

Minutes – May 16, 2015
Front Range Modern Quilt Guild

Attendees: 19, including 5 first-time visitors

Finances: The guild has \$3668 in the bank

This month's program – How to Get Published

- Melissa and Kari facilitated a discussion on how to get your work published in either a quilt magazine or book.
- **Key point:** Just Do It! Publishers are looking for content – any kind of content. So take a leap of faith and submit your idea.
- **How to find a publisher:**
 - Magazines usually include instructions on how to submit your ideas.
 - Reach out to friends (Melissa and Kari!) who have already traveled this road. Or reach out to individuals via their social channels.
 - If possible, make a connection in person. That face-to-face contact can make a real difference.
- **Things to remember:**
 - Be original. Be aware of copyright laws and only submit ideas that are clearly your own.
 - Publishers are interested in any kind of new idea beyond just a new pattern or block idea. Do you have a different way of doing things, like a new technique, or a fresh perspective on the traditional? Original content is exactly what they are looking for. Often they prefer projects that incorporate fabric choices from more than a single designer or manufacturer.
 - If you are working on something original and are considering submitting it to a publication, don't reveal too much ahead of time on social media. Don't publish work-in-progress photos. Don't publish a tutorial. If your project is already out there, and available to people, publishers may not be interested in including it in their publication.
 - Know the publication you are targeting before you submit your idea. Does your idea fit their audience? Do they usually publish more ideas and projects along with articles? How well does your idea/project/article match their editorial style (i.e. modern vs. traditional)?
 - Don't submit your idea to more than one publication at a time. Pick the best fit and wait for their response before moving on to the next potential publisher.
 - Follow their guidelines to be sure your submission matches their needs. Include your bio or a brief resume.
 - You don't need to have a finished quilt to submit your idea! An illustration and step-by-step instructions can spark their interest. And you don't need to use Illustrator, or be a professional graphic designer, to submit your instructions.
- **Once you have their interest:**
 - Read the contract carefully! Understand what rights you keep and those you give up.
 - Be prepared for the publication's tight timeframes and deadlines. If you haven't already completed the quilt, you may have to get busy really fast! And they usually don't reimburse you for the costs of materials to make the quilt.
 - Consider using pattern testers (i.e. friends) to test your instructions.
 - Don't expect to make a lot of money, if any.

Programs

- Sheri Lynn Wood will host a workshop on June 7. Location to come.
- The workshop will focus on her Floating Squares quilt using her Improv From A Score process.
- We are co-hosting this workshop with the Denver Metro MQG.

Swaps

- Megan reminded the group that she would like to hand over the Swap Mama baton. Please see Megan if you're interested.
- 3 junior members shared their mini quilts.
- Four members signed up for the applique table runner swap. The due date has been postponed.

Thank you gift for the Hub

- Kari designed a wall hanging to be created as a thank you gift to the church who hosted our meetings at the Hub.
- 20 volunteers are needed to complete the quilt.
- Melissa will share more details at a later date.

Future Meetings

- There will not be an official meeting in June. Instead, members are encouraged to attend the Berthoud Outdoor Quilt Show on June 20. Pink Door Fabrics will be open for retail/walk-in sales.
- The July 18 meeting will be held at the Franktown Fire Station.
- The August 15 meeting will be held at High Prairie Quilts in Parker.

Submitted May 21, 2015 by Julie Elliott