

Why are you uniquely qualified to represent Region 3?

I've grown up in Michigan and attended college in this region. Over the course of my life I have lived 35 years in the Midwest even though I have moved 15 times in and outside of this region. I've had the privilege to live in diverse areas with cultures different from mine. I love where I live but I also appreciate how wonderfully the people of our country make up this patchwork of states. I've traveled to many of the states in Region 3. And when I travel I always try to find local restaurants, quilt shops, and experience the culture of the area. This understanding allows me to be cognizant of the priorities of members in other states that may be different but no less important than those of members in my own.

How would you solicit input on issues from Region 3?

As a first step I would reach out to each of the 28 guilds in our region as well as the individual members via email. Not only do I want to make sure each member knows my "door" is always open but I want to see if there are current concerns. I plan on reaching out on a quarterly basis to verify if anything has changed. While I may be able to attend a few guilds in person if requested, I will always make time for virtual calls with guilds and individual members.

What is your history of service?

I joined the NW Ohio MQG in 2012 soon after its inception and served in various roles for the guild over the next 5 years. I've served as the guild's Vice President, Secretary, and the majority of the time as our social media administrator. Our guild is no longer active and I'm currently an individual member. I am looking forward to the opportunity to continue to give back to the MQG as a board member since the MQG has given me friendships and confidence to be me that I wouldn't have otherwise gotten.

Outside of the MQG I enjoy volunteering time at local community events such as "Boogie on the Block" in my town.

Describe your leadership style.

Lead by example and with open lines of communication. Input from others helps solidify my plan and verify I have not overlooked anything.

I learned early on as a young engineer that you don't know everything. I remember needing to write up welding instructions to fix an assembly error and needing to ask our tradesmen how they would go about fixing the mistake. With their input I not only learned what to do but why to do it. And I gained the respect of my coworkers in the process.

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

I've experienced the MQG from various perspectives. From being a local guild member, holding a local guild position, and as an individual member. I've also had the privilege to attend QuiltCon three times as well seeing it grow from Austin's 2013 event to 2023 in Atlanta.

I am not part of the modern quilting industry nor am I looking to break into it. I am simply a person who loves to quilt as a hobby – much like many members of the MQG.

I am and have always been the youngest quilter of the group of friends I have made through the MQG. I am excited with the opportunity to present my ideas of how to grow the MQG with people my age and younger. I care deeply about this organization and want to help it grow and evolve.

How would you de-escalate a public situation?

Staying calm, neutral, and professional is key. I would ask that the parties involved move to a private space to discuss the situation. Making sure each party involved feels safe, respected, and heard would be my top priority. Understanding how the parties feel and coming to an agreeable solution is my end goal.

How would you handle conflict resolution?

I feel conflict arises naturally when people care about their work and have strong opinions about how best to get it done. Much like de-escalating a public situation the first step is to stay calm and listen to the other party's viewpoint. I would discuss the disagreement in private and keep the MQG's best interests in mind. If I am wrong then I am willing to admit it and compromise when needed. Move forward and learn from the incident.

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

Everyone, regardless of any perceived difference deserves to be treated with respect. I was anxious and full of nerves at the very first MQG meeting I attended. But due to the members being so welcoming and warm I now have wonderful lifelong friends due to the MQG.

We all have differences and this is what makes us so special. We as a quilting community have a duty to ensure a healthy and respectful "space" physically and online and this can only be done with kindness, fairness, honesty, integrity, and openness. I strive to be an ally for marginalized groups and in doing so I need to continue to educate myself on diversity topics.

It is important to raise up the voices that have been silenced and I'm excited about the opportunity as a board member to continue to push the MQG forward in being a diverse environment who welcomes all.

What do you love about modern quilting?

I truly love how the definition of modern quilting is determined by us, modern quilters. Yes there are characteristics that can be seen throughout the craft but I love the idea that rules can be broken.

Remember that queen size quilt I mentioned above? I was told in my local quilt store that I couldn't use just teal fabrics for the top. That it needed to have more colors. So I came home

and made a beautiful rainbow quilt. But I didn't like it. It wasn't what I wanted to make. Ever since then I've been determined to quilt the way I want to. A few years back I put my quilt binding on backwards so the big stitches were on the front of the quilt. Why? I thought it would be esthetically pleasing. And I just wanted to do it. I am so thankful the community of modern quilters I've met through the MQG allows me to do what makes me happy.

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

Definitely brown. I didn't even have to double check my stash! Next up would be yellow. I have no idea why! It's such a happy color. Maybe because it is my son's favorite color and I have recently started to use it more frequently, including on his favorite of his three quilts, his "yellow blankie".

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

Latifah Saafir, "The Quilt Engineer". I remember coming across her blog when I first started quilting. Wait, hold up. A female engineer who makes beautiful quilts? At the time I worked for a company with 30 engineers and I was the only female. My mind was blown. I remember reading about her creative process and being so excited that I had found someone who was professionally and creatively similar to myself.

I have a love/hate relationship with social media, "the new blog", as I know many people do. But I do know that Latifah's blog and the MQG came into my life at the perfect time. Reading that a fellow engineer was also a quilter allowed me to gain the confidence to be unapologetically myself.

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

Mindful stitching (slow stitching). One of the things the pandemic taught me was to slow down and be present in the moment. I find that slow stitching is my form of meditation. Many people, including myself are looking to embrace the whole journey and not just the finished quilt.

Sustainability. Climate change is at the forefront of my mind with the recent heat waves and wildfire smoke in the air. I have found myself trying to pull from my stash and use what I have on hand before buying additional fabric. Whether it is a scrappy quilt top, using clothes in quilt piecing, or pieced batting I see this trend continuing to grow.

Bright Colors. Right now with Barbie out in theaters there is A LOT of pink! I think we will continue to see bright colors but saturated blues, yellows, and reds. Bring on the primary colors!