



Minutes
Long Range Planning Meeting
Wednesday, May 24, 2023

The monthly meeting of the Quilting Guild of The Villages Long Range Planning Committee was held at the Moyer Recreation Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Guild President Ardie Wood. Those Present were Chair Pam Pike (Patchwork Garden), Ellen Peters (Sterling Stitchers), Marci Gimmarro (Riverbend Bobbins), Nancy Wildzunas (Lake Miona), Donna Barnum (Happy Hour), Ruthann Assaid (Piecemakers), Penny Byrnes (Fenney Sewcialites), Denise Messerli (Fenney Sewcialites), Laurie Crawford (Fenney Sewcialites), Barbara Bidek (Fenney Sewcialites), Phyllis Kelly (Fenney Sewcialites), Denise Kuziw (Southern Belles) and Mary Ellen Streeter (Patchwork Garden).

President Ardie Wood – Recap - we cannot control the growth of The Villages. based on current number of residents of The Villages, 140,000, we have almost 1 member in QGOTV for every 1,000 residents. The Villages has planned to build enough homes that there will be 165,000 residents by 2027. At that rate we can expect to have almost 1,500 members by 2027. We have added 1 chapter per year for the last 6 years, at that rate we expect to need 33 chapters by 2027.

The number of chapters has already become very challenging to manage. The main function of Long Range Planning is to try to anticipate the needs of the Guild in 5 to 10 years and plan how those needs can be met.

So far only 2 possible solutions have been suggested,

- 1.) The Guild could be divided in two.
- 2.) Creating another “layer” of hierarchy, ie Regions, for lack of a better word.

[The distance problem from most of our current Guild meetings (Laurel Manor) to the newest Villages in the south section was discussed last month. President Ardie is doing her best to try to obtain some Guild meetings at Rohan Recreation Center, which is more central to the current population. She anticipates that the earliest we might be able to do that is 2024.]

She asked for any other ideas as to managing the size of the Guild. Two were made:

- 1.) Divide up by the type of quilting preferred, eg Modern, Hand quilting, Applique, etc.
- 2.) Let some chapters become “sewing groups” rather than part of the Guild. (Chairperson Pam reminded us of past president Theresa Ierardi's suggestion a few years ago to have “Chapter Emerita” status for those chapters who do not want to participate in the work required to put on Showcase & Marketplace and any other Guild activities.)

Both of those suggestions were found to not solve the problem.

Many questions ensued as to how the “Regions” scenario would work, what duties would a “Regional Director” have? This would have to be well thought out and is by no means “set in stone” at this time.

*A **possible** scenario would be that groups of about 4 chapters would make up a “region.” Each region would have a director, someone to take notes and an alternate to fill in when one cannot make it. The attendees of each regional monthly meeting would be the chapter presidents, members-at-large and the Regional Director, support people TBD.*

The various regional directors would attend the monthly Eboard meeting with the Guild Officers and Guild committee chairs.

These directors would need to keep in close contact with his/her 4 +/- chapters and be the liaison between the Guild Officers and the Chapters. Chapters would still have 2 votes each, but those votes would be carried to the Guild by the regional director , who would also have a vote. Also, the regional director would be responsible for getting any Guild information back to his/her chapters.

Pros and Cons of this “Regional” approach were listed:

Pros:

1. Less traveling for representatives to EBoard
2. Smaller meeting rooms would be required
3. Better communication because of smaller groups, perhaps more people willing to speak up
4. Could be a ”training ground” for Guild leadership positions
5. Each Chapter still gets their 2 votes, plus their RG gets a vote at EBoard
6. It would be easier to change meeting times, eg for regions with chapter whose weekly meetings are Tuesday afternoons
7. We would not have to split the Guild
8. There would be better comradary, closer connections in the regional group
9. Flexibility of location of meetings
10. It is scalable, it can grow along with the Guild

Cons:

1. There will be extra meetings for RDs
2. More than 1 volunteer may be needed at the “regional” level – someone to take minutes of the regional meetings, someone to act as a substitute for director
3. Finding extra people to step up could be a challenge
4. People don't like CHANGE
5. The Bylaws will have to be revised.

The next Long Range Planning meeting will be July 26, 2023 at 7:00pm ay Moyer Recreation Center.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Streeter