

Welcome to 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.

If you have given us your email address, you will receive an email from the member database. That is the platform from which all electronic information about the guild is sent to you.

The address for the EIHQ website is www.EIHQGuild.com. The password to access Members Only information is on the back of your membership card. Please check the Members Only section for the By Laws and Standing Rules. The Board Members are listed in the Newsletter. You can also find **EIHQ** on **FACEBOOK** and **INSTAGRAM**. Just type EIHQ in the search bar. In Facebook, search for "East Iowa Heirloom Quilters".

Our **MEETINGS** are held on the 4th Monday of the month (except December) at 9:00 am and 6:30 pm at the American Legion, 625 31st Street, Marion, Iowa. We only have an evening meeting in October. Occasionally depending upon the speaker, there may be only one meeting. This will always be announced 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.

EIHQ boasts a **LIBRARY** of over 600 quilting-related books 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 the books promptly at the next monthly meeting. The full collection can be searched online at librarycat.org/1:6/EIHQguild or visit the Resources section of 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.

Sign-up sheets for **ACTIVITIES** are available every meeting. Activities include **BLOCK OF THE MONTH**. For \$40.00 per year, or \$25.00 for the year if you supply your own background fabrics, members may purchase a fabric kit for a quilt block to be pieced at home and at the end of the program will have enough blocks to create their own quilt. At each month's AM and PM meetings we will draw three names from the participants, and they will receive a gift. We have sponsored bus trips to quilt shows & shop hops, have sew days, & occasional quilt retreats.

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-notch speakers and instructors. If you have suggestions for a 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. You may register online for classes on www.EIHQGuild.com. Class details, including supply 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 3rd 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.

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 the EIHQ website, www.EIHQGuild.com under the newsletter tab.

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 6:00pm on the 3rd Monday of each month at Community of Christ Church, 1500 Blairs Ferry Rd in Hiawatha.

EIHQ has over 200 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, 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.

Our hope is that you enjoy our 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!

Brenda Mortenson and Megan Bracy
Membership Chairs