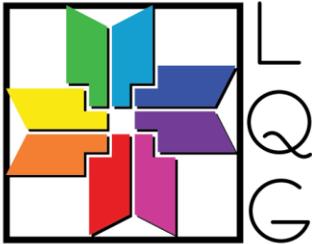


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Lincoln Quilters Guild Announcements

From your President

Thanks to Dana Jones for a wonderful program and workshop. The quilts were an adventure in imagination.

We look forward to our September program and trunk show with Ruth Green (9/12), plus her workshop on Tuesday (9/13). The stained-glass effect looks very interesting. The LQG website has the [program topic and workshop registration information](#).



Cuddle Quilts: Special Thanks to Vicky Skuodas and the cuddle quilt makers for all they do. It was nice seeing the results of their labor, and we acknowledge what a tremendous program this is for our community.

Award Nominations: Remember to get your award nominations to Jaynee Wolfe and the Awards committee by September 1st. This is your opportunity to nominate a person who has done exceptional work and been a great contributor to the guild's success. [Information & forms for submitting awards](#) are on the LQG website - AWARDS. Nominations can be mailed to our post office box.

Last Call for Quilts for Threads Across Nebraska in October: If you have a quilt that you would like to show at Threads, please contact Nancy Anderson.

Survey Round Up:

A few comments about the other two Membership Survey categories. As a reminder, we had questions in four categories: Volunteering, Finances, Programs & Workshops, and Dues. We had an average of *70 guild members who responded to the survey*.

Programs & Workshops - about 80% of respondents indicated they preferred the live programs vs. the virtual programs. The virtual program format during the pandemic worked well, but we are glad that most prefer seeing everyone in person (66% of the members liked workshops “live”).

As for class days:

- Members would consider Saturday / Sunday along with the Tuesday classes, allowing those who work to attend more easily. Timing becomes an issue for the speaker to present weekend workshops. However, we can consider local / Nebraska teachers. In addition, we will try to include some new days on weekends in next year’s programming to allow more members to attend.
- Members would like to see a few more all-day classes that may be a little more challenging - learning something never tried before. Some members indicated they would pay up to \$60 - \$70 for an all-day class.
- Cost of classes is varied with 39% indicating classes should cost no more than \$45. But 40% indicated neither agree nor disagree. Cost of classes is determined by the cost of the presenter. The program chairs try to keep it to a reasonable fee. Some commented that a National Speaker would be worth paying the extra fee. However higher priced classes may reduce how often a member registers for a class. Another member commented that limiting all day classes to \$45 also hinders the selection of the presenters.
- Budget of \$11,000 is too low for nationally known speakers. The speakers also attract new / young members.

All comments indicated they liked the programming for the last couple of years as they were varied and energetic.

Dues – The responses to questions about the guild’s finances and reserves were mixed. Thirty-two percent of the membership indicated they would like the dues to be no more than \$40 / year, with about 43% in the neither agree nor disagree category. (Currently dues are \$50, with an early bird discount of \$40 if paid by December 31). Another 29% indicated they agree / strongly agree to higher dues but no more than \$65. Again, 43.5% indicated neither agree nor disagree for this question. Over half of the respondents (56.5%) indicated they agreed / strongly agreed to pay higher dues to reduce fundraising efforts (without sacrificing the quality and frequency of guild programs).

Interesting insights from the membership included:

- While a \$100 membership dues sound like a lot, if you break it down per meeting (9 meetings) it is just a little over \$11. A decent price for a national speaker and a trunk show.

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- Cost vs. benefit is the issue. If dues are too high, we could risk losing members or limit members who attend workshops. However, the LQG may need to consider increasing dues, limiting the number of quality speakers, or having members willing to participate in fundraisers to cover the expenses of the guild. The programs would have to be worth the cost of membership.
 - (I) would pay higher dues to compensate for fundraisers only after the balance in savings is used up. However, (I) would miss the quilt shows and quilt raffles. Committees and quilt-shows help promote a sense of community within the guild and provide a showcase of the talents of guild members.
 - Increasing the membership dues would spread the work of fundraising more evenly among the members.

Overall Comments – In summary, the overall comments reflected that members were glad to provide their remarks with the purpose of keeping LQG strong, as it has been for many years. There is a desire to increase member interactions – possibly through small competitive projects. Goals should be made to create enthusiasm for quilting.

We heard positive views on **programs and workshops**. We address scheduling Saturday / Sunday sews & workshops in next year (maybe even yet this year). What a great way to celebrate our 50th anniversary by having more opportunities to sew with each other. The program chairs for 2022 and 2023 source speakers / instructors based on their reputation and expertise and still stay within the budget (which is set at the beginning of the year).

Dues are always a difficult subject. It boils down to the cost (of the speakers) and the benefit (to the members). Based on the comments, you understand that well. We cannot rely on the reserve forever, so dues increase may be in the future. However, by being thoughtful we can balance the need and amount of a dues increase with the amount of income from fundraisers.

For the 2023/2024 budget presentation in September, we have considered various scenarios, and your feedback has been helpful. Several ideas:

- 50th anniversary celebration in 2023 may include a small fundraiser, scaled down silent auction, mini quilt show, or raffle quilt that generates funds as well as satisfies the appetite to see other's quilts. The 50th anniversary committee is discussing all options.
- Planning starts in 2023 for a 2024 quilt show, coming back to the pre-pandemic schedule of a show every other year. The format may look different than past years in response to your comments about volunteers needed and physical work involved. For the event itself, we would focus on ways to be innovative, show members' quilting expertise, capitalize on membership involvement while not creating a lot of physical work, and possibly include a smaller fundraiser.

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- A raffle quilt is also a possibility for 2024 and could be yet another beautiful quilt to look at and generate income in 2024.
 - Volunteers will be needed to make either a smaller fundraising event or a re-imagined quilt show possible.
 - As mentioned before, your feedback does not end with the completion of the survey. Your ideas are welcome, so contact any board member for further conversation, or email Connie Soucie directly at souciecl@gmail.com.
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<http://lincolnquiltersguild.org>

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