

Valley Quilters Guild - Common Terms

Block-of-the-Month (BOM) = Each month, a unique block pattern is selected. Members are invited to make the blocks and bring them to the Guild meeting using the fabric colors/designs indicated. An “entry” is one or more blocks, depending on the design. Each “entry” is a chance to win all the blocks made and brought to the meeting by members. Signup sheets are at Education, then pin BOMs near the stage.

Fat Quarters (FQ) = A Fat Quarter is a piece of fabric measuring approximately 18”X22”, a ¼-yard fabric piece cut crosswise from a ½-yard piece. Each month, a style/color is selected that is in the next month’s BOM. Members are invited to bring up to 3 *different* selected FQs from their own stashes. Each FQ is an “entry” to win those brought to the meeting. Members are allowed up to 3 entries. Depending on the total number brought, 1 or more names are drawn. Turn in and enter on FQ signup sheet at Education.

Bucket List (BL) of UFOs (Unfinished Objects) = Members are invited to list quilted projects they have started by the end of a year but not finished and hope to finish during the year. List items on a note card (available at Education) and turn into Education. Members can add to their BL forgotten items until the end of March each year. Throughout the year, a member completes and shows their UFOs to an Education member or texts photos to Jeannie Snodgrass of Education. They then get a ticket(s) for a local quilt shop gift certificate drawing at the next month’s Guild meeting.

Bucket List for New Members = New members or those without any UFOs are invited to list projects on a card at Education when they join that they hope to start and complete within the year. The same rules above apply for those with a Bucket List of UFOs.

Service Quilts = Members work individually and collectively on a variety of quilts donated across the community for babies, youth, and adults. The committee organizes and prepares kits for members to check out for various stages of quilt completion. Members can also donate quilts they have made, with the option of using service fabric and having them cut batting – check with the Service Committee or Susan Franznick. March Open Sew is Sew for Service Day from 10-5.

Quilts of Valor (QOV) = QOV is a national organization, the Quilt of Valor Foundation, and not a part of Valley Quilters Guild. The local group is Forget-Me-Not Quilters of Alaska. Members complete quilts using patriotic fabrics to be awarded to Armed Service men and women, both past veterans and those on active duty. A QOV Retreat is held twice a year in March and September. VQG members are welcome to join. The 4th Thursday of each month is a QOV sew day at the Wasilla Sr. Center (WASI). Cheryl Homme is the leader of the group.

Show-and-Tell = At each Guild meeting, members are welcome and encouraged to show finished quilts and other quilted projects. This is at the end of the evening after drawings.

Sew for Fair = The Guild has a booth at the Alaska State Fair. The April Open Sew is Sew for Fair Day from 10-5. All quilts and other items are made by VQG members and donated to raise funds for Guild activities. Popular sales items are quilts and wall hangings, table runners, placemats, potholders, microwave bowl cozies, grocery totes, thread/scrap catchers, and hanging kitchen towels. The State Fair Committee prepares kits members can check out to complete the projects and return to sell at the fair, or items can be made by members and donated to the fair booth. Members volunteer to help in shifts at the quilt booth.

Annual Raffle Quilt Drawing = As a fund raiser for the guild, a quilt is made and raffled. Members can sell tickets, and the raffle quilt is shown in various quilt shops. The yearly raffle quilt hangs in the quilt booth, with tickets sold during the Fair. Sales from it provide funds for Education, the Guild Library, and the Grant Committee.

Fair Demonstrations: Members volunteer to do demonstrations in the Irwin (Quilt/Sewing/Needlework/Craft) Bldg each day of the Fair.

Patchwork Pieces = The monthly newsletter for VQG is called Patchwork Pieces. It includes reports from the committees and a cover letter from the President of the Guild. It includes minutes from the previous general meeting and minutes from the previous Board meeting. It provides a list of items to bring to each upcoming meeting. Each month's BOM, challenges, and classes are listed under Education.

Challenges = Members are invited to participate in a variety of challenges throughout the year. These are optional and are designed to encourage creativity and trying new things. These challenges often conclude with a Show-and-Tell event and random prize drawings.

Raffle Basket Drawing = At each meeting, tickets are sold for a chance on a raffle basket of items from one of the quilt shops in the Valley, Eagle River, or Anchorage. The winning ticket is drawn at the end of each meeting. The money collected is used to purchase items for the following meeting's raffle basket. You may only win once a year, but you can still support the raffle basket and pass out ticket(s) to other members.

VQG Board = The Guild Board includes chairs for each committee and elected officers. All members are welcome and invited to the board meetings, usually held virtually by Zoom.

VQG Retreat = A quilting retreat is scheduled twice each year, usually February and October. Participants bring their own projects and enjoy comradery, demonstrations, optional gift exchanges of at least \$25 value, block drawings (usually two chosen blocks), and door prizes, with tickets sold for two grand prizes. Members usually bring a small gift for each member – (watch for sales) FQs/fat 8ths, thread, buttons, a beauty aid like lip gloss, a snack, a handmade item 1 or 2 make, etc. Sometimes there is a fun challenge. There is a snack table, maybe a pizza night; otherwise, quilters bring or purchase their own meals. Bingo and a Left-Right-Center game have become popular and may be included, with FQs required to play, and a winner of all the FQs.

VQG Camp = Annual multi-day event held in late April at the Palmer Depot. Quilt Camp is a time set aside for the members to get together, have fun, and learn new techniques. Campers may work on their own projects or participate in the classes offered. Meals can be purchased in Palmer businesses, and a couple evenings offer potlucks.

Open Sew = On the second Saturday of each month, Open Sew is scheduled at the Palmer Depot. June and Dec are the first Saturday. Members bring their own machines and projects to work on. Education Committee does a demonstration or video of the upcoming BOM and a quilt technique demo or new pattern idea. Some months are designated such as Mach/Sew for Service or April/Sew for Fair, where the focus is on those projects until 5 PM, with food and door prizes offered. Quilters are always willing to answer questions and help someone who has questions about a project they are working on. Right now, Open Sew runs from 10 AM to 10:30 PM.