

History of the Founding of the Alameda Quilt Guild

In September of 2015 the founding members, Carole King and Terry Hodges decided to see if there was any interest in started a quilt guild in Alameda. They had talked about this for many years when Terry was teaching quilting at Quilt Fans, a shop in Alameda. It was a dream they both shared.

Encouraged by Lorraine Heering, they sent out information about a casual meeting on the patio of Nob Hill Market in Alameda at 7 pm. in October 2015. About eight people showed up and a general discussion followed to see if there was enough interest to actually start a guild. The consensus was that there would indeed be enough people interested in doing so.

Carole King then arranged to get a meeting room at Rythmix Cultural Center. Word of mouth was the advertising for this meeting in December 2015. Thirty-seven members signed up at this meeting.

The first board meeting in December 2015 consisted of Joan Beall, Lorraine Heering, Terry Hodges and Carole King. A decision was made to keep our name simple and it identified where we were located, so the Alameda Quilt Guild was chosen as our name. We decided we would call our newsletter, The Bridge. Alameda can only be accessed by a bridge and bridges make connections and friendships which is what we hoped our guild would do for our members.

With this in mind, we decided to keep our mission statement simple, clear and concise, it is as follows. Make friends. Share what you know and learn from each other.

We discussed which volunteer positions we needed filled for our guild to run effectively. This ended our first AQG board meeting with a date of January 13th. as our first official guild meeting for 2016.

The following people volunteered at the January 2016 guild meeting and filled the board positions for the 2016 AQG board:

President: Joan Beall

Membership/Finance: Carole King

Secretary: Terry Hodges

Newsletter: Lorraine Heering

Charity quilts: Dorothy Kerwin

Hospitality: Jeanne Heffernan

Events: Kathleen Fennelly

Member-at-large: Leslie Sorenson

At the end of the 2016 year the guild had 70 paid members.

We hope this narrative inspires our fellow guild members to follow their dreams, just as we did in establishing this guild.