

Valley Quilters Guild - Common Terms

Block-of-the-Month (BOM) = Each month, a unique quilt block pattern, chosen by Education, is available on the website and in the newsletter. 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, and can make up to two “entries”. Each “entry” of blocks made by members is a chance to win all the blocks or share in the win of the blocks, depending on block size. Large blocks of 10”-12” or larger = 2 drawings if over 30 entered. Smaller blocks of 9.5” or smaller = 1 drawing if over 30. Signup sheets are at Education. 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 cotton FQs from their stashes. Each FQ is an “entry” to win those brought to the meeting. 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 or previously 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/emails photos to the Education Chairperson (Jeannie Snodgrass). They then get entered 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, not part of Valley Quilters Guild. The two local groups are Forget-Me-Not Quilters of Alaska (leader Cheryl Homme) and Valley Quilts of Valor (leader Patty Livingston). Members complete quilts using patriotic fabrics to be awarded to past and active duty Armed Service men and women. A QOV Retreat is held twice a year in the spring and fall. VQG members are welcome to join. The 4th Thursday of each month is a QOV sew day at the Wasilla Sr. Center (WASI) for FMNQA.

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 during the Fair. .

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 quilt-related 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, classes, and upcoming Open Sew technique/BOM demos 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/display event and random prize drawings. They can include donations of quilts to Service and other groups (QOV, Fair Booth, charity orgs.).

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. Winning times throughout the year is unlimited.

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 may offer potlucks or something like pizza.

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 and/or new pattern idea. Some months are designated such as March/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.

Written 2023 by Mary Kay Wardlaw/Education * Updated 2024 & 4/2025 * Updated 7/2026 JS