

# Daytime vs. Evening SMQA Guild Meetings

Daytime meetings, Saturday Workshops,...why the changes? The following article does a good job explaining why guilds (including ours) are experimenting with different meeting times. We would like to know your opinions regarding daytime vs. evening meetings. You can take this brief survey and drop it off in the suggestion box we will provide at the next several meetings. Thank you for taking time to let us know your opinions.

**Please take a few minutes to read this article and then take a quick survey. Your opinions are important to us!**

From NCQC (Northern California Quilt Council) Newsletter 2023 Volume 19 by Colleen Voet

*Two NCQC-member guilds in the greater Sacramento area, Pioneer (Rocklin) and Foothill (Auburn) have changed their meeting times from evening to daytime beginning in early 2023. In response to requests from members, both guilds independently did a survey of members and found overwhelming interest in daytime meetings. Before Covid, both had memberships of around 160-180 members. When they began meeting in person in 2022, each had maintained a membership of about 100-120. Members began commenting on their reluctance to drive to evening meetings, especially in the winter when weather could also be a factor. Subsequent surveys, culminating in votes, resulted in Pioneer electing to meet in the morning and Foothill meeting in the early afternoon. Nevertheless, it was a difficult decision for the guilds' boards. Each had a handful of members who were still working and could not attend a daytime meeting. "It felt like we were kicking them out of the guild," said more than one board member. "Although we need younger members," said another, "the reality is that we just don't have them." In both guilds, most members are in their 70s, with the youngest being one or two in their 50s. There is also concern about the ability of older members to do the work required to put on a quilt show, take Opportunity Quilts to other guilds, maintain a guild's storage unit, and sometimes move chairs or tables for an activity. It has required guilds to reconsider their fundraising efforts and recognize that they may need to find – or hire – other people to do some of the physical work. In the meantime, however, most current members are happy that they didn't have to quit the guild because of night driving, and that their concerns were heard. Some former members are returning. Both guilds are getting new members, many of whom cite daytime meetings as a significant factor. There is no doubt that this has become an important issue for many organizations, not just quilters guilds. **And there are no easy answers.***

## Survey - Daytime vs. Evening SMQA Guild Meetings

- ☐ I would be in favor of moving all guild meetings to daytime
- ☐ I would be in favor of daytime guild meetings during winter months
- ☐ I prefer evening guild meetings
- ☐ I have no opinion regarding daytime vs evening meetings

Other \_\_\_\_\_

If we have daytime meetings, what time fo day would you prefer:

- ☐ Mornings
- ☐ Afternoons
- ☐ I would be happy with either morning or afternoon meetings

Other \_\_\_\_\_

First and last name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Please share any thoughts you have regarding daytime vs. evening meetings:

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One final question, on a different topic:

For those of you who do not attend our SMQA workshops, what reasons prevent you from signing up?

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