



Machine Embroiderers of Oregon and Washington

www.sewmeow.org

April 2014

President's Letter by Nancy Shepherd

What MEOW & seminar has meant over the years

This was a discussion during our April board meeting. Included here is that discussion and additional items.

MEOW has given us wonderful friends not just at home but in other states. Attending seminar enriches the learning experience and builds friendships.

This year at seminar we are offering a wonderful variety of classes. There are computer classes for those who want to learn how computers work and how it works with your sewing machine. There will be beading classes for those who do not want to carry a sewing machine to class. The dyeing class is for those who want to play in nature. The end result will be wonderful backgrounds or colorful clothing. Then there is the paint stick class to get you high with fun. For those bringing their machines there is a build-a-bird class and a class on free-motion quilting. For the first time there is a new option available. A classroom will be open for those wanting to share in the fun but who want to work on their PHD's (Projects half done).

Exchanges will return this year. Look for details later in the newsletter. You can participate even if you do not join us at Collins Retreat Center. Have your area group set up a meeting to do this project and send your exchange item to seminar. Have a new technique you want to try? This is a small opportunity to try that technique. Join the fun and participate. Send more than one if you wish. For each one sent, you will receive one back.

Lastly seminar teachers are available in the evenings for additional help or to finish projects.

Come join in the fun August 22 thru 24. Meet new friends and have a relaxing weekend!

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Upcoming Events

Board Meeting
July 26, 2014
9:00 am
Vancouver, WA
August 23, 2014
Eagle Creek, OR
At 7:00 pm
Regular Board Meeting

Due Dates for:

July Newsletter
Articles and Reports
Sept 2, 2014

Need Schedules from:

Area Groups for
September 2014,
October 2014 and
November 2014

Seminar 2014
August 22, 23, 24
Eagle Creek, OR

November Quilt and
Craft Show
November 15-17, 2014

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NancyLynn@iGlide.net

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State Directors**Karen Bennett 2013 to 2015** Cyber Cats

pse@oz.net

Fantasy Felines

Tacoma Tabbies

Betty Cooper 2013 to 2014 Bytes and PC's

bettycoop43@yahoo.com

Hollywood Stars

Mt. Hood

Multi-Media

Peggy Bodle 2013 to 2015 Country Kitties

JEB2623@comcast.net

Design Divas

Mouse Connections

Texanna Cato 2013 to 2015 Stray Cats

texannacato@gmail.com

If you know of someone who has paid for their Newsletters; but is not receiving them, please have her contact either Sandy Radtke, Membership Chair, or Tami Bennett, Newsletter Editor/Website Mistress, and we will take care of sending a new copy out to them and verify the address that we have is correct.

Thank you for your time on this!
Tami Bennett, Newsletter Editor

Thank you to the newsletter proofreaders!

You have a very hardy task each Newsletter. I would like to thank the last Newsletter proofreaders: Nancy Shepherd, Ruth Jones and Roberta Strebe, Elaine Solvang and Connie Hasten and anyone else I might have forgotten.

If you would like to become a proofreader for an upcoming Newsletter, drop me a line at pse@oz.net and I will place your name on the list. We always need bodies, even if it is only for a proofreading job!

Tami Bennett, Newsletter Editor



SEMINAR 2014

Hello Ladies: We are now looking toward our next Seminar on August 22, 23 and 24th, 2014 at the Collins Retreat Center, Eagle Creek, Oregon.

Room and Board will be \$188.00, Classes – 4 sessions (3 hours) \$30.00 each = \$120.00, Kit Fees are not included

FOR A TOTAL Seminar Cost \$308.00 + Fees

Opening Sewing Session – 4 - 3 hour classes \$10.00 per block

We will be doing a Swap this year of a – 7" x 7" Potholders with explanation of technique

We have five teachers signed up to offer a selection of classes this year. These were gleaned from the Seminar Questionnaires from 2013. They wanted more computer classes, beading, ice dyeing and quilting.

The computer instructions that Nancy Shepherd is giving are very valuable if you are looking to use an embroidery machine and Embird. Last Seminar, we began using Embird to program our designs and actually do some embroidery designs. I personally found this program very helpful in understanding and manipulating the design to become what I wanted, but I still need to have more instructions. This is a very intense class and well worth the money and time. A laptop is required to be in the class.

Tami Bennett has been teaching beading classes for MEOW since 2010. She works hard during the year to find new and interesting designs for her students to learn. This year she is offering a bead covered faceted crystal that could be used for a Christmas ornament, a wooden bead that is covered with beads, 2 bracelets. – using O Duo Beads and a Champagne Tile bracelet.

Caroline Burton is offering several options of **Shiva Stick Designs** to choose from and Jackie Rosier is offering **How to Build a Bird** and **Free Motion Design with Background Quilting**. Pictures can be seen in the brochure. You will be notified when it is put up on the Internet.

(Continued from previous column . . .)

If you want a printed copy, please send a request and \$5.00 for the printing and mailing.

We are going to offer an **Open Sewing Classroom** this year for anyone that would like to join us for the seminar days. You can bring your UFO's or new work. It would be \$188.00 for room and board and \$10.00 for each class time (for a total of \$40.00 for the four class times). You also would have the option of joining any of the classes that you might be interested in. We will have a room set aside for anyone that would like to join us.

If you want to have a very quiet, fun time, please think about joining the ladies of MEOW in Oregon. Good food, quiet sleeping quarters and enjoyable evening get together where you can continue to work on your projects or join other groups to visit and see what they are doing.

The staff is very good at making sure that if you have any food allergies or dislikes, that they are addressed. That is why we require that a **Special Diets Request Form must** accompany each Registration Form before your sign-up.

We are also having a **Swap Exchange** this year. It will be a minimum of a **7 x 7" potholder with or without hook tab**. You can make them as a set of maybe 4 or just a single potholder, etc. and you will receive the same amount in return. A written description of your technique would need to be included with your name and address.

If you have questions, you may contact me at pse@oz.net.

Karen Bennett, Seminar Chairperson

MEOW BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Felida Fire Station
11600 NW Lakeshore Avenue
Vancouver, WA
April 26, 2014

Executive Officers: Nancy Shepherd - President, Kathy Brock - Vice President, Beverly Carpenter - Secretary/Sunshine, Vicki Nelson - Treasurer

Directors: Karen Bennett, Betty Cooper, Peggy Bodle, Texanna Cato

Committees: Sandy Radtke (Membership), Tami Bennett (Newsletter Editor/Web Mistress); Roberta Strebe, (Mediation) Caroline Burton, (Mediation), Kim Keller*, (Mediation), and Sali Lusk* (Historian) * Signifies an Excused Absence

Guests: Texanna Cato

The regular board meeting for MEOW was called to order by Nancy Shepherd at 9:09 am on April 26, 2014 at the Felida Fire Station, Vancouver, Washington

The minutes of the last Board Meeting were approved as corrected.

Directors — Expectations and duties of the office were given. Reports were given by the directors.

Secretary – Expectations and duties of the office were given. Minutes were approved as corrected. A letter of thanks was sent to Bruce Thiemens who did the audit on our financial books.

Treasurer - Expectations and duties of the office were given. The financial report was explained. The line item 'reserve for scholarship' was changed to 'seminar'. It was explained that the yearly budget cannot be changed until the next financial year.

(continued from previous column . . .)

Vice-President - Expectations and duties of the office were given. It was reported that community service hours should be turned in by group, not individually. Director reports should be sent to the newsletter editor as well as the vice president.

Sunshine - Expectations and duties of the office were given. It was asked that the date the card is sent be added to the report.

Membership - Expectations and duties of the office were given. Board members voted on honorary members with Caroline Burton counting the ballots. Results will be published in the July newsletter. There are now 72 members; 2 are new this quarter.

Newsletter - Expectations and duties of the office were given. The newsletter is now 75% completed.

Web site - Expectations and duties of the office were given. Basically, the web mistress keeps the website up to date by updating pages as needed. This is an ongoing process.

Seminar 2014-- This year's seminar will be Aug 22-24 at the Collins retreat center. Classes are in order and the brochure is being updated. Some interest has been brought to the seminar committee to allow people to "sit and sew" instead of signing up for classes. General consensus was that "sit and sew" sessions at seminar would be \$10.00 each.

Unfinished Business - The slate of officers presented was accepted with 40% of the mem-



(continued from previous page . . .)

bership voting. The ballots were counted by the membership chairman. The new slate is: Karen Bennett, president; Nancy Shepherd, treasurer; Betty Cooper and Barbara LeCain, directors. The new officers will serve for a two year period starting September, 2014. The new honorary members were announced and will be reported in the July newsletter

New Business – There was a discussion on how to get more members to come to seminar. It was decided to have a potholder swap during seminar with Roberta Strebe in charge.

The next board meeting will be July 26, 2014 at 9:00 am at the Felida Fire Station, 11600 N.W. Lakeshore Avenue, Vancouver, WA.

Planning ahead: There will be no September Board Meeting, but the Board will meet August 23, 2014 at the Collins Retreat Center.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:57 pm.

by Beverly Carpenter, Secretary (April 26, 2014)

NEW MEMBERS, CORRECTIONS, RENEWALS

We had 72 returning, new and former members combined as of April 2014. As a new member and returning member, you will find that we are no longer listing any information for any of our members, like phone number, address, email address (unless specifically necessary), other than their name and area group.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!

NEW MEMBERS

Barbara "Babs" Ngo
Valerie Van Gelder

Bytes & PC/Design
Fantasy Felines

Super Fudge Brownies From Debbie Macomber's Cedar Cove Cookbook, Facebook

Ingredients:

5	Large Eggs
3 1/2 cups	Granulated Sugar
1 tbsp.	Vanilla Extract
1 cup	Unsalted butter (2 sticks)
1	8 oz. box unsweetened baking chocolate, coarsely chopped
1 tbsp.	Espresso powder
1 3/4 cup	All purpose Flour
1/2 tsp	Salt

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Set rack to upper third of oven. Line a 9x13" baking pan with a large sheet of foil, pressing foil so that it fits into the pan. Lightly butter foil, or spray with baking spray.
2. In a large bowl with electric mixer on high speed, beat eggs, sugar and vanilla for 10 minutes, until blended. Meanwhile, in a glass measuring cup, microwave butter and chocolate until almost melted. Stir in espresso powder until combined.
3. Reduce mixer speed to low, add chocolate mixture until blended. Mix in flour and salt until just combined.
4. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake 25 minutes, until top is shiny and slightly cracked along the edges. Brownies will still be soft and gooey in the middle. Do not over bake. Transfer to wire rack to cool. When completely cool, use foil edges to lift brownies out of pan. Cover and let sit at least 4 hours before cutting.

These brownies are more a fudgy type brownie, so enjoy. You can also substitute gluten free flour for the all purpose, they come out very yummy.

Directors' Reports**KAREN BENNETT****CYBER CATS**

The Cyber Cats will be performing community service during the next several monthly meetings.

FANTASY FELINES

These ladies changed the day and time of their meeting several months ago and it seems to have gone over very well with them. They have many suggestions for their upcoming classes through November 2014 and they are a smattering of various things from dyeing to origami. They are always doing many things and try to stay outside of the box.

TACOMA TABBIES

The Tacoma Tabbies continue to obtain craft ideas from the Saturday shows. Some of the ideas are very interesting and go over very well at class, others are tested out before and don't make it. We have had only two classes since the last Newsletter. We are in the process of changing our schedule and we held over our last class due to Easter schedules right before our scheduled class. We did a funky chicken in May. We also discussed taking a Summer break and coming back in September and it was approved by all members in this group. We will continue to keep in touch and work on projects and gather information for new projects to work on when we get back together.

Some of the classes that we have a possibility of doing coming up will be adding a design to our tie dyeing that we completed, shaving cream designs on fabric and hopefully the leaves will have sprung enough for us to do pounded leaves. All the projects in the next few months will be machine-less projects.

Tacoma Tabbies Report : (Continued. . .)**BETTY COOPER****BYTES AND PC'S**

Bytes and PC's have set their schedule through December 2014, but as we all know, this can change as necessary. Please call their Area Rep if you wish to go to their class to make sure that you have all the necessary items for class.

HOLLYWOOD STARS

They are getting ready for their summer holiday.

MT. HOOD

Their schedule is on the website and on the Schedule page of this published document. If you wish to attend any of the meetings with these ladies, please do not hesitate to contact them and please join them. They have a wonderful time.

MULTI-MEDIA

We did not receive any information from this group, but we hope to hear from them by the next newsletter about all the new things that they are creating.

PEGGY BODLE**COUNTRY KITTIES**

Carla writes that this was the group that pretty much led itself but at this time they are looking for interesting projects and interested people. They have a few suggestions for meeting and will have a planning meeting on May 9th. Ginny Fischer has moved to be across the street from Nancy — that should be a good plan...Nancy is still recovering but is walking and is now allowed to drive. Yeah for Nancy!!!

(Continued from Previous Page . . .)

DESIGN DIVAS

Mary Rust reports: each member of our group is working on their own brand of software. We are able to digitize our own designs using artwork. Currently, four ladies come every month and two come when they are able.

The group is not software specific and welcomes new members. They have a wonderful meeting place at Gresham Montavilla. Please join us on the first Monday of the month at 10:30.

MOUSE CONNECTIONS

Ginger told me that the last few months have not been very productive with Ginger's husband having surgery and Nancy breaking her leg...but now that they are on the mend maybe they can get back to the task of being busy sewing again.

TEXANNA CATO

STRAY CATS

Kathy Brock, McMinnville, OR - Kathy is having a good time being the MEOW Vice President and is learning constantly more about our wonderful organization. She continues to work, play and be the bubbly person she normally is.

Bobbie Demmer, Thompson Falls, MT — She hasn't been doing a lot of sewing, but she did make a jeans quilt with soccer designs for a daughter of a friend.



(Continued from previous column . . .)

Mona Hermens, McMinnville, OR - Has agreed to be the Class Monitor for Seminar this year. She is pumped to be going to Seminar in August.

Sali Lusk, Alamosa, CO - She is meaner than hell and she misses all her MEOW sisters a lot. She is trying to get her sewing things organized so that she can get her creative juices stirring again, not that she hasn't been creative over the last several years.

Rhoda Oakes, Carmichael, CA - She would like to report that CAME had 33 people at their Seminar that was held in February, 2014. What a turn out.

Mary Ray Osmus, Walnut Creek, CA - Her husband is doing fine and making friends. She thinks a lot about the MEOW members up here.

Robin Slocum, Kooskia, ID - She is in Northern Utah at a quilting retreat for her BIRTHDAY! Congratulations Robin! We are all jealous!

Roberta Strebe, McMinnville, OR — Continues to help with the Board and is now involved in helping with the Seminar coming in August.

M.E.O.W. SUNSHINE REPORT

October 2013 to January 2014

	Date Sent	Member's Name	Group(s)	Reason
1	1/26/2014	Nancy Shepherd	Country Kitties	Continue Healing after breaking leg
2	3/21/2014	Tami Bennett	Tacoma Tabbies	Death of Brother's significant other's Father
3	2014	Joyce Eslinger	Tacoma Tabbies	Not feeling well
4	2014	LaVerne Mazzuca	Fantasy Felines	Blood Clot in leg
5	3/17/2014	Vicki Nelson	Fantasy Felines	Surgery on Hand
6		Betty Riggs	Hollywood Stars	General Well Being

Other	Illness/Injury		Surgery		Loss	
None to report	4	Self	I	Self		Self
		Family		Family		Family
		Spouse		Spouse		Spouse
		Other		Other	I	Other
	4	TOTAL	I	TOTAL	I	TOTAL

LADIES OF MEOW

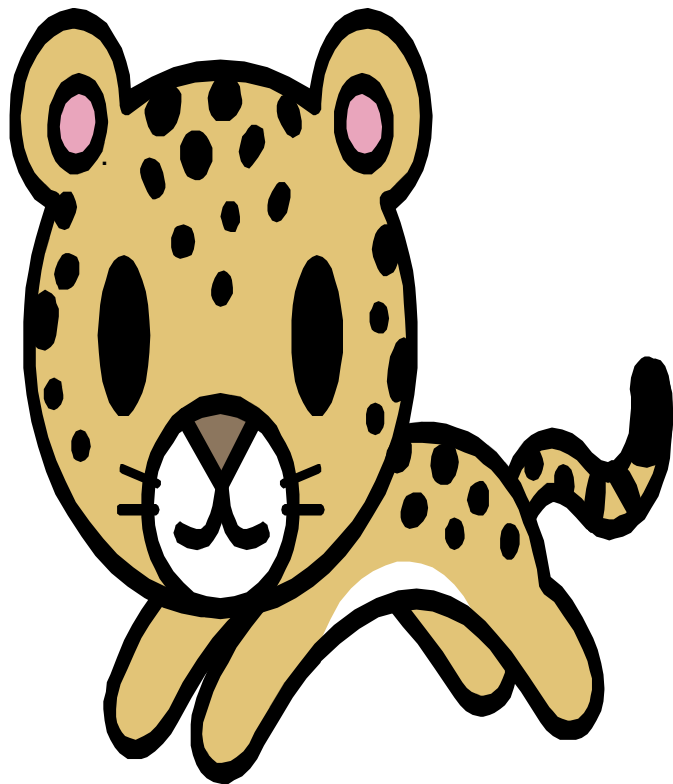
Ladies of MEOW, the Board of Directors asks that if you hear of **ANYONE** that could use a Sunshine Card for whatever reason, (birthday, congratulations, illness, death in the family, or just because they need cheering up), please contact Beverly Carpenter at bacarpenter@gorge.net with the following information:

The name of the person needing the card
The reason for the card
Street address or P.O. Box, City, State and Zip Code
And the name of the MEOW Group they belong to

Without all the above information Cards will not be sent. Please also place "**SUNSHINE**" in the subject line. One reason for this request is to keep the Sunshine request out of the Junk Mail folder.

Thank you for your attention to this very important task. :)

P.S. Beverly has a significant supply of cards at this time, so we ask that you please forward any cards for the near future to your local senior living facility or rehab facility. The residents would like to have a handmade card to send out to friends and family while they are at the facility. We guarantee it! Make someone's day!



Newsletter Statement of Policy

The MEOW NEWSLETTER is published electronically at least four (4) times per year by the Machine Embroiderers of Oregon and Washington and is available to all members paying \$35.00 annual dues. If paper copies are desired, an additional fee of \$10.00 is required to be paid to the Membership Chair.

All material, pictures and stories submitted for publication are subject to acceptance, rejection, editing and use, as space and circumstances allow. All contributions are considered to be sent gratis, for use by MEOW readers.

Information for publication should be submitted to the Editor by five (5) days after the date of each Board Meeting in order to be included in the subsequent newsletter.

All materials and/or pictures will be returned, if so requested by the contributor, provided the request is made at the time the material is submitted and the contributor's name and address are clearly shown on all material to be returned.

All articles, features, pictures, filler material, comments concerning the MEOW NEWSLETTER, letters to the editor, etc., should be sent to the Editor. All Area Group information should be sent to the Vice President and Web Mistress. Address changes and complaints of non-receipt should be sent to the Membership Chairman. Comments concerning administration of MEOW should be addressed to the President.

Editorial opinions expressed in the MEOW NEWSLETTER are those of the Editor, unless otherwise credited, and do not necessarily reflect those of MEOW, its officers or MEOW NEWSLETTER contributors or advertisers.

Advertising is accepted according to the information on the back page of the newsletter. MEOW makes no guarantees about advertisers or products featured.



Kitty Tip

- **Keep the refrigerator vegetable drawer dry and free of smells.** Line the bottom with newspaper.
- **Deodorize food containers.** Stuff a balled-up piece of newspaper into a lunch box or thermos, seal it, and let sit overnight.
- **Wipe away tough streaks on glass.** Use newspaper with cleaning fluid to clean mirrors and windows.
- **Preserve antique glass.** Some older frames have finishes on the glass that can be damaged by cleaning solutions. Remove smudges by rubbing with newspaper dipped in a solution of one part white vinegar and one part warm water. Let air-dry.
- **Dry shoes.** Place crumpled paper in them overnight.
- **Wrap gifts.** Use the comics to wrap a child's birthday gift, or try the wedding announcements for an engagement gift.

Bytes & PC'S ** Gresham, OR ** September 2005

Meets: 2nd Monday 10:30 am—2:30 pm
 Place: Montavilla Sewing Center, 971 NE Kelly Ave,
 Contact: Linda Rigby
 June: Folded Scissors Pouch - Betty
 July: Cupcake Pincushion - Linda
 August: Community Service - Baby Blanket 36x36" for Randell Child

Country Kitties ** Hood River, OR ** February 1991

Meets: 2nd Friday 10:00 am — 3:00 pm
 Place: Parkdale Fire Hall
 Contact: Carla LaBrousse
 June: TBD
 July : Planning Meeting
 August: TBD

Cyber Cats ** Renton, WA ** April 2004

Meets: 4th Thursday 9:30 am — 1:00 pm
 Place: King of King's Lutheran Church, 18207—108th Ave SE
 Contact: Marian Desgranges
 June: Community Service
 July: Planning Meeting?
 August: TBD

Design Divas ** Clackamas, OR ** July 2010

Meets: 1st Monday 10:30 am to 2:30 pm
 Place: Montavilla Sewing Center, 971 NE Kelly Avenue
 Contact: Mary Rust
 June: Rose Cottage Non-Machine Specific Digitizing Lessons
 July: Rose Cottage Non-Machine Specific Digitizing Lessons
 August: Rose Cottage Non-Machine Specific Digitizing Lessons

Fantasy Felines ** Lynnwood, WA ** May, 1994

Meets: 2nd Saturday 1:00 pm — 4:00 pm
 Place: Fire Station #14 , 18800 68th Ave W
 Contact: Sharon Hults/Joy Gonclaves
 June: Planning Party
 July: Rit/SpectraColor Dyeing
 August: Polymer Clay

Hollywood Stars * *Portland, OR ** October 1991

Meets: 2nd Saturday 10:00 am—2:00 pm
 Place: Montavilla Sewing Center, 8326 SE Stark
 Contact: Kitty Young
 June: Planning Meeting
 July: Hiatus
 August: Hiatus

Mouse Connections ** Beaverton, OR ** August 2005

Meets: 2nd Tuesday 1:00 pm — 4:00 pm
 Place: Fire Station , Murray Blvd & Butner Rd
 Contact: Ginger Christmas-Beattie
 June: TBD
 July: TBD
 August: TBD

Mt. Hood ** Gresham, OR ** July, 1988

Meets: 4th Monday —Program 10:30 am - 2:30 pm
 Place: Montavilla Sewing Center, 971 NE Kelly Avenue
 Contact: Barbara Herget
 June: Planning Potluck
 July: TBD
 August: TBD

Multi-Media Kats ** Milwaukie, OR ** August, 2003

Meets: 3rd Monday 10:00 am — 4:00 pm
 Place: Gladstone Nazarene Church
 Contact: Beth Heesacker/Apral Harrel
 June: Paint Past & Iron Powder to Silk Screen
 July: Tessellations
 August: Paperweaving

Tacoma Tabbies ** Tacoma, WA ** January, 2002

Meets: 3rd Saturday 9:30 am — 12:30 pm
 Place: Bennett P.S. & E, Inc., 12907 16th Street East, Sumner
 Contact: Karen Bennett
 June: On Vacation
 July : On Vacation
 August: On Vacation

All area groups must be organized according to MEOW By-laws and Area Groups Guidelines, under the direction of the MEOW Vice-President. Please contact her for assistance.

All area group schedules are subject to change. Please call (# in Roster) ahead if you intend to visit another group.

MEMORIAL DAY TRIVIA

Memorial Day was declared a federal holiday in 1971. We now, designate this day to remember loved ones who have passed on, as well as remembering our service men and women. Flowers and flags are placed on graves in remembrance of them. Parades and dedications of memorials usually are part of the day's activities. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, local marching bands, members of the armed service, fire departments, police departments, and fraternal orders often march in parades and attend ceremonies to commemorate the day.

Waterloo, N.Y. is considered the birthplace of this holiday because the people of Waterloo were the first people to proclaim a day on May 5, 1866 to honor the soldiers who died in the Civil War. They closed their businesses and placed flowers and flags on the graves of their soldiers. Flags were flown at half-mast.

Major General John A. Logan declared May 30, 1868 as a special day for honoring Union soldiers killed in battle. He was Commander in Chief of an organization of Union Civil War Veterans called the Grand Army of the Republic. They took charge of Memorial Day celebrations in the Northern States. The American Legion took over these duties after World War I.

The Southern States of Alabama and Mississippi observe the last Monday in April as Confederate Memorial Day. Georgia observes April 26th, North and South Carolina observe May 10th, Virginia observes the last day of May. Louisiana and Tennessee observe June 3 and Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day, January 19th.

The custom of wearing red poppies on Memorial Day started in 1915 and was inspired by Moina Michael's poem "In Flanders Fields": "We cherish too, the Poppy red / That grows on fields where valor led, / It seems to signal to the skies / That blood of heroes never dies." The poppy emblem was chosen because of the poppies that bloomed across some of the worst battlefields of Flanders in World War I, their red color an appropriate symbol for the bloodshed of trench warfare as the poem told.

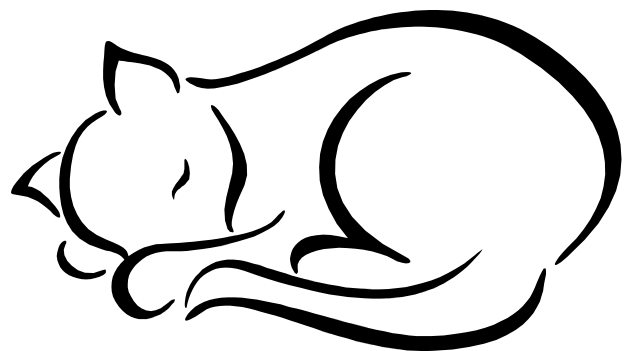
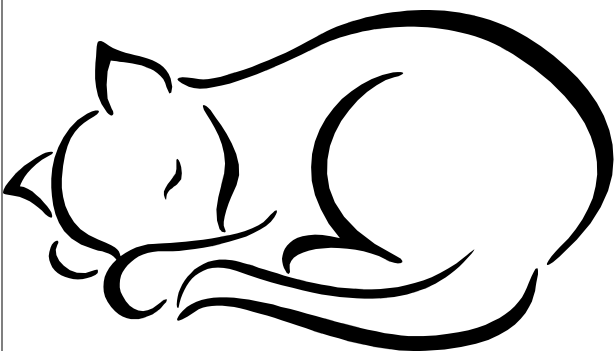
It was originally known as Decoration Day,

The last Monday of May was chosen to coincide with the time when flowers would be blooming all over the country.

On Memorial Day, the flag should be half-staff until noon, then raised to the top of the staff.

The south refused to honor the dead on Memorial Day until after World War I when observances began to honor those who had died in all of America's wars.

In 1951, the [Boy Scouts](#) and Cub Scouts of St. Louis began placing flags on the 150,000 graves at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. They continue that practice to this day.



TRIVIA CONTINUED

Since the late 1950s, on the Thursday just before Memorial Day, around 1200 soldiers of the 3rd US Infantry place small American flags at each of more than 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery. They then patrol 24 hours a day during the weekend to ensure that each flag remains standing.

In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday.

In 2000, the National Moment of Remembrance Resolution passed. At 3pm on Memorial Day, all Americans are asked to observe a moment of remembrance and respect by pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to taps.

In 2004, Washington, DC, held its first Memorial Day parade in over 60 years.

Who presided over the first Memorial Day?" (General and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant)

Technically, Memorial Day *is not* a national holiday in the strictest sense of the word. While there are 11 "federal holidays" created by Congress — including Memorial Day — they apply only to Federal employees and the District of Columbia. The original Memorial Day allowed Civil War veterans, many of whom were drawing a government paycheck, to honor their fallen comrades with out being docked pay. For the rest of us, Memorial Day was decided upon by the state. New York was the first state to designate Memorial Day a legal holiday, in 1873. Most Northern states had followed along by the 1890s. The Confederate states didn't want a holiday memorializing those who, in Gen. Logan's words, "united to suppress the late rebellion." The South didn't adopt the May 30 Memorial Day until after World War I, when it included those who died in all the country's wars.

U.S. War Casualties:

Civil War - Approximately 620,000 Americans died. The Union lost almost 365,000 troops and the Confederacy about 260,000. More than half these deaths were caused by disease.

World War I - 116,516 Americans died, more than half from disease.

World War II - 405,399 Americans died.

Korean War - 36,574 Americans died.

Vietnam Conflict - 58,220 Americans died. More than 47,000 Americans were killed in action and nearly 11,000 died of other causes.

Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm - 148 U.S. battle deaths and 145 non-battle deaths.

Operation Iraqi Freedom - 4,466 U.S. service members have died.

Operation New Dawn - 66 U.S. service members have died.

Operation Enduring Freedom - 2,219 U.S. service members have died as of May 21, 2013.



Over the last several quarters our President, Nancy Shepherd, asked us several questions. You can read the past newsletters by going on the website (www.sewmeow.org) and going to newsletters and here are a couple of the answers that we received, we wished we could have received more from you . . .

Tips to cleaning up sewing room. I like all my fabrics folded so I can see what I have. It is folded over a ruler so all are the same size and stored mostly according to color. Sure has helped in my next project to clean out stuff. I am using the fabric for donation projects and it is easy to find things that are large enough pieces and the right color. It is fabric I still like so I hate to give away, but I can enjoy sewing it up then I can donate something already made.

In the last week I have gotten rid of 40 yards of fabric by making 20 aprons and what fun they are to make. It also helps to put away things when you finish a project so you start with a tidy area when you start a new project and when your sewing room is picked up it can be much more fun to walk in there and start something new.

What MEOW means to me. is the wonderful friends I have made over the years. They are all so dear. It has also been an education for me. I would never be where I am now with out all the classes at seminars and meetings and all the very talented teachers. I still love our get together's and wish I lived closer so could attend other group meetings.

Sandy—Country Kitties

Tips to cleaning up a sewing room. I try to organize it so that like things are together and that sort of works. The problem is that when I organize stuff and the place that I initially thought was super logical for something turns out to be someplace I can't find/remember when I need something. I can usually remember where it WAS, but not the new logical place I have for it. Apparently it isn't such a logical place after all.

Connie - Fantasy Felines

What MEOW means to me. Some of the best women I have met over my life so far. I can be me and not be judged by my friends of MEOW. They accepted me for who I was and what I could do and they have taught me so much over the years that I have belonged to MEOW. I now sew, which I didn't when I joined. My horizons have broadened by so much because of all of you. I look forward to going to meetings because I get to see friends, and Seminar is a time that I get to see friends sometimes once a year, but the time doesn't play into it, it is just like yesterday when we get together again.

This organization has taught me to be a better person, better friend and reach out to people. It helps me in my professional and personal life. Thank you for letting me be a MEOW member.

Tami - Tacoma Tabbies

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