

Quilts for Veterans Program Duties

Mission: Brunswick Quilters honors deserving Veterans once a year in November with a patriotic quilt. This is not a Quilt of Valor program, so there are no size restrictions on the size of the quilts. The job of the Quilts for Veterans Program Director is to act as coordinator of the making, finishing, and distributing of these quilts.

Budget: Each year the board approves a budget for the year. The budget for Quilts for Veterans Program will be decided at that time.

Supplies: There is a supply of donated patriotic fabric and some batting that can be used. Some members will donate an entire finished quilt, others like to make just the quilt tops, do the quilting, put on binding, or even sew on labels. There is a large folder with many quilt patterns that can be used and made available to members to borrow and return.

Sew Day: One sew day during the year will be scheduled to work just on Veterans Quilts. For this sew day, it is best to have 2-3 patterns decided on, fabric chosen from the supplies we have, and pieces cut out ahead of time, so that the members that come to sew can just start sewing. Your job is to explain what needs to be sewn, answer questions, coordinate, and monitor progress. Helpful if you get at least one other guild member to assist you on that day to keep things going smoothly.

Board Meetings: Board meetings are usually held the first Tuesday of each month. It is not required to attend the board meetings but can be helpful. If you have questions or decisions to be made, this is a great source of information and answers.

Membership Meetings: Membership meetings are usually held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Attend membership meetings if possible. This is an excellent place to make progress reports and ask for help. If you need work to be done, this is the best source of expert quilters to offer help.

Make announcements: example: I have 3 quilts that need binding, 2 quilt tops that need to be quilted, and/or in need of more batting full or queen size donated. Keep track of where quilts are when sent off to have work done.

Labels: We have a couple of guild members that make labels for the Veterans Quilts. Make sure you have labels available to hand out if asked at every meeting. Make sure every Veterans Quilt has a label on it before presentation ceremony.

Requirements for Veterans receiving Quilts:

Veteran must have had an honorable discharge

Veteran must live in Brunswick County

Veteran must allow their name and picture to be published

Veteran must allow to be introduced with name, Veteran organization, military branch, and main job serving USA

Veteran must not have received a quilt from Brunswick Quilters in the past.

Nominations: You will work closely with Gary Crowden (garycrowden@aol.com) from the Veterans Coalition. He will work with other Veteran groups here in Brunswick County and supply you with names of well deserving veterans to receive quilts. You will need to let him know, at least 4-6 weeks prior to the ceremony, how many quilts that have been finished, so he has ample time to find names for you. Guild members may nominate a veteran to receive a quilt. A form must be filled out, turned in to you, and then given to Gary Crowden from the Veterans Coalition to be verified that they have had an honorable discharge. Once you have names of the Veterans, a formal invitation needs to be sent out to each Veteran receiving a quilt. This invitation may be sent via email or even a personal phone call.

Deadline: A deadline needs to be in place for both nominations and finished quilts to be turned in. The September business meeting is usually a good deadline time frame.

Quilts for Veterans Presentation Ceremony: This is done in the first part of November. Brunswick Quilters enjoy seeing the Veterans receive their quilts, so this is a large, attended meeting. Make sure ample chairs are set up. Make announcement at the October meeting and ask guild members to wear red, white, and blue.

Refreshments: Refreshments, such as coffee, water, and baked goods, may be served at Presentation Ceremony. These may be purchased or donated by guild members. Make announcement at the October business meeting to ask for volunteers to make baked goods. Have a sign-up sheet, so you can keep track of how much is donated and contact info to send out reminders prior to the November Presentation Ceremony. Make sure supplies of plates, napkins, Styrofoam cups, etc. ready for refreshment table. Any supplies purchased can be reimbursed out of budget.

Jr. ROTC Color Guard: The person to contact about Jr. ROTC is Joseph Calisto at the West Brunswick High School. He can arrange to have the Jr ROTC members there at the Presentation Ceremony to present the colors.

Presentation Ceremony: You will oversee the Ceremony, introducing all the Veterans, thanking them for their service, and presenting them with a quilt. Individual pictures will be taken and a group picture of all the Veterans together will be taken at the end. Make sure all refreshments are set up and announce the refreshments being served to Veterans and their family and friends that came to with them, along with all guild members.

After all the Veterans and family have left, the regular business meeting will begin.

Write up for the Paper: Someone from the Brunswick Beacon will be there to take pictures and do a write up for the paper. If you have a list of Veterans names, branch of service, job title, and if they belong to any military/ veteran association here in Brunswick County ready for him/her ahead of time. That way the publication can get out sooner.