

CONSTELLATION CHAPTER EGA ZOOM BOARD MEETING

January 16, 2024

**Zoom Meeting Recorded by Mary Tod
Minutes Submitted by Bonnie Berman**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Susie Jordan, President.

MEMBERS PRESENT: A quorum was met with the following attendees: Susie Jordan, Alice LaSota, Cynthia Rosenberg, Karen Olsen, Devon Andres, Donna Finley, Jane Bauersfeld, Jeanette Farrell, Jan Rollins, Carol Crumley, Mary Tod, and Bonnie Berman

AGENDA (Attachment #1):

Submitted by Susie Jordan, President

- See Attachment #1.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

- A motion to approve the Annual minutes of November 6, 2023, was made by Mary and seconded by Alice. There were no objections. Motion carries.
- A motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2023, was made by Mary and seconded by Bonnie. There were no objections. Motion carries.

PROGRAMS (Attachment #2):

Submitted by Alice LaSota, 1st VP/Programs & Education

- See Attachment #2
- Alice brought up the question on how to handle announcements when we have Zoom classes.
 - Instructors on Zoom will be asked if they are willing to start class at 10:15 am instead of 10 am so announcements can be before class starts.
 - After announcements classes will go into breakout room
 - Susie will receive announcements prior to the meeting and she will read all of them instead of each individual speaking. After each item Susie will say who should be contacted to answer questions about announcement.
 - Members will be instructed that information about the announcements can be found in the Newsletter, Website, Facebook and in the email blasts that are sent out.
 - The Newsletter will have a blurb saying that meetings will start promptly at 10 am.
 - When there is a lecture, the announcements will continue to be after the lecture.

TREASURER:

Submitted by Devon Andres & Sue White, Treasurers

- No report this month due to transition.
- Devon reported that Sue White is updating information
- Mary reported that on December 31, 2023, the checkbook balance was 14,914.57.

NEWSLETTER:

Submitted by Karen Olsen, 3rd VP/Newsletter

- Announcement will go in that Cynthia Rosenberg is new Membership Director.
- An announcement about the passing of Cecelia Bedford should be put in newsletter.
- Carol recommended that an announcement about new Regional representative should go in newsletter.

- Carol will also send Karen and Jane the information about the Regional Pride Scholarship and instructions on how to view the Regional Newsletter.
- As of the end of December 2023, Bees Knees paid for their advertising for 2024. The Treasurers need to contact The Stitching Post and Humming Bird Designs to see if they want to continue their advertising. Mary will send Devon and Sue the forms and letters she used in previous years.
- Susie sent Karen information to be put in newsletter about the Legacy Fund and scanning old newsletters.

TECH TEAM:

- To add more memory to our Google Drive account will cost \$36.00 a year. A motion to approve the expenditure was made by Carol and seconded by Bonnie. There were no objections. Motion carries.
- Each of the Board positions that requires a continuing email address, that will be passed to the next holder of that position, has an email box in Google.
- Shayna Sussmann will be joining the tech team.
- Susie will put weather policy on website.
- We renewed our discounted Zoom account through the Region.

MEMBERSHIP:

Submitted by Cynthia Rosenberg, 2nd VP/Membership

- Membership stands at 147 with one new member and a deceased member.
- There was a Regional Zoom on the changes to membership that was not very productive.
- Susie reported that her understanding is all members will pay full membership dues to National.
 - If you are currently a member your dues will be paid in May.
 - New members will start their year the day they join.
 - Plural and Life members will pay their chapter dues directly to their non-primary chapter.
- Mary made a motion that the dues we collect directly as a chapter for our Plural and Life members be collected on an annual basis at the yearly rate. Cynthia seconded. There were no objections. Motion carries.
- Susie and Cynthia are going to condense and modify all the information they have received about the new dues system to be distributed to our Chapter.
- Supposedly the chapter dues will be directly deposited into the Chapter account from National. We will always receive this payment at the same time each month.
- It was recommended by National that there be a designated person at each meeting with a laptop so they would be available to help anyone not comfortable with the technology. Cynthia said members could contact her directly and she could walk them through the process.

REGIONAL REPORT:

Submitted by Susie Jordan, President

- Susie reported the following upcoming events:
 - April 6, 2024: Crowne Plaza, King of Prussia (Sponsored by Philadelphia Chapter). There will be a THaP TBD.

- Fall, 2024: Hotel TBD, Frederick, MD (Sponsored by Oatlands and Washington DC Chapters). The hosting chapter is planning a two-day SMART Day with Kathy Makers of Primitive Homespuns Wool and Needleworks.
- Spring, 2025: Aspire Hotel and Suites, Gettysburg, PA. The Region Meeting will take place during the MAR Seminar, "Stitching and Sowing Friendships," which is June 18-22.
- Ann Alves has offered to attend the THAP in April.
- Fall, 2025: Hotel, city, and sponsor TBD, we should discuss if we want to host.
- Carol asked if Jane had the thumb drive of important regional information she turned over to Deneen and Susie. Jane said she did not receive any thumb drive. Susie is going to search for hers and contact Deneen.
- Susie suggested we be sure to emphasize the MAR Pride Scholarship to help with cost of classes. You have to be willing to give back something to your Chapter or Region by helping with a project, teaching a class, etc.

50th ANNIVERSARY:

Submitted by Susie Jordan, President

- Thank you notes were sent to all members of the team.
- Basket and needle mysteries resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

OUTREACH (Attachment #3):

Submitted by Jeanette Farrell

- Great response for the two love quilts. Only one block not spoken for.
- Stitching in public coming up in Anne Arundel Libraries :
 - February 24 at Mountain Road
 - March 16 at Glen Burnie
 - April 20 at Mountain Road
- Donna, Penny and Evelyn will be stitching in public at the Towson Branch of the Baltimore County Public Library system.
- Hoping to have programs with the Enoch Pratt Library in 2024.
- Susie reported that there is a QR code for all the chapters in the region.

IDEA:

Submitted by Susie Jordan, President

- Sheep and Wool Festival on the first weekend in May. Constellation Chapter covering Sunday 8:30am-1pm.
- Baltimore Pride June 22
- The team is working on new literature for the chapter

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY (Attachment #4):

Submitted by Donna Finley, Corresponding Secretary

- See Attachment #4

OLD BUSINESS:

- Treasurer Audit will be done by Ann Fink and Kathryn Hewitt on January 23, 2024.
- Heidi, Nancy and Mary are working on mentoring. Would an additional way be getting new members a "partner" with a current member? Another way for new members to learn what they are interested in is to offer petite projects so different techniques are presented. Possibly have a booklet with what techniques people are willing to mentor in so if someone has a specific interest we can introduce them to the person willing to mentor in that technique.

- Nominating committee consists of Penny Haviland and Carol Crumley. One more person is needed for the team.
- New member letter/packet still needs to be revised.
- Chapter Alliance with DC and Oatlands is meeting monthly on the 2nd Thursday.

NEW BUSINESS:

- HCAC Space transformation meeting was moved to January 19, 2024.
- The next MAR Executive Board meeting is Friday, April 5, 2024, at 7:30 pm at the Crown Plaza in King of Prussia, PA. Virtual attendance will be available if necessary.
- A couple of people have signed up to start scanning the old newsletters.
- We need to come up with a system to follow up with emails collected at our events in a timely fashion.
- We are closing our Yahoo email account.
- Legacy fund (Attachment #5) was approved at the November 14, 2023 meeting. The 2024 donation from the Legacy fund is going to the Royal School of Arts.
- Angel Fund (Attachment #6) is to help members with financial difficulties pay for some or all their dues for a year. How much is the chapter willing to spend each year? How will it be funded? We need to have both transparency and privacy. Maybe a small committee. To be discussed more.
- We need to come up with a list of nonprofits that we want to give our annual donation to so that members can vote who they want to give the donation to for 2024. Majority rules.
- Mary discussed America's Tapestry. The piece is done in embroidery. We can ask Hagerstown if they want to participate on the Maryland one. Region should be included. A motion to participate in the America's Tapestry but not to be in charge of it was made by Carol and seconded by Mary. There were no objections. Motion carries.

Susie adjourned the meeting at 8:43 pm.

Constellation EGA Board Meeting Agenda

January 16, 2023

Zoom

- Call to order
- Approval of minutes
- Programs
- Treasurer
- Membership
 - From Donna Pence: Membership: Will be having quarterly Zoom sessions highlighting membership efforts, what works and what doesn't, for a region, a large chapter, a small chapter. All interested parties are invited to attend.
 - . Donna will hold a virtual Q&A on 1/4/24 about the new dues collection process that is moving to national in January 2024. Susie has the link if anyone is interested in attending.
- Newsletter
 - Advertising
- Region Report
 - • April 6, 2024: Crowne Plaza, King of Prussia (Sponsored by Philadelphia Chapter). There will be a THaP TBD. • Fall, 2024: Hotel TBD, Frederick, MD (Sponsored by Oatlands and Washington DC Chapters). The hosting chapter is planning a two-day SMART Day with Kathy Makers of Primitive Homespuns Wool and Needleworks. • Spring, 2025: Aspire Hotel and Suites, Gettysburg, PA. The Region Meeting will take place during the MAR Seminar, "Stitching and Sowing Friendships," which is June 18-22. •
 - Ann Alves has offered to attend the THAP in April.
 - Fall, 2025: Hotel, city, and sponsor TBD, do we want to host?
- Tech Team
 - We renewed our discounted Zoom account through the Region.
 - Shayna Sussmann will be joining the team.
 - Website and FB updates
 - Officer changes
 - Weather policy HCAC
 - Additional storage with Google
- 50th Anniversary
 - Thank you for the notes sent to all members of the team.
 - Basket and needle mysteries resolved.
- Outreach
 - Love Quilt – Jeanette Farrell
 - GB Library – Jeanette will manage.
 - February 24 at MT Road
 - March 16 at GB
 - April 20 at Mt Road
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- IDEA
 - Sheep and Wool Festival April 6 & 7
 - Baltimore Pride June 22
 - New literature for the chapter
- Old Business

- Mentoring
 - Heidi Snyder, Nancy Kenealey and Mary are working on this.
- Nominating committee – new team needed
 - Penny Haviland and Carol Crumly have agreed to join the team.
- Update new member letter/packet – Susie will talk to Nancy and Anne
 - Still needs to be done.
- Chapter Alliance with DC and Oatlands meeting monthly on the 2nd Thursday
- New Business
 - America's Tapestry
 - Follow up from emails collected at our events.
 - Legacy fund
 - Angel Fund
 - Scanning of old newsletters
 - The next Executive Board meeting is Friday, April 5, 2024, at 7:30pm at the Crown Plaza in King of Prussia, PA. Virtual attendance will be available if necessary.
 - Closing our Yahoo account
 - HCAC Space transformation meeting
 - Policy and Procedure updates to begin asap.
- Big picture question to ponder throughout the year.... We know what EGA in general has to offer and we know specifically what Constellation has to offer (GO PROGAMS!). What do we have to offer new members? Why would someone choose to join us when there is so much being offered out in the internet universe?
 - Have we been talking to our new members about why they joined?

Constellation Chapter
Board Meeting
January 16, 2024
Program Report

The Program Committee met on November 27, 2023, and will meet next on January 22, 2024. We are getting wonderful program ideas from chapter members. Keep them coming!

In 2024, scheduled programs include:

Jan. 8. Peyote beaded pen wrap taught by Nancy Kenealey in person
Feb. 5. Ukrainian design, St. Paul's Snowdrift, designed and taught by Terri Bay on Zoom
Feb. 10. The Lost Samplers lecture by Jeanette Tombaugh on Zoom
Mar. 2, 10, 16, 24, 2:00-5:00 pm. Pax designed and taught by Kathryn Drummond on Zoom
This class is open to the Alliance of National Capital Area Chapters (ANCAC)
Mar. 9. Bayeux Tapestry embroidery lecture by Dr. Gale Owen-Crocker on Zoom
Apr. 1. Dorset Button lecture and class by Pat Olski on Zoom
Apr. 13. Needle Felting pouch from Bead Soup; taught by Elizabeth Du Toit in person
May 6. 1st Lady Needle Artists lecture by Sheryl DeJong and May Tea
May 11. Wooly Pine Tree taught by Mary Annunziato in person
June 3. Member Showcase and buffet
Sept. 9. Through the Needle's Eye guided tour of EGA permanent collection
Oct. 7. Crewel piece, Jacobean Constellation, designed and taught by Canby Robertson in person
Oct. 12. Sprang Nordic woven pouch bag taught by Karen Olsen in person
Nov. 4. Dunollie Castle film, following annual business meeting
Dec. 2. Stitching the World: Map samplers, women's history and geography, preceded by show and tell holiday ornaments and followed by the Holiday Buffet

We will do another GCC in 2024 – Perfectly Counted Crosses. Heidi Snyder will be the administrator and the Program Committee will pay the course fee out of our budget. Members who join the GCC will only pay for the text.

I would like to incorporate icebreakers/mini-program ideas into the Zoom stitch-ins to encourage more participation and conversation (e.g., talk about a favorite stitching tool; share a completed item; share an article ahead of the stitch-in and discuss at the stitch-in; invite some new members to tell us about themselves; and, of course, program ideas!).

Alice LaSota

Chair, Program Committee

Outreach
Jeanette Farrell

Love Quilts

Outreach continues to work on the creation of 2 Love Quilts to be donated to the Chesapeake Pediatric Hospice Program next Fall. We are working on Quilts made up of *Sea Babies* and *Bug Babies*. As of now we have volunteers stitching all of the patterns for the *Sea Babies* Quilt but still need several more folks to take on some of the *Bug Babies*.

Stitch-In Public

We have several Stitch-in Public dates coming up. We have been very successful with partnering with some libraries in Anne Arundel County and plan to continue to do so. We will be showing our skills and teaching some basic stitching techniques to patrons at the libraries.

The dates are:

Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 2pm-4pm at the Mountain Road Library-4115 Mountain Road, Pasadena, MD 21122

Saturday, March 16, 2024 from 2pm-4pm at the Glen Burnie Library-1010 Eastway, Glen Burnie, 21060

Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 2pm-4pm at the Mountain Road Library-4115 Mountain Road, Pasadena, MD 21122

Corresponding Secretary Report for January 16, 2024 Board Meeting

Fewer emails sent to the Constellation membership this period, about eight (not counting redirects, questions answered, etc.) and five cards mailed conventionally, consisting of one thank you and four get-well messages for injuries and hospitalizations.

Proposal to Set up Legacy Fund

Background: Departed chapter member Lesley Soto asked that her needlework stash be used to benefit Constellation Chapter EGA. Lesley's stash contains a variety of items, many of which can be sold (either directly or via Fireside Stitchery eBay sales) to raise funds for the chapter. There has already been one donation of \$100 in exchange for a needlepoint kit from Lesley's stash and there are promises of two other significant donations in consideration of some other goods.

Benefits: Setting up a Legacy Fund will serve as an ongoing way to capture not just the funds generated from Lesley's stash sales, but also as a vehicle for ongoing charitable donations. For instance, individual members could make donations to the fund to recognize special occasions, express appreciation to a fellow stitcher, or to honor departed friends. These donations could be regularly recognized in the Compass Needle newsletter and that would not only acknowledge the contribution, but also publicize the existence of the fund.

Use of Monies in the Fund: With Board approval, the fund could be used to support Constellation Chapter educational endeavors, including: underwriting a portion of the cost of expensive classes to make them more affordable for members, paying lecture fees, defraying the cost of field trips by paying transportation expenses, offering scholarships to help with class fees for members who might otherwise not be able to afford them,, or making a donation to non-profit programs to support needlework education.

Assuming that the above Proposal is approved, please consider the following donation proposal:

in special consideration of Lesley Soto's donation, request that the Board approve a \$200 one-time donation from the Legacy Fund to the Royal School of Needlework to support its efforts to preserve the knowledge of hand embroidery through vehicles like the RSN Stitch Bank and efforts to digitize the RSN's textile collection to make it widely available to the public. The donation would be from the Constellation Chapter in memory of Lesley Soto . Lesley was a huge supporter of RSN and, as a librarian herself, was dedicated to the cataloguing of human knowledge to preserve it for future generations.

The Angel Fund

With an awareness of the dues increase from EGA National may have a negative impact on some of our members ability to pay their dues, the Constellation Chapter board has approved the opening of an Angel Fund. This fund will be to assist members who find paying their chapter dues to be a financial hardship.

This fund will be managed by our Treasurer. The fund requestor will contact the treasurer and provide her with a document requesting assistance from the chapter. This document is for record keeping purposes only. Neither information nor forthcoming decisions regarding disbursement of funds will be made public to the board or the membership.

Once the Treasurer has received and approved the request the only further documentation required will be a receipt from the National website documenting the payment of dues by the member.

To fund this endeavor there will be fundraising opportunities throughout the year. Member donations are welcome. Please make sure you put Angel Fund in the notes on your check or Pay Pal Donation.