

The Story of TVQA's Beginning

After attending the quilt market in Houston, Texas, Mildred Locke returned to her home in Bell Buckle. Inspired by her trip and excited, she called teachers and shop owners she knew across the state to gather at her house. Being a teacher and shop owner herself, Mildred knew these people and knew they shared a common interest. On February 22, 1980, 19 quilting enthusiasts gathered at Mildred's house in Bell Buckle, Tennessee. Little did anyone realize this meeting would be the first meeting of TVQA, and no one had any idea how great and influential an organization TVQA would become. At the end of the meeting, the group decided they had had a wonderful time and would like to meet again. Another meeting was scheduled to take place in Hendersonville. As the meetings continued, the main ideas for TVQA evolved. Eventually, members of the group decided that each of them would form a guild in their own community. And so, unlike the typical formation of a state organization, the state organization was formed first and then gave birth to many member guilds. TVQA has grown from beginning with 19 people to an organization surpassing 600 members – encompassing member guilds and at-large members throughout Tennessee and even surrounding states. The purpose of TVQA is to promote interest in, and to develop the appreciation of quilts and quilt making; to sponsor and support quilting activities; to encourage quilt making and collection; to expand knowledge of quilting techniques, textiles, and patterns, and to foster fellowship, mutual aid and common interests. As a multi-state organization, we can sponsor seminars, workshops, retreats, assembly days, and other educational activities throughout the year. It is because of the support of the many members and guilds who volunteer that TVQA can plan and support many activities. TVQA also sponsors charity projects and individual guilds sponsor projects on their own. Events are open to all TVQA members. Although members of TVQA, each guild is independent with its own board of officers. Their meetings, programs, and activities are as varied as their names. Yet, if you look at the guilds' names, you'll see we all share common interests. Anyone interested in becoming a member may contact a member guild in his/her area, or join as a member-at-large by contacting Lezleigh Kleibrink at tvqamal@gmail.com