

**Old Capitol Quilters Guild
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 24, 2025
Coralville Public Library – 9 a.m.**

Members Present

Nancy Lathrop, Joyce Moore, Glenda Skallerud, Pam Karp, Laura Hopkins, Susan Craig, Barb Thomas, Sherrie Adkison, Barb Yoder, Joleen Green, Meredith Sewell, Lauren Tiffany, Linda Bergquist, Pam Ehrhardt, Carole Knutson, Jackie Morrical, Teresa Winder, Connie Brinton, Sherry Lang, Vicki Reynolds, Chris Luzzie, and Amy Welt

Opening of Meeting

President Joleen Green opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She thanked members for wearing their name tags and encouraged everyone in the guild to state their name before speaking, especially during show and tell times. This will help new members engage with current members and help everyone get acquainted.

Quilt Show Report

Pam Ehrhardt shared that attendance increased by about 120 visitors from 2017. The income was \$1400 from donations; the silent auction income was \$2900. With expenses the guild netted \$3100. In a post quilt show meeting, it was decided to donate \$3000 to two local charities, Houses into Homes and the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP).

Discussion ensued by the board members about whether we should be donating all the income because expenses often exceed income but rather using it in the general budget to support our community projects. There is currently in excess of \$30,000 in the guild's general budget. Another suggestion was to use money to increase the Service Committee's budget in light of increasing costs for things like batting. One member commented that in the past only income from the silent auction was donated. A motion was made by Chris Luzzie, second by Vicki Reynolds to make a one-time donation of \$1500 each to DVIP and Houses into Homes. Motion carried. In the future it was recommended that there be a plan in place for distribution of revenue prior to the quilt show and that this be included in the advertising for the show.

Pam Ehrhardt asked for clarification on the plan for the raffle quilt. In the past guild members were asked to sell raffle tickets. There will need to be a license purchased for the raffle and a date

established for the drawing. Meredith Sewell, Jackie Morrical and Pam Ehrhardt volunteered to be on a committee to plan for the raffle.

Program Committee

Bookmarks outlining the programs for the upcoming program year were distributed and will be handed out at the September meeting to the membership. The December meeting has been moved to the first Monday of December due to an ongoing conflict at the church. The committee is working on updating the speaker contract. Barb Yoder suggested that the election of officers should be held in July rather than June because new officers take over immediately after the election.

Membership Committee

Lauren Tiffany reported that we currently have 108 members. There were quite a few new members joining after the quilt show and many of those attended the last meeting. Linda Bergquist reminded the group that recruiting greeters for the welcome table and having members assist with Show and Tell are not part of the program committee's responsibilities. Lauren Tiffany volunteered that the membership committee would take care of these tasks. Finally, there are plenty of items available for the monthly raffle; members encouraged to sign up each month at the greeter's table.

Some additional discussion about expanding membership came up later in the meeting. It is being included here for clarity:

- 1) Small group formation is a good way to engage new and existing members.
- 2) Some other ideas for retention include assigning mentors to new members, encouraging new members to align with existing members according to interest (modern vs. traditional quilting, block of the month, etc.)
- 3) Doing more group interaction activities, i.e., ice breakers. We want to a warm and welcoming group; trying to not always sit with friends/members we already know.

Service Committee

Sherrie Adkison stated that service committee expenses are increasing due to rising prices for things like batting. There are several larger quilts that still need to be long-armed. It was suggested that we might want to pay people to do long-arming to catch up with supply and perhaps even develop a line-item for this purpose since only 3 or 4 members are currently volunteering to do this.

A Sew Day is planned for October 2025.

Sherrie and Susan Craig shared a proposal for a small quilt show with an accompanying quilt donation to the Iowa City VA in honor of our country's 250th birthday July 10-11, 2026. It would be held at the Iowa City Public Library and have a red, white and blue theme. The proposal is attached to these minutes. Linda Bergquist made a motion to accept the proposal; second by Sherry Lang. The motion carried.

Budget

Laura Hopkins shared a budget spreadsheet. Some minor tweaks were made to descriptors for better clarity. Susan Craig suggested that the spreadsheet present a "balanced" budget. This would show that we are currently using reserves to pay for expenses, outlining that we spend more than our income. There was no resolution to this suggestion. A motion to approve the budget was made by Barb Yoder, second by Joyce Moore. Motion carried.

History Committee - no report

Library Committee

Glenda Skallerud reported that TinyCat, the new library data base is working well. The committee will be assessing the currency of titles, purging those not being utilized.

Newsletter

Linda Bergquist reported that we have lost two advertisers and are waiting on three others. She suggested that if you are not interested in receiving a draft of the newsletter to let her know and she will remove your name. The Publisher computer program is going away and she will be learning a new program Canva.

Survey Results

Lauren Tiffany shared the compilation of the recent survey to guild members regarding the quilt show. (Survey results attached.) Discussion ensued about the pros and cons of current location and moving to another place. Lauren was thanked for doing the survey.

Technology

Programs for next year have been loaded on the website. Some members are having trouble accessing Show and Tell photos. There have been some issues with mass emails. This may be due to incorrect addresses and/or people tagging onto mass emails for further communications.

Retreat

Sherry Lang reported that the fall retreat is full and there is a waiting list. She is looking into dates for Fall 2026 retreat at Prairie Woods. The contract for the February 13-15, 2026 retreat is out for signatures.

Finance and Budget

Laura Hopkins reported she is no longer using the previously used financial software Money Minder. She is using spreadsheets for the tenure of the treasurer but considering some changes. The finance committee members are getting spread out physically so may need to consider using Zoom for their meetings. Laura turned over the mailbox key at Mailboxes, Etc to Barb Thomas. Laure urged those purchasing at Copy Works to be sure to mark purpose of the purchase on the receipt.

Old Business – None

New Business

Sherrie Adkison inquired if anyone on the Service Committee can purchase batting. Answer was "yes." If anyone else is purchasing batting, please let the committee know. Glenda Skallerud asked if a tax-free number could be used for batting purchases. It was not clear if this was possible. Sherrie indicated that in the past Cotton Creek Mill was willing to purchase batting at cost + their shipping.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Nancy Lathrop
Secretary

Celebrate the RED WHITE & BLUE

OCQG celebrates quilting and honors veterans to celebrate USA 250th birthday

A proposal to the Board from the Service Committee

August 28, 2025

The Service Committee is proposing a project combining a small quilt show with a gift of 12 quilts of honor to the Iowa City Veterans Hospital. 2026 is the 250th birthday of the United States and we expect this event will be one of many programs celebrating that birthday nationally and locally.

Quilt Show

A small quilt show of approximately 20 patriotic quilts will be displayed at the Iowa City Public Library on Friday, July 10, 2026, from 4:00pm-8:00pm and Saturday, July 11, from 10:00am-4:00pm. Patriotic themed quilts for display will be solicited from Guild members. The Library is cosponsoring this event and with that sponsorship comes assistance in setting up the meeting room, providing panels to hang smaller quilts and some assistance hanging quilts (exact arrangements to be determined). Each quilt will include information about the pattern, the maker(s), and the year made. The show would be set up on Friday and quilts could be picked up between 4:30 and 5:30 on Saturday.

With the assistance of the Library this small theme driven show should be manageable to put up and staff and highlight the work of our members as well as celebrate the big year.

Quilts to VA Hospital

In addition to the quilt show the Service Committee would solicit service quilts that fit a patriotic theme with a goal of having at least 12 quilts. The VA quilts are throw size, not bed size. Service Day 2026 will focus on patriotic quilts. We could also ask VNA if they would like to participate, in the past they have said they have several veterans who they serve and appreciate receiving quilts suitable for them.

Budget

There would be no charge for the show, necessary funds would be taken from the Carmichael fund.

Executive Summary: Responses to 2025 QuiltFest Questionnaires

Submitted to the OCQG Board of Directors, Aug 25, 2025 by L. Tiffany

Of the 57* respondents to the yes/no queries regarding respondents' participation in the show:

30 loaned quilts for exhibition
21 made objects for sale
22* visited the show
34* volunteered in preparing for or helping at the show.

*Number of responses exceeds number of respondents because most respondents answered yes to more than one of the yes/no questions.

Question 1 What did you think went WELL at this year's QuiltFest?

NO ANSWER – 17 / 57

Remaining 40 comments were overwhelmingly positive, with special compliments for the beautiful appearance of the quilts, the well-organized effort to display them, the variety of quilts, the impact on people as they entered, the amount of help in mounting the show. Several commenters praised the drop-off procedure as efficient and well-organized. Comments: "Everything ran like clockwork." "Setup was very smooth." [and fast!] Several commented on good attendance and the "warm and welcoming" quilt guild members.

Question 2 What could have been BETTER with this year's QuiltFest?

NO ANSWER – 19 / 57

Several commented on the parking being "far from convenient."

Several criticized the venue as the quilts are not able to be shown front and back in their entirety and they want to view them that way.

One comment: "In December when the Guild has us bring our quilts to show, we are asked to drape them over the pews, but then we have to go to the front of the room and take turns holding them up, because people can't see all of the quilt when they are draped. So if it doesn't work well for us in December, it is far from ideal for the quilt show. Anymore, when one attends a quilt show, the quilts are hung up so you can see the entire quilt."

Several commented that doing away with the silent auction & pricing things to sell outright would be more efficient and have more appeal for the buyer. One commenter suggested we should have more small things to sell. Another said she thought the for-sale items were too 'hidden.'

Other suggestions: a better way to identify the volunteers / signs to keep people from walking into the pews / more publicity about connection with Arts Fest / more advertising in the downtown area of Arts Fest

One sad comment: "I was not happy that some of my friends who donated items for the silent auction were treated very disrespectfully or at least their items were. If you ask for people to donate, then do NOT dismiss the item that, in one person's judgement may not sell or is not worthy. I know that their items sold very well. I also know they will NOT donate items again. That is not how we should treat our fellow members or actually anyone, not just members. I was so disappointed to hear about this."

Another: "Did not like way auction was handled. My item was sold before auction even started, apparently to another member. The public should have access first. I'm not sure that even at full price, my cost of fabric and quilting were covered. I don't expect to be paid for my time but revisions to pricing may be needed"

More guild participation / a couple of the ongoing committee members aren't welcoming to others

The name of the quilt should have been printed on both cards – the one given to the person and the one kept by the guild; that would have sped things up for people with multiple quilt entries.

Question 3 If you prefer another site for the show, can you suggest another venue?

Suggestions included: Robert E. Lee Rec Center / a school gymnasium / basement of the North Liberty Rec Center / 4-H Fairgrounds. / something with option for outdoors. Maybe Terry Trueblood with sale in the lobby, quilts in the main room, and depending on the weather outdoors on the large patio overlooking the lake. Then it could be available Sunday morning as well. / public works building / Mercer Park / Several 'I LIKE THIS VENUE COMMENTS, including this one: "This site suits our guild's members' energy and abilities." The wow factor when entering makes this a "different" show from others. Maybe try something different like an "airing" of quilts like Decorah just did. [continued, p.2]

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Perhaps the Robert A. Lee recreation - see if the two rooms used for Farmers Markets could be used. / Johnson County Fairground / National Guard Armory / Lower level Graduate hotel / IRL Marriott / XStreme Arena, City High, IMU If a smaller location, the show would have to be vetted. [?]
Wasn't the quilt show at the Iowa City maintenance building?

Question 4 One of the difficulties of a nonchurch venue is we would need quilt racks to hang the quilts. Setting up racks and hanging quilts would be difficult for guild members to do. Can you suggest a solution to this problem?

Suggestions fell into 3 categories: 1. Buy or borrow or rent racks & hire help to mount the show or get a big sponsor to pay for it / charge admission to pay for it. 2. Recruit husbands, family, boy scout troops, IA Football team, 4-H, or other volunteers to mount the show. 3. Church pews are easiest and fastest, close to ArtsFest.

Question 5 If the show moved to a venue that allowed it, do you favor having vendors?

YESES: 39 NOES: 16

Negatives cited: Would need more workers, more space, another volunteer committee to manage & recruit vendors. We had so much trouble getting volunteers for the show as it was. Would take away from our own sales. Would conflict with IA Shop Hop if show in June/July. A lot of work.

Positives cited: Vendors are another draw for visitors/quilters. Vendors would pay a fee for being at the show.

OOPS! This question was in the online questionnaire, but omitted from the in-person questionnaire handed out at the June meeting.

"OTHER comments?"

POSITIVE COMMENTS HERE: I thank all the organizers and the volunteers who gave so much time and effort to make the show a success! I thought it went well and people love it. / This format works well for us. / Loved watching guests' faces when they came in, and hearing all the positive comments! / I love how the church looks when we are finished setting up. / Thanks to the committee members and Pam and Vickie for all the work on this. / Thank you to this year's committee for their hard work. Thank you for drafting a survey to get feedback. Thank you for being open to change. Thanks to the Quilt Show Committee. Great organization - thanks for all your work on this!
/ It was a great show, and I heard many, many positive compliments. / If we were to show in a new location that required more volunteer hours we should get guarantees from membership that they will work the show.
Thank you for all the hard work and hours it took to make the show happen!
The Methodist church is a lovely space, but if the show were not one block away from the restaurant and shop foot traffic, more people might wander in. / Thanks for all the hard work and hours the committee and volunteers provided.

OOPS! This question was added to the in-person questionnaire handed out at the June meeting but was NOT included with the online questionnaire.

The quilt show committee recommends the Guild Board donate the proceeds from the show to a local charity. We would appreciate your input in what charity you feel would be appropriate.

NO suggestions – 16 of 27 respondents.

I think it would be nice to donate to one or several of the groups that the service committee donates quilts to.

Home Ec workshop

Any that support immigrant or LGBTQ+ families.

ARC?

Food pantry / LOCAL, food for people in need / food pantry / food bank at Community /

How about toward guild's work with local 4-H club?

Iowa City Animal Shelter

Agape Café @ Old Brick - a meal site for food insecure folks [Weds mornings] Houses into Homes

Community Crisis Services / Guidelink / food pantry / Healing Prairie Farm / Habitat for Humanity