

Bylaws and Policies

Article I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Grand Rapids modern Quilters, a Michigan non-profit organization hereinafter referred to as GRMQ, Grand Rapids Modern Quilters.

Article II: PURPOSE

Section 1.

The mission of the GRMQ shall be to provide an atmosphere of fellowship for persons interested in the art and craft of modern quilt making and related arts by the sharing of skills and knowledge in the field of modern quilt making. The GRMQ shall:

- a. Encourage modern quilt making and collecting.
- b. Provide educational activities such as speakers and demonstrations, special interest workshops, and lectures.
- c. Support and sponsor quilting activities such as community events that provide the opportunity to share the art and enjoyment of modern quilting.
- d. Service the community through charitable activities involving quilting.
- e. Enlighten the public as to the substantial history of quilting as an art form as well as a continuing craft.
- f. Modern quilts are primarily functional and inspired by modern design. Modern quilters work in different styles, but several characteristics often appear which may help identify a modern quilt. These include, but are not limited to: the use of bold colors and prints, high contrast and graphic areas of solid color, improvisational piecing, minimalism, expansive negative space, and alternate grid work. Modern “traditionalism” or the updating of classic quilt designs is often seen in modern quilting.

Section 2.

This GRMQ shall be a non-profit organization under the laws of and on file with the state of Michigan. As a non-profit organization, the activities of the Guild shall be conducted in such a manner that no part of the net income shall benefit any individual member of the Guild.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to any person interested in modern quilts and quilt making. Membership is granted upon the completion of a membership application and payment of dues. New members may join at any time. Membership shall run from January 1st to December 31st. Each member is required to keep dues current, payable in the first two months of the new year. Members joining after July 1st will pay a reduced amount. Active members may participate in and support the projects and activities of the GRMQ, including the privilege of voting, holding office, and serving on committees. They shall be entitled to preferential placing in any GRMQ sponsored function, receive a membership roster, have access to minutes of the business and general meetings, have access to treasurer's reports, may place items on the agenda and be informed of all decisions of the Executive Board.

Affiliate Members

- a. Affiliate members shall be a place of business and/or community organization wishing to support the GRMQ.
- b. Affiliate members shall be entitled to all benefits of active members.
- c. Affiliate members shall be given priority over non-affiliate businesses or organizations to the extent reasonably possible.

The Executive Board shall establish dues for affiliate members.

ARTICLE IV: DUES/FEES

Section 1.

Dues

- a. Annual dues assessed to members shall be determined by resolution of the Executive Board.
- b. Membership for persons 10-18 years of age and under shall be half the rate of the established dues.
- c. Visitors may attend one meeting, free of charge. At the second and third meetings a nominal fee of \$5 will be charged. Upon the fourth meeting a visitor must become a member by paying the appropriate annual dues
- d. Annual dues shall be determined by resolution of the Executive Board. Changes in dues shall be established at the November meeting of the Executive Board and by 2/3 vote of those present and voting at the General Meeting, following thirty (30) days notice prior to the meeting
- e. Annual dues are payable on January 1st and become delinquent on January 31st. Members joining after June 30th will pay half the dues.
- f. Dues will be collected by the Treasurer, identified and held in the GRMQ checking account. The Treasurer shall account for all dues in the quarterly Treasurer's report.
- g. Any visitor who joins will have their visitor fees applied to their dues.
- h. A member whose dues remain unpaid by February 1st shall be dropped. That member will be reinstated upon payment of dues.
- i. Dues are not refundable.

Section 2.

Fees

- a. Fees may be charged for special classes, presentations and/or events as established by the Skill School/Major Future Events Committee, and approved by the Vice President of Activities.
- b. Fees will be collected by the Treasurer, identified and held in the GRMQ checking account. The Treasurer shall account for all fees collected in the quarterly Treasurer's report.

- c. Fees may be refundable as determined in advance of the event, class, or presentation in the event of cancellation by the GRMQ.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

Section 1.

General Membership Meetings

- a. General membership meetings shall be held on a date and at a place as designated by the Executive Board.
- b. The January meeting shall be considered the Annual meeting.
- c. Changes to any meetings shall be announced on the GRMQ Facebook page and/or via email.
- d. The current date for regular meetings is the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30P and the current meeting location for such meetings is the East Congregational Church in Grand Rapids, MI.

Section 2.

Special meeting may be called by the Executive Board or by 10% of the members.

Section 3.

Executive Board Meetings

Executive Board meetings shall be held additionally and are open to the General Membership.

Section 4.

Minutes

Minutes of all meetings shall be available to all members, and will be sent by email to all members on the email list after each meeting. A record of all previous months' meetings will be available by request to all members.

Section 5.

Voting

Every act or decision brought to the General Meeting shall be decided by a majority of the members present at the meeting, except otherwise provided by applicable law. Each member present is entitled to one vote on each matter. Voting shall be by voice, show of hands, or by ballot.

ARTICLE VI: FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 1.

The fiscal year shall be from January 1 through December 31.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall adopt the budget to be presented for approval by the membership no later than the February meeting.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall prepare a quarterly report for the Executive Board.

Section 4. The president, vice-president, and treasurer will each have access to the GRMQ bank account.

ARTICLE VII: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1.

Nominations for Guild officers shall be taken at the October meeting from the General Membership. Nominations will be accepted for the next 30 days. Members may nominate other members with their permission or may self-nominate.

Section 2.

Officers will serve a two-year term and until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 3.

A list of the duties and descriptions for each position shall be made available at the General Membership meeting via electronic transmission, on the guild website, or via email in October. Nominations will be presented to the General Membership at the November meeting.

Section 4.

Nominations

Nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee on the day of the election.

Section 5.

Voting may be conducted by electronic transmission to the greatest extent permitted under Michigan law.

ARTICLE VIII. EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1.

The Executive Board shall be elected by the General Membership and include the Guild officers along with the Immediate Past President of the Guild.

The duties of officers are as follows:

a. The President shall:

Preside at all general, special, and Board meetings.

With the approval of the officers, appoint all Committee Chairpersons.

Attend committee meetings as an ex officio member of the committee, as necessary and coordinate committee activities.

Perform duties as required as official spokesperson for the GRMQ.

Serve as co-signer with Treasurer on checks issued by the GRMQ.

b. The Vice-President shall:

In the absence of the President, conduct GRMQ meetings and/or Board Meetings.

Assume the responsibilities of the President in the event the President cannot complete the term of elected office.

Oversee the review of the GRMQ Bylaws as necessary.

Serve as co-signer with Treasurer on checks of GRMQ.

c. The Secretary shall:

Keep minutes of the General Meetings or arrange for a substitute in his/her absence.

Distribute the minutes of the General and Executive Board Meeting electronically.

Keep minutes of the Executive Board Meeting or arrange a substitute in his/her absence.

Maintain a record of all minutes for the term of the office.

Conduct correspondence for the GRMQ.

d. The Treasurer shall:

Receive and bank all GRMQ monies.

Maintain bookkeeping records of all funds.

Disperse funds as authorized.

Serve as co-signer with other authorized Officers on checks of the GRMQ.

Make a financial statement available for the members.

Provide a financial statement to the Executive Board.

The officers of the Guild shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 3.

The Executive Board, consisting of the Officers and Immediate Past President, shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Guild; shall have control of the proceeds of the Guild funds; shall publish the minutes of each Executive Board and General Board Meeting, and shall perform other duties as specified by the Bylaws and Guild Policies.

Section 4.

A quorum of the Executive Board shall be a majority of its members.

Section 5.

Standing Committees may be established as determined by the Executive Board. Standing committees may include, but are not limited to: Creative Director, Historian, Librarian, Refreshments, Newsletter, Publicity, Special Projects, Membership, Education, Budget, Programs, and Donation Quilts.

Committees will be formed as necessary.

Section 6.

Officers shall assume office in January and shall serve for one year or until successors are elected and installed.

Section 7.

In the event of a vacancy on the Executive Board, the Board shall appoint a person to fill the remainder of the term vacated.

Section 8.

The current standing members of the Executive Board are as follows:

Amanda Carriere, President

Jessica Dickson, Vice President

Tara Pezzino, Treasurer

Roni Ruhlandt, Secretary

ARTICLE IX. AMMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be amended at any General Meeting of the GRMQ by a majority vote of the General Membership present. Any proposed amendment must be submitted in writing and must have been presented at a General Meeting prior to voting.

ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION

In the event of the disbanding of GRMQ, any and all funds remaining in the treasury will be turned over another education, tax exempt, quilt guild or to a charity. The recipient will be determined by the majority vote of the members present at a regular GRMQ meeting.

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