

Chequamegon Bay Quilters – Minutes for February 6, 2024

Called to order by 5:32 by Nancy P with 14 members attending in person and 3 on zoom.

12X12 – Jean R and Jan S will coordinate the 12X12 program again this coming year. The start month is April. Full instructions for the 12X12 program were sent via e-mail and are now posted on the guild website (<https://chequamegonbayquilters.weebly.com/quilt-events.html>). Please send your list of projects for 2024 – 2025 to Jean R (jele1967@yahoo.com) and Jan S (jstauffer56@yahoo.com). While 12X12 projects on the list can be a step in the process of completing a project, bonus word projects must be a completed project. NEW this year, bonus word projects must be worked on during this year.

Tonight, Jean R and Jan S did the quarterly drawings for October, November, and December of the 2023 – 2024 12X12 year. Lucy T won the 12X12 drawing. Charlie W won the Bonus drawing.

Name Tag Drawing: Sandy O won the name tag drawing.

Sunshine Fund: Sheri S, Sue G, Dawn B, Peggy H and Penny R are all birthdays in February.

Program: Terry B is a Chapter Coordinator for Project Linus serving Ashland, Bayfield, and Sawyer Counties. We are affiliated with the National Organization. Since 1995, the national organization has provided more than 9,500,000 blankets across the country. The mission for Project Linus is

- 1) Provide love, a sense of security, warmth, and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer “blanketeers.”
- 2) Provide a rewarding and fun service opportunity for interested individuals and groups in local communities, for the benefit of children.

The intended recipients for the blankets are seriously ill and traumatized children aged 0 to 18 years. We are looking for all sizes of blankets. I don’t have many restrictions. Smallest is likely around 36 X 36. All blanket styles are welcome, including quilts, tied comforters, fleece blankets, crocheted, or knitted afghans and receiving blankets in child-friendly colors. The blankets must be new, handmade, washable, free of pins, and come from smoke-free environments due to allergy reasons.

The Ashland, Bayfield and Sawyer County chapter started in August of 2021. The first blankets were delivered in December of 2021. Some of the local organizations that we serve include county child welfare offices, Red Cliff, Tamarack and Hayward hospitals, and the homeless shelter in Ashland. We have also coordinated blanket making events with Ashland high school’s National Honor Society. We’ve established our drop-off locations. Quilt Elements in Ashland and River’s Edge Antiques and Quilt Loft are drop-off locations. You can help us by sewing, quilting, knitting a blanket; the blanket just needs a homemade touch. It’s a project that makes something a little easier for a child and provides a meaningful gift for the child.

Q: Is there a size you need more than another? I’ve been very lucky in getting a variety of sizes. Gender neutral as well as boy and girl themed.

Q: How many has the local chapter given out? 342 blankets have been distributed, primarily in Ashland and Bayfield counties, because we just recently added Sawyer County.

Q: Can you tell us how long it’s been going on? It’s been going on for about 2.5 years.

Q: Is there a limit to how big? Teenagers like to curl up in bigger blankets, but I don't have a specific size in mind.

Q: How much more need is there? You know it goes in streaks. At one time, an ER took as many as I had. It's kind of cyclical. At Red Cliff, I bring them 40 at a time. I touch base with folks every other month. Last fall, there was a call out to all chapters from the National organization to support the Gary Sinise Foundation which "serves our nation by honoring our defenders, veterans, first responders and their families." Our chapter sent 10. There can also be a call from the National organization associated with a national event.

Snack time included a delicious soup provided by Fran.

Jill S learned that tonight's meeting was going to feature a Project Linus presentation. Jill S brought the quilt guild fabric stored at her home. Jill S went through and divided them up into color and filled brown paper bags for guild members to take to make quilts. Each bag includes some sort of kid type fabric. All quilt guild fabrics. She also brought additional fabric for guild members to look at and add to their bags if they'd like. If folks do grab some bags. Jill did take pictures of the fabric in the bag. There could be a before and after picture with completed projects.

Membership list was provided on paper and Amber E will send out electronic copy to all guild members.

Gina P highlighted an organization that provides quilts for cops, firefighters and EMS injured in the line of duty (quiltsforcops.com). Gina handed out a brochure. They were founded October 25, 2016, in Oregon. They would prefer neutral, browns, and they do need some female colors. Quilt specification details are <https://quiltsforcops.com/donate/donating-a-quilt-information/>. They quantify quilt recipients by state and in 2023, and they sent 13 quilts to recipients in Wisconsin (<https://quiltsforcops.com/quilt-recipients-statistics/quilt-recipients-by-state/>). A quilter can send a finished top or finished quilt (quilted, with binding, etc.).

Nancy P went to weekly gathering for Knots of Love (www.knotsoflove.org) in Ashland, WI. The woman who started the organization moved to Ashland and Ashland is now the National Headquarters. They provide hand-knit and crochet beanies to people going through chemo and blankets for babies in NICU incubators. Every Friday morning, a group meets at the home of the founder. One of the jobs is to open the donated packages and tag the items, noting something remarkable about the donation, as well as information such that the item can better conform to the group's requirements (<https://www.knotsoflove.org/guidelines-for-knitters-and-knotters>). The founder calls or e-mails every single person who donates.

Show N Tell / Slide Show: Please check <https://chequamegonbayquilters.weebly.com/meeting-minutes.html>, for the Show N Tell items submitted in the slide show. Additional items were shared by folks at the library. Many people shared projects for the "winter" bonus word. Additional submissions from folks at the library include a dog quilt and some cross stitch by Jill S. Fran completed a quilt from fabric she purchased at our Second Chance Boutique. She painted the fish, quilted in white squares, which really made them pop! Nancy P showed a football quilt. Deb O made a couple of blocks for a QOV pattern. Gina P brought a table topper that was stunning. It was an appliqued piece that was embroidered with her machine. Lucy T reported on the 12 days of Christmas boxes that she got from Rivers Edge Antiques and Quilt Loft.

Business – The Bylaws were updated. Jill S has resigned from the IT Coordinator position and trained all of the executive board members at the January Executive Board Meeting. Teresa N has stepped up to be IT coordinator. We are on the lookout for a secretary.

The bonus word for February to show in March is “My favorite color.”

Wisconsin state fair has a quilt barn challenge. Deadline is in end February. Here is a link to more information about the barn quilt challenge and other ways to submit quilts to the WI state fair.

<https://wistatefair.com/competitions/quilting/>

Next Month: Kaci P and Jan S are on for snacks for next month.

Programs: Sandy O and Charlie W are thinking of programs. Teresa suggested a program for one guild night to simply sew or work on easily portable project. Maybe bring a binding, embroidery, cross-stitch, a pattern that you’d like some help with, or a quilting book you’ve wanted to read/explore. The group decided this will be the program for March, so be thinking about what you plan to bring!

Sandy O and Charlie W are looking for program ideas, please consider if you have a program to provide or an idea for a program for them to consider.

Attendance prize: Jan B is the winner of the attendance prize.

QOV sew day: Jan S wants to thank everyone who came to the QOV sew day. Lots of pillowcases, backings, and work on quilt tops completed. We had a wonderful potluck.

Treasurer’s report:

Current Balance: 4,010.58

QoV: 276.93

Guild Cushion: 300.00

Available Balance: 3,433.65

QoV Foundation Account 186.10

The meeting adjourned at 7:11. Sheri S motioned, Dawn B seconded. All approved. Adjourned at 7:11.

Submitted by Teresa N- Secretary.