

CLARE AWARD

(RMR POLICIES & PROCEDURES SECT VII)

- A. The Clare Award is given to a member who has given of themselves continually in the Rocky Mountain Region above and beyond the normal dedication of our members. Their noteworthy performance can be in any of several aspects: administration, teaching, works that show excellence in the art of embroidery, or any other way which brings positive attention to our region and EGA through skill and attitude.
- B. This award may be given:
 - 1. One or more in any one year.
 - 2. None in the year.
 - 3. No posthumous nominations will be accepted.
- C. Selection:
- D. When the name of a member of the RMR is to be presented for consideration for the Clare Award, the presenter must provide, in writing, the name to be considered, chapter affiliation, a synopsis of all EGA offices held, and a paragraph listing the reasons, the presenter feels the member should be a recipient.
- E. Nominations are accepted by the region director up to four (4) weeks prior to the first region board meeting of the year so the nominations can be discussed and voted on by the executive board members. Nomination received after the four (4)-week deadline, will be considered for the following year. If three- fourths (3/4) of the executive board members concur, ballots will be sent to each member of the region board at least eight (8) weeks prior to the meeting at which the award will be presented. The approval ballot shall be returned to the region director by the date indicated. If a nominee does not receive a three- fourths (3/4) vote of the executive board members, the person making the original recommendation will be notified in writing.
- F. Each name presented will be considered on its own merit. The original nomination information will be sent to all voting region board members. Each name will appear on a separate ballot to ensure individual consideration.
- G. A three-fourths (3/4) majority of the region board is required for the award.
- H. After the voting, the secretary will tabulate the ballots and report the name(s) of those selected for the award to the region director.
- I. Ideally, the award should be presented at a region seminar banquet along with the pin, certificate, and the chart of St. Clare.
- J. Each recipient's name and year of award shall be added to the St. Clare banner.

CLARE AWARD BANNER

In 1988-1989 a new Rocky Mountain Region achievement award was created. The name given was "The Clare Award" for St. Clare of Assisi, the patron saint of embroiderers.

The award was made in a banner form and was designed by Ann Spiess Mills of Pajarito Chapter, Los Alamos, New Mexico. The banner was painted by the designer and stitched by Bert Kroening of Sandia Mountains Chapter, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The first recipient of this award was Carole Rinard to honor her for all the hard work she had done for the region.

Under the picture of St. Clare, the recipient's name, and an abbreviated date (i.e., '07, '08) is hung. The previous awardee, the chapter she belongs to, the person who nominated her, or anyone who wishes to, may stitch the new name. This name is then attached to the banner by needle-lace or faggoting stitch.

Carolyn Webb has the alphabet on her computer and can chart new names.

The fabric used for the frame and name was 17 count eggshell monk's cloth through 2016. After 2016, the name has been stitched on 16 count White Chocolate Aida. The name and year are cross-stitched over one intersection of the cloth with three strands of DMC floss #3371. DMC ecru pearl cotton #5 is used for the faggoting or needle-lace. Instructions for assembling the newest name and the alphabet used are kept in the possession of the Region Director along with several color-copies of the original "artwork" and painted canvas pictures.

The traveling case for the Clare Award Banner was made by Barbara Scott's husband, John.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON SAINT CLARE

1194-1253

Clare was from a wealthy noble family. She was promised to Francis of Assisi. When St. Francis rejected marriage and his prosperous family, Clare chose to follow him. He helped her establish a community that was the beginning of the order of Poor Ladies who later became the Poor Clares. They adhered to the Franciscan way of life which includes humility and poverty (living only on alms).

Included in the activities of the order were, and are, the making, embroidering, and repairing of altar cloths and vestments. For this reason, Saint Clare of Assisi was chosen as the Patron saint of embroiderers.

There are twenty-three monasteries of Poor Clares in the U.S. They are a contemplative, cloistered order of nuns and extern sisters who carry on the tradition of Saint Clare by making vestments and altar linens. Saint Clare's saint day is August 12.

She carries a sacred monstrance. It was said that she held the monstrance up before an army of Saracen invaders, and they fled.

When embroidering Saint Clare, a crystal could be sewn on the gold monstrance. Other symbols are a lily for purity and a palm leaf for sacrifice.

Instead of a monstrance, Saint Clare might hold an altarpiece, which could be stitched separately. The veil is black with white edging. The neckpiece is white, and the cape and gown are brown.

CLARE AWARD RECIPIENTS

1989	Carole Rinard, Pajarito Chapter
1991	Nina Soltwedel, Colorado Chapter
1991	Jacqueline Winton, Manos Encandatas de Santa Fe Chapter
1992	Nancy Miller, Foothills Chapter
1994	Jody Gergens, Centennial State Chapter
1995	Barbara Loftus, Colorado Chapter
1995	Barbara Scott, Sandia Mountains Chapter
1998	Armida Taylor, Western Idaho Chapter
2000	Sharron Ruesewald, Pikes Peak Chapter
2003	Kay Haley, Western Idaho Chapter
2003	Bette Sargent, Foothills Chapter
2006	Becky Autry, Pikes Peak Chapter
2007	Connie Fudge, Silver Valley Stitchers Chapter
2008	Ann Pinfield, Colorado Chapter
2009	Wanda Anderson, Pajarito Chapter
2016	Karen Race, Foothills Chapter
2020	Janice Wood, Foothills Chapter
2021	Nan Windle, Foothills Chapter