

**Sun Region, EGA
Region Board of Directors Meeting
April 15-17, 2016
Inn on the Lakes | Sebring FL**

Meeting Packet for Attendees

Sun Region Meeting Schedule

Friday, April 15, 2016

Executive Committee Meeting 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Saturday, April 16, 2016

Event 2016 Report 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Event 2017 Report 9:30 AM – 9:55 AM
Finance Committee Meeting 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Nominating Committee Meeting 10:45 AM – 11:15 AM

Luncheon hosted by Biscayne Chapter 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Sun Region Board Meeting

Sign-in & Proxy Turn-In 12:45 PM
Board Meeting Called to Order 1:00 PM
Board Meeting Recessed approx. 5:00 PM

Saturday Evening Educational Program 7:00 PM

The evening program will be a beaded fob presented by the Biscayne Chapter. Please bring \$5 along with a beading tray or something to corral your beads and your usual stitching accessories, a light and magnification if needed.

Sunday, April 17, 2016

Board Meeting Reconvened 9:00 AM
Complete Region Business
Adjournment
New Region Rep training

Sun Region Board of Directors Meeting - Agenda

Inn on the Lakes, Sebring

Saturday, April 16, 2015 1:00 PM – approximately 5:00 PM

Sunday, April 17, 2015 9:00 AM – until close of business

NOTE: Since we are meeting to conduct the business of the region, it is requested that if you are a voting member of the Board, you refrain from embroidering during the meeting or program. We all would appreciate everyone's full attention and participation to what is transpiring during the weekend.

Call to Order	Kathy Singleton
Introductions	Kathy Singleton
Minutes	Cheri Hammer
International Embroidery Conference Presentation	Intro by Deby Talley

EC Reports:

• RD	Kathy Singleton
• ARD	Melody Bryan
• Treasurer	Lynn Abbey
• Secretary	Cheri Hammer

Standing and Special Committee Reports:

• Bylaws	Margo Pope
• Education	Deby Talley
• Finance	Lynn Abbey
• Historian	Karan Quintero
• Nominating	Karan Quintero
• Outreach	JoyceAnne Stevens
• Sun News	Linda Anne Buehler
• Ways and Means	vacant
• Website	Lynn Abbey
• Social Media	Karan Quintero
• Event 2016	Donna Christie
• Event 2017	Claire Nardone
• Sun Roster	vacant

Unfinished Business:

• Phillips Grant Money Discussion	Deby Talley
• Scholarship for SR Education Event	Deby Talley
• SR GCCs	
• SR Banner update	Margaret Kinsey
• Region donation at national seminar	
• Conflict of Interest added to Ps&Ps	
• Nominating Committee	Karan Quintero

- Canopy Oaks Exhibit

New Business:

- Job Descriptions
- 2016 ITT for Sun Region
- New guidelines for SR Education Grant to each chapter
- 2018 Education Event
- IRS Mileage Rate
- FL State Stitching Site
- National Items of Note
- Visit by National President
- Chapter Rosters

Chapter Reports:

- Bermuda
- Biscayne
- Canopy Oaks
- Central Florida
- Chain Stitchers
- duClay
- Gulfview
- Indian River
- Neapolitan
- Sand Dollar
- Sand Dunes
- Sandhill Crane
- Sarasota
- Sea Grape
- Suwannee Stitchers

Adjournment

New Rep Training

Region Director's Report | Kathy Singleton

RD report from National BOD meeting, March 2016 in Louisville KY

There will also be a report from national included in the June issue of Needle Arts.

Regions Meeting

I started the national board meeting with the Regions Meeting which is made up of all of the RDs. The first order of business was to say goodbye to the outgoing RDs and hello to the incoming RDs.

Next was the report from the Executive Committee session: the stitch guide for members should be available soon on the web site. Discussion was held in the regions meeting about making this available for anyone (EGA member or not) and it was decided that it should be open to all as an enticement to join EGA. Julie Elmore resigned at headquarters. An RFP will be sent out for the position of NeedleArts editor. Mary Corbet will be given an EGA membership to give away. No news on the Phillips estate. Annual report will be online shortly. Printed copies are available by contacting headquarters. Surveys taken at the 2015 seminar are being reviewed by the National Seminar Committee. IEC requested the establishment of a brand identity and suggested "Threads Through Time". Motion passed to hire Karen Andreasson of Helmes Brisco as the event planner for seminar 2019.

The next report was from the Personnel Committee meeting: Chrissy Marzano has been hired as a full time electronic media coordinator. She started March 3. She is in charge of the web site. Brad and Tonya's work performance was reviewed and they were given raises.

Finance committee gave the next report. With the change in treasurer there was not much to report but things are moving along. The year end statements are being processed and the tax returns are also in process.

The national outreach report was discussed. There is a new national Chair – Marnie Graley. There will be only one report due per year. Due date will be mid-January. The form will be on the website along with instructions. It will continue to be a region report which covers all of the chapters in that region.

The President and national Secretary would like to receive the region newsletters.

There is a new scholarship named for Marjorie Jones. It is for a crewel class and covers the nonrefundable fee, class fees and kit fees. Deadline is April 15.

The Ginny Morrow scholarship will now be done via an application, not simply a drawing at the seminar.

Kari Boardman, New England Region, reported on their TOYS program. Teaching the teachers about embroidery. This was for the 3rd-5th grade art teachers.

A joint EGA-ANG seminar was discussed. President Leslie will be talking with the ANG President about this. There were many questions brought up in connection with this. They included: financial aspects, how would it be run, ANG's non-inclusion of their chapters in their 501(c)3 filing, when this would occur and is there a place big enough.

Procedures for dissolution of chapters were discussed including the difficulty of getting information from a dissolving chapter and the needed financial information.

The last topic was the RDs donation to the national seminar fundraising.

Planning Committee

The next session was the Planning Committee and this focused entirely on the Strategic Plan and the progress being made on it. Each goal progress was discussed by the chair and there were several presentation

1. Online presence – Patty Smith Gardner

This consists of the web site and social media. Courtney Matthews, Brad's assistant, made a presentation about the web site needs, improvements, staff wishes and functionality needed. It was very detailed and very informative. All agreed that EGA needs to invest in the web site. Chrissy Marzano made a presentation on social media. This included facebook, twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, Instagram, etc. EGA is using most of these but needs to make much, much more use of them

2. Membership retention and recruitment – Linda Ann Walker

This discussion centered on updating new member tools, the packet provided by headquarters. Greater Pacific region has a handbook for a mentor program for new members. There is also a new member survey being developed.

3. Marketing and Branding – Margaret Steinkamp

This group is working on an RFP for a Market Research firm. This will be to identify EGA's target group and develop a survey for non-members.

4. Fund Development – Rebecca Wardlaw

There will be a formal fund raising appeal in the late fall. They are also considering an appeal to chapters. Discussion held on Planned Giving and how EGA needs to publicize this with members. MyEGA will be restarted and a grant proposal program will be started.

5. Operations – Kathy Singleton

a. CRM solution – Brad Cape

The end result of this task is for EGA to purchase a Customer Relationship Management system. That's a new computer system for the national office. Brad is looking at options and identifying needs. Systems have been identified and are being looked at. Important points are that it needs to talk to the web site, members should be able to update their own information, etc. etc.

b. Develop a strategic staffing model – Barbara Orend

i. A lot of progress has been made in looking at what staffing at the national office should look like, not just positions but an overall coordinated staff.

c. Review Board Composition – Sue Hacker Nelson

i. Work on this will start in the early summer

d. Systematic review of the current Ps&Ps – Kathy Singleton

Presentation was made regarding the current state of the Ps&Ps, including definitions of Ps&Ps and examples of how EGA's do not fit those definitions. The board voted to completely redo the Ps&Ps and everyone realizes that this will be a lengthy process. Three additional members were recruited to help with this process. Main sections of the Ps&Ps were identified and will be used as a framework for going forward. First step is to go through the current Ps&Ps and salvage those that can be used. They will be put into the framework.

e. Develop a facilities plan – Jennifer Mullins and Brad Cape

Work will start on this goal in June.

Board Meeting

The board meeting then commenced.

Officer, committee and RD reports were presented.

Items from the EC and Region meeting were discussed and RDs concerns were given to the EC. President Leslie reported that she was very happy with the money raised for her charity choice – Alzheimer's Association. She is going to have 4 projects available for download every year. The next year's projects will be by Jeannette Rees, Kathy Rees, Betsy Morgan and Barbara Harrison.

There were 2 chapter dissolutions.

New amounts for the EGA scholarships were voted on. May 1 is the deadline for nominees for the Gold Thread Award. Pam Doffek received a Legacy scholarship to help with the Canopy Oaks exhibit in May.

The IEC request for a brand “Threads Through Time” was voted down as it was felt that it did not reflect the International Aspect of the IEC. They were encouraged to come up with a ‘brand’ that does.

The event planner from Holmes Briscoe was voted in.

Dues for Canadian chapters was set to be the same in Canadian \$ as it is in US \$.

The consent agenda was passed.

Assistant Region Director’s Report | Melody Bryan

Ready for a great weekend in Sebring – I know I am! The Inn on the Lakes is located on the corner of Hwy 27 at 3101 Golfview Rd and yes there is a lot of golf in Sebring.

You will be able to pull up and unload your luggage and check in, parking is convenient to the hotel entrance so you can also park your car and check in and get a cart to ferry your luggage.

The hotel has an onsite restaurant Chicanes and has always had good food. They have a full bar with bar food as well and I believe they also serve on their pool patio overlooking Lake Jackson. Room service is also available at this hotel as well as a complimentary breakfast for all registered guests of the hotel. You are served breakfast in the restaurant, please check at the desk to find out the hours of service.

The luncheon on Saturday will be held in a room near the restaurant. Biscayne Chapter will be your hostesses for the luncheon so look for their reception table to check in for the luncheon which will be served at 11:30.

There are many area restaurants where you can find other dinner options and there is a shopping mall nearby.

On Saturday evening at 7pm Biscayne will be teaching a lovely beaded fob. Please bring \$5 to be paid to Biscayne. Also please bring along a beading tray or something to hold your beads, scissors, magnification, lights and any other stitching tools you typically use. Biscayne will be providing a kit which will include a beading needle.

Many thanks to Biscayne for taking such good care of us at this meeting.

We need hostesses for the Fall meeting in Safety Harbor as well as both meetings coming up in 2017.

Looking ahead to 2017 – we’ll be back in the Tampa Bay area, the Marriott Westshore is our host hotel and we’ll be with them March 24 – 26th. In September we are back at the lovely Castle Marriott in Orlando.

Thanks for your support in Sun Region EGA.

Treasurer's Report | Lynn Abbey

Treasurer's Report: Activity Period: 10/1/2015-3/31/2016		
	Checking	Money Mkt
Opening Balance	27,148.98	57,074.83
Income		
02 Dues	3.00	0.00
03 Interest	0.00	14.29
04 Educ Event	-450.00	0.00
15 Contributions & Gifts	16.00	0.00
Money Market Savings Trans.	0.00	0.00
Transfer from Reserves	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	-431.00	14.29
Expense		
21 Educ Event	2,428.00	0.00
26 Rent	125.00	0.00
28 Administration	139.29	0.00
29 Officers' Travel	1,074.61	0.00
33 Gifts	154.95	0.00
35 Other	61.76	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	3,983.61	0.00
SEPARATE ACCOUNTS		
2015 Seminar (net)	100.00	
2016 Seminar (net)	13,683.00	
2017 Retreat (net)	0.00	
Reg. Meeting Luncheons (net)	-174.82	
Fundraising/Ways&Means (net)	2,694.42	
TOTAL SEPARATE ACCOUNTS	16,302.60	
TOTAL	39,036.97	57,089.12
OPEN ITEMS		
Receivables	0.00	0.00
Payables	640.00	0.00
TOTAL OPEN ITEMS	-640.00	0.00
TOTAL (W/O OPEN ITEMS)	39,676.97	57,089.12
CLOSING BALANCES (3/31/2016) Regions Bank Account Statements)	39,676.97	57,089.12

Between Session Actions | Cheri Hammer

There were no between sessions actions since the October 2015 Board of Directors meeting.

Bylaws Report | Adrienne Meyer

Please make the following changes to your Sun Region Rep's Notebook.

Sun Region Rep Notebook, page I-C-1

Insert the Conflict of Interest policy following page I-C-1 as pages I-C-2&3. Pages are attached.

Sun Region Rep Notebook, page III-D-2

Delete text as shown in E. below.

E. Nametags. Members shall wear stitched nametags at all region functions. Any embroidery technique may be used. A member shall be fined ~~\$.50~~ for not wearing a stitched nametag.

CH _____ DTN _____

CONFLICT OF INTEREST CERTIFICATION(sample)

This will certify that _____ has adopted
NAME OF ORGANIZATION
a policy regarding conflict of interest transactions. The policy has been read and is
understood by all of the directors, officers and trustees of the organization.(s.496.405, F.S.)

NAME

SIGNATURE

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____
- 11. _____
- 12. _____
- 13. _____
- 14. _____

15. _____

16. _____

(continue on additional pages if necessary)

Education Report | Deby Talley

First, I have attached a flyer about our International Touring Teacher.

Second, I have attached the new procedures for applying for the grant for a GCC or educational event.

The committee continues to work on how to implement the Phillips grant money and use it for online and video education for the region. We hope to have a sample video to show at Red Sails in the Sunset. We do need someone to step forward and chair this subcommittee.

And finally we are working on setting up first time scholarships for Sun Region educational events with the profits from Stitches' Garden. Details will follow as soon as they are completed.

SUN REGION SPONSORED INTERNATIONAL TOURING TEACHER

We are pleased to announce that the region will once again pay for a touring teacher for the region members. All you will need to pay is your kit costs and for meals and lodging if needed.

We will be hosting Merrilyn Heazlewood from Tasmania, Australia

She will be teaching a 3 day class counted canvas class.



The class dates are Nov 9-11 and will be held at the Courtyard Inn, in Orange Park (Jacksonville area).

The kit fee is \$110.00.

We have a block of rooms set aside at the hotel with the rate of \$95.00 plus tax, and this rates include breakfast.

Registration will open May 15th and run until July 15, 2016. If we are over the maximum number of students, we will have a lottery. If we still have spots open, we will reopen registration until the class is full.

To register, send you name, address, phone number, EGA member number, email address and a check for the kit fee- \$110.00, to

Procedure for Sun Region Education Grant 2016

Sun Region has authorized \$3000.00 for 2016. The minimum number of students is 10.* If by the Fall Sun Region meeting all funds have not been spoken for, chapters can request a second grant. All grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, after the GCC, workshop, or other educational event has been conducted.

Process:

1. Decide which GCC, workshop, or other educational event your chapter wants to offer to its membership. *Educational events other than a GCC or workshop must be pre-approved by the Sun Region board before proceeding.*
2. Collect registration commitments within your chapter. If you have 20 registrants for a Workshop/educational event or 21 registrants for a GCC (20 + 1 group leader) follow either procedure a) or b) below, depending on whether your chapter is offering a workshop/educational event or a GCC to its members.
 - a) For GCCs: Send for, and complete, the paperwork from National. Please read registration process instructions carefully. These instructions can be found on the EGA website or in the Education catalog. The completed "GCC Registration Request Form" in the Education catalog should be sent to National headquarters. National headquarters will return a separate Registration form which will include additional instructions. The chapter must submit a copy of a complete Registration (not the EGA Registration Request) form to the region education chair, who will forward all paperwork to the region treasurer, to receive a grant check for \$200.00. (This grant process is completely separate from the GCC registration process.) The chapter remains responsible for all required communications with the teacher.
 - b) For workshops/educational events: Submit a copy of the signed teacher contract or other documentary evidence for an educational event to the region educational chairman to receive a grant check for \$200.00. If for any reason the workshop/educational event is cancelled, the chapter has 60 days in which to return the grant money.
3. If in step 2 your chapter does not get the required number of registrants, then notify the Region Education Chairman at education@sunregionega.org who will see that your workshop/educational event or GCC is advertised on the region website and elsewhere for two months. Please provide a contact email address for the advertisement. (If you chapter is offering a GCC and you have at least 10 registrants, it's appropriate to begin your National headquarters paperwork process when the advertising period begins.)
4. At the end of two months or when registration reaches 21 whichever happens first, follow the appropriate procedure in Step 2 above.
 Note: A chapter whose GCC or workshop/educational event has fewer than 10 in chapter registrants, may advertise their choice on the region website for longer. The advertisement will remain on the website until it attracts 10 registrants or is withdrawn by the chapter or the region exhausts its grant authorization.

Please allow 6 weeks for paperwork to be processed

Please note that for 2016 the region board may allow smaller chapters to proceed with less than 10 members signed up. This will be considered on a case by case basis, and only after the minimum two month advertisement period has been completed.

Also new for 2016 is an application form to be sent to the Education Chairman for tracking purposes. This form will help make sure that all of the required paperwork is being done and submitted.

Education Grant Application Form

Chapter Name _____

Date _____

What are you registering for

GCC

Workshop

Educational Event- has it been approved by the Sun Region Executive board?

Name of Event _____

Proposed start date _____

How many people do you have signed up? _____

Name, email address and phone of contact person _____

Send to Education Chairman at education@sunregion.org or _____

Finance Report | Lynn Abbey

Will be discussed at the meeting.

Historian Report | Karan Quintero

Spring is here and everyone wants to “Clean Out” to bring in the new. So as you do this and find any old flyers/brochures/announcements, event financial reports (who, what, how many, description of event, where), pins, photos, etc., I would love to add them to your chapter file. All this data about your chapter helps me to write my newsletter reports and provides us a tender moment to reminisce of past great times shared here in Sun Region. Send your items through your Sun Region Rep or mail them to me at your convenience.

Nominating | Karan Quintero

The committee is in the throes of securing a second alternate Sun Region member to fill the final vacancy in our committee per Bylaws. The member must come from one of the following chapters: Bermuda, Central Florida, duClay, Gulfview, Indian River, Neapolitan, Sandhill Crane, Sand Dollar, Sand Dunes, Sarasota or Sea Grape. This position must be filled by our April 15th meeting.

Additionally, the entire Sun Region Executive Board (RD, ARD, Sec, Treas) must be replaced in the Fall of 2017. Each position must be filled by a member from a different chapter as stated in our Bylaws. Sun Region Member Service Forms and job descriptions are available on the website within the Sun Region Rep Book. All the committee members (Karan, Betsy, Claire, Linda) also have copies in their individual files which can be provided to you upon request. Candidate interviews can be held via conference call, EM and F2F during this meeting and at seminar.

Sun Region Presidents and Representatives, you have been or will be contacted by a member of this committee asking for your help in reviewing your rosters helping to identifying a member(s) who might have the qualifications needed to fill these important positions. These members will play a vital role in guiding our region into an innovated and exciting future.

Thank you for helping us serve our region in this important endeavor!

Outreach Report | JoyceAnne Stevens

Biscayne Chapter: We have made arrangements for the last of the Habitat for Humanity samplers to be framed and readied for the February 2016 Blitz Build. Our framer retired and we are currently looking for another Outreach project. Biscayne Chapter also continues to collect items for charities: pennies, stamps, pull tabs, school labels, eyeglasses(one time collection),knitted and crocheted baby hats, and toiletries. Our largest outreach endeavor at the moment is Kissing Pillows for soldiers being deployed. We have sent another 30 to Texas for finishing and distribution. We have also delivered 50 baby hats to Ronald McDonald. Biscayne continues to donate toiletries to the homeless and Aids Outreach Ministries at Plymouth Congregational, Coconut Grove. They pass them on to the Chapman Center for the Homeless and some are used by the Aids Ministries.

Canopy Oaks Chapter: The Canopy Oaks Chapter EGA held their Stitch in Public on Saturday, February 13, 2016. The location of this annual event was the Woodville Branch Library of the LeRoy Collins Leon County Library. The library shares the building with the community center. In an effort to reach an area of the county that has not previously been exposed to our chapter, Canopy Oaks held the Stitch in Public in the southern part of Leon County, an area where we had never held such an event.

The 2016 Stitch in Public was one of the most successful Canopy Oaks has sponsored. Twelve guild members participated over the course of the day and made over 40 hours of public contact. Member of Canopy Oaks were positioned in the open area of the Library/Community Center. Everyone entering the Library or the community center passed by our stitching area; many stopped and spoke with the stitchers. Library staff selected books on

various forms of needlework and were on display on a unique display fixture. There also was room on this fixture for members to display finished pieces and works in progress.

Canopy Oaks guild members also had the opportunity to speak with members of the Woodville community about the upcoming exhibit, *What's the Point? Embroidery as Art*. The LeMoyne Center for the Visual Arts in Tallahassee will be hosting this unique exhibit during the month of May.

Central Florida Chapter: National Stitch in Public Day – February 5

Our Chapter celebrated National Stitch in Public Day on Saturday, February 5th, at the local Barnes & Noble Book Store. Seven members participated this year. We spent four hours stitching and interacting with customers. One young man even sat down with the group and learned how to cross stitch part of a bookmark. Everyone had a good time and we are going to schedule another Stitch in Public event in the fall at the same Barnes and Noble location.

Heart Wall Hanging Project for Ronald McDonald House

Work on the heart wall hanging for the new Ronald McDonald House set to open in May at Nemours Children's Hospital at Lake Nona is proceeding on schedule. The finished 9" x 5" wall hanging will be displayed to the membership at our monthly meeting in April and then presented to Ronald McDonald house the following week.

St. Johns River Festival of the Arts

We will be participating in the St. Johns River Festival of the Arts on Saturday, April 30th and Sunday, May 1st. The event is held in historic downtown Sanford. Expected attendance is 25,000. We will be manning our own booth, stitching and displaying all different types of needlework. We will offer a mini "Learn to Cross Stitch" lesson for anyone wanting instruction. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our Chapter let people know that needlework is alive and well in Central Florida.

2016 Chapter Stitching Project – Breast Cancer Ribbon Bookmarks

We are continuing to cross stitch the pink breast cancer ribbon bookmarks as an Outreach Project for 2016. We give these bookmarks to the Outpatient Infusion Department at UF Health Cancer Center (ORMC). Last year, we donated 85 finished bookmarks and we hope to match or exceed that number in 2016.

Meeting Notices in Orlando Sentinel

We continue to place notices for our general meetings in the Orlando Sentinel every week. This paid off for us last year by bringing in new members. Hopefully, continuing to get those notices in the paper every week will help our Chapter gain some new members again this year.

duClay Chapter: duClay Chapter will be stitching bookmarks for the Orange Park Library summer reading program and teen volunteers. This is the first year we have done this. We will also be displaying needlework in the library's display cases in September. We continue to support Quigley House, Clay County's women's shelter at Christmas.

Gulfview Chapter: The Gulfview chapter sent in another 25 kissing pillow tops in January. This is an ongoing project for our chapter. We've also been busy collecting toiletry items for a local women's shelter. Another Habitat for Humanity sampler is ready to go as soon as we receive word that the house is completed. We have also been busy knitting baby blankets and crocheted fleece blankets for the Linus Project.

Indian River Chapter: Indian River Chapter has been very busy. Our latest endeavor was our presence at the Seaside Piecemakers Quilt Club show held at the Melbourne Auditorium on March 4 & 5. At this show we displayed some of our Needle Arts magazines, along with membership forms and contact information. Several members spent two days manning the table and stitching while sitting near the table. We were able to possibly gain three or four potential members as a result of the show.

We have had several library exhibits, which include a display of heart related stitched items for "Heart Month" at the Fee Ave. Library in Melbourne in February, an exhibit for "Women's Health Month" at the Patrick Air Force Base Library in March and upcoming in April, we will have a display of beaded items at the Suntree-Viera Library in Viera.

We still continue to collect toiletries for the homeless and as of February 29, we have collected 528 items which is 21% of our goal of 2500 items.

We are still stitching Habitat Samplers for Habitat for Humanity. Our most recent dedication was on Jan. 23rd and we expect many more dedications to follow as there are 11 more homes slated for this area.

The “Kissing Pillows” is an ongoing project as well as collecting pop-tops, labels for education, and used postage stamps.

We are still collecting stitching supplies and embroidery kits for the military. Our last recipient of our donations was the Viera Outpatient Clinic in Viera.

Our chapter is planning on having our “Teaching Children” program in June, when the children get out of school for their summer break.

We have a program in the works for teaching adults from Patrick Air Force Base which should take place in April-May. This is as a result of our library display.

Neapolitan Chapter: Neapolitan’s major and long time outreach has been samplers for Habitat for Humanity homes. In 2015, 128 samplers were stitched, framed, and presented to new home owners. The goal for 2016 is 130. The chapter also makes a monetary donation to Habitat, usually about \$400. Neapolitan’s exhibit was held in February. Members donate Toys for Tots at their Christmas luncheon and continue to collect pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Ft Meyers.

Sand Dollar Chapter: Sand Dollar Chapter has recently delivered 3 Habitat samplers. Members have knitted 11 hats and booties for preemies and a few blankets. The Stitch in Public Day was at a local library, first time at this location and it went well.

Sand Dunes Chapter: Sand Dunes Chapter is discussing new ideas for coming year. Members are continuing to stitch and present samplers to Habitat for Humanity.

Sandhill Crane Chapter: The Sandhill Crane Chapter continues to stitch samplers for Habitat for Humanity for Citrus and Hernando Counties and donate items for the Child Advocacy Center of Hernando County. Also, once a month we stitch at a branch library in Hernando County.

Sarasota Chapter: 1. Bethesda House of Catholic Charities - Sarasota and have provided at our monthly meetings ongoing donations of clothing, non-perishables as well as monetary donations.

2. Benevolent fund for the Sarasota County Firemen. We donate money to the fund every year and have provided pillows and made fleece blankets for the firemen to give to families when they are needed during their emergency duties.

3. The Pines of Sarasota, a nursing care facility of three levels including Assisted Living, Intermediate and Skilled Nursing and a secured Alzheimer’s Unit. We are still in the planning stage getting involved in teaching employees as well as residents knitting, crocheting and other needleworks and recruiting members to do volunteer work. We had a representative do a presentation at the January 2016 meeting.

Sea Grape Chapter: No change in our Outreach project which is over 15 years old. We knit baby caps and chemocaps for Lee Memorial Hospital in Ft. Myers; and last year delivered 212 baby caps and 207 chemo caps by members using donated yarn.

Marketing Report | Vacant

No report

Roster Report | Jineen Kulczycky

An updated edition of the Sun Region Roster was emailed to everyone 3/20/16 in both word and pdf formats.

Sun News Report | Linda Anne Buehler

Nothing significant to report.

Ways and Means Report | Vacant

No report

Website Report | Lynn Abbey

Due to a series of family and health issues, I've been unable to devote much time to the region's website or other digital initiatives. I am trying to get caught up. If you've asked a question or requested anything over the past several months, please let me know.

Social Media Report | Karan Quintero

As the year progresses and chapter events take place, please send photos and information so that we can post your chapter activities, programs, or workshops on our Facebook page. Checking the EGA National Photo Guidelines it is recommended to: 1) use a good quality camera and lens with at least 5 megapixels, 2) set at the highest setting with a minimum of ISO 100 or 200, 3) "Fill-flash" usage will allow the flash to flash off a neutral surface producing fewer shadows, 4) group subjects close together from waist to head is best, 5) the background should be plain, watch for reflections and distractions, 6) highlight the worker and the activity close-up, 7) take several shots to ensure open eyes and good expressions.

Take some great pictures and pass them on!

2016 Red Sails in the Sunset Report | Donna Christie

Are you ready to share a sunset with your stitching friends?



This sailor is looking for you to sign up for a fun packed, stimulating, educational weekend. Come check out the marina, restaurants and dockside shops in St Petersburg. Red Sails in the Sunset brochure and registration form is available [http://www.sunregionega.org/seminars-retreats/2016-red-sails-in-the-sunset-5-](http://www.sunregionega.org/seminars-retreats/2016-red-sails-in-the-sunset-5-1/)

1/

You don't want to miss this event! **April 28-May 1, 2016**

This is a gentle reminder to ALL CHAPTERS!!! PLEASE note---- you may bring your donations to the Sun Region Meeting and give to Donna Christie!!!

Red Sails in the Sunset is right around the corner!! Your Seminar Committee needs your help. One of the activities that you can assist us in is the fundraising opportunity baskets. We are planning an array of opportunity drawings that we hope we excite everyone!

We are hoping to have a variety of "baskets" to offer. Anything can be used as a "basket-- small purses, bowls, stitching bags, just to name a few ideas! They can hold whatever items your chapter would like to donate. If necessary, we might combine donations to make really interesting offerings!! We are asking for good quality donations please-----

Let Jenna McClooney

2017 Lakeside Retreat | Claire Nardone

Ladies, Have we got a doozie of a Retreat for you! Just imagine warm breezes in a Victorian-era gem overlooking a tranquil lake. That's right! April 29, 29 & 30th, 2017 brings us a delightful escape to the beautiful Lakeside Inn in my town of Mount Dora, Florida. Centrally located just northwest of Orlando yet worlds away from the hustle and bustle of city life. Stitch with your friends, take a mini class or two, or three or all four. When it's time for a delicious meal, you're only steps away from a smorgasbord of

restaurants. When you get the itch to shop, you're a hop-skip-and a jump from that, too. Best of all? No need to get in a car. I say steps.....I mean steps.

Your rooms are also Victorian, complete with quilts and claw footed bathtubs. (With showers as well.)

There is a multitude of things to do in the area, so feel free to bring a friend, partner or spouse and enjoy your stay.

Make sure to pick up your brochure at Red Sails in the Sunset as this Retreat will surely be a memory to last!

Chapter Reports

At the April 2014 meeting, the Board of Directors voted to return to the policy of including chapter reports in the meeting packet since the packet becomes part of the region's official records. The region's newsletter is *not* part of the official records. Chapter reports for the newsletter usually describe what the chapter plans to do in the future; packet reports should describe what the chapter has done.

If a chapter's report is not included in the packet, the representative should bring paper copies of the report to the meeting for on-site distribution. This distributed report will then be included in the official minutes.

Bermuda Chapter | Shina Lyons

No report submitted.

Biscayne Chapter | Schelley Iman-Loch

Biscayne Chapter has been busy since our last Call to Meeting. In November, we have our business meeting. Since this is the second year of our two-year terms for officers and none of the executive members of the board has resigned, there was no election. After taking care of business Janet Edgar presented a program on the fabrics we use for our embroidery and needlepoint. It was very informative and several members were taking notes. In December, how could we not have a holiday party? Everyone received a kit to make a snowflake ornament. Debbie Baker Robinson created the design for the ornament. The stitching on this simple and elegant ornament was completed by many of the members before leaving. Since our January meeting was scheduled for New Year's weekend the members of the chapter voted to take a month off. We did, however, have a work party to make the hostess gifts for the April Sun Region meeting. We were pleased to have our Region Director, Kathy Singleton, come and help up finish the gifts. February the focus was on stash, more stash, and adding to our stashes. We have our annual stash sale every February. Biscayne Chapter celebrated its 41st birthday. Members who have participated in Share and Learn are eligible to win chapter dues for one year. The winner this year was Karan Quintero. Congratulations Karan! We also distribute bars for the chapter pin. Members receive a bar for every five years they have been members. Members who received bars this year are: Eileen Hoffman and Margaret Nee (ten years), Pat Middleton, Stella Stone, and Clarice Northcutt (15 years), Pat Paretta and Joy Hyams (25 years), Mary Ann Faber (30 years) and Martha Milnes (35 years).



Stelle Stone, Pat Middleton, Mary Ann Faber and Martha Milnes

Canopy Oaks Chapter | Rebecca Lockenbach

Since last we met, the Canopy Oaks Chapter in quiet Tallahassee has been anything but quiet. We have spent many hours planning our May 2016 month long embroidery exhibit at the LeMoyné Center for the Visual Arts. We have also incorporated some of these activities into our programs this year starting in October 2015 when Carole Fiore led us in a practice session for Basic Needlepoint and then in January 2016, Pam Doffek did a similar practice session for Basic Embroidery. Both will be workshops during the LeMoyné exhibit. For November, Betsy Tabac taught us to make beautiful stitched greeting cards for the special people in our lives. In December we had our annual cookie and gift exchange and February found us at our annual Stitch-in-Public, but this time at the Woodville Public Library. March was our working meeting to create bookmarks to sell in the LeMoyné boutique during the May exhibit. Our March and April showers let us relax momentarily to here from Sherry Shofield from the Florida State University Textile Department.

And as I have said, perhaps only once or twice that we are looking forward to sharing with the community the beautiful works of our hands as we kick off the exhibit with our opening reception on Friday, May 6th at 6 p.m. and won't stop till Saturday, May 28th when we close the doors at 4 p.m. So, come one, come all to the lovely North Florida community. Let us show you Southern Hospitality with a capital S H.

Central Florida Chapter | Gabriella Hubbard

In January Estelle Silva taught an interesting, fun way to finish small round items using needle weaving. February, Kathy Singleton taught tassels, with new & different threads and stuff from your stash. March's program was a demonstration by Gabriella Hubbard for an easel / flat fold. April will be Ginny Chambers showing us how needle tatting can enhance our needle work. May is our annual pot luck lunch and Margaret Kinsey will speak to us about eastern Asian embroidery.

Chain Stitchers Chapter | Claire Nardone

Chain Stitchers has been busy this wonderful 2016. In January we were taught a nice band sampler by one of our members, Susan Butler, who patterned the piece to create a nice small bell pull. In February Susan taught us how to assemble the bell pull using various "found" objects. March brings us pin cushion ideas by our own, Carol Presley. In April, Carol will teach us how and what to fill our pin cushions with. May brings our wonderful Anniversary dinner. June, July and August we work on our Outreach which is the Habitat for Humanity samplers which we gift every home built in Lake County. Our own Lynn Abbey is our Ambassador and presents the sampler to the family.

duClay Chapter | JoyceAnne Stevens

The months since our last region meeting have been busy, exciting, and productive for duClay Chapter. We have gained 6 new members for a total of 34 members as of today. 29 are primary members and 5 are plural members. One of our "new" members is a long time EGA member who went MAL when her chapter disbanded. When she moved to the Jacksonville in the fall, she attended and joined duClay. Another of our "new" members re-joined after a year's absence. We are thrilled to welcome all of our new members. Because most of them live locally attendance at our meetings and participation in events have increased.

Our Christmas luncheon which has always been a popular event this year was especially well attended this past December. 23 people attended causing our program chairman to find a new location. A good time was had by all. Our year goes from Jan 1 to Dec 31 so the Christmas luncheon is our final event of the year. It marks the end of the year's finishing challenge program. This was our 3rd year of the challenge and each year more and more members participate. For the duClay finishing challenge, members can elect up to 10 projects they hope to finish by the end of the year and can pledge as much as \$5 per project. Some members select 10 at \$5 each and some pledge 1 project at \$1. Most are in-between. In 2015, 18 members pledged 112 projects for a total of \$481. 42 projects were actually finished. Each dollar pledged buys a ticket for the final drawing. Only finished projects qualify for the drawing. The winner of the drawing takes home half of the total and the rest is added to the treasury. The challenge has become a wonderful incentive for finishing projects and quite a good money maker for the chapter.

There have been some changes in the challenge rules for 2016 allowing people to pledge larger amounts for their projects. 20 members have stepped up to the challenge for this year pledging almost \$1000.

A SAL was proposed in the fall and 21 people joined. The project is an Amy Mitten project from her new "Excursion" series, a Scottish style sampler. We are also doing a canvas work SAL featuring Kathy Rees designs. 7 members are participating.

In February we had a beginning Hardanger program and in March, an English Paper Piecing lesson. Looking ahead, in May we are featuring antiques from members which hopefully includes needlework, tools, and anything related. June will be our 4th annual all day get together at Westminster Woods and in July we are having a weekend retreat in Sebring. Members are busily stitching a pin drum design of their choosing for a finishing class in August. For outreach projects we have decided to stitch bookmarks for the Orange Park library where we meet and will again in September exhibit needlework in the library display cases. Our biggest outreach project is contribution of money and Christmas gifts to Quigley House, Clay County's women's shelter.

We are thrilled to have been selected to host the ITT teacher for Sun Region in November.

Not only have the past 6 months been busy but duClay is looking ahead at busy and exciting months and a great year in 2016.

We are also facing serious problems with our meeting location as this is an election year. Clay County libraries are sites for "early election" and the meeting rooms will be unavailable during those times. We rented a meeting room for our March meeting but are hoping to find alternate spaces for free. Fortunately this is a problem for this year only.

Gulfview Chapter | Ann Ashley

Gulfview Chapter has moved.....about 5 miles, to a new facility.

We now meet at Veteran's Memorial Park, 14333 Hicks Road, Hudson, Florida. We have the use of two meeting rooms, with excellent lighting, that are set up to our specifications. One of the rooms also has a small kitchen, so we will be able to have a lunch break as well as conduct a teaching session without having to move furniture.

Our meetings continue to be on the second Wednesday of each month. Also at each meeting day a new stitching project is introduced. Sign-ups are a few months in advance. At the April 13th meeting a simple Teneriffe pattern will be taught by Judy DeMeglio. The education committee has laid out interesting and varied techniques for the rest of the year, without even taking the summer off.

Early in April Linda Chirby will be conducting a two day pilot class of the Crystal Persuasion Pendant she will be teaching at "Star Spangled Seminar 2016." Eight members are taking advantage of this opportunity.

Fortunately the chapter has scheduled three sit and stitch sessions each month, so everyone can get help when needed.

Oh, by the way, a pot-luck luncheon is planned for May.

Indian River | Aline Lauzon

The Indian River Chapter will be very busy during March. On March 4 & 5, 2016 we are joining the Seaside Piecemakers Quilt Club in the quilt show at the Melbourne Auditorium. At this show we are displaying some of our Needle Arts magazines, along with membership forms and contact information. This will require several members to spend 2 days to cover the table. We are also doing some stitching while sitting near our display.

Along with the quilt show, we have made arrangements for an exhibition at Patrick Air Force Base of our finished projects with a wide variety of techniques. This display will be for the month of March.

We have several members attending the Sun Region meeting at Seebring on April 16 & 17th. The meeting will be held at the Inn on the Lake.

For the St. Petersburg “Red Sails in the Sunset” seminar we are donating a basket of new items for the Ways & Means for the Region. There are several members registered for this event and are looking forward to attending.

As an aside to our regular meetings, we are making plans for a retreat to be held during the week in Vero Beach at our 1st VP’s residence center. We plan to frequent a stitching shop in the area who also advertises in our bulletin. This event is planned for late April – early May.

Most of the Programs for the general meetings feature “Finishing”; such as, types of finishing for different articles, and including inducement to want to finish.

Neapolitan Chapter | Karen Rockenbach

We have had a very full season! We started with a Gary Clarke workshop in November. Libby Sturdy taught us her bejeweled Christmas trees in February. We began our annual correspondence class, Meadow Medley, by our own Luan Callery in November. We had our Christmas luncheon at Season’s 52 in Naples and will wrap up our season with our spring luncheon at Backwater Jack’s in Bonita Bay in April. We had outstanding programs this year also! Lilianne Rivera taught us a beaded icicle at our November meeting. January brought us member, Gretchen Schultz and her beautiful collection of antique crazy quilts. February featured our member, Trini Filliot, speaking about her classes last summer at the LeSage School of Needlework in Paris. Another member, Diana Hutchison, brought her collection of antique dolls and their lovely hand made and embroidered clothes to our March meeting. Our biggest feature this year was our biennial needlework show at Moorings Park in Naples. We had over 130 entries which were so beautiful and well liked by all who attended. We added several new members this year and developed our own website! Its www.embroiderynaples.org. We also managed to stitch 130 Habitat samplers to be donated this year.

Whew!! It has been a great year and we look forward to next fall. Things will quiet down for the summer months as our snowbirds head north but we will still meet twice a month for stitch-ins.

Sand Dollar Chapter | Kathie Dougherty

Our October education program was an Abbie Kverek designed Sashiko project. Several members who completed the Sashiko GCC a few years ago wanted to learn more and Abbie agreed to lead the group.

Our November education meeting focused on finishing techniques. It was just in time for all of us to finish our Christmas Ornaments. And that was good since a few weeks later we had our annual Ornament Exchange. That was followed by our annual Christmas Luncheon. Every year our luncheon committee outdoes the previous year's festivities. Our talented members plan an interesting program and goodies for us all.

In January we installed a new president and vice-president. Mally Trzeciak agreed to serve as president after a successful term as vice president and Patti Seim stepped in to fill the vice president position. We started an education program in January that will last until the fall. We are doing a repeat of a canvas bell pull. The original program was offered about 10 years ago and fortunately we have several new members who requested the project. We have over 20 members stitching a 9 square bell pull.

We had two successful events in February. First up was our Stitch in Public day at New Smyrna Beach library. This was a new location for us and it worked great. We also held our annual Stitch Away Day and despite a venue change (not of our doing) at the last minute the members, as always, came through with a can-do attitude and made it a fabulous day.

In March we learned Canadian smocking taught by a member. April is our annual Spring pot luck luncheon before our snowbirds leave.

Sand Dunes Chapter | Linda Anne Buehler

Sand Dunes chapter is continuing to work on our “Potpourri of Projects!” (POP!) programs. In October, Barbara Harrison taught the Terracotta Dawn Bracelet using super duos and seed beads. In November, Debbie Sewell taught a canvas project “Silver Threads and Golden Needles: The Bare Necessities, A Needlework Tools Case.” In January and February we did bead embroidery. Not only was this a new technique for some, but it incorporated designing as well. Each participant used various beads from their existing or newly purchased (or both!) bead stash embroidered onto a backing the size of a “mints tin” and then glued onto a tin for a finished project. In March and April, we’re doing a basic hardanger doily. Hardanger is a new technique for some, while the project constitutes a refresher course for others.

In May, we will hold our “end of year” luncheon. But, before then, we will pilot two classes – a canvas project for Kathy Rees and a beading project for Linda Chirby. And we’re getting ready to start our Keeping In Shape GCC.

Since we all enjoyed the Stitching Half-Marathon so much, Cheri Hammer and Debbie Sewell organized a 9-hour day of stitching themed Spring Training – think 9 innings! The special project this time was a kumihimo cord lead by Debbie. And we “ran the bases” in a stitching trivia game led by Cheri. We again met in the lovely clubhouse of Hammock Bay and donated our “ticket” fees to our chapter’s treasury. Our movie was “A League of Their Own” and our dinner was hot dogs and chili, with lots of yummy side dishes.

Sandhill Crane Chapter | Linda Hansen

Sandhill Crane Chapter continues with a busy spring. In February Christine Brunner gave a fascinating presentation on Elizabethan Embroidery. Little did we know that all of those cute animals portrayed in such elegant stitching had such hidden meanings? Our chapter begins a brown bag stitching challenge to be completed by September. The Board made up 24 bags containing either fabric or canvas with assorted threads, metallic and beads for members to work on over the summer. The theme is “Florida” and a prize will be awarded for the most creative. During the assembly process, one member suggested doing a “sink hole.” Gives food for thought. We continue with Habitat for Humanity samplers, but are also exploring supporting Mid Florida Community Services Children Advocacy program.

Sarasota Chapter | Clemmie Rounds

In March the Smocking Arts Guild will do a presentation and demonstration on smocking. Any members interested in learning the basics have been invited to participate.

In April, our program guest will be Region Director Kathy Singleton and the education program will be lead by Chris Millar's Blossom Fairy.

The May meeting will be devoted on Deerfield Embroidery combined with a mini workshop.

In June we will have our annual potluck picnic before we break for the summer months and resume in September.

We have a new newsletter Editor, who has been busy linking us up with the Sun Region website. New member Brenda Jamison will also work on making changes in our current format.

Another new member, Maureen Dimmick, has graciously accepted the position of 1st VP of Education/Touring Teacher. She will be voted and sworn in at the March general meeting.

Sea Grape Chapter | Betty Baechle

The Sea Grape Chapter has 43 members. 10 are plural.

We have two new officers. They both attended a meeting when we were asking members to volunteer to fill the slate of offices and they volunteered. Cathy Field is the first VP and Geri Wall is the second VP. I'm mentioning this since it is so hard do get someone to fill positions on the chapter board to have both just volunteer during a meeting is amazing.

Suwannee Stitchers | Betsy Ann Harris

Just like everyone else, the Suwannee Stitchers have been busy. In December, we held our Holiday Party with a potluck lunch at the beautiful Guest House of one of our members. Everyone brought delicious food to share and there was plenty of it! We also had a Chinese Gift Exchange with stitching-related gift items. Some were really spectacular! We also made beaded scissor fobs to sell at our boutique at the upcoming quilt show.

In January, Canby Robertson taught a “methods” class on “Lettering for Surface Embroidery” to share the skill of professional lettering for non-counted embroidery. In February, Canby taught a class on “Jacobean Constellation . . . and exploration of Crewel Embroidery”. Students stitched a crewel design that was created in 2003 to honor the 30th anniversary of the EGA Constellation Chapter, Baltimore. Both classes were well attended and helped raise money for the Suwannee Stitchers’ treasury. I have seen some of the finished pieces and they are truly beautiful.

At our March meeting, we finalized our plans for the quilt show. The Trenton Suwannee Valley Quilt Festival was held on Saturday, March 19th from 9:00 to 4:00 and the Suwannee Stitchers had a boutique booth, where we sold stitched items (scissors fobs, samplers, mini table runners, Easter cards, bookmarks, napkin holders, ornaments), stash materials (bags of batting, yarn and other knitting items, needlework kits), and other donated items (used books, vintage sewing patterns, purses, farm fresh eggs, vintage stitching calendars). We also handed out flyers and business cards with information about our chapter. In spite of the weather, or maybe because of the weather, our chapter did very well. The day was rainy, windy, and a bit chilly although late in the afternoon the sun did come out. We were lucky enough to be able to move our booth inside the Crystal Ice House. So we saw a lot of people who came in to get out of the weather and spend money at our booth rather than at an outside vendor. Several of our members volunteered to work at our booth, to act as guides at the Suwannee Valley Quilt Museum, or to help in other capacities at the festival. The day turned out to be a success for the Suwannee Stitchers.

The Suwannee Stitchers has had to postpone the Vintage Lace and Button Lecture scheduled for Saturday, April 9th at the Suwannee Valley Quilt Museum. We will keep you informed of a new date for this spectacular event. You won’t want to miss this informative and entertaining program.