

Tennessee Valley Region

The Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc.

Board Meeting Minutes, June 26, 2003
Host: Huntington, West Virginia

Nancy Bowers, Region Director, called the Tennessee Valley Region Board Meeting to order with 20 chapters present. Absent: Central Alabama, Cumberland, Jubilee, Plateau and Southern Stitchers.

MINUTES:

PLEASE NOTE:

- **ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN MUST HAVE WRITTEN REPORTS FOR THE SECRETARY, THE APPROPRIATE OFFICER AND THE DIRECTOR.**
- **ALL MOTIONS ARE WRITTEN ON PREPARED MOTION SHEETS AND GIVEN TO THE SECRETARY.**

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

Corrections to Minutes: Dixie Chapter and Bays Mountain Chapter were present at the March 14, 2003, board meeting.

MOTION BETWEEN SESSIONS: The request for approving the Knoxville Chapter's participation in the Dogwood Festival was granted at a cost of \$125.00. After the festival, the elected board approved the reimbursement to the chapter for the approved amount.

Treasurer Pam Roberts shared with the board a Thank You note for the grant that she received from Jean Burns, the Knoxville Chapter treasurer.

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

- Budget as of May 31, 2003. Pam noted this budget was on target with no problems.
- Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2003.
- TVR Quarterly Membership Statistics. When no number is listed in the last column for an individual chapter, Pam hasn't heard from its membership chairman. She asked reps to find out why because the report was due April 2003. Membership chairmen must turn in a report whether or not the chapter has renewing chapter members for that quarter.

RD Nancy Bowers reported that the chapter financial report from February 2003 was turned into National.

BYLAWS: Nancy Bowers, Bylaws Chairman reviewed the status of chapters' bylaws.

EDUCATION: Amy Robinson, Education Chairman, asked chapter reps to make sure their chapter education chairmen received the new Petite Projects that were sent to them. She reminded chapter reps that EGA's Petite Projects make good programs. Amy distributed Chapter Program Booklets to the reps, noting that a few new chapters were added to the list with very good and detailed programs. Those wishing to submit programs for the next meeting should send them to Amy by October 15.

Grants in the amount of \$200 are available to chapters to teach needlework to children. No one applied for the money during the past quarter. To apply for a "Time to Teach" grant, reps should submit requests to Amy. The money is available on a first come, first served basis.

Amy reported that chapters should have received the stitching booklets by now. They became available in May.

Nancy Bowers announced that Doris Hockenberry of the Louisville Chapter received the TVR Educator's Award of Excellence AND the EGA National Educator's Award of Excellence. To familiarize the board with Doris Hockenberry's qualifications, Nancy read about her from the nomination form her chapter submitted.

MOTION: Bristol TN/VA Chapter proposed that the TVR Board allot \$150 per chapter for educational purposes for the next budget year, to be used by each chapter for their choice of education programs — correspondence courses, teachers, etc. They would be required to submit proof of programming before being reimbursed for the funds. No action was taken.

EXHIBIT: Dorothy Graves, Exhibit Chairman, reviewed the exhibition schedule for the Margaret Parshall Gallery at EGA headquarters, through 2006. TVR is scheduled to have an exhibit there in ten years.

The deadline for entries for the 18th national exhibit is October 15, 2003. All the information is on the EGA website.

HISTORIAN: Ardith Bryan, Historian, reviewed additions since the last TVR board meeting. She presented photos and a Certificate to our own newsletter editor, Ellen Daniels, who received the first (and last) EGA Region Newsletter Award. The scrapbook was brought to this Share-A-Stitch for viewing by all in attendance. Ardith is accepting material for the scrapbook.

NEWSLETTER: Ellen Daniels, Newsletter Editor, presented her report. While there will not be another region newsletter contest, the contest for chapter newsletters will continue. It's OK to e-mail newsletters to the national newsletter reviewer but, if chapters provide any printed copies, they should still send one to her:

Pat Nanninga
EGA National Newsletter Reviewer
3017 Drakestone Drive
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909-1356

Ellen's mailing list (both e-mail and snail mail) consists of 162 addresses. She noted that more chapters are e-mailing their newsletters to their members. Ellen praised the TVR chapter newsletters she's been receiving. She requested that chapter news, committee reports and other information to be included in the region's newsletter to her by the next board meeting.

At the present time, we have three advertisers. Ellen encouraged reps to solicit others and noted she has forms available for this purpose. Ads help offset the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter.

Reminders:

- TVR website: www.egatvr.com; National website: www.egausa.org
- Do not use the word "raffle" in your newsletters. The IRS does not look kindly on this.
- Chapter reps should inform Ellen as soon as possible if and when their chapters have a new newsletter editor. Every newsletter editor should have a copy of EGA's *Guidelines for Newsletter Editors*, which is available from headquarters, and/or may also be downloaded from the EGA website.
- RD Nancy Bowers reminded reps to make certain assistant RD Sandy McIlrath received copies of chapter newsletters that are e-mailed.

Nancy announced that Ellen was selected by *Piecework* magazine as their needleworker of the year in cross stitch, and she will be featured in an upcoming issue.

NOMINATING: Wanda Arnold, Chairman, and her committee – Audrey Bruner and Gwen Nelson – nominated the following as members of the 2004-2006 nominating committee, to be voted upon in November:

Winona Bays, Chairman
Ellen Daniels, Cheekwood Chapter
Grace D. Grundon, Plateau Chapter

MEMBERSHIP: Wanda Arnold passed out this report for Membership Chairman Nadine Alexander, and noted that Nadine is not getting good responses for the surveys she's sending out. E-mail addresses should be included with new and renewing memberships. The membership brochure is being revised. Chapters may order up to 300 brochures at one time (no limit on repeat orders). They are available to chapters at no charge. Nancy Bowers reviewed the form to be submitted by chapters to request membership recruitment grant money.

MOTION: Greater Memphis Chapter moved to accept the form. The motion was seconded and passed with the provision that the name of the fund be changed to "Membership Retention & Recruitment Grand Funds."

OUTREACH: RD Sandy McIlrath, Outreach Chairman, reported on the great ideas and projects available to chapters from EGA National. The *American Hearts* project raised \$17,000, which was donated to the American Heart Association at the National Seminar in Hilton Head, South Carolina. She handed out information about how to send photographs over the internet. Instructions are also available online at the EGA National website. They may also be mailed to:

Jan Palin
3089 Sunset Lane
Cocoa Beach, Florida 32922-6658

The pattern for the *National Habitat for Humanity Sampler* is available online. The *Susan Jacques Sampler*, a response to 9-11, is available. The *American Hearts* booklet, which includes six heart designs, is available for \$15.00. Profits are donated to national outreach.

Sandy distributed the chapter outreach reports for June 2003, which included reports received from following chapters:

- **Alabama Chapter**

The Habitat for Humanity Madison County of Huntsville, Alabama honored the Alabama Chapter with an article in their spring 2003 Newsletter. A copy of the newspaper is being placed in our scrapbook. The article reads as follows:

"Embroidered Samplers"

"What make a house a home? A beautiful embroidered sampler can be a start. For the past two years, the Huntsville chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America has provided a framed, personalized sampler to each Habitat family at the dedication of their new home. Each sampler features the ABC's, numbers, a house, the family's name and the year and the words "Habitat home is where the heart is."

"The Habitat sampler project is part of the Huntsville Guild's community outreach program. It's just one example of the ways Habitat for Humanity brings out the diverse talents of those in our community who are eager to lend a helping hand. To learn more about the Embroiderers' Guild of America, go to their website at www.egausa.org/. For information about the Huntsville chapter, click on Chapter Directory and Tennessee Valley Region. Our heartfelt thanks go to the talented folks in the Embroiderers' Guild who are teaching and preserving needle arts while also serving our community."

The Alabama Chapter along with the Big Spring Chapter of Needlepoint of Huntsville recently stitched "Appreciation Flag Patches" and sent them to Dayton, Ohio, where they were re-sent to our troops fighting for Operation Iraqi Freedom. One of our chapter members received a personal thank you note stating how much the soldiers appreciated receiving the patches and that they were carrying them in their billfolds. They really appreciated the fact that our stitchers would take time to stitch these patches and send them to the troops.

- **Bays Mountain Chapter**

The Bays Mountain Chapter members are continuing projects for the outreach program. These include the Wee Care gowns for premature infants at the local hospitals as needed. The chapter is also continuing the Military Outreach Program.

- **Birmingham Needlearts Chapter**

Our donation to "Jessie's Place" Center for Women & children was awesome! There was a total of 292 items plus \$25. The items ranged from the smallest soaps, to paper products, furniture polish, makeup, sewing kits, dental hygiene products plus many other items all packed in laundry baskets.

- **Bluegrass Chapter – No Report.**

- **Bristol TN/VA Chapter**

The chapter is continuing the outreach projects of smocked baby gowns and Christmas tree decorations. The theme for the Christmas trees this year is Patriotic ornaments.

- **Central Alabama Chapter** – No Report.

- **Chattanooga Chapter** – No Report.

- **Cheekwood Chapter**

The new outreach project Cheekwood has undertaken this year has been the soft sculpture hats for ladies undergoing chemo who have lost their hair. I plan to bring a sample of this to the meeting in West Virginia, with the hope that some other chapters may consider this project.

Some hats have already been made and given privately to ladies who were known to Cheekwood members. Others are being collected to give to a clinic where chemo is being administered.

Part of the summer workshop program at Cheekwood will be devoted to making these hats to have a collection available when the need arises.

- **Cotton Valley Chapter** – No new Outreach activities.

- **Cumberland Chapter**

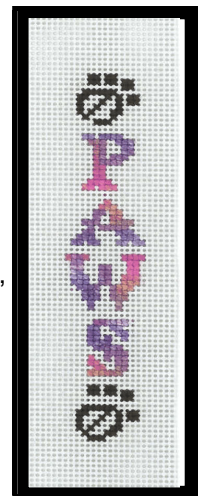
We are still working on our binkies to be donated to the local police department for abused children. These binkies are 3' x 3' or smaller (for babies) and can be crocheted, quilted, knitted, etc. These will be donated to the police department in December.

- **CyberStitchers**

The Outreach Committee has been collecting stitched bookmarks from participating members, and when they've been scanned and uploaded to our site, we will distribute them to a worthy charity. We are examining our options in the international community since our chapter is truly an international chapter. CyberStitchers is an internet group of stitchers with members from the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and has just begun to focus on Outreach. We were exploring the prospect of doing the bookmark project for the troops (from different countries), but were undecided about how to get them to the troops. (We face interesting logistic challenges since we are not a face-to-face group.) We are currently searching for another Outreach project to do.

- **Dixie Chapter**

The chapter is working on a bookmark program for PAWS for Healing, a St. Francis Hospital ministry, which has dogs of all types, shapes and ages visiting nursing homes, hospitals, mental institutions and children's homes. They have completed 20 or so bookmarks so far. They also have started a new project with children reading to the dogs. Children lose their inhibitions with dogs so they read more easily. They also vie for the chance to read with these dogs. This means that they are **READING!** PAWS Columbus, their partner in this project, came up with the idea of having bookmarks for the children. The Threaded Needle has donated the supplies for these very simple bookmarks, which are cross-stitched on perforated paper. If your chapter is interested in stitching one of the bookmarks, please contact the Threaded Needle for the kits. Their phone number is 1-800-805-8247. The chapter would be glad to share the pattern with others.



The chapter has been asked by the Columbus Museum to help with a children's project. This summer the museum is holding a class in conjunction with the Historic Columbus Foundation. Part of this class will take place in the Walkers Peters Langdon home in the historic district, which has a sampler as part of its collection. The museum is putting together a study trunk that will focus on the time period of the house (early 1800s). The chapter will provide two samplers for the trunk. A reproduction Eliza Ann Marlett sampler will be in the trunk "as is" so students can get a hands-on feel for the sampler. The other sampler in the trunk will be "under construction" so students can actually take a few stitches. After this summer, this trunk will be available to the school system for 4th and 5th graders as well as 8th graders. Let the Threaded Needle know if you would like to help with the project. The Columbus Museum is very enthusiastic about what our guild has to offer.

- **Dogwood Chapter**

One of our stitch in groups is teaching a Girl Scout troop various embroidery stitches and they are so excited, they asked to “really make something” now that they are more accomplished. Two other groups are making day gowns for tiny babies born so prematurely that ready-made clothing does not fit. They are also stitching caps for the preemies. Another group makes small lap robes for one of the local nursing homes to be used in their wheel chairs. Two of our groups sent Girl Scout cookies to our troops as suggested at our last Regional meeting. We continue to make teddy bears for the local fire and police departments and jingle blocks for the children’s’ hospital trays. Since our chapter aids in the restoration of costumes for the Atlanta History Center, we continue to make the padded hangers for hanging the clothing.

- **Georgia Chapter** – No report.

- **Greater Memphis Chapter**

In May we created comfort bags of toiletries for teenagers - 12 each for boys and girls - that we donated to the Church Health Center for distribution as needed. This organization provides the vital service to this community of offering health care to all based of their ability to pay. We are also continuing our tradition of sponsoring prizes in the needlework category at our County Fair. One is a \$30 prize for original projects that is open to all ages. Three go to children, one in each age category, 5 -10, 11 - 14, 15 - 18. Stitching donations to the St. Jude Children’s Hospital is an ongoing project. Lap robes are especially appreciated for the children undergoing chemotherapy.

- **Iris Chapter** – No report.

- **Jubilee Chapter**

Jubilee Chapter has started doing the Habitat for Humanity Samplers. We contacted the Mobile office and the local director, Anne-Marie Tauses, came to our April stitch-in and spoke to our guild members about how Habitat works. We handed out the charts and the cloth was donated. To date, we have stitched and framed two samplers for two homes which have been dedicated in the past month and a half. Our members feel really good about this project. We are also stitching a sampler to hang in the Habitat office.

Another community outreach project that we are doing is donating two of the Charmed Heart pieces (once they are completed and framed) to the Cardiac Care Waiting Rooms at — the two largest hospitals here in Mobile — Providence Hospital and Mobile Infirmary.

- **Knoxville Chapter**

The Knoxville chapter continues to pursue methods of reaching and helping the community. As in the past we are preparing stitched ornaments to decorate a tree for the “Fantasy of Trees” a major fundraiser for the Children’s Hospital in Knoxville. Our ornaments will be completed in time for the decorating and auction which will take place in November. This year’s theme is “Samplers.” Our needlework tree always receives a great deal of interest.

Some members of our group donated stitched and hand finished decorator pillows to Habitat for Humanity to be given to those families who lost their homes to the tornado that hit Tennessee in 2002. Other groups continue to stitch “Welcome” pieces to be given to Habitat for Humanity.

In April we set up a needlework exhibit in the main Knoxville Library as we do each year. At this time we also maintained a booth at the “Dogwood Arts Festival,” for several days at which we sell cross-stitch graphs for the many “Museum House” pieces” that we have designed over the years. This provides a time to interest the public in the Embroiderers’ Guild as well as being a fundraiser for the chapter. We have also had several interest groups prepare exhibits in their local libraries.

- **Louisville Chapter**

The chapter is currently working on a quilt for the quilt auction in November.

- **Majestic Mountains Chapter**

Majestic Mountains Needle Arts Chapter has the same outreach activities continuing. We are involved in the Habitat for Humanity program locally and we are stitching samplers and presenting them to the families as the homes are completed. We also have a program to collect small toilet articles for donation to our local shelters.

I don't think this is strictly outreach, however, we are planning an exhibit at the Charleston, West Virginia, Federal Building in the public lobby in the fall. We plan to have information available at the exhibit about our chapter and our activities. We are excited about this as we do not have a regularly scheduled exhibit yet and this may become one.

- **Plateau Chapter** – No Report.
- **Southern Stitchers Chapter** – No new Outreach activities to report.
- **Stones River Chapter**

We put up a beautiful library display at the Linebaugh Public Library in downtown Murfreesboro, Tennessee, for the month of April.

A "Chicken of the Month" quilt was finished and delivered to the Middle Tennessee Medical Center. It will hang in the hospital in the children's unit for the enjoyment of all. Several members contributed to the quilt by stitching a square (or two!) and it was pieced for us by Betsy Wells.

- **Tri-Area Needle Arts (TANA) Chapter**

We've been really busy with SAS XXIII but have managed to squeeze in some outreach projects too:

- helped a church in another state get started with Habitat Samplers for their local community
- donated pop tabs to St Mary's Hospital Hospitality House
- presented a Habitat sampler to another new home owner
- donated filled baby bottles (with money) to Two Hearts Pregnancy Care Center
- donated cleaning supplies to Branches (spouse abuse shelter)

Western KY/TN Stitchers Chapter

Two members worked with Murray State Students as part of Hester Residential College (new term for "dorm") monthly programs meeting. They taught counted cross stitch with the theme "Home Sweet Hester" which was stitched as a small sampler that could be framed and put on a desk or dresser. The kits and the design were donated by The Posy Collection and students enjoyed making a beginner piece in their school colors. It was delightful to see both guys and gals excited about cross-stitch after a full day of classes and work! About 23 students participated but another 27 requested the kit to complete on their own. Many have since said they enjoyed the stitching process and plan to do more. Another program is being planned for 2004 with a simple hedgehog design in counted cross stitch. The hedgehog is the mascot for Hester Residential College.

Another popular project is Habitat for Humanity Samplers. Originally, it was proposed that we make them for one town. But members now seek to make them for all the counties that are represented by our widespread membership.

Currently we are completing five for actually determined recipient families as well as four more for families we learn about in the future. Member Posy Lough, of The Posy collection, drew up a chart just for this project which was quite a joy to stitch. She was able to get the floss donated by DMC and the high quality fabric by Charles Craft. There are plans for the Sampler to be made available to other EGA chapters that would like it. Currently another challenging project is being planned for the fall. Details in our next issue!

EGA POSTAGE STAMP: Pam Roberts, Postage Stamp Committee Chairman, reported that all chapters but one have completed the petitions, and that she will have the completed petitions by the November meeting.

WEBSITE: RD Nancy Bowers reported for Tink Boord-Dill, Webmaster, that the photos Marie Tomazic took of chapter pins and nametags at the last board meeting are now on the website. Websites of interest to EGA members will be added for fun.

SAS XXIII: Amy Robinson, SAS XXIII Chairman, welcomed everyone to *Birds of a Feather Stitch Together* and reported that her SAS XXIII Committee made candy bags for TVR board members. merchandise night will be filled with vendors. Amy thanked all 40 members of her Tri-Area Needle Arts Chapter for their work, and announced that 182 stitchers had registered for the seminar.

The pros & cons of pre-registration were discussed, with the acknowledgement that it was an incentive and a perk for those attending Share-A-Stitch.

Offering a commuter fee for SAS similar to those available for National seminars was also discussed. It was noted that the reason we require folks to stay at the SAS hotel was to avoid fees/penalties imposed by hotels if we don't meet room block requirements detailed in our contracts with them, e.g. additional fees for classrooms, etc., may be charged.

SAS XXIV: Jo Rita M^cMurray, SAS XXIV Chairman, passed out the SAS XXIV committee's report for *Stitching Mountain Memories* and a list of faculty, asking reps to share the information with their chapters, making sure it is put in their newsletters. Pre-registration is available. The seminar is scheduled to take place June 17-19, 2004, at the Meadowview Conference Center in Kingsport, Tennessee. In a change from recent seminars, classes will take place all day Friday and Saturday. She needs one set of labels from each chapter by December 1, 2003, and the empty SAS notebooks now.

SAS XXV: Ardith Bryan reported for Pat Kyser, Chairman, that the logo, theme and pattern for SAS XXV have been approved by EGA. All SAS committee members are receiving a copy, and each SAS XXIII attendee will have one in their welcome kit.

The plans for SAS XXV were developed in lieu of a traditional SAS to encourage attendance at the 2005 National Seminar in Atlanta. Members may, however, just register for SAS XXV for a small fee if unable to attend the National Seminar.

At SAS XXIV, Alabama Chapter plans to have a pre-registration table available so members may pay their fee, which will entitle them to the pattern for the Birthday Cake Nametag and ensure they will receive their SAS XXV pin. Registered members will be challenged to choose their own design and colors within the official birthday cake outline. The SAS XXV pin will admit them to the birthday party. Further details will be available as plans progress.

2005 NATIONAL SEMINAR, ATLANTA, GEORGIA: Donna Smith, Chairman, presented her report noting that she and her committee are working on specific ways, large and small, that all TVR chapters can help. A list should be ready by next year (2004). She asked reps to please make sure that the invitation to Seminar 2005 and her report are constantly reprinted in their chapter newsletters.

Volunteers not attending Seminar 2005 may shop at the bookstore and view the exhibit. A "non-participant's fee" and a "commuter fee" will be available.

Ads to cover costs are being solicited from shops throughout the Tennessee Valley Region.

The following reports were presented by RD Nancy Bowers

OLD BUSINESS:

A complimentary copy of a video of EGA's textile/embroidery collections is available from national for those with textile collections.

NEW BUSINESS:

- TVR will have ½ a table at Seminar 2003 in Ryebrook, New York, for free, and Nancy asked for suggestions as to how to use it. Donna Smith volunteered to man the table and sell TVR items. Chapters should let Nancy know if they have something they want to sell.
- The new region teacher's proposal form was reviewed. It will be approved at the next national board meeting.
- Reps were asked to take requests for scheduling at least one TVR Board Meeting on a Saturday to their chapters for discussion. Nancy reviewed the history of scheduling board meetings as well as religious concerns. It was noted that the choice of meeting day depends upon the schedules and needs of the region director and the host chapter. The issue will be considered again at the next TVR Board Meeting in November.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Tickets for the Seminar 2003 opportunity drawing may be bought ahead of time, whether or not you attend the Seminar. Cost is \$10.00 for thirteen (13) tickets. Checks should be made out to EGA. Money may be sent to RD Nancy Bowers along with instructions about where to put the tickets and for what item(s).
- The new EGA national office manager is Lana Stokes. Marie Campbell, EGA national president, received 65 applications for the job (replacing Bonnie Key who died earlier this year). After two rounds of interviews, Lana Stokes from Clarksville, Indiana, was chosen to be the fourth member of the team staffing the EGA National Office in Louisville, Kentucky. Her responsibilities will include arranging for visas for foreign teachers, and working with the membership and the traveling exhibit, *Through the Needle's Eye*. She is open to members' concerns and suggestions.
- Photos of completed "Charmed Hearts" will be posted on the website for 30 days.
- 17th national traveling exhibit: 68 pieces were chosen for this exhibit and only three will not travel. The exhibit will be at the Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, Alabama, November 9, 2003, through January 18, 2004.
- Region entries are needed for the 18th national traveling exhibit. A TVR award will be given each year. The Opening venue for this exhibit is:

April 16 – May 22, 2004
The Art Center at Fuller Lodge
Los Alamos, New Mexico

The TVR venue for this exhibit is:

Mid-August through mid-October 2004
Custom House Museum
Clarksville, Tennessee

- Past chapter president's pin will be available soon.
- The N.A.M.E. reception to view the Storrs House is August 6, 2003, at HQ.
- The TVR board's annual meeting will be Friday, November 7, 2003, at the Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, Alabama.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Donnajeanne M. Etkin, Secretary