

SHOW-ME STITCHERS CHAPTER, EGA

HISTORY

Over a period of about three years during the 1980's, Anita Mueller, member-at-large of EGA, was working with Joanne Hunt of the Heartland Region of EGA, trying to start an EGA chapter in St. Louis, Missouri. On September 28, 1987, she and Phoebe Harris of Lake St. Louis, Missouri, arranged a meeting of possible members from both areas but only a few responded – far short of the 25 members required for a chapter of EGA to be recognized.

In 1987 several members of the St. Louis Needlework Guild, a patron guild of the Council of American Embroiderers, became EGA members-at-large in order to take an EGA sponsored correspondence course. These ladies, added to those attending the first meeting, made a sufficient number to form a Satellite chapter of an existing EGA chapter. Anita sent these names to Carol Goossens, president of the Quinsippi Needleworkers in Quincy, Illinois, asking if they would accept us as a Satellite chapter. Their consent resulted in a meeting held on January 19, 1988 at the home of Phoebe Harris. Twelve interested stitchers and Carol Goossens attended.

The first meeting of the Satellite Chapter of Quinsippi Needleworkers met on February 9, 1988 at the Daniel Boone Branch of the St. Louis County Library with Carolyn Stern as temporary chairman and Jena Negro as temporary secretary. By the end of the meeting, membership totaled seventeen.

The goal of 25 members was nearly reached by September 1988. Carolyn had been acquiring necessary information to apply for a chapter charter. At the meeting on September 13, then name "Show-Me Stitchers" was chosen and by-laws approved. The proposed officers of the proposed Show-Me Stitchers Chapter were: President – Carolyn Stern; Vice-President – Becky Blanchard; Secretary – Jean Negro; Treasurer – Ira Dash; Librarian – Kay Brillhart.

The Show-Me Stitchers Chapter Charter was approved at the EGA annual Seminar on October 26, 1988.

On November 7, 1988 the Show-Me Stitchers' first officers were elected: President – Anita Mueller; 1st Vice-President – LaMona Brown; 2nd Vice-President and Program Chairman – Charlene Brizendine; Secretary – Jean Negro; Treasurer – Betty Warner; Regional Representative – Phoebe Harris. Twenty-six members were on the roster.

Regular meetings in 1989 were held at the Bridgeton trails Library in St. Louis County. During the month of August 1989, needlework of Show-Me Stitchers' members was on display at Grand Glaize Library.

January 1990 – Show-Me Stitchers returned to the Daniel Boone Library for regular meetings.

Another display of members' needlework was held at the University City Library during the month of March 1990.

By October the membership had grown to 41.

At the November 1990 meeting the following officers were elected: President – Charlene Brizendine; 1st Vice-President – Sally Rutherford; 2nd Vice-President and Program Chairman – Jan Commander; Secretary – Nita Missey; Treasurer – Betty Warner; Regional Representative – Phoebe Harris. Anita Mueller had purchased a gavel as legacy for this chapter and presented to the president, Charlene Brizendine.

Sign of the Arrow displayed members' needlework during the month of June 1990.

In December 1990, Nora Hindley from an EGA chapter in England was a guest at the holiday luncheon. As a result, Show-Me Stitchers and South Lakeland and Furness Branch, EGA in England have become sister chapters.

Three new groups have started: an evening group in August 1991, a Wearable Arts group in September 1991 and an Ethnic Study Group in January 1992.

The officers for the evening group are as follows: President – Beth Ann Eichenser; Secretary – Ann Omura; Treasurer – Yvonne Simmons; Newsletter co-coordinator – Margaret Starkey; Liason and Board representative – Barb Reininger.

With deep shock we learned of the death of our beloved Anita – November 9 1991. She was the one responsible for our existence. We shall miss her.

April 1992 the membership (including all groups) numbered 55.

The community project for 1992 was to help the Sappington House Foundation attract more visitors by having a needlework exhibit May 30 1992 – June 30 1992. Articles were shown both in the house and in the library. Sappington house charged their usual fee for visiting the house. These funds go toward defraying cost of operation. The attendance more that doubled during the exhibit.

Show-Me Stitchers member LaMona designed the Chapter logo and pin.

At the November meeting the following officers were elected: President – Sally Rutherford; 1st Vice-President – Beth Ann Eichenser; 2nd Vice-President (programs and education) – Liz Bilbo; Secretary – Barbara Kelly; Treasurer – Barbara Reininger; Regional Representative – LaMona Brown.

Show-Me Stitchers needlework was shown at the Sappington House 2nd Annual Quilt Show on April 24-25 1993.

Total membership is now 62.