

Dear New Member,

Welcome to **East Iowa Heirloom Quilters (EIHQ)**! We're so glad you've decided to join our guild and hope this letter will help you to become more familiar with our activities.

Our **MEETINGS** are held on the fourth Monday of the month (except December) at 9:00 am and 6:30 pm at the American Legion, 625 31st St., Marion, IA. We only have an evening meeting in October. Occasionally, depending upon the speaker, there may be only one meeting in other months. If that is the case, it is announced ahead of time and that information will also be in the newsletter and on the website. There is a large **PARKING** lot behind the building and our landlords have asked that we park beyond the second set of doors as the front area is reserved for Legion members.

Sign-up sheets for activities are available before every meeting. Monthly meeting activities include a **BLOCK OF THE MONTH**. For \$1.50, members may purchase a precut fabric kit for a quilt block to be pieced at home and returned at the next meeting. One lucky person's name is drawn from all of those who return completed blocks and she/he wins them all. There are usually enough blocks to make a large quilt.

EIHQ boasts a **LIBRARY** of over 600 quilting-related books, DVDs, and novels. Our librarian brings a selection of books to each meeting, and members are invited to check out any books they choose. Please return books promptly at the next month. The list of library books is on the Guild Website. If you would like a particular title in our collection, the librarian will be glad to bring it to the next meeting.

SHOW AND TELL is one of our most popular meeting activities. Members are encouraged to bring their completed projects and tell a little about them. Please don't be shy about participating in Show and Tell as every experienced quilter was once a beginner and there is nothing more encouraging to quilters of every skill level than the praise of your fellow members!

We encourage everyone to wear a **NAME TAG!** You'll want to create your own after you've had a chance to look around and get some ideas from our members. The only rule is that your name can be read.

MONTHLY PROGRAM speakers are frequently well-known quilt makers, authors and educators. Unless otherwise noted the speaker and topic will be the same for the morning and evening meeting each month. Your annual dues help to defray the cost of securing top-flight speakers and instructors. If you have suggestions for workshop or speakers, please contact the Program Chair or Co-Chair.

WORKSHOPS on a variety of topics are held nearly every month. They're taught by well-known speakers and teachers or by our experienced and talented members. We try to vary the topics so every member can find a topic of interest and attend at least one or two each year. Our popular workshops fill up fast so be sure to sign up and pay as soon as you can if you'd like to attend. You may register online for classes on www.EIHQGuild.com. Class details, including supplies lists are also available online. All Class registrations are considered **TENTATIVE** until payment is received.

EIHQ members willingly **SHARE OUR SKILLS (SOS)** to make more than 500 quilts every year for charity. SOS quilt assembly afternoons are often held between our monthly meetings and we also meet on the third Wednesday of the month from 9:00 – 3:00 at the Knights of Columbus #909, 1620 E Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids. Members are encouraged to donate time, fabric, batting and completed quilts and tops for SOS. If you would like to help (and we sure hope you will!) please see the SOS chair before or after the morning or evening meeting.

EIHQ members are also involved with making **Quilts of Valor**. The local Cedar Rapids volunteer group (Freedom Stitchers of Iowa) makes and professionally quilts the quilts that are awarded to Veterans in very moving and humbling Presentation Ceremonies at least 4-5 times a year.

On Guild Meeting days, from 1-4:30 pm, come and **BEE SEWCIAL!** Help with SOS or bring your own handiwork and socialize with your fellow guild members.

Several times each year our activities may include a **CHALLENGE QUILT PROJECT** or a **MYSTERY** quilt. These activities as well as the block of the month are great ways to learn new techniques and work with a variety of fabrics.

ACTIVITIES abound at EIHQ! We sponsor an annual bus trip to a quilt show or “shop hop” and we hold spring and fall quilt retreats each year. We also have occasional UFO sewing/quilting days to help us get going on those ‘unfinished objects’ that lurk in all of our sewing rooms.

EIHQ provides a **SPEAKER’S BUREAU** for local schools and organizations. Members volunteer to show quilts, provide hands-on activities and facilitate ongoing projects to groups requesting a program regarding any aspect of quilting and quilting history. The Education Chairperson coordinates this.

You will receive a **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** (11 issues annually, no newsletter in December). It’s chock-full of information about upcoming meetings and activities. You may receive your monthly newsletter by email or by accessing our EIHQ Website, www.EIHQGuild.com under the newsletter tab. If you want to receive your newsletter by mail, there is a \$10.00 charge payable with your membership renewal.

You can also find **EIHQ** on **FACEBOOK** and **INSTAGRAM**. Just type EIHQ in the search bar.

EIHQ has a **QUILT SHOW** every other year or so. We hope you will get involved volunteering for the show and showing your own quilts.

EIHQ’s **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** is elected every year at our annual meeting and the current officers are listed in the monthly newsletter. Members are welcome to attend our monthly board meeting at 6:00 pm on the third Monday of each month at Community of Christ Church, 1500 Blairs Ferry Rd in Hiawatha.

EIHQ has nearly 300 members and our large monthly meetings simply don’t lend themselves to getting to know each other. One of the best ways to meet people is to get involved in guild activities. **We strongly encourage you to sign up for workshops, retreats, UFO days, SOS or QOV quilting or to volunteer in any area that interests you.** Becoming involved in guild activities gives you the opportunity to meet other quilters in a smaller more relaxed setting and it is fun! Small groups are another way to meet new members as well as work on new projects and learn new techniques. We are trying to link up those wishing to join a small group. Visit with the membership chair for more information.

Check out the **WEBSITE** for more information. www.EIHQguild.com. The password for the **Members Only** section is on the back of your membership card.

Our hope is that you enjoy your guild as much as we do! If you have questions, concerns or suggestions please contact one of the officers, as we’re here to serve you! We look forward to seeing you often!

Debbie Wordehoff
Membership Chair

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