such as this handbook, the Articles of Organization, Bylaws and issues of *Quiltations*. **Our Yahoo group** at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/QCquilters> is used for email communications to and among members.

Volunteering and Supporting Quilters' Connection

We are a volunteer organization. Everyone is needed to help preserve and maintain this guild from which we derive so much. Volunteering is the best way to meet other members. There are countless ways to get involved! Take time to meet someone new at every membership meeting and workshop. Simple contributions of time are helpful and very much appreciated. Many hands make light work!

Comfort Quilts and Quilts of Valor

Our members are very involved with creating comfort quilts for our community. This is a philanthropic activity where members make quilts and teddy bears for donating to organizations assisting the homeless, the sick, the elderly and children. We also support making Quilts of Valor for our military heroes.