Karen Womack, Region 3 candidate July 31, 2023

• Why are you uniquely qualified to represent Region 3?

Region 3 represents the "middle" of the country and is comprised of states that have a vast diversity in size, population and income. I embrace all of these differences and strive to find common ground among us all.

• How would you solicit input on issues from Region 3?

I would ask the leadership and members separately what they feel the top issue is for their guild and compare the responses. I would also solicit thoughts about QuiltCon, as the logistics of traveling to the Southeast or Southwest coast in February can be challenging.

• What is your history of service?

President of the Pittsburgh Modern Quilt Guild for two terms during the pandemic – 2021-2023. Taped two segments on team building for Season 2 of Fresh Quilting tv.

Describe your leadership style

Centered around gathering input from all parties with a stake in the outcome. Decisive, fact finding, compassionate.

• What other unique skills and/or perspective do you feel you would bring to the MQG board?

I serve and have served as a member of other non-profit Boards

• How would you de-escalate a public situation?

Acknowledge the situation, reframe it within the context of what the MQG can and cannot do about the situation, and state that both parties are invited to share their viewpoints for the internal personnel committee if they choose to do so.

• How would you handle conflict resolution?

Coach both parties to find common ground if they are willing to do so. Remind both parties that they are part of a larger organization and although individuals are entitled to their own opinions the mission of the organization is to respect all viewpoints.

• How would you embrace diversity and encourage inclusivity in Region 3?

Reminding all members early and often that they are a part of a larger organization, and we can learn from each other's viewpoints and lived experiences.

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• What do you love about modern quilting?

Simplicity of design. Even though some designs take a lot of piecing the end result is often bold, clean and simple.

• What color do you have the least of in your stash?

Yellow! I live in Pittsburgh where the sports team colors are gold and black, or gold and blue (Pitt Panthers). It's gold or nothing here! Yellow is often used as a neutral, and I don't immediately think of it that way.

• Which quilting book, blog, or magazine has been influential in your quilting journey and why?

Quilts! Quilts!! Quilts!!! The Complete Guide to Quiltmaking by Diana McClun and Laura Nownes. This was the reference book in my first quilting class many moons ago. I did not care for the traditional patterns or their color combinations at the time but has been my number one go-to reference for foundational cutting and piecing skills throughout the years. It's been out of print for a while, but sometimes found in used bookstores.

• What do you think are the next three trends in modern quilting?

1. Digital patterns in SVG format for Cricut, Scan n Cut and other die-cutting machines.

2. applique techniques in modern quilting.

3. Patterns utilizing large scale prints