

Tennessee Valley Region

The Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc.

Board Meeting Minutes, March 9, 2003

Host: Louisville Chapter, Louisville, Kentucky

Nancy Bowers, Region Director, called the Tennessee Valley Region Board Meeting to order with 21 chapters present. Absent: Bays Mountain, Bristol TN/VA, Central Alabama, Cumberland, Dixie, Georgia, Jubilee and Plateau. Nancy introduced new chapter reps, officers and other new people present. She read a letter from Marie Campbell, the EGA President, which included a quote from Betsy Ross on "Why we craft."

MINUTES: The minutes were approved as mailed after the following motion.

MOTION: Chattanooga Chapter moved we dispense with the reading of the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

TREASURER: Pam Roberts, Treasurer, presented the following reports.

- 01/01/02 – 12/31/02 Budget Report
- 01/01/03 – 02/28/03 Budget Report
- Balance Sheet as of 02/28/03
- TVR Quarterly Membership Statistics, which showed an increase in members

RD Nancy Bowers said chapter checks should be written as follows.

[chapter name], EGA

Nancy announced the members of the Audit Committee for TVR's books. They are: Pat Amos and Gail Johnston, both members of the Birmingham Chapter.

APPRAISAL PROGRAM: Sandy McIlrath, Appraisal Program Committee Chairman, presented the guidelines developed by her committee for TVR EGA members interested in taking part in this program. Other members of the committee are Rita Osterhage, Chattanooga Chapter, and Mary Renquist, Western KY/TN Stitchers Chapter. Chapter reps were advised put information about the program and the scholarship available in their chapter newsletters. Applications should be made to Marjorie Littlejohn of the NAC, and the program will start immediately following the American Needlepoint Guild's national seminar.

MOTION: Alabama Chapter moved that we accept the Appraisal Program Guidelines as presented, with the requirement that the scholarship recipient's services as an appraiser be available to the Tennessee Valley Region for two years following completion of the program. The motion was seconded and passed.

BYLAWS: Nancy Bowers, Bylaws Chairman, reported that TVR chapters are doing well with updating their bylaws, and that she's received updates from those chapters whose bylaws are not yet complete.

EDUCATION: Amy Robinson, Education Chairman, presented her report noting that two new petite projects were sent to chapter presidents since our last meeting, "Battenburg Snowflake" and "Anything goes." Work on *TVR Chapters' Most Successful Programs* booklet is progressing. Four chapters have submitted programs: Jubilee, Iris, Majestic Mountains and Tri-Area Needle Arts. Amy pointed out the "Bunka with Flair" exhibit with pieces brought to the meeting by Nadine Alexander and Catherine Talley, and Mary Renquist's work in progress and Bunka embroidery materials and tools. Those interested, should check with Amy to borrow the video available for checkout. For kits and accessories, go to the following website:

<http://www.celestialcreations.com/page/bunka.html>

Amy handed out EGA's 2003 Education Department Programs Calendar and information about new and retiring GCC courses. She reviewed several EGA Programs, introduced Martha Tomazic, chairman of the Extended Study Program (ESP), and noted the following deadlines.

- ESP: July 15, 2003, for class, September 18-21, 2003. ESP is "one spoke" in EGA's education programs. ESP classes are offered in March and September each year. Programs for 2004 will be a Helen Stevens class in March and a Valerie Henderson class in September. Henderson is a textile conservationist, preservationist and restorer. Classes take place at the Brown Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Competing Needles: July 1, 2003 (postmarked deadline); theme – "Signs of the Seasons;" forms are available online.
- Educators' Award of Excellence Nominations: May 1, 2003. EGA is working on revising the criteria for this award.

The materials notebook is no longer available from national. Stitch booklets will be available in May. Book 1 – “Surface Stitches” and Book 2 – “Counted Stitches” will be sent to chapter education chairmen. The cost to replace each book is \$20.

Amy noted a maximum of \$100 is available to each region from national for “A Time to Teach.” Chapters offering a class to a minimum of five students 18 years old or younger may apply to the region’s education chairman for the funds. She will present their applications to the region’s elected officers for approval. Funds are available on a first come, first served basis. If we don’t use the funds, national won’t make it available to us next year.

The procedures for borrowing pieces from EGA’s collection were reviewed. RD Nance Bowers talked about the study boxes available from EGA, and urged chapters to take advantage of them. They are a valuable resource and make a nice add-on to exhibits and activities. Chapters should check *Needle Arts* to see what’s available. All that’s required is a \$50 refundable deposit.

Chapters are urged to apply for the education grant — \$300 for teaching fees are available annually. Nancy noted we’ve satisfied the requirements for this grant for SAS XXIV. A class in judging, teaching, color or creativity will be offered. It will not be a project class. The money is available after the class is completed and will be given to the region.

Those with old copies of *Needle Arts* they don’t keep were advised to leave them places like waiting-rooms rather than discarding them.

The RD handed out certificates to two chapters with active programs in working with youth: Tri-Area Needle Arts and Louisville. She also noted that Posy Lough, Western Kentucky/Tennessee Stitches Chapter Rep, has projects for young people available through her Posy Collection for a nominal fee.

EXHIBIT: Dorothy Graves, Exhibit Chairman, reported that the website photos of the TVR exhibit are in process and the photos will be rotating when they are on the website. Dorothy will look into where the video of the TVR exhibit is. Pieces from EGA’s permanent collection are currently exhibited in the Margaret Parshall Gallery. Next, an exhibit of the work of teachers, judges, and the graduates of certified teachers and judges programs will go up. In development is an exhibit of the work of EGA’s male members. EGA’s exhibit schedule is booked through 2005. It is recommended that a youth exhibit be shown every three years. The next one will be on view June 1 through the end of September 2005. Finally, Dorothy reviewed the changes in the amount of money members must send with their pieces to cover the cost of return postage and insurance.

HISTORIAN: Historian Ardith Bryan reported on the items added to the scrapbook, which included newspaper articles from Dixie chapter and the Alabama Chapter, and photos from the Cheekwood Chapter and from the TVR exhibit at the Margaret Parshall Gallery at EGA’s Headquarters (permission was given to take these photos).

NEWSLETTER: Ellen Daniels, Newsletter Editor, distributed her report. Highlights:

The newsletter is currently distributed to 155 people via e-mail and snail mail, with 99% receiving it by e-mail. E-mailing continues to go well with recipients encountering fewer downloading problems. TVR led the way distributing the newsletter via e-mail. More and more regions and chapters are following our lead.

The *Tennessee Valley Review* was awarded first place in the region newsletter contest and Nancy Bowers, RD, presented Ellen with a certificate for this honor. Ellen noted that, while the chapter newsletter contest will continue, national has decided to discontinue the region newsletter contest. So, we are the contest’s first and only winner. She thanked everyone for their wonderful responses contributing information to her.

Ellen’s reminders:

- Copies of chapter newsletters must be sent to the EGA National Newsletter Reviewer
- TVR and national websites must be clearly listed in chapter newsletters
 - www.egatvr.com
 - www.egausa.org
- Do not use the word “raffle” in chapter newsletters – the IRS does not look kindly on this!
- Be sure Ellen has the name, snail mail address and e-mail address of a chapter’s new newsletter editor.

Nancy reminded reps to be sure new newsletter editors have a copy of our newsletter guidelines, which are available on EGA’s website. She also asked that Sandy M’Ilrath, Assistant Region Director, be added to everyone’s e-mail and snail mail mailing lists.

NOMINATING: No Report.

MEMBERSHIP: Nadine Alexander, Chairman, distributed her report about this newly created position, and copies of her remarks about the now-defunct MILE Program and thoughts about EGA's membership retention challenges. She asked chapter reps to be responsible for following up with non-renewing members.

The RD noted that \$200 per year are available to chapters for membership retention and recruitment. The funds must be accounted for and must be used to be renewed by national. Funds will be disbursed following the same guidelines as those for "Time to Teach:"

- Chapters must apply for the funds following an informal application process. They'll submit their applications to a committee of the region's elected officers for approval or rejection.
 - The funds are available after an event happens, on a "first come, first served."
- 300 EGA brochures per request are available to chapters for free from national.

Reps should let Nancy know about chapter doings – deaths, health concerns, etc.

Chapter membership chairmen should get e-mail addresses from new/renewing members

OUTREACH: Ellen Daniels completed EGA's Charmed Heart fundraising piece for the Heart Association and displayed it at the board meeting. She plans to donate the piece to St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville for their waiting room for cardiac patients.

The Susan Jacques Sampler was designed to honor an EGA member who worked at the World Trade Center and died on September 11, 2001.

Members were urged to investigate what to do in terms of outreach for service men and women stationed abroad. Hosting "Stitch-a-thons" instead of "walk-" or "run-a-thons" to raise money was suggested.

- **Alabama Chapter:** The Alabama Chapter is working on the Charmed Heart as a group project. Classes have been scheduled to help the newer members and the older members who have forgotten how to stitch some of the diagrams used in the pattern. Many members have chosen their own colors of fibers and canvas and they are working up beautifully. For example: Light blue canvas with red, white, blue and gold fibers. Burgundy canvas with burgundy and green fibers. Teal canvas with teal and gold fibers. Pink canvas with red and pink fibers.

The Alabama Chapter is gearing up for 2003 and Habitat for Humanity. There are 12 new homes on the schedule to be built and our members are working on their samplers now in order to have them ready to present as we are notified of the dedication dates.

The Alabama Chapter decorated a Christmas tree in the main Huntsville Library with mini-stitched samplers that were the chapter's Potpourri project in July. These were hung on the tree along with hand made angels to fill in. The Chapter also filled a display window with hand-stitched items and put up a display board telling where and when we met as a chapter.

The Alabama Chapter decorated a display window at the Bailey Cove Library using a Fall/ Halloween theme. There was a good amount of hand-stitched items turned in for this project and the community has praises on our work.

The Alabama Chapter is hosting the 17th traveling exhibit in Huntsville from November 2003 to January 2004. Plans are being made currently for a reception at the opening, days where the chapter members will demonstrate different stitching techniques and possibly a stitch-a-thon during this time. This will be an excellent opportunity for the chapter to extend our outreach efforts by showing various stitching techniques.

- **Bays Mountain Chapter:** They are still doing the Wee Care gowns as needed for the local hospitals, and this year, they are doing a serviceman/servicewoman outreach. Several in the group personally know soldiers who are away from home, some for the first time, and they plan to send cards, notes and small gifts—even e-mail if allowed. This is still in the developing stage.
- **Birmingham Needle Arts Chapter:** The chapter is collection paper products, hygiene products, and bus tokens for Jessie's Place for women and children. They are collecting socks, art supplies, and games and puzzles for Children's Hospital. They participated in Adopt-a-Child at Christmas. They will concentrate on one area for three months each this year.
They are doing the Charmed Heart project.

Bristol TN/VA Chapter: The chapter has two ongoing outreach projects. The first is decorating Christmas trees at two First Union Banks – one downtown and one branch. This provides an extra special tree for each location for the enjoyment of their many customers and it helps the banks not have to have boxes of ornaments to store or to buy each year. It also helps with their visibility as people ask the Bank personnel about who make

- the beautiful ornaments. Each ornament is made by a Guild member and the theme is changed every two years. Their second project is making smocked baby gowns for stillborn and premature babies who die at three local hospitals. These gowns are made of white batiste with several pastel colors of smocking, some including beads, on the neckline and sleeves. They come in three sizes for babies who are from the second trimester to full term. A lot of the parents use the gowns as a funeral dress as well as place the baby in the gown for remembrance pictures. This really means a lot to have a beautiful piece of clothing for a baby who may be badly deformed or bruised in the birth canal. We give 3-4 gowns a year to Johnston Memorial Hospital in Abingdon, Virginia, and 10-12 gowns to each hospital in the Wellmont Health System in Bristol and Kingsport. This is really a labor of love for some of the members and about every two years they offer a program to teach smocking so that others can learn to participate in this project.
- **Chattanooga Chapter:** The chapter worked on the Charmed Heart project.
- **Cheekwood Chapter:** The Shelbyville Satellite Group of the Cheekwood Chapter has been very active in their community outreach. Samplers have been stitched and framed for the three most recent owners of Habitat for Humanity homes. Bookmarks have been stitched and presented to those enrolled in the Adult Literacy Program in Shelbyville. 4-H children were taught a magnetic bookmark. Both boys and girls participate in this program. Two ladies from the group were invited to present a program at a church in Murfreesboro. Samples of various threads and fabrics/canvases were shared with the group. Many of the men were intrigued with the handmade needles. The group was invited to present a workshop for a ladies' group at a local AME church. Ten to twelve ladies were expected – 26 showed up. All of the ladies worked on a Florentine Christmas ornament. A workshop was held a couple of months later to finish the ornaments. ***Much fun*** was had by all. Cheekwood recently voted to make soft sculpture hats for ladies undergoing chemo. This will be a part of the summer workshop program.
- **Cotton Valley Chapter:** As of Monday, March 3, Cotton Valley Chapter has an exhibit in the new Florence/Lauderdale Library. It is the first exhibit (a feather in their cap!!) in the new library and is located next to the circulation desk. AND it is beautiful!!
- **Cumberland Chapter:** The Chapter is spending two months on the "Charmed Heart" project. Other Cumberland Chapter Outreach Projects are as follows:
 - 2002 - The Chapter worked on embellishing bags that were sewn for walkers used by the elderly residents of the local nursing home. Material was donated and several chapter members sewed the bags together using a pattern off the internet. Then, they embellished the bags with embroidery, buttons, ribbon, etc.
 - 2003 - The Chapter is working on "binkies" – small blankets that will be donated to the local police department to be used in abuse cases. These binkies are 3' by 3' or smaller (for babies) and can be crocheted, quilted, knitted, etc. We will donate these in December of this year.
- **Dixie Chapter:** Two outreach samplers are being stitched by the chapter—one for the First Presbyterian Church in Opelika, Alabama, and another for the Women's Center of St Francis Hospital of Columbus, Georgia.
- **Dogwood Chapter:** Projects include:
 - 80 Jingle Blocks, with part going to Scottish Rite and part to Grady Hospital. Each hospital will get ONE bear.
 - Bears – 15 given to local police and fire departments.
 - Premature Caps – 50 given to newborns in need.
 - Burial Buntings – 40 to Newborns in Need.
 - Baby Blanket – To project Lioneous.
 - Christmas stockings decorated and given to Scottish Rite Hospital.
 - Receiving blankets to babies in Honduras.
 - Padded hangers made for the textile restoration work at the Atlanta History Center.
 - Bookmarks for the library in Rome, Georgia.
 - Teaching embroidery techniques to Girl Scout and Brownie troops.
- **Greater Memphis Chapter:** The chapter has been sponsoring prizes at the county fair—three for different age groups of youth and one adult prize for original design—and donating items they made and projects for the

- patients at St. Jude's Children's Hospital to stitch.
- **Jubilee Chapter:** The chapter is presently working on the Charmed Heart pieces and are looking into the possibility of donating two of them to the major hospitals in the area to hang in their Heart Critical Care Unit or waiting room. The chapter would have them framed after the members who volunteered to donate their "hearts" finish them. The chapter is also planning to make samplers for Habitat for Humanity. They hope to make enough to give one to each family who gets a Habitat house.
- **Louisville Chapter:** The Louisville Chapter of EGA has been busy. As in the past, they have been using Breast Cancer Research stamps on their newsletters. They have knitted and crocheted 182 (as of November) preemie caps and one afghan. They have distributed ten kits for preemie gowns. A \$50 donation was made to the Smocking Shop to purchase supplies for infant burial gowns for University Hospital. They donated \$150 to the Center for Women and Children for Christmas and collected toiletries and personal care items for the residents also. At this time they are discussing presenting a quilt to a quilt auction in November which is sponsored by the Christian Church Homes of Kentucky. This organization serves older adults, troubled children and persons with developmental disabilities and acquired brain injury. Sixteen-plus members are stitching the Charmed Heart.
- **Majestic Mountains Chapter:** The chapter is now working with the local Habitat for Humanity group and providing stitched Habitat samplers to the families receiving new homes. The chapter president, Vera Grimsley, has been attending the ceremonies and presenting the samplers which are very much appreciated and warmly received. They also collect toilet articles for the local women's shelter (Sojourner's) and have collected serving containers for the local homeless meals program (Manna Meals). Both organizations are located in Charleston, West Virginia. The chapter is not doing the Charmed Heart pattern as a chapter project; however, several members have purchased it and a small group are working on them at the weekly afternoon stitch-in and the monthly evening stitch-in.
- **Plateau Chapter:** Ten Plateau Chapter members did the "Charmed Heart" and enjoyed it. They are still working on stitched pieces for Habitat but have not presented one this year. Their little group finds it difficult to do much in the way of outreach but they are looking for projects to take on.
- **Tri-Area Needle Arts (TANA) Chapter:** During the last several months they have accomplished the following projects for Outreach:
 - Two Habitat samplers presented to new home owners
 - Baby quilts for Lucy's Attic (YWCA sponsored program for indigent mothers)
 - Decorated Christmas for lobby of United Bank, Ceredo, West Virginia (hostess to all our chapter meetings); we decorated with handmade ornaments using a poinsettia theme
 - Collected non-perishable food for Branches (shelter for victims of spouse abuse)

EGA POSTAGE STAMP: Pam Roberts, Postage Stamp Committee Chairman, reported this project is progressing well. Only four chapters have yet to receive them for signing. She reminded members that the goal was to have the U. S. Post Office issue a commemorative stamp in honor of EGA's 50th Anniversary in 2008.

WEBSITE: RD Nancy Bowers reported for Tink Boord-Dill, Webmaster, that Tink is still working on the website. It contains one year's worth of TVR minutes on a rotating basis, standing rules, bylaws, reports, and agendas. Website changes should be sent to Nancy, not to EGA Headquarters. Every chapter must have a web monitor whom Nancy may contact every quarter for corrections, changes, and additions to the website. Website guidelines are on EGA's website.

Marie Tomazic photographed chapter pins during the board meeting. She is continually working on putting items of interest on the website and asks that reps send her digital photos of their chapter pins and nametags, or sends examples of them for her to photograph. Her address is 626 Windmill circle, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42104.

SAS XXIII: Amy Robinson, SAS XXIII Chairman, reported that as of the board meeting, 175 people had registered for the seminar, eight had cancelled. The deadline for registration was extended to May 1. After that date, anyone interested in attending should call Amy. Two classes are filled: *Victorian Scissors Keeper* with Deanna Powell and *Enchanted Forest* with Catherine Jordan. Studio time is still open. *Peaks & Valleys Vest* with Carolyn Sherman was cancelled. Deadline for registration for the Kreinik Lecture is May 1. Tickets are still available. SAS XXIII apparel orders will be taken through May 1. No apparel will be available for sale at the seminar. The EGA National president will be attending. Tours for guests are planned—a "Fly the Coop" golf outing, a "Bird's Eye Tour" and a tour of the Radio Museum of Technology. Ads for the student handbook are for sale. Donations for the Teacup Auction are welcome. There will be a prize for basket/items getting the most tickets, with the donor of the winning basket receiving half the money in the basket. There will also be a silent

auction. Letters to registrants will be going out following the March board meeting. Amy presented TVR with their check for \$3000.

SAS XXIV: JoRita M^cMurray, SAS XXIV Chairman, distributed flyers to reps for inclusion in their newsletters and reported that the faculty has been selected. A color class will be offered by Carol Lake. For the bookstore, they are working with Ruth Kerns. For fundraising, they are considering a bake sale in which participants would get tickets with every cookie purchased.

SAS XXV: Ardith Bryan, Alabama Chapter, reported that they are waiting for final approval on the logo, theme and pattern. They are working in conjunction with Seminar 2005 people so that their plans will not be in conflict with plans for the national seminar. The plans for this Share-a-Stitch were developed in lieu of a traditional Share-a-Stitch, to encourage attendance at the national seminar in Atlanta. Members may, however just register for SAS XXV for a small fee.

2005 NATIONAL SEMINAR, ATLANTA, GEORGIA: Donna Smith, Chairman, distributed her report and asked that each chapter's representative to TVR's board be their chapter's volunteer chairman for seminar 2005. The faculty selection committee will meet in January of 2004. She asked reps to be sure info about the seminar is included in their chapter newsletters.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: RD Nancy Bowers presented this report.

• **TVR Contribution for Fundraiser at Seminar 2003:**

MOTION: Dogwood Chapter moved that TVR purchases the Ann Powell silver needlework charm necklace as our donation to the fundraiser at national seminars for this year and each year following until we change our minds. The motion was seconded and passed.

- **Textile/Embroidery History Video:** EGA will send a copy of this video to the Textile/Embroidery Collection.
- **National Nomination Committee:** The chairman of this committee requests resumes. The form may be found in the Officers' Notebook.

NEW BUSINESS: RD Nancy Bowers presented this report.

- **National Tapestry:** Druscilla Defalque is taking over for Nancy as the TVR rep for this committee. Judy Jeroy is designing the tapestry. Stitchers will be needed. Most all materials will be donated.
- **17th National Traveling Exhibit:** The exhibit will be on view November 9, 2003, through January 18, 2004, at the Huntsville Museum of Art in Huntsville, Alabama. The fall TVR Board Meeting will be held there on Friday, November 7. The pre-board meeting will be held November 6. Of the 68 pieces chosen for the exhibit, only three won't travel.
- **18th National Traveling Exhibit:** The grand opening of this exhibit will be April 16—May 22, 2004, at the Fuller Lodge in Los Alamos, New Mexico. The exhibit will be on view at the Custom House Museum in Clarksville, Tennessee, from mid-August through mid-October of 2004. For each National Traveling Exhibit, TVR gives an award to a piece submitted by a region member. So, TVR members were urged to submit their entries for this exhibit.
- **Past President's Pin:** Approved.
- **Seminar 2003:** Half a table is available for free to each region for sales during Merchandise Night and TVR will reserve a half.
- **N.A.M.E. Reception:** This reception will be held August 6, 2003, at EGA Headquarters to view the Storr House.
- **Seminar 2002:** For various reason, this seminar, held in Hilton Head, South Carolina, did not make much money. National will keep tighter reigns on the seminar budget from now on. TVR will do the same for Share-a-Stitches.
- **Ginnie Morrow's NOVA:** EGA Headquarters would like to have a stitched piece donated to their collection in memory of Ginnie Morrow. Anyone interested in doing so should send in a note saying "I would like to donate this piece if the committee finds it acceptable."
- **Bonnie Key's Memorial:** Bonnie Key, EGA Headquarters' office manager, died in February 2003, and the executive board would like designate an appropriate vehicle for funds donated to the guild in her memory. Among suggested possibilities are the Capital Assets Fund or the newly formed Legacy Fund. Nancy read the guidelines for the Legacy Fund, which was established by the Board of Directors to honor living and dead members. It funds scholarships for the study of the art of embroidery by members of EGA.

MOTION: Louisville Chapter moved that the Tennessee Valley Region donate to the Legacy Fund in Memory of Bonnie Key. The motion was seconded and passed.

MOTION: Tri-Area Needle Arts Chapter moved that TVR donate \$500.00 to the Legacy Fund in memory of Bonnie Key. The motion was seconded and passed.

OTHER:

MOTION: Stones River Chapter moved to recognize the outstanding contributions made by our webmaster, Tink Boord-Dill. The motion was seconded and passed.

- The updated "Who, What, Where" will be put on the website.
- The correct e-mail address for Lori Beth Etengoff, the president of CyberStitchers Chapter is:
addicted2xstitch@ameritech.net

- The Louisville Chapter presented an invitation to host SAS XXVI in 2006.

MOTION: Bristol Chapter moved to accept Louisville Chapter's invitation to host SAS XXVI in 2006. The motion was seconded and passed.

- The following chapters have not responded to the newsletter editor's request for outreach reports.
 - Bluegrass
 - Bristol
 - Central Alabama
 - CyberStitchers
 - Georgia
 - Iris
 - Majestic Mountains
 - Southern Stitchers

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Donnajeane M. Etkin, Secretary