

## **Comments:**

### **From those opposing the proposal:**

- If we pay an outside judge, the dollars will leave our community with her. If we award prize money ourselves, along with the ribbons, the money goes back into our local economy. It seems likely that it would be spent, at least in part, in our local quilt shops, which I feel we should make every effort to support. I don't see a big difference in voting Friday and displaying ribbons on Saturday as compared to voting 2 days and displaying on Sunday as we've done in the past. If tallying the votes is the issue, maybe the question should be "do we change the way that's done?" If the decision is to go with a professional judge, it only seems fair to establish the judging criteria and make it known to the membership before they begin making quilts that they plan to enter into the show.
- Too much emphasis placed on ribbons. More emphasis should be placed on the experience. Besides, the public is a very competent judge. They know what they like and they value talent.
- There are any number of qualified members to judge
- It is nice to get positive reinforcement from the public, just because they like your quilt, even if it may never get an award from a certified judge.
- Guests do like to vote
- How about finding non-certified judges from out of the area who would come with a less expensive price tag? Perhaps we could reciprocate with another guild to swap in-house judging teams for our annual shows at minimal cost to each guild. We could house them, feed them, show them the sights as we do our visiting class instructors.
- Like to see more than one judge. Don't know what has been done elsewhere. Maybe this works but I'm reluctant to rely on the opinion of just one person.
- I feel the guild is close to over extending itself with the McGregor art project, therefore feel it is not a good year to make such a drastic change. Also, the certified appraiser of the 2008 show expressed to me some rather controversial views which I did not agree with. What if the Judge has like views? What assurance do we have that it will not cost the guild additional money?
- I think people viewing the show pay more attention to the quilts when they are trying to select winners. I know I do.
- Regardless of judging, I think all monetary awards should be eliminated.
- My entries are already completed and will now be judged without my knowing the criteria the judge will be using.
- I'd like to know the cost of the certified judge.....sorry, I suspect you discussed this at the executive mtg. and I was unable to attend
- we may be headed in this direction but think for right now it would eliminate some people who would not enter if it were "judged"—just my feeling
- The quilt show is for friendship and inspiration for most people.
- As a guild member, I feel it's important to support our show no matter how it's judged. However, I think it might intimidate less experienced or beginning quilters from showing quilts that they think would fall under a professional judge's scrutiny.

- I don't have machine or hand quilted quilts. I would like to keep the show as it is. Relaxed and fun.
- Unfair to beginners
- It would intimidate the newer people,
- I understand I should not be checking any of the boxes in #7, but I do agree with several of the arguments in favor of making this proposed change. In fact, I think I would prefer to see a change from current practice to non-certified judging in some format.
- Never sure. Usually do plan to participate. I've had my share of ribbons/checks - would like to see newer quilters have a chance but feel they may not enter - expecting the really good members to win if judged by expert.
- I do not enter quilts in the show for a variety of reasons, none of which has to do with the potential winning of awards. However, I do not think that my decision to enter the show or not would be impacted by whether the quilts were to be judged by the attending public, by certified judges, or by non-certified judges.
- Beginning quilter feeling not up to par with the "group of constant winners" who can be over intimidating and cliquish.
- I DO ART QUILTS, I'M NOT SURE A JUDGE WOULD LOOK AT THE ART AS OPPOSED TO GRADING THE QUILTING OR OTHER LESS EXAMPLES THAT APPLY TO QUILTING NOT ART.
- This is not a national show where judging is as important. I think everyone who wants should be included in local quilt shows, regardless of ability, etc. with the fear of intimidation by more expert quilters.
- It would feel intimidating. It would feel more competitive, and in my opinion a quilt show shouldn't be that competitive. I like the folksy homey feel our quilt show has. But then again, if you win a ribbon while a certified judge is judging it feels like that much more of an accomplishment. And the public still sees the quilt. So I'm not sure if I would enter a quilt with an outside judge.
- Don't know enough about the process to certify a judge & whether or not personal preferences are put aside.
- I really don't like being "juried" by anyone let alone a judge that has their own likes and dislikes. As in the Art competitions at the Fair and such things like that. I think we all work to do our best and I don't really want anyone saying I didn't try hard enough.
- Public could only vote for favorite. All other awards would be done as above.
- Public to vote for a quilt on Friday and one on Saturday. Clark County in Washington does that for each day of their show. 4 days or more. Four people win. A ribbon is pinned on quilt each day.
- I think public voting on Friday is best. Is one day less of voting that catastrophic?
- Option D has been done in past - fairly successfully - Fast work Saturday PM for counters but can be done. Option C would put pressure on all members to show up on hanging day - circus!
- I don't feel strongly that awards or ribbons must be on display or given before the show ends. Why not let it be a SHOW, rather than a contest, and announce winners afterward at meetings and in newsletters?

- Consider eliminating cash prizes & using prize money to pay for the third day's venue rental avoiding this issue in the future.
- Even though I did not answer NO to question 8, I would like to see the guild consider the option of letting people opt out of judging, if it is to be by a professional judge. That is what my other guild did in our April show, as well as having a single Viewers' Choice award available for all quilts. I am really concerned about inexperienced quilters being intimidated by a professional judge. Also my other guild charged \$10 for each quilt that was submitted for judging. That paid for the judge so cash prizes could still be awarded. Those not having quilts judged didn't pay the fee.
- If the annual show is getting to be too big a deal then might consider making it an every other year show
- As a show attendee, it is nice to see the award winners at a show, and based on overheard conversations last year, many guests enjoy voting for their favorites. If we cut off voting at 6:00 Friday, it leaves an hour to tally the ballots, and it doesn't take very long to pin the ribbons after that. Displaying ribbons on Saturday-only shouldn't be a problem. It has worked before in the 3-day show format; why wouldn't it work in the 2-day format?
- I think it takes away from the fun of the quilt show, to extreme competition.
- Let the public be the Judge.
- I think a judged show is much less fair. With everyone voting, it levels the playing field so each quilt has a chance. It would be disheartening to many of us who will never be in the category of expertise to ever get an award from a certified judge or even from a 3-5 member envoy from another guild. To me, our show should be FUN. It is a chance to share our work and love of quilting with our guild and all the people who come. The pressure of having a judge or a small committee could take away the fun and the friendliness of our show. There are plenty of juried shows to enter if someone wants to go to that level.
- Other awards (President's, Founder's, Featured Quilter's, etc) would be partial to the judge's opinion.
- As a show visitor, I would love to do away with the distracting and tiring practice of comparing and voting for one quilt in each category. I would prefer being able to list, in order, my favorite (up to) five quilts from all those hanging. That could suffice for Viewers' Choice. Accredited judges do not appeal to me as much as judges who are experienced and knowledgeable, capable of rendering relatively objective opinions. A team (2-3) of such judges should be adequate, certainly preferable to one individual with one set of values.
- Q 12, items 1, 3, and 4 present such a complicated hassle that only a quilter who loves complicated blocks like the feathered star could want them.
- I think the guild is already experiencing so many changes, I feel this would be too drastic. Perhaps another year, but not this year.
- I'm willing to go along with any decision that is made. I do think we would have fewer entries if it were a judged show. Very intimidating for some. Also, most of us would only have one, possibly two entries that we would deem worthy of being judged. Viewers choice is based more on eye appeal than minute details.
- My main opposition to this proposal is fairness to all guild members. I have no knowledge of what rules professional judges use to determine winning quilts.

None of my many quilt books have any information on how to prepare a quilt for professional judging. I strongly feel all guild members should be given this information at least one year in advance so that we are able to compete fairly.

**From those who were neutral:**

- I don't care about the judging I just like to see everyone's quilts
- It's not brain surgery make it easier on those that or doing most of the work. There will always be those that do not like change and usually they are not the ones doing the work.
- FYI--I don't enter because of the judging...I enter to show my quilt, and to add to the show. I am not pro judging, nor am I really against it. I think most people who attend the show, come to look, not to "judge".
- I think that 2 days for the show is plenty, We started it out that way--don't remember why we changed. Counting set up day, it really involves 3 days of time and work for members anyway.
- Even though I did not answer NO to question 8, I would like to see the guild consider the option of letting people opt out of judging, if it is to be by a professional judge. That is what my other guild did in our April show, as well as having a single Viewers' Choice award available for all quilts. I am really concerned about inexperienced quilters being intimidated by a professional judge. Also my other guild charged \$10 for each quilt that was submitted for judging. That paid for the judge so cash prizes could still be awarded. Those not having quilts judged didn't pay the fee.

**From those in favor:**

- I don't have anything to enter, but if I did I would like the option of opting out of the certified judging.
- Might not have anything ready for entry.
- I favor impartial judging no matter who does it. Any hint of anything else discourages the comfort of participation - especially for the new members
- I do not favor early judging of quilts at the church - handling them there and then on to the Rec Center is too much handling for the voting process.
- I'm always open to learn how I can improve but I feel it might discourage many other member entries. Implementing next year would give people more time to work on the process and for some just to get used to the idea. I favor fair and impartial judging whether by certified judge or guild members, award ribbons placed on quilts on all of last day - Saturday, to encourage quality quilt entries - the monetary rewards are small compensation for the effort of quality.
- I think the option of having a neighboring guild provide the judging for this year since we have added so many extra expenses to this year's show. It would be a way of bridging the change from the past shows. I don't think the public will be disappointed. Many really would just like to enjoy looking at all the quilts rather than spend time voting. Then next year we could move to the judged show venue. If you decide to use a judge then the criteria should include positive and well as "improvement needed" comments. For example, maybe there was good use of color and design but maybe quilting needed to coordinate better with the quilt pattern. Even if we use neighboring guild members to judge, we should have a criteria sheet for them to use.

- Regarding question #10, although judging wouldn't cause me not to enter a quilt, if we do have judging by a certified quilt judge, I do believe we should give members the opportunity to not have an entry judged: for display only or some such wording. I know people in the knitting/spinning community who would not enter unless they were able to do it on those terms. It also gives the super accomplished person an avenue to opt out and to make awards more available for those not as accomplished.
- These are all good ideas and I would like to discuss them at a time when most members were together.
- At the show, I have had many people say: "Voting is really complicated". I fear persons are so busy voting they don't really enjoy the show for its beauty and appreciate the efforts of all Guild members. I also see the same members winning over and over. I guess a Guild our size has just a few with the talent to win each year. Personally, I get a lot of satisfaction from working with the children, sharing with the public our outreach programs and visiting with visitors about how we make our quilts. Ribbons have never been a high priority for me.
- This could be the starting place for an "every other year" format to improve quality (not quantity) of quilts shown.
- While I would enjoy having my quilt judged for personal growth opportunities I accept that not everyone may share that position. The Rickreal show gave members the option of having quilts judged, or not, but still allowing them to share their quilts and participating in the Viewer's choice awards. This is a quilt show, not a quilt contest!
- On the subject to monetary awards: WHY do we give away the very funds raised by this "fund raising" event??? Bragging rights and pride in a quilt well done should be sufficient.
- I'm not an active member of the guild at this juncture. If there is a limited number of quilts that can be hung in this show (I understand that last year there was a limit), then it doesn't seem appropriate for me to take a spot away from an active member.
- Thank you for asking for and considering our opinions, especially since some of us are not active members in this guild. Also, thank you for making this process so easy and for spending the time to create this survey and compile the responses.
- I would (enter) if I ever thought I could finish one!
- I don't feel that the guild needs to give money along with ribbons. We are not a major show. The public should be voting on Viewers' Choice only, not judging the whole show. Comments from a professional judge indicate areas that need some improvement. I would rather have a good judge's opinion than votes from an under-educated public.
- I am a new quilter and would not be comfortable showing any work to the public.
- The show has been a wonderful contribution to the community and it looks like you are doing your best to continue in the same tradition. I think whatever you try this year will be a learning process. If it works, use it next year. If not, discuss the changes needed during the year and "try, try again."
- I am strongly opposed to monetary awards for winners so I have no problem paying the judge

- I think it's a good idea. I think that judging by either a professional judge or another guild will give a more accurate award. Most of the general public vote based on color or design not necessarily the piecing or quilting accuracy.
- I would agree with having limited award money like Rickreall, maybe 1 in each category. I would also agree with having some other awards by members like Rickreall, best border, use of color, etc, to be determined by guild members before the show at judges voting time.
- The prize money is a long ordeal to get lists and write all the checks just FYI. I think a non partial judge is the best someone outside the Guild even if it's other quilters. Lots of attendees are relatives, friends of us and us voting on ourselves sounds rather funny to me. Rickreall didn't have any door prizes or grab bags and I missed that opportunity, except that 1 a day from vendors.
- It seems like double work taking all the quilts to ATL to be judged, then also to the show. Why couldn't they be judged Thurs night or Fri early morning with ribbon person following to pin them on?
- 3rd choice-i would fear that a small number of guild members would be available for voting.
- Good job. as usual-thanks for all you do
- All of you are doing a fantastic job!!!
- I would welcome objective judging. The constructive critique would benefit us as quilters much more than the prize money.
- Less responsibility on the show workers. Less chance of favoritism.
- I feel these changes are for the betterment of our show and would like to see the changes implemented this year. Why put off till tomorrow if it can be accomplished today.
- I'm not a very good quilter ... yet!
- Traditional categories should be determined by a judge because we have such GREAT talent in this guild and THEY deserve to be recognized. We could have other really fun awards so that others get ribbons also!
- I'm not in favor of leaving the voting up to the public who attends our show on Friday. If we can't have a judge this year then our members should decide and if they don't show up on Thursday after handing to cast their ballot then they will miss out! ELIMINATE MONEY PRIZES! GIVE A \$ PRIZE FOR "BEST OF SHOW" DETERMINED BY THE JUDGE. \$100?
- Some members are going to think that they will not have a chance at winning but then we need to make up some fun categories and those categories don't have to be judged. We can find sponsors for them around town and ask those sponsors to pick their fav in that category and maybe provide a monetary prize. A "RELAXED" type of judging by a certified judge is the direction this guild needs to move in. We can make certain that others have an opportunity to win ribbons with a "bunch" of other categories!
- The public can actually see the best quilts in each category while they are at the show. People who don't want to have their quilts judged can still be shown and judged by the public.
- The suggestions that have been made at the start of this survey are the best and have been adopted by a lot of quilt guilds across the nation.
- Thanks for bringing this up. It really is the fairest way to judge and participate in a quilt show. The ballot box cannot be "stuffed" by friends and neighbors for the

placing of the quilts in each category. Of Course, they can stuff the ballot box for Viewer's Choice. But that is okay. They are the viewer's. The monetary prizes are nice but I do think that we can do without.

- I had a vendor booth at the Rickreall show, and thought their show was really well done. I think taking our show to the next level (being a judged show) is a great move for our guild. I had told many visitors in Rickreall about our show, and many had not been aware of how big ours is or of how many "advanced" quilters are in our area.
- I am not planning to submit a quilt for judging.