Program Planning Guide for ANG Chapter Meetings

Introduction

Where to start?

This is probably the number one question a member asks when they are thinking about becoming the program chair or they have become the program chair for their chapter. Hopefully the previous program chair left a few months of programs planned to help the new program chair get started. The long term success of a chapter and member retention may be based on the programs that it offers.

Types of Programs

Stitching Projects

- Long term- projects which could last several months or even a year
- Short term- projects which would be completed in one to two programs
- Outreach-is there a project the chapter could do for the place where the chapter holds it meetings (book canvas for a library, religious related projects for a church etc), a special project for a health related project (Hearts for Hospice started by the Greater Kansas City Needlepoint Guild https://www.greaterkcneedlepointguild.com/hearts-for-hospice, more information is available on their Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/HeartsforHospiceOfficial/; hospital, Habitat for Humanity)

Nonstitching Programs

- Framing business-your local framer may be available to present a program on how they do their framing. This can be good for their business and provide members with insight into the framing process.
- Needlepoint Finisher-could be a hands-on program or a demo
- Technique-introduce a new technique to members-could start with a lecture/demo and follow-up with a stitched project for a future meeting, ie beading, goldwork, applique onto canvas, stump work.
- Pick a theme and have members bring their favorite ……ie thread, book, tool, scissors, needles, painted canvas line, counted thread designer, frames/stands, etc.

Lectures

- A chapter member may be proficient at a technique and would be able to present a lecture to the chapter.
- Many of the needlepoint teachers offer lectures on various topics related to needlepoint. The National Embroidery Teachers Association (NETA) maintains a list of teachers who offer online lectures and classes. https://www.embroideryteachers.com/online-availability/
- If your chapter is having a teacher teach a workshop, consider having them do a lecture before or after the workshop.

Stitch-ins

Members often would like an opportunity to catch up on some of their works in progress (WIPS). Stitch-ins could be done in person or on Zoom
Follow-up after a workshop-may help to get some of the workshop projects completed

What could your annual calendar look like? Here is an example:

- 1 long term project lasting 2-4 months
- 2-3 short term projects last 1-2 months
- 1-2 technique programs
- 1-2 lectures
- 1-2 stitch-ins
- 1 program planning (could be a planning session or a presentation of the upcoming year's projects

Your calendar will probably look a little different based on what your members would like to have as their programs.

Selecting Programs-there are many ways to select the chapter's programs and this is just a few suggestions.

Program Committee-members volunteer to serve on the program committee. It is good to have members with various interests. This committee could provide a list of suggested programs. The committee could select the programs from the suggested list or the programs could be presented to the members and the members could vote on their choices.

Program Chair-selects projects and presents them to the chapter board for selection

Program Planning Meeting-ask members to bring an idea, project, workshop, field trip, project they could teach, retreat suggestion, teacher they would like to take a class from, or long/short programs to the meeting. Each item would be discussed and then members could vote on programs they would like to do. This gets your members involved in the program planning process and may increase your participation in the chapter programs. This makes it a much easier job for the program chair.

Resources

- ANG Chapter Project Book (CPB)
- ANG Needle Pointers
- Websites (many websites have free designs and these are just a few of the many that are available; the accuracy of the design is the responsibility of the designer and a chapter member may want to stitch the design before leading it at a chapter program)

  Rainbow Gallery
  DMC
  Threedles
  Threadworx
  Debbees Designs