



Membership Information Packet

Table of contents:	Pages
Membership Checklist	2
Membership FAQs	3 - 7

Check List for your MQG to become an official MQG

The online application, to be filled out by your MQG's leadership, is available on the MQG website. Please expect to spend an hour to complete your application.

You will need the following items to complete the application:

- Your membership roster containing first name, last name, and email address of your members in an excel spreadsheet. Once you have registered them, they will get an email to complete their enrollment in the worldwide guild.
- The names of your elected officers and their positions.

How do we pay?

You will be able to pay the membership fee with a credit card.

When do we pay?

You will pay upon signing up your MQG through the website. Renewals are due by March 31 to remain members. Emailed renewal notices will be sent out after January 1.

I would like to join the MQG as an individual. How do I do that?

Individual membership are available on our website and cost \$30.00 USD per year.

Membership FAQs

The Big Picture

Q: What is the mission statement of the Modern Quilt Guild?

A: Our mission is to support and encourage the growth and development of modern quilting through art, education, and community.

Q: Why has membership to the MQG been formalized?

A: The MQG has grown exponentially since it was founded in Los Angeles in October 2009. Through blogs and the Internet, word spread quickly and soon guilds started popping up everywhere. The original founders of the MQG provided support and guidance to these new groups.

In 2010, the founding members brought together a group of dedicated guild members from across the country to form the initial MQG Board. The goal was simple: determine what local guilds wanted and needed from a worldwide organizational structure.

The feedback came via member surveys, social media, the MQG leadership forum and a pilot membership program made up of five local MQGs. The priorities emerged: members wanted community connections and communication, education, a better way to manage membership, support in forming and running local guilds, and

American guilds wanted an easy way for their guild to acquire 501 (c) (3) non-profit status.

QuiltCon 2013 emerged as the vehicle by which the organization could fund the work and infrastructure needed to meet these objectives.

The board was expanded to bring on expertise in the areas of accounting, software, and industry relations. An attorney was engaged to continue the 501 (c) (3) application process for American guilds, a new website was born, and a membership program has been rolled out to formalize the structure of the organization.

Work is ongoing to support the efforts of local MQGs and build a strong, thriving worldwide organization that supports the MQG's mission.

Q: What are the basic requirements for a local group to join the MQG?

A: A local guild will need to develop with a sustained presence and members. A guild outside of the United States may adopt any structure that it wishes, provided it complies with any local legal requirements. It may, for example, adopt a set of bylaws and elect officers and it may register as a non-profit entity, but these are not requirements.

Q: How much are dues?

A: Individuals not affiliated with a local guild can join the MQG for \$30 USD per year. Local MQGs pay a flat annual fee based on the number of members in their group:

Worldwide fees (for guilds outside the US) are 35% less than the amounts for US-based guilds (all amounts in US Dollars)

10-15 members:	\$ 180 – 35% = \$117
16-25 members:	300 – 35% = \$195
26-35 members:	480 – 35% = \$312
36-45 members:	660 – 35% = \$429
46-55 members:	840 – 35% = \$546
56-65 members:	1020 – 35% = \$663
66-75 members:	1200 – 35% = \$780
76-90 members:	1380 – 35% = \$897
91-110 members:	1530 – 35% = \$994.50
111-130 members:	1740 – 35% = \$1131
131-150 members:	1920 – 35% = \$1248
151-170 members:	2100 – 35% = \$1365
171-190 members:	2280 – 35% = \$1482
191-210 members:	2460 – 35% = \$1599
211-230 members:	2640 – 35% = \$1716
231-250 members:	2820 – 35% = \$1833
251+ members:	3000 – 35% = \$1950

Dues are prorated each month so these costs drop April and each month thereafter as all guild dues renew in the January 1 to March 31 renewal period.

Q: Why are non-US guild dues discounted?

A: The Board considers the initial launch of guild activities to be heavily centered in the United States and therefore determined it appropriate to discount dues for worldwide guilds. 501(c)3 status also does not apply to non-U.S. guilds.

Q: Our guild is just starting out and we only have 7 members. How much will we pay in dues and will we be able to access the MQG website to manage our guild?

A: A guild with fewer than 10 members is classified as a Starter Guild. A Starter Guild has two years to meet the minimum number of members (10). During the start-up period the Starter Guild will have access to the MQG website and associated tools. They will also be able to call themselves a MQG.

Q: What if my guild signs up with 23 members for 2017 and adds 5 members before the end of the year? How will our dues increase?

A: Your dues will increase the next enrollment period in January of the following year. You can add and remove members over the course of the year without any changes in cost.

Q: How was the amount of dues determined? Why are they so reasonable? Why are they so expensive? (We've gotten both of these questions!)

A: Dues represent about 10-15% of the projected income of the MQG in 2018. Remaining expenses will be funded from revenue generated by activities like future QuiltCons. The goal was to make dues both reasonable and affordable while still providing needed funding for the operational budget of the organization.

We'd like to think that the MQG's mission alone is reason enough to support the organization but we're realists too. To encourage guilds to join, the Board has spent considerable effort in devising a value-packed list of member and guild benefits that far exceed the cost of dues paid. The combination of an awesome mission and a compelling line-up of member activities, opportunities for connecting within the MQG community will make the organization strong and ready to spread the word of modern quilting worldwide.

Q: Our guild would like to have bylaws. Where can we go to get help in creating these?

A: Several samples of MQG bylaws are available to you by emailing info@themodernquiltguild.com or by downloading from the Resources page of our Community site. We recommend beginning with a template and modifying it as needed.

Q: Can a guild join the MQG and still have local dues?

A: Absolutely. Local guilds retain complete ownership of setting local member dues.

Q: Do individual members have access to the website to access guild challenges?

A: Yes. Individual members will have all the same benefits as members of local guilds. Our Community site offers an Individual Group specifically for members to connect that are not affiliated with a local guild.

Q: What are additional benefits of joining the MQG?

A: Guild and Individual Members will receive the following benefits:

- access to our monthly free quilt pattern series
- access to our monthly webinar series
- discounted entry fees for MQG quilt shows
- discounted rates on conferences and events
- priority and early-bird registration for conferences and events
- discounts and special offers with MQG sponsors, legal fees and affiliated companies
- discounted small business and personal insurance for American guilds
- permission to use the Modern Quilt Guild logo
- access to MQG Leaders only newsletter and circle
- opportunities to participate in inter-guild swaps and challenges
- involvement in MQG fabric challenges
- digital membership cards
- official member blog button
- membership pins

Q: If a member switches guilds mid-year (such as moving) or signs on as an individual and later wants to join a guild, will you offer refunds?

A: No, members will need to pay the dues for the type of membership they would like. However, since the member has moved mid year, this will not have any affect as membership begins at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Online Membership Database

The online membership database system will allow guild leaders the ability to track membership and communicate with your guild through a Social Circle. In addition, the social media hub will facilitate guild-to-guild communication for planning meet ups and swaps, sharing photos of work, asking for advice, and getting information about MQG challenges and happenings.

Q: Will we need to maintain our own websites?

A: No. The MQG website will provide your guild with a web page where you can announce events and post information for your members and non-members.

Q: Will we be able to link back to our blog that we already have established?

A: Yes. One of the features of the site is the ability to link your blog to the website.

Member Information

Q: How will the MQG use and protect the personal information of members?

A: The MQG will never share or sell member's information with another organization or company.

For some events we will offer the option to share email addresses of event registrants only. This will be clearly marked as an option to approve or decline your participation. You must opt-in for this; we will not share your email address without your permission.

Organizational Structure

Q: How many people work for the guild?

A: In September of 2012 the MQG gained its first employees with Alissa Haight Carlton as the Executive Director and Heather Grant as the Director of Marketing and Programming. Since then we have added Elizabeth Dackson as our Events Manager, Riane Menardi as our Communications Manager, and Amanda Hines as our Member & Sponsor Manager. We also have a bookkeeper and an administrative assistant.

Q: Will the annual budget be made available? What about minutes from board meetings?

A: Yes. This is a requirement of being a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization and is available to anyone who requests it.

Q: Will board members be elected by the membership in the future?

A: Yes, the Governance Committee and the Nominating Committee organized and rolled out a process to elect five Regional Representative seats on the MQG Board. As of Jan. 2015, these positions will be filled and voted on by members.