

**Sun Region, EGA
Region Board of Directors Meeting
March 24-26, 2017
Tampa Marriott Westshore | Tampa FL**

Meeting Packet for Attendees

Sun Region Meeting Schedule

Friday, March 24, 2017

Executive Committee Meeting 7 PM – 9 PM

Saturday, March 25, 2017

Event 2017 Report 9:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Event 2018 Report 9:30 AM – 9:55 AM
Finance Committee Meeting 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Luncheon hosted by Sea Grape 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_

Chain Stitches Chapter will be presenting the program and the cost is \$10 pp. You must reserve a kit on your luncheon clip it coupon. The project will be a beaded bracelet.

Sunday, March 26, 2017

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

Chapter Reports:

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

Adjournment

Region Director's Report | Kathy Singleton

Since my last report, several things have moved forward. The cruise for 2018 has firmed up and the contract with the cruise line has been signed. This looks like it will be fun and I'm getting excited about it. There have been lots of things to figure out and deal with but the committee is on track with this event.

Several interviews have been recorded for posting on the Sun Region website. They should be uploaded soon. Plans are in the works for more to be recorded. The money to support these projects is coming from the Phillips Grant which was received from national. The goal is to have a variety of interviews online, some with projects, some without. Unfortunately, our plan to record Sylvia Murariu did not occur before her passing.

The audit of the 2016 region books was arranged and completed.

The nominating committee has finished their job and we now have a slate of officers. There were many questions about procedure and compliance with the bylaws. The slate changed a few times and every change seemed to have new questions. Answering these is not always an easy, or straightforward, thing.

The bylaws review has been going along smoothly. Almost all of the chapters have submitted theirs to national. I am so proud of Sun Region! The review of the region Bylaws is taking up my time and will be discussed at the spring board meeting.

There were quite a few questions/problems from chapters the past few months. I'm hoping that we have all of those answered/figured out. I don't put details in my reports but this is an important part of the job of RD.

I've continued my work with the strategic planning committee at the national level. There are five sub-committees under my control. The chair of one of those dropped out and those job duties fell to me. That has taken a lot of my time. But, I am now finished with that area and am back to working on the national Ps&Ps.

Finally, I've been emailing with the incoming RD nominee. She has plans to attend the fall national board meeting in Asheville and will attend all of the committee meetings at the fall region meeting. I will continue to bring her in on the business of Sun Region so that she is ready to take over in the fall.

Assistant Region Director's Report | Melody Bryan

SR SPRING 2017 BOARD MEETING:

Tampa Westshore Marriott
Tampa, FL
March 24th - 26th 2017

Location: Tampa FL, Westshore Marriott 1001 N Westshore Blvd, Tampa, FL 33607
(813) 287-2555

Directions to Hotel: From I-275 S follow signs to Tampa/St Pete. Take 40A for N. Westshore Blvd. Take the Hillsborough County 587 N ramp. Turn right onto N. Westshore Blvd. Using your vehicle's Navigation system is always best.

Hotel Reservation Deadline: Our contracted room block closed on February 24th. If you need to make a reservation after that date and rooms are unavailable, please contact Melody Bryan, ARD.

Luncheon: 11:30 am on Saturday March 25th in the hotel Kennedy room unless they make last minute room changes. Luncheon will be an entrée Caesar salad with grilled chicken, bread, dessert and beverage. Cost is \$25pp and the deadline for reserving your spot was March 10th. If you want to come and did not reserve, please contact me and I'll see if I can still add on. Please make your check to Sun Region EGA and mail to Melody Bryan, ARD. Luncheon will be hosted by the Sea Grape chapter.

Saturday evening Educational Program: Chain Stitchers Chapter will be presenting the program at 7:00pm and the cost is \$10 pp and you must reserve a kit on your luncheon clip it coupon. Please bring \$10 cash or check made out to Chain Stitchers EGA to the program.

Treasurer's Report | Lynn Abbey

Treasurer's Report: Activity Period: 12/1/2016 - 2/28/2017			
	Checking	MoneyMkt	
Opening Balance (MM opening 11/30/2016)	11,232.88	57,103.39	
Income			
02 Dues	0.00	0.00	
03 Interest	0.00	7.10	
Money Market Savings Trans.	0.00	0.00	
Transfer from Reserves	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL INCOME	0.00	7.10	
Expense			
21 Educ Event	5,229.55	0.00	
29 Officers' Travel	359.40	0.00	
TOTAL EXPENSE	5,588.95	0.00	
SEPARATE ACCOUNTS			
2017 Retreat (net)	6,367.24		
2018 Cruise (net)	0.00		
Ways & Means (net)	160.01		
Reg. Meeting Luncheons (net)	200.00		
TOTAL SEPARATE ACCOUNTS	6,727.25		
TOTAL	12,371.18	57,110.49	
OPEN ITEMS			
Receivables	0.00	0.00	
Payables	400.00	0.00	
TOTAL OPEN ITEMS	-400.00	0.00	
TOTAL (W/O OPEN ITEMS)	12,771.18	57,110.49	
CLOSING BALANCES (Regions Bank Account Statements: MM as of 12/31/16; checking as of 2/28/17)			
	12,771.18	57,110.49	

Between Session Actions | Cheri Hammer

There were no between session actions accomplished since the September 2016 Board of Directors meeting.

Bylaws Report | Margo Pope

As of today, 12 of 14 Sun Region's 14 chapters have submitted their by-laws for review.

Sand Hill Crane has already received its approval from EGA. Congratulations!!!

I have sent nine to Becky Autry, EGA By-laws Chair, as of today: Biscayne, Canopy Oaks, Chain Stitchers, duClay, Gulfview, Indian River, Neapolitan, Sand Dunes, and Suwanee Stitchers.

I have asked Sand Dollar to reformat theirs incorporating Section 7 on Indemnification of Officers and Directors rather than sending it as an addendum, and I received a hard copy Friday afternoon from Sarasota because of their scanner issues. I am having it scanned for me today so I can submit it electronically as EGA requires. My scanner isn't working either!

Central Florida is working on its by-laws, and I have asked Sea Grape to move their review up from August to June. (Sea Grape Chapter's President Cathy Field advised me this afternoon that the chapter will move up its by-laws review and complete it by its April 13 board meeting.)

Next step, Sun Region by-laws.

(Thanks to everyone for indulging my own issues of Hurricane Matthew. We have moved four times and are now in a rental house. A new home is forecasted to be ready in December.)

I will see you in Tampa!

Education Report | Deby Talley

The videotaping for the Phillips grant has begun. We have taped one lecture and it is being edited now. We are very excited that Audrey Francini has agreed to let us interview her and let us show off some of her beautiful work. We hope to tape this in April, and then do at least three more by the fall meeting.

We have drawn the two winners for the Lakeside retreat scholarship. Karan Quintero is our winner for the category open to everyone and Jan Hart is our first time attendee winner. We are looking forward to reading your reports in a future Sun News edition.

We have had several chapters already get started on GCCs or having a teacher come in to teach. Be sure to read the rules on the Sun Region website and make sure that you meet the advertising requirement if you do not have the 20 members already signed up.

Congratulations to Neapolitan Chapter who will be hosting one of the International Touring Teachers after seminar this year.

Finance Report | Lynn Abbey

Will be discussed at the meeting.

Historian Report | Karan Quintero

- a. I have a lot of photo albums with no information of who and what the event is. Need help with identification.
- b. Continuing to collect chapter pins, name tags and past seminar/retreat information for archives

Nominating | Karan Quintero

Will present slate.

Outreach Report | JoyceAnne Stevens

This is a quiet time of the year for outreach in Sun Region. Some chapters have on-going, long time projects. Some chapters will be doing outreach later in the year and several chapters are looking for new projects.

Five chapters reported stitching in public. Nine members of **Canopy Oaks** stitched at a local library. **Central Florida** stitched at Barnes and Noble. **Chain Stitchers** had six members stitching at Via Port Mall and **Indian River** had 10 members at 3 locations plus 2 exhibits at local libraries. **Gulfview** is planning to stitch in public later in March.

Biscayne members have stitched over 100 kissing pillow tops which have been sent to their contact in Texas for finishing. Biscayne also collects a number of different items for various charities. **Central Florida** is finishing up their breast cancer ribbon bookmarks and cell phone charms and looking for a new outreach project. **Gulfview** continues its ongoing projects of kissing pillows, toiletry items for the woman's shelter, Habitat for Humanity samplers and blankets/quilts for Project Linus. **Neapolitan's** outreach is Habitat samplers which are presented from November through March and worked on year around. They have 128 samplers ready for 2016-2017. **Sand Dunes** presented 22 Chrismon ornaments to The Holy Name of Jesus Church in November and will continue the project in 2017. They also have several Habitat samplers ready for dedications. **Sandhill Crane** has 2 on-going outreach projects: Habitat samplers for homes in Citrus county and donations to Child Advocacy Center of Hernando County.

Sarasota collects various goods for the homeless at Bethesda House. In February **Sea Grape** members knitted or crocheted over 50 red baby caps, as requested by Gulf Coast Hospital, to celebrate Heart Health Month. Some members used their embroidery skills to add white heart decorations, which made them particularly attractive.

Chapters looking for new outreach projects may find some ideas at the national web site www.egausa.org under "Resources", then "Outreach". It is in the members only section so you will need to log in. The latest Needle Arts had a number of different chapter outreach reports. Reach out and let people know about embroidery.

Roster Report | Adrienne Meyer

Nothing significant to report.

Sun News Report | Linda Anne Buehler

Nothing significant to report.

Ways and Means Report | Vacant

No report.

Website Report | Lynn Abbey

Nothing significant to report.

Social Media Report | Karan Quintero

- a. I have posted class information to FB when given information from chapter. Information must include:
 - 1: class fee
 - 2: class dates
 - 3: class photo & description
 - 4: sign-up deadline
 - 5: contact person information
- b. Chapters are also encouraged to send photos of chapter events.
- c. Thanks to Jenna and Lynn for also posting on our media page.

2017 Lakeside Retreat | Claire Nardone

Things are progressing as the date draws nearer for our fabulous weekend in Mt. Dora. Our stitching room looks great as does the class room. Your goodie bags are being filled with many surprises I hope you'll enjoy. I have put in a special request for perfect weather, although I may not have the "pull" that's needed. There are many activities to do while at the retreat and within the walking area. How are you at a game of croquet? The lawn at the Inn is perfect so keep your reading glasses on for details in your handbook. Should you choose to stay content at the Inn or venture out, there is shopping, eating, snacking or sightseeing within steps of our stitching room. I look forward to seeing everyone next month!

2018 Cruise | Lee Ferguson

No report submitted.

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.

Biscayne Chapter | Schelley Iman-Loch

Biscayne Chapter has been busy since our last report. We successfully reached our goal of stitching 100 Kissing Pillows for our deployed troops. Over the summer Pat Middleton and Pat Carrington completed 80 tops for us. Wow! Our meetings started in September after our summer break. In October 2016, Martha Milnes taught us a small NOEL sweet bag to hang on a Christmas tree or put treats. In January Janet taught us a Filet lace flower. It will make a wonderful card, bookmark or small-framed piece. In November we had a book sale, elections and approved our 2017 budget. Schelley Iman-Loch was elected President, Millie Perlman was elected Secretary, and Marta Cutie was elected Treasurer. In December we had a great holiday party. The Shades of Gary challenge participants brought their pieces to show. We had many interesting beautiful pieces. The winner was Lin Jacoby with a masterfully cross-stitched lighthouse. We gave our members the materials to make a Hedebo ring that will be attached to our Rose Double Pocket Pendant. We will be making the pendant at the April, May and June meetings. We are bringing back our special interest group for samplers.

Canopy Oaks Chapter | Rebecca Lockenbach

Greetings from Canopy Oaks Chapter! Since the last Sun Region Meeting, the Canopy Oak Chapter members at 25 strong have been busy stitching and learning and learning stitches. In October, Marion Scolar journeyed to Tallahassee and taught us the art of Blackwork. Our November and January programs were a 2 part event in Beginning Smocking presented by Rebecca Lockenbach. We learned a variety of smocking stitches to create a smocked sampler. In between these events we elected and installed officers. Taking the helm as President is Jill Klein, who moved up from the VP role. Jill will be assisted by Pam Doffek as Vice President. Pat Schwartz will continue as Secretary, Deborah Schroder as Treasurer, and Rebecca Lockenbach as Region Representative.

The chilly February weather found us nestled in the Northside Library for the Stitch-in-Public event. Our outreach efforts have yet to materialize new members, though several library patrons stopped by to see what was happening. We also had our standard 2nd Saturday of the month meeting followed by sharing of projects and stitching time. For March, Jennifer Bailey and Lucy Patrick presented Felt Work. We are looking forward to completing the year in a high note, and will focus on planning the upcoming year's events. One event on the fall horizon is that Canopy Oaks Chapter EGA will sponsor national teacher Jane Ellen Balzuweit in Tallahassee on October 14, 2017. Jane Ellen will teach her "MyLady's Fan", which is pulled thread work on Cashel linen. Six stitches, one with beads, and an outline in gold braid are included. Final arrangements including the cost, location and other details are being made we will share the information with the Sun Region chapters in case there are stitchers interested in attending.

Central Florida Chapter | Deby Talley

Fall seemed to fly by and we were thrown into the holiday season. In November we learned how to make a Jacobs Ladder needle book. Our December luncheon was great fun -- including being able to celebrate Audrey Francini's 100th birthday. We also installed our officers for the next two years. In January we made a silk ribbon flower button. February was a treat in that Jack Smith from Elon University was in town to do the costumes for the Shakespeare theater show and he made time to come and give us a fun lecture about an exhibition he is hoping to have out in the next year or so.

We had a fun day for Stitch in Public and enjoyed the chance to show off our work.

We are in the process of working our updating our bylaws.

Chain Stitchers Chapter | Deby Talley

We have had a fun and busy fall. We had a holiday dinner at the Lakeside Inn in Mt Dora. We had our installation of Officers in January along with making a folded ribbon scissor fob. We had a broken needle ceremony in February. We also announced the winners of our challenge to complete projects. Claire Nardone was the 2016 winner. So far we have had several people sign up for the 2017 challenge.

We had a wonderful Stitch in Public event- several people stopped by and expressed an interest in what we were doing.

And we are hard at work on reviewing our bylaws.

duClay Chapter | JoyceAnne Stevens

The months since our last region meeting have been busy for duClay Chapter, even hectic at times.

At our October meeting, 2 of our members presented a skit starring Martha Washington and her lady's maid, Mellie. The skit opened with Mellie returning from an arduous trip to pick up among other things, crewel wool for Martha's stitching. As they studied the new wool they discussed the stitching projects and the quality of the wool. The skit was entertaining and informative and received enthusiastic applause when ended. The members then received kits with canvas, Appleton crewel wool, and a shell chart that was based on the original shell design Martha used in chair seat cushions.

Kathy Rees was a surprise visitor to our November meeting. She was in town to deliver the kits for the ITT class. The SAL group working on Kathy Rees designs brought in their projects to show and tell. This was followed a few days later by the ITT class with Merrilyn Heazlewood teaching the 3 day class, "Tudor Garden". It was well attended by duClay members and members from Biscayne, Canopy Oaks, and Sand Dunes Chapters. It was a wonderful 3 days.

In December we held our annual end of the year/Christmas get together. We started off with a tea/luncheon at a local tea shop where we enjoyed many different courses, each explained by the shop owner. We then moved a couple of blocks to our usual meeting room at the library where we had a gift exchange, lots of show and tell, drawings for various prizes, and stitching for the remainder of the afternoon. A very festive ending to a great year.

In January we registered our projects for our extremely popular finishing challenge and started 2 SAL's. This year the canvas SAL designer is Merrilyn Heazlewood and the linen SAL designer is Brenda Keyes. Each participant chooses the design they wish to work on.

Linda Dean, a member of the Canopy Oaks Chapter and Master Craftsman in Crewel was the guest speaker and teacher at our February meeting. She talked about crewel embroidery, what it was/is, some of the history, and showed many of her pieces of work. The lecture was followed by a crewel embroidery project with crewel wool and 5 typical stitches used in crewel embroidery. The finished project was a glass case.

In March we learned to make baskets. One of our members made up kits of flat reed and taught us to weave a small basket. It was designed to hold a spool of thread and a pin cushion. It was very well attended and although it took most of the afternoon everyone left with a completed basket they had made.

We have many more exciting meetings planned for the coming year and several national teachers. Kathy Rees will be teaching in July and Catherine Theron will be here in September. Both classes have spaces available. It is going to be another great year in 2017.

Please follow us on our blog <http://duclayega.blogspot.com/> and on facebook as duClay Chapter of the Embroiderers Guild of America.

Gulfview Chapter | Constance Amadeo

We celebrated our 35th Anniversary on March 8 with a luncheon at a local restaurant. On March 15th we held our Stitch in Public event at the Hudson Public Library and had a good turnout. Our Outreach Program which includes Habitat for Humanity, Soldiers Family Kissing Pillows, The Linus Project and Toiletries to a women's shelter is very active. We will celebrate our last formal meeting in May with a potluck luncheon followed by a cording project taught by our V.P., Ann

Ashley. Our monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at Veterans Park 14333 Hicks Rd. Hudson. Anyone interested in needlework is welcome to attend.

Indian River | Christine Kampmeyer

Lots of plans are being made for the coming year as we celebrate our 40th year of being the Indian River Chapter of the EGA. January we had our annual Stash Sale and made plans to spend some of that money on celebrating the rest of the year. A new GCC class was started.

We set a goal of 5 new members this year and I am reporting we have 4 new members at this writing.

February the IRC was to be seen in public. Five groups of IRC stitchers could be seen at various places around Brevard County "Stitching in Public".

We had 2 library Exhibits going at the same time with the Needle Art items donated by the members of IRC. The popular Japanese needle ceremony, Hari Kuyo, was part of our February program followed with a Rhodes stitch needle/pin cushion.

March brings us the Catherine Jordan -Map of Florida – with students stitching and painting the state of Florida on linen. The 2 IRC evening Satellite groups continue to meet on a regular schedule and the Sew n Sews will be joining M/S Jordan for dinner on their regular meeting evening.

April will be another 40th anniversary surprise as several members are preparing a Mini Sampler.

May – our 40th celebration will continue with a catered lunch.

The IRC education program is going full steam with the Beads, Inspirations, Procrastinators Anonymous and Sampler Sleuths meeting thru out the month. These groups are social gatherings.

Announcements to the general membership have been about the Mt. Dora retreat, Bobbie Pilling Memorial Award and other scholarships and awards and the 2017 National Seminar.

We have a new website person to make sure all the info is current and she has a back up person to lend her talents to make sure all is correct.

There are 3 members working on the By-Laws and Policies updates.

Planning for the Annual Book Sale in August and a Stitch in/Retreat in the Fall are being formed.

Neapolitan Chapter | Karen Rockenbach

We have had a very busy season! We changed our meeting place in October to the FineMark Bank in Naples. Our October meeting featured a pumpkin needle book embroidered on dyed wool. November was our first mystery trip organized by Betty Beachle. We took a bus to St. Petersburg, Fl. with stops at a needlework shop, a delicious lunch and a bead store. We enjoyed coffee, donuts, fruit and snacks on the bus. It was a very enjoyable day. We had our annual Christmas luncheon at Foxfire Country Club. We had a lovely show and tell and we brought unwrapped toys for "Toys for Tots". Gail Sirna joined us for a workshop in December, "Florida Palm". January featured Lois Kershner as our general meeting speaker and also her workshop, "Provence Pottery". February featured our own member Joan Thomasson treating us to a lecture on her 30 year career in needlework. She is teaching a pilot class in March. Our March meeting will feature Kathleen Smith, a Sun Region member, talking about her time spent as a docent at the Washington National Cathedral. We will be winding down our season with our annual spring luncheon at McCormick and Schmick's in Naples. Our outreach program featured a display of needlework at the central library in Naples during the month of November. We are donating 128 Habitat for Humanity samplers this year. We will be looking forward to a quiet summer of stitching until our snowbirds join us in the fall.

Sand Dollar Chapter | Kathie Dougherty

Since the last region meeting in September we have been busy with several education programs:

- EGA Petite Project- Hardanger by Doris Mengel
- a biscornu from the September 2015 Needle Arts Magazine
- continuing the bell pull we started in January 2016
- the GCC “More Than a Rose”
- our annual Stitch Away day with a beading class, Silk Ribbon, knitting and crocheting

Over the summer and early fall we repeated our 100 Days of Stitching. This will now become an annual summer program since so many members have benefited from stitching everyday for 100 days. Several UFOs have been finished and new projects started.

In October we had a Group Dynamics session. Last May we surveyed members and asked 3 questions. What do you like most about Sand Dollar, What do you like least and What would you like to be different. The answers were tabulated and the board met to review them. At our November general meeting we broke into small groups and discussed the results and got great feedback from our members.

Our December meeting is our annual ornament exchange and luncheon. We also collect donations for a pet food pantry, a local food bank and the church where we meet to help families during the holidays. Our members are always very generous to these groups and they are very appreciative.

This year's Stitch-in-Public day again challenged our resourcefulness. We haven't had very much luck at previous venues so this year we tried a movie theater. The theater manager was very helpful but we had to be there on a Monday and it was a lot of work. We are going to try and go back to Hobby Lobby next year.

Sand Dunes Chapter | Pam Burke

Since Septmber we have been trying to “ornament” our lives with several small projects. We started out with a bang with a lovely beaded ornament taught by member Barb Harrison. Unfortunately we derailed in November when our program got delayed due to lack of supplies – that’s what happens when you don’t have a LNS! Since then we have been ornamenting painted canvases, mainly Joan Thomasson Angels.

We have been busy with other things as well. In early November, five of our Chapter members signed up for the Sun Region ITT. We had a wonderful time in Jacksonville stitching Merrilyn Heazlewood’s Tudor Garden. Merrilyn was a delightful teachers and I know at least 2 of us have actually finished the piece. In late November we presented the church where we meet with 22 stitched and finished Chrismons. Thirteen of members did the Stitching, then our President, Pam Burke, finished them all using backing material salvaged from her mother’s 60 year old silk wedding dress. The finished ornaments hung proudly on the tree in the front of the church and were greatly admired and appreciated.

We closed out 2016 with a fabulous holiday party in December at the Twisted Grape, a wine bar with small plates, in Shalimar Florida. We had 19 people sign-up (13 members, 6 guests) and there was plenty of food and fun. When we made the needle puller favors for the last Sun Region meeting, we had extras so we even had small gifts to hand out to our members. On President’s day, several of our members participated in our annual trek to what we consider our LNS, the Needle Bug in Montgomery Alabama, 3 hours away! We enjoy shopping and lunch on the trip and we always have a great time. And now we are preparing for our next event, an April Fool’s all day stitch-in.

Sandhill Crane Chapter | Jenna McClooney

Our ambitious program committee has planned activities for chapter meetings through June of 2018. To inspire and mentor our members who are new to embroidery and our “experts” who would like a refresher, we are reviving the “Stitch of the Month” program where a different stitch is presented each meeting. The monthly chapter education programs are led by members and some projects span multiple months. Hoping to provide interesting projects for all members, we frequently include more than one activity at each meeting. We are also planning to offer two GCCs in 2017.

Although our stitched samplers for Habitat for Humanity for 2017 in Citrus County were projected at 20, the final count will depend on participants obtaining their loan and contributing sufficient sweat equity. We also continue to support

HFH in Hernando County with approximately one dedication per year. We donate needed items to The Child Advocacy Center of Hernando County.

We are very excited about partnering with the Sarasota chapter to present Tanja Berlin in two workshops for late February and Early March of 2018. The venues will be Sarasota and Weeki Watchee. Details will be available later in 2017.

We received approval from EGA national for our updated Bylaws in February. Currently we are reviewing our policies and procedures with a projected May chapter adoption vote.

Sarasota Chapter | Clemmie Rounds

We are partnering with Sandhill Crane Chapter to bring Tanja Berlin to teach at the end of February 2018.

Our March education there will be a presentation on the history as well as learning to make Dorset buttons.

Our April meeting's guest speaker will be Ashley Brown from the Women's Resource Center, Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Our education project will be stitching pulled thread work to make bookmarks for reading groups.

May will be the start of a GCC.

Sea Grape Chapter | Betty Baechle

Our annual luncheon is held in January. During the luncheon we had several items on our program. The Roxanne Badenock Silver Thimble Award this year went to Betty Baechle and tied for second place were Chris Zogus and Julie Brocco. Our new officers installed. The guest speaker this year was Joan Thomasson. She displayed a number of pieces and explained the history behind each piece.

Cathy Field, our president, has a goal of increasing our membership by three this year. Thanks to her we all have business cards to give to people who might be interested in our group. She also got ideas from national and regional resources on how to increase our membership. The list of suggestions from these resources were published in our newsletter. So far we have gained one new member. The new member was met at a shop stitch in. She was invited to one of our meetings. She joined. Yeah we are a third on our way to our goal.

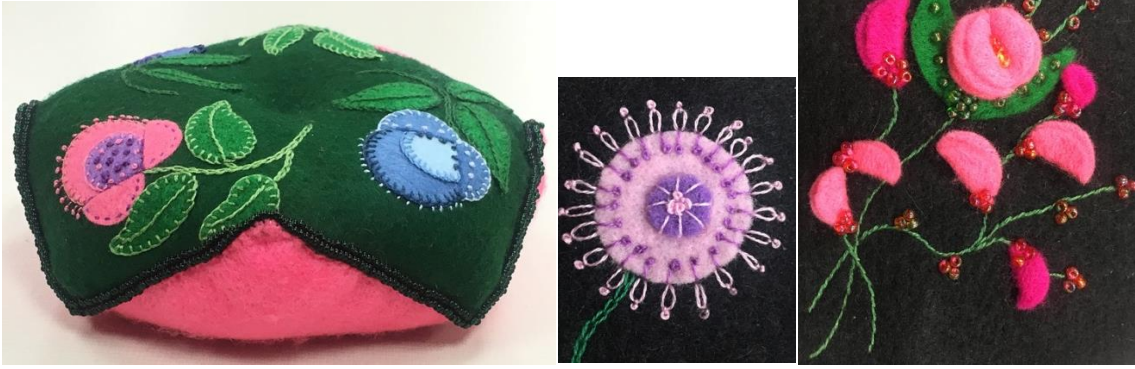
We continue to have our stitch in public at the Edison Estate in Ft Myers. We sit on the Edison home porch with a quilt group. Together we visit and chat with those that linger to see what we are doing. This is done every fourth Saturday weather permitting.

An application has been sent to national so we can participate in the Stitching Across the Water.

Suwannee Stitchers | Patrice Boyes

Suwannee Stitchers enjoyed fellowship and stitching at their annual Christmas Party in December, which was graciously hosted by Chapter member Marianne Bennink. Members feasted and prepared wool-felt/bottlecap pincushions for an upcoming Chapter fundraiser.

The Chapter in November combined beads and surface techniques with the form of a felt biscornu for some lovely results. Taught by Chapter President Marion Jones, the Chapter produced very colorful, unique biscornu.



In January, members gathered at the Newberry Public Library for a program on blackwork, an embroidery tradition dating back to the era of King Henry VIII. Deliberately lace-like in effect, blackwork functioned as a clever substitute for the expensive lace of the time.



The Chapter met again in February to enjoy a program taught by Pat Desmond on feltwork and surface techniques using that material. Several members completed needle books for donation to the Chapter fundraiser.