

Welcome to The Embroiderers' Guild of America

So you want to start a chapter!

Our Mission:

to stimulate appreciation for and to celebrate the heritage of embroidery by advancing the highest standards of excellence in its practice through education, exhibition, preservation, collection and research.

Our membership represents a diverse community of ages, backgrounds, and expertise levels who share a love of embroidery in all its forms. Our chapters provide the opportunity for personal educational growth and fellowship.

BENEFITS OF BELONGING

Publications

- *Needle Arts Magazine*, is sent quarterly to every member and includes articles on design and technique, exhibits, projects, and outstanding work.
- *National Seminar Brochure*, (in March *Needle Arts*) descriptions of all class offerings and registration procedures.
- *Education Catalog* (in *Needle Arts* in December in even years), descriptions of all class offerings with registration procedures.
- *Inside EGA* and news of the organization.

Education opportunities for chapters

- Design programs for your members using our roster of excellent teachers
- Participate in Correspondence Courses
- Access to study boxes, slide programs, DVDs, videos
- Borrow collection pieces for study
- Attend national and region seminars
- Participate in Master Craftsman, Challenge, Teaching, Judging, and Appraisal programs

Support your passion

By joining EGA you become part of an organization that actively preserves and promotes the art of needlework, by maintaining a collection, exhibiting contemporary and antique work, and teaching embroidery techniques to a new generation of stitchers.

FORMING A CHAPTER

Forming a new EGA chapter is an easy and rewarding experience. Below is an outline of the process. The EGA Region Director in your area will help you through the process. A manual is available from EGA that will walk you through each step.

In short:

Spread the Word!

- Put posters and EGA membership brochures (EGA will provide) in needlework shops, related businesses, malls, groceries, and libraries.
- Tell friends that you are starting a chapter and ask them to join and bring a friend to the organizational meetings. Word of Mouth advertising works!
- Discuss your plans to start a chapter at community events. Volunteer to give lectures or demonstrations.
- Notify your local newspaper's features or local news department about your plans. EGA can supply sample press releases and public service announcements.
- Contact museums, especially those interested in the fiber arts, to post information in their facility and in their publications.
- Contact local universities and colleges art departments. They may welcome a display of embroidery as well as your materials.

Getting Started

Where to meet?

EGA Chapters meet in libraries, museums, art galleries, local businesses, restaurants, community centers, and places of worship.

Setting up your chapter: your first meeting

Have a sign-in sheet, nametags, interest survey, and EGA materials and publications (EGA will provide). Have someone record minutes. An embroidery display could be inspirational! Providing refreshments helps emphasize that belonging is fun. If possible, invite a region officer or member of a nearby chapter who can help explain benefits and answer questions.

Your agenda should include describing the benefits of becoming an EGA chapter, our educational purpose, showing our publications, discussing your interests, and naming your chapter.

Set the time and date of the next meeting. And finally, socialize! Get to know each other. Sharing your enthusiasm for embroidery and planning for the future will help your chapter coalesce.

Contact people for help with the next meeting and involve as many as possible from the very beginning.

Requirements

Your chapter needs to have at least 15 members to receive its EGA charter. Elect a Chair and Secretary pro tem. Present and adopt a resolution to work toward forming a chapter. Form a bylaws committee to draft and propose bylaws. (EGA will provide a template.)

At the second meeting:

- Vote on a name for your chapter. EGA will help you comply with naming rules.
- Read and approve the minutes from the last meeting.
- Those in attendance should sign the resolution to form a chapter.
- Elect officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer (or Secretary/Treasurer), and Region Representative, if your bylaws require it.
- The President may appoint standing committee chairs.
- Set the chapter dues. The dues you will collect will include national dues, (\$29), region dues (vary by region and support region activities), and chapter dues (determined by your chapter's needs). Average total dues are \$45 for each chapter member.

Application Procedure

Your application to EGA for a chapter charter will include the proposed name of your chapter, your bylaws (required by the IRS), a list of officers with contact information, and a list of charter members. Your Region Director will help you! After approval is granted, the chapter will need to open a bank account, and submit dues to headquarters.

Next Steps

Contact Anita Streeter, Executive Director, amstreeter@egausa.org or 502-589-6956, so we can put you in touch with your Region Director. The Region Director can answer any questions you have about EGA and guide you through the process of starting your chapter.

OTHER RESOURCES

Your Region Director. EGA is divided into 13 regions. Your Region Director is available to assist you in any way, and in particular can help you get your chapter started.

EGA Headquarters is responsible for day-to-day operations and implementation of various programs ensuring the health of the organization, specifically in regard to public awareness, membership development, fundraising, national exhibits, and education. EGA's Embroidery Resource Center in Louisville, Kentucky is the home of our extensive lending library, embroidery museum, both of which are open to the public. Headquarters staff is available Monday – Saturday to help with any issues. You can contact them at 502-589-6956, individually through the website, or through the Executive Director.

EGA website, www.egausa.org For more information about our history, seminars, exhibits, educational opportunities, free projects, needlework events, and so much more!