

# *Embroiderers' Guild of America*

Mid-Eastern Region EGA Meeting

Spring 2020

May 30, 2020; Zoom Meeting

Meeting Time 10:00 A.M.

## **Call to Order**

*The mission of the Embroiderers' Guild of America is to inspire passion for the needle arts through education and the celebration of its heritage. ([www.egausa.org](http://www.egausa.org)).*

## **Welcome and Introduction of Guests**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 A.M. on May 30, 2020.

All attendees and guests were welcomed to the meeting. Region Director asked for a flexible agenda for the meeting.

## **Establish Quorum: Caryn Fuchs completed roll call and named auditors**

Attendance was called. Jackie Droleski and Terry Faber were chosen as auditors.

## **Members Present**

### **Executive Board**

- Region Director, Gerry Stark
- Assistant Region Director, Sue Sizer (by phone)
- Treasurer, JoAnn Huddle
- Secretary, Caryn Fuchs

### **Committee Chairs**

- Bylaws Chair, Suzanne Moulton
- Historian, Betty Berkebile
- Newsletter and Webmaster, Katie Tomlinson
- Outreach Chair, Sharon Mozeko
- Parliamentarian, Judy Badger (also present as Keystone Chapter Region representative)
- Policies and Procedures Chair, Julie Fera (also present as Presque Isle representative)
- Ways and Means, Shelly Meldrum
- Seminar 2020 Chair, Jean Hubsch (also present as Corning Chapter Region Representative)

### **Region Representatives**

- BC Stitchers Chapter Region Representative, Carol Young
- Buffalo Chapter Region Representative, Patricia Moss (by phone)
- Central New York Chapter Region Representative, Danielle Gerard
- Chautauqua Chapter Region Representative, Catherine Way
- Crawford County Chapter Region Representative, Fran Orfino
- Genesee Valley Chapter Region Representative, Rosemary Altman
- Mohawk Chapter Region Representative, Wendy Weber
- National Trails Chapter Region Representative, Lori Abraham
- South Towns Needle Nuts Chapter Region Representative, Irene Andruczyk (by phone)
- Treasured Stitchery Chapter Region Representative, Terry Faber
- Three Rivers Chapter Region Representative, Cecilia Bastone

## **Members Absent**

- Education Chair, vacant
- Nominating Committee Chair, Deanna France
- Chemung Valley Chapter Region Representative, Mary Ann Bilsky

*A quorum was established.*

## **Notable Guests**

Mary Van Tyne, Zoom meeting host and member of Three Rivers Chapter.

## **Consent Agenda: Ratification of Minutes of the Fall 2019 Meeting: Caryn Fuchs (auditors Terry Faber, Julie Fera)**

Jackie Droleski and Terry Faber volunteered to audit the minutes of the Spring 2020 meeting. After their audit, these minutes will be sent to and voted on for approval by all board members.

No between-session voting was conducted between the Fall 2019 meeting and the Spring 2020 meeting.

## **Region Director's Report: Gerry Stark**

Report stands as submitted.

## **Assistant Director's Report: Sue Sizer**

No report was received prior to the meeting and no report was made at the meeting.

## **Treasurer's Report: JoAnn Huddle**

JoAnn reviewed the report submitted to National for 2019 activity as well as the 2020 Financial Report for the period ending 5/26/2020. Judy Badger commented that it should be listed as the Erma Blair Fund and she inquired about the balance in the account, JoAnn clarified the balance in the Erma Blair Educational Fund is \$6,000. The question was posed as to the profit from Camp Stitch A Lot, which was \$1,239.55, however, it was mentioned that this retreat was not intended to be a money making event.

No further questions were posed to the activity; report will be filed for audit.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Bylaws: Suzanne Moulton**

No report was received prior to the meeting.

### **Education: Vacant**

#### **Historian: Betty Berkebile**

Report stands as submitted.

#### **Newsletter and Website: Katie Tomlinson**

The report stands as submitted.

#### **Nominating Committee: Deanna France**

No report was received prior to the meeting and nominations were presented at the meeting.

#### **Outreach: Sharon Mozeko**

Report stands as submitted

#### **Policy & Procedures: Julie Fera**

No report was received prior to the meeting. Per email received, update to the Little Stitches Policy and Procedures will be completed and can be voted on at the next meeting.

#### **Ways & Means: Shelly Meldrum**

Report stands as submitted.

### **Region Representative Reports**

#### **BC Stitchers: Carol Young**

Report was submitted electronically to all members just prior to the meeting. Report stands as submitted.

#### **Buffalo: Patricia Moss**

No report was received prior to the meeting and no report was made at the meeting.

#### **Central New York: Danielle Gerard**

Report was submitted electronically to all members just prior to the meeting. Report stands as submitted.

#### **Chautauqua: Catherine Way**

No report was received prior to the meeting and no report was made at the meeting.

#### **Chemung Valley: Mary Ann Bilsky**

Report was submitted electronically after the meeting and is available upon request. Report stands as submitted.

#### **Corning: Jean Hubsch**

The report stands as submitted.

#### **Crawford County: Fran Orfino**

The report stands as submitted.

### **Genesee Valley: Rosemary Altman (Provisional)**

The report stands as submitted.

### **Keystone: Judy Badger, Betty Berkebile**

The report stands as submitted.

### **Mohawk Valley: Wendy Weber**

The report stands as submitted

### **National Trails: Lori Abraham**

The report stands as submitted.

### **Presque Isle: Julie Fera**

The report stands as submitted.

### **South Towns Needle Nuts: Irene Andruczyk**

No report was received prior to the meeting and no report was made at the meeting.

### **Three Rivers: Cecilia Bastone**

The report stands as submitted.

### **Treasured Stitchery: Terry Faber**

The report stands as submitted.

## **Old Business**

### **Seminar 2020 – Jean Hubsch**

The report stands as submitted. Jean reiterated to everyone that the seminar was postponed until next year. She asked that if you still plan on attending to contact the registrar or request a refund, please do by 7/31/20. Gerry clarified that if you were not attending to cancel your individual hotel reservations, it could not be done as a group block.

The updated seminar brochure is posted on the Region website with the new teacher. We have not lost monies as of yet, but have lost registrants. We are hopeful that we will pick up registrants. Jean expressed her gratitude that all seminar chairs are remaining in their positions.

### **Other Old Business**

None.

## **New Business**

Gerry Stark thanked Mary Van Tyne for hosting the meeting on her behalf. She also took the opportunity to recognize and congratulate Judy Badger on her winning the Gold Thread award for our Region. Those present offered Judy their congratulations on receiving the award and for a job well done.

## Camp Stitch a Lot

Gerry Stark proposed an additional Camp Stitch a Lot at the Watson Homestead located in Painted Post, NY. She mentioned the pricing would be about the same and to have it at a different time of the year after the threat of inclement weather.

Judy Badger made the following motion:

**That MER have a second Camp Stitch a Lot to take place during the summer months with any proceeds from the event to be placed into the General Fund.**

*Rationale: To allow members to have access to an additional educational event with proceeds to benefit the general fund to alleviate our annual deficit in that fund.*

Further discussion was held regarding how any proceeds from both Camp Stitch a Lot retreats be deposited in the Region treasury as the general fund ends each year in a deficit.

Catherine Way seconded this motion. A vote was called and the motion passed with 1 nay.

Cecilia Bastone made the following motion:

**That the profits from both Camp Stitch a Lot retreats be placed into the General Fund.**

*Rationale: To reallocate the proceeds from Camp Stitch a Lot from the Educational Fund to the General Fund to assist in alleviating the annual deficit.*

Jean Hubsch seconded this motion. A vote was called and the motion passed with 1 nay.

## Upcoming Group Correspondence Courses

Mary Van Tyne provided an update on Group Correspondence Course that the Region would sponsor, Noel Stocking, to be coordinated by Terry Faber and Avondale, to be coordinated by Mary Van Tyne. Sign up for these courses will be open until August 1, 2020, with booklets to possibly be ready for distribution at the Fall meeting.

## Installation of new officers

On behalf of Chair of the Nominating Committee, Deanna France, Caryn Fuchs, submitted the following slate:

- **Jean Hubsch, Corning Chapter** for Region Director
- **Jacqueline (Jackie) Droleski, Treasured Stitchery Chapter** for Assistant Region Director

No nominations were made from the floor. Judy Badger moved that we cast a single ballot to elect Jean and Jackie in their positions. The motion passed unanimously.

MER Region Parliamentarian, Judy Badger administered the oath of office to Jean Hubsch and Jackie Droleski.

## Status of MER

Judy Badger made the following motion:

**I move that a committee of the four elected officers plus three members of the region chosen by the EC be formed to begin the investigation of the process of dissolving the EGA Mid-Eastern Region. The chapter representatives will canvas their chapters and report the results of those polls to the committee by the fall meeting. If the results of the polls are in the affirmative to dissolve, the committee will then present a plan for beginning the process of dissolving to the MER BOD at the spring 2021 meeting.**

*Rationale: Due to the decrease in membership across the region, the ongoing process of dissolving of two chapters and more and more difficulty in finding members who are willing to volunteer for positions both on the region and chapter levels*

The motion was seconded by Julie Fera.

Judy spoke to the following talking points to support her motion.

In EGA's heyday we had 100,000 members and 6 regions - today we have less than 10,000 members and 13 regions.

MER Membership has dwindled to less than 400 members

We now only have 13 chapters to spread the workload  
We have two chapters with 10 or less members  
4 chapters with 20 or less members  
and only 2 chapters with 35 or more members

Our members are aging and not able to handle the workload like they used to

MER is becoming financially unable to sustain itself.

Many Region seminars have been poorly attended resulting in limited income  
Only way to make a large profit (not guaranteed) is to host a National Seminar - Do we have the personnel to do that?

Other regions have expressed an interest for mergers

It is becoming increasingly more difficult to find volunteers for positions

We have 4 regions to which the region as a whole could apply for membership or individual chapters could choose for themselves

Metropolitan  
Mid-Atlantic  
Tennessee Valley  
Great Lakes

If chapters approve to pursue this process the committee will begin their work to investigate and present a plan to MER BOD.

The process may take a couple of years to be completed

Redistricting the regions has been talked about on a National level for at least 9 years. The "powers that be" had more important issues that needed to be dealt with and didn't feel the time was right.

EGA has been in financial difficulty for many years. Without the Phillip's Estate gift EGA would continue to be in financial difficulty. We are still operating in a deficit each year.

If we had fewer regions the money spent for BOD meetings would be less and those savings could be spent in other areas. ??? Education

IF the National BOD would someday to decide to redistrict then they would be the ones telling us which region we had to be a part of instead of us having the ability to make our own choices now.

Let's be PROACTIVE and lead the trend instead of being reactionary.

Following review of the various talking points that Judy presented, a general discussion was held that this is a good idea that should be explored further.

A vote was called and the motion passed with 1 nay and 1 abstention.

### **Other New Business**

Irene Andruczyk announced that South Towns Needle Nuts Chapter will be celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

### **Fall 2020 Region Meeting**

The Fall 2020 region meeting will be dependent upon the current situation in our country. There is a possibility that it will be held in Rochester in September or October. If unable to meet in person, it will be a Zoom meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Jean Hubsch called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Catherine Way moved to adjourn the meeting; Terry Faber seconded the motion, meeting adjourned at 11:47 AM.

## Action Items

*Please note: completed action items are left on the list for the meeting after their completion to show that they have been completed. They will drop off the list at the subsequent meeting.*

	<b>Who will accomplish this?</b>	<b>By when?</b>	<b>Completed?</b>
Verify information for your chapter president, chapter treasurer, and number of members, and send that information to the region director.	All region representatives	As soon as possible	Ongoing
Verify information for your chapter president, region representative, and newsletter editor (if your chapter has one), and send that information to Katie Tomlinson.	All region representatives	As soon as possible	Ongoing
Write a policy regarding one person having multiple votes.	Julie Fera	Present at the Fall 2019 meeting. To be carried over to present at Spring 2020 meeting.	