



The Patchwork Pen

Berrien Towne and Country Quilters February 2024

Hello Everyone!

I hope this finds you rested from the holidays, healthy and ready to dive into our new year. We have quite a bit to recap, so here goes. The Free Table will be available at the February meeting! If you bring something, please remember to check the table again on your way out. We cannot leave anything on the table when we leave. We will not have a Feature Quilter at the February meeting. We look forward to learning more about our members and their personal creative journeys, so please nominate a friend or volunteer yourself! Please remember that our agreement with the church has changed, and we will not be able to use the kitchen for free during our meetings. To avoid a monthly fee, we can set up snacks on a table in the entryway, but we will no longer have beverages. Please put your new red BTCQ tumbler to good use and bring a beverage with you. If you weren't at the November meeting, please email Nancy Hawley (nehawley@gmail.com) to arrange for pick up of your tumbler.

The 1440 Club is going strong! Cindy Bauer introduced the idea in 2023 and arranged to have wooden pins made. To earn one, you sew something with your scraps. Easy, right? This is the definition of a "1440" project: there are roughly 1,440 square inches in a yard of fabric. To get this number we multiply the length (36") by the width (usually 40") of our fabric. Since we are using scraps, instead of measuring each piece of fabric you sew, just use the finished dimensions of your quilt. An example- Kay made a log cabin scrap quilt that was 50"x60". If she multiplies 50x60, the answer is 3000 inches square. To determine the yardage Kay used, she would divide 3000 by 1440, which is 2.08. Kay's scrap quilt used 2.08 yards of fabric! If Kay used scraps for the backing, she would double that figure for a total of 4.16 yards used in her quilt. What about other projects? Use the same formula to calculate the total yardage used.

We are still hoping for a few volunteers to help keep everything running smoothly. Would you be interested in putting together the monthly raffle basket? Would you like to help Audrey with Hospitality? Perhaps help Denise in the library? If you have a great idea for something that isn't listed, please share it. We are trying to address the needs within our guild.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 8. Social Hour begins at 6:30 and the meeting will begin at 7.

See you soon,
Nancy

Officers 2024

President Nancy Hawley President@btcquiltguild.org	Vice President Joanne Kunz, Vicepresident@ btcquiltguild.org	Secretary Lois Ashbrook, Secretary secretary@btcquiltguild.org	Treasurer Connie Ankli, Treasurer Bekki Lund, Co-Treasurer treasurer@btcquiltguild. org
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Visitors Welcome: Meetings are held the second Thursday of the month, February thru November at 7:00 Stevensville United Methodist Church, 5506 Ridge Rd., Stevensville, MI 49127 Visit [BTCQ Website](#)

2024 Slate of Officers and Committee Chairs

President - Nancy Hawley
Vice President- Joanne Kunz
Treasurer - Connie Ankli
Co Treasurer - Bekki Lund
Secretary- Lois Ashbrook
Community Quilts - Annette Wright and
Greta Parker
Featured Quilter - Diane Rau
Golden Thimble - Audrey Elwell
Historian - Eileen Chapman
Hospitality - Audrey Elwell
Librarian - Denise Donavin
Membership & Binder - Sue Tolsma and
Miriam Irvin
Newsletter & mailing - Mary Maloney
Policies & Procedures - Peri Hansen
Programs - Peri Hansen and Bekki Lund
Sewing Days - Margaret Williamson
Sunshine & Shadows - Bonnie Lewis
Website - Mary Maloney

Programs 2024

Our theme for this year is “Bigger is not always better.”

Bekki Lund and Peri Hansen are going to lead you, along with some helpers, on a journey to discover the wonders of smaller projects!

For our 1st month, we will find out “What do I do with a mini charm pack?”

We are also planning to get to know each other and embrace our newer members by mixing up during the program part of the evening! Please participate.

There are lots of members we see but haven’t talked to lately- Please join us in reaching out and introducing yourselves to others... and don’t be surprised if I introduce myself to you, even though I know you- I may have a lapse in memory and just need to be reminded of your name again!

We can’t wait until our 1st meeting of 2024! See all of you on Thursday, February 8th!



Audrey Elwell Awarded Golden Thimble 2023

Berrien County Quilters Guild **General Meeting Minutes** **November 14, 2023**

Meeting began with a prayer given by Audrey Elwell, Hospitality Chair, before the Guild's dinner celebrating its 40th anniversary. Audrey gave thanks for "hands that create something beautiful from raw materials". Audrey thanked committee members who had worked hard to make the dinner special – Peri Hansen, Lois Ashbrook, Debby Uhrick, and Connie Ankli.

Member Margaret Williamson of Classic Catering explained the menu. The meal was free to members and was provided by Classic Catering.

After the dinner, the committee disbursed special gifts to members, in celebration of our 40th anniversary.

Business Meeting:

President Nancy Hawley called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm.

Peri Hansen moved that the Treasurer's report as printed in the newsletter be approved. Margaret Williamson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Linda Woods moved that the minutes of the October, 2023 meeting be approved. Cindy Shepherd seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Nancy said that the Guild needs a volunteer for the position of vice president, in order for the Guild to continue. Peri Hansen listed the duties of the vice president which include running the meeting in case of the president's absence. Nancy mentioned that during the year, 24 members had volunteered in some way, either to lead or help a committee.

Peri Hansen presented signature blocks that members had made for Nancy, in thanks for her service as President.

Cathy Benke, winner of the Golden Thimble award in 2022, presented the award to 2023 winner Audrey Elwell, Hospitality Chair. Other nominees were Diane Rau and Sarah Wood.

Cindy Bauer presented pins to those who completed quilts for the 1440 Club.

Meeting adjourned 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Sarah Wood, Co-secretary

Berrien Towne and Country Quilt Guild **Board meeting, December 5, 2023**

Present: Nancy Hawley, Joanne Kunz, Sarah Wood, Lois Ashbrook, Connie Ankli, Bekki Lund, Peri Hansen, Greta Parker, Cathy Benke, Audrey Elwell, Sherri Skorupa, Sue Tolsma, Margaret Williamson, Bonnie Lewis, Denise Donavin, Jackie Harris, and Cindy Shepherd.
 Absent: Mary Maloney and Annette Wright.

President Nancy Hawley called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Policies and Procedures: Chair Peri Hansen commented that the committee has met several times to review the document. Committee members are: Chair Peri Hansen, Cindy Shepherd, Kim Otte, Diane Rau and Beth Griesbaum. Discussion involved some wording under the Membership section and also several grammatical changes. Decision made to review the Budget first.

Budget for 2024: Item by item was analyzed and discussed. Some examples:

Golden Thimble: Need more thimbles for future Golden Thimble awards - \$150

Hospitality: The Methodist church is imposing a \$50 a month cleaning fee if the kitchen is used. To avoid this fee, food will be placed on tables outside the kitchen and coffee will no longer be served. In the future, members should bring their own beverages to meetings.

Quilt show: Decided to reinstate possibility of a quilt show in 2024 even though we do not currently have a Chairperson. Various possibilities were discussed. Bekki Lund said that a quilt show last year that was at a church was profitable and very well attended. Quilts were draped over the pews and Board members who attended the show said it was a wonderful show. Perhaps this setting would be less work and would not involve an expensive rental hall such as Mendel Center. Cindy Shepherd made a motion to reinstate the quilt show for 2024. Margaret Williamson seconded the motion. Motion passed. Decision to budget \$1000.

Raffle quilt: Decision to budget \$500. Hopefully, a member will donate a quilt top, saving this expense.

Library: Chair Denise Donavin will buy books that members request. She plans to get rid of older books that are not used. Library books are to be listed on the Guild's website. Budget \$200.

Sunshine and Shadow: Chair Bonnie Lewis will ask members to donate high quality sympathy, thinking of you, and get well cards in order to keep costs low.

Total budget for 2024 is \$6,443. We have a total of \$13,640 in reserve.

Margaret Williamson made a motion to accept the 2024 Budget as discussed by the Board. Bekki Lund seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Sewing Days: Chair Margaret Williamson proposed a site for Sewing Days April 12,13, 14, 2024. She described the Michiana Christian Camp facility located in Niles. Approximate cost would be \$54 for the three days and would include dinner Friday and Saturday nights. Overnight stays would cost about \$67. Maximum number of attendees would be 25.

Policies and Procedures: The Board returned to the Policies and Procedures document. Many changes were suggested. Cathy Benke made a motion to accept the Policies and Procedures as amended by the Board. Lois Ashbrook seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Articles of Association is another document reviewed by the Board. Article 12 was added which says that when the Berrien Towne and County Guild name is used, then donations belong to the Guild. Bekki Lund moved that the Board accept the Articles of Association with approved changes. Connie Ankli seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Articles of Association and the Budget are to be printed in the newsletter and then approved by members at the February 2024 meeting.

Connie Ankli made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Margaret Williamson seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Wood, Co-Secretary

Berrien Towne and Country Quilters
October 2023 Treasurer's Report

Beginning Cash Balance, October 1 \$15,594.36

Income:

Sewing Days (1 Person) 40.00
Membership 30.00
Total Income 70.00

Expenses:

Bonnie Lewis (Sunshine & Shadow) 13.36
Nancy Hawley (Anniv. Gifts) 264.00
Classic Catering (Banquet) 818.88
Total Expense 1096.24

Ending Cash Balance, October 31 \$14,568.12

Berrien Towne and Country Quilters
November 2023 Treasurer's Report

Beginning Cash Balance, November 1
\$14,568.12

Income:

Total Income 0.00

Expenses:

Courtyard by Marriott (Sewing Days) 480.98
Peri Hansen (Banquet) 48.63
Audrey Elwell (Banquet) 50.00
Lois Ashbrook (Banquet) 28.14
Total Expense 607.75

Ending Cash Balance, November 30 \$13,960.37

Berrien Towne and Country Quilters
December 2023 Treasurer's Report

Beginning Cash Balance, December 1
\$13,960.37

Income:

Total Income 0.00

Expenses:

Denise Donovan 57.30
Check Expense 33.14
Total Expense 90.44

Ending Cash Balance, December 31 \$13,869.93



Patty Root 2/3
Sue Tolsma 2/26
Tami Wisner 2/23
Brenda Petznick 2/28

Renew Your Membership

It's that time of year to renew your membership. The 2024 Membership form can be found on the main page of the [BTCQ website](https://btcquiltguild394.bravesites.com/).
<https://btcquiltguild394.bravesites.com/>
Dues are \$30 and checks can be made payable to BTCQ. You can mail me your form and check or bring your completed membership form and payment to our first meeting of the year in February. It's important to submit your membership forms so that a new directory can be created. Thank you!

Articles of Association

Berrien Towne and Country Quilters

Article One – Name

The guild shall be known as Berrien Towne and Country Quilters.

Article Two - Organization and Purpose

This non-profit guild is tax-exempt as a social welfare organization described in Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 501(c)(4), as an organization that must not be organized for profit and must be operated exclusively to promote social welfare. The property of this organization is solely dedicated to the purpose of this article and no part of the net income or assets of this organization shall ever inure to the benefit of any officer, committee chairperson, or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person.

The specific purpose of this organization shall be:

- To promote the appreciation and knowledge of fine quilts
- To sponsor and support quilting activities
- To encourage quilt making and collecting
- To contribute to the growth and knowledge of quilting techniques, textiles, patterns and history by providing educational meetings, travel and fellowship

Article Three – Membership

Membership is open to anyone interested in quilting upon payment of dues.

Article Four – Officers

The officers of this guild shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer, which make up the Executive Board. No member shall hold the office more than two consecutive terms. Additional terms can be held with a one-year lapse. A term of office is one year. In the event an officer cannot fulfill the term, remaining officers shall appoint a replacement officer within 30 days of vacancy. If the replacement officer serves less than half a term (six months), that term will be considered an interim term and not count toward the two-term limit.

Article Five – Election of Officers

New officer nominations shall be made in September and elections held in October. Officers shall assume responsibilities January 1 and serve through December 31.

Article Six – Quorum and Voting

A quorum shall consist of those present. All members shall be entitled to vote on issues brought before the guild. Unless otherwise specified, a majority vote is required to pass any issue voted on at any regular guild meeting. Guild meetings are held the second Thursday of the month from February through November.

Article Seven – Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order shall be used to decide all questions of parliamentary procedure.

Article Eight – Amendments

The articles of association may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting. An amendment shall be presented to the membership for review at the prior meeting and/or in the newsletter prior to the meeting.

Article Nine – Disbanding

In the event of dissolution of the Berrien Towne and Country Quilters, any money remaining in the treasury after payment of all just bills, shall be donated to a non-profit quilt-related organization to be determined by the majority of the remaining members.

Article Ten – Contracts

Individual guild members may not contract for any activity concerning the guild, without prior board approval. Any contract made for the Berrien Towne and Country Quilters must be signed by the chairperson of the event and cosigned by an Executive officer of the board.

Article Eleven – Donations

All donations to charities made in the name of the Berrien Towne and Country Quilters must have prior approval by the board. When Berrien Towne and Country Quilters name is used, all donations become the property of Berrien Towne and Country Quilters.

(Articles of Association revised April 2005, March 2017, October 2021, and February 2024)40 Year

Celebration Dinner

