

SECTION II

HISTORY

(complete review done: 04/2026)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION BENEFITS

The Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc. is made up of twelve regions. Rocky Mountain Region represents Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, and Utah. Throughout the region, every chapter has a voice in addressing national affairs that concern every member.

What Does Rocky Mountain Region offer its Chapters and Individual Members

- A region newsletter, *Border to Border*, which includes reports from the region director and committee chairs, chapter happenings, calendar of events including workshops, lectures, and courses.
- Representation at national board sessions.
- Periodic region seminars, retreats, or education events featuring national and region teachers.
- Region exhibits
- A region website
- A region education chair to assist chapter education chairs. The region chair receives all national educational program information and coordinates region-sponsored courses.
- Two region meetings per year, which are open to all members. This is the place where an individual or chapter can present new ideas to be implemented on a region-wide basis and the place to solve chapter problems and exchange ideas, in addition to conducting the business of the region.
- The region director is your direct link to the national board and EGA headquarters. The region director is aware of new rulings and policies and is familiar with the duties of chapter officers and is a ready source of information and assistance to everyone in the region.
- Region-sponsored courses such as online and virtual courses, EGA Group Correspondence Courses, etc.
- Virtual casual stitching groups.

What is the cost to you?

- Your time, your effort, your skill, your loyalty, and \$5.00 (per member) annual dues.

SYNOPSIS OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION HISTORY

- 1980:** At the Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc. national seminar, Barbara Brandt held a meeting to organize the Guild into regions. Nancy Miller of Lakewood, Colorado, was appointed chair of the newly formed Rocky Mountain Region. Nancy's first job was to organize the region; she did this by contacting the chapters.
- 9/19/81:** Nine chapters from Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, and Wyoming sent representatives to a meeting in Nancy's home, and the region was formalized. The geographic reaches of the region grew as chapters from Montana, Utah, and El Paso, Texas, joined the region. The Rocky Mountain Region now ran from the Canadian border to the Mexican border and would eventually include nineteen chapters in seven states.
- 1983:** Rocky Mountain Chapter in Fort Collins, Colorado, hosted the first region seminar on the campus of Colorado State University. Three chapters in New Mexico (Manos Encantadas de Santa Fe, Pajarito in Los Alamos, and Sandia Mountains in Albuquerque) formed the Tri-City group. Members of the three chapters met in Santa Fe to get better acquainted, to share ideas, and to work together to solve problems. They planned an annual meeting with each city hosting on a rotating schedule.
- 1984:** Kay McQuiddy, Rocky Mountain Chapter, Fort Collins, Colorado, was elected to follow Nancy Miller as region chair. During her term, the title was changed from region chair to region director. The new region worked to achieve its organizational goals. The first policies were written, as well as the first list of region teachers. The Tri-City group became the Quad-City group when the El Paso Chapter joined, and the second meeting was held in Los Alamos. Successive meetings were held in Albuquerque, El Paso, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, and Albuquerque.
- 1985:** The second region seminar was held at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque hosted by Sandia Mountains Chapter.
- 1986:** Carole Rinard, Pajarito Chapter, Los Alamos, New Mexico, became the next region director. Region meetings were held in Los Alamos and Grand Junction, Colorado. An assistant director and a secretary were added to the region officers. Pikes Peak Chapter, Colorado Springs, Colorado, invited the Colorado chapters to a Colorado Day meeting.

- 1987:** Colorado Chapter, Denver, hosted the region meeting, a day-long session of workshops taught by region teachers, and a reception for the opening of a month-long exhibit of works by region members. During Carole's term as region director, region bylaws were written and approved; the region took on the air of a well-functioning organization, and the rest of EGA became aware of the talented, hardworking people who populate the Rocky Mountain Region.
- 1988-89:** Jacque Winton, Manos Encantadas de Santa Fe Chapter, Santa Fe, New Mexico, became region director. A region executive board was expanded to include the four elected officers, plus standing committee chairs (bylaws, education, ways and means, nominating, and newsletter). The region newsletter was named *Border to Border*, and the editor, Nina Soltwedel, Colorado Chapter, Denver, Colorado, received well-deserved praise for her work, which resulted in the newsletter becoming a national leader from its inception. A new region achievement award was created and named the Clare Award for the patron saint of embroiderers, St. Clare of Assisi. The first recipient was Carole Rinard.
- Region chapters shared information and enrollment in Group Correspondence Courses. The success of this endeavor led other regions to use the idea. In 1989 Rocky Mountain Chapter hosted a two-day seminar in Fort Collins, Colorado, to reinstate region seminars. At the region meeting preceding the seminar, an advanced stitcher's group, Prospectors, was formed, adding another dimension to the opportunities provided by the region.
- 1990-91:** Barbara Loftus, Colorado Chapter, Denver, Colorado served as region director. Successful two-day seminars were held in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in '90 and in Grand Junction, Colorado, in '91.
- 1992-93:** Barbara Scott, Sandia Mountains Chapter, Albuquerque, New Mexico, served as region director. An outreach chair was added to the executive board. Region seminars were held in Boise, Idaho, in '92, and in Angel Fire, New Mexico, in '93. Shirley Kay Wofersperger, Pajarito Chapter, Newbury, England was the region's awardee for the Educator's Award of Excellence in 1992.
- 1994-95:** Bette Sargent, Foothills Chapter, Lakewood, Colorado, served as region director. Directors' Club chair and historian were added to the executive board. A region seminar was held in Casper, Wyoming, in '94. There was no region seminar in '95 because the region hosted the EGA national seminar in Denver. The spring board meetings were held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in '94, and Albuquerque, New Mexico in '95.

1996-97: Armida Taylor, Western Idaho Chapter, Boise, Idaho, served as region director. Although there was no region seminar in 1996, a stitch-in was sponsored by Las Cruces Chapter at the Holy Cross Retreat in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The spring board meetings were held in Fort Collins, Colorado, in 1996 and in Boise, Idaho, in 1997. The 1997 region seminar, the most successful in RMR history, was held in Ogden, Utah, hosted by Ogden Needlework Guild. During this term, the region bylaws and policies and procedures were revised and approved, and each chapter of the region received \$1000 for education purposes because of our successful 1995 region-sponsored national seminar in Denver.

Our region led the nation with 18 members donating Christmas stockings to the White House project. Our region fundraiser, the *RMR Band Sampler Book* was completed.

Three new chapters joined the region: Four Corners, Knotty Needlers, and Silver Valley Stitchers. The RMR Jody Gergens Memorial Scholarship Fund was established and Susan Tidwell, Sandia Mountains Chapter, Albuquerque, New Mexico was presented with the EGA National Educator's Award of Excellence.

In September 1997, Armida Taylor was elected as national director of bylaws and Judy Richards completed the term as region director.

1998-1999: Judy Richards of the Ogden Needlework Guild (Utah) served as the region director. The spring board meetings were held in Grand Junction, Colorado in 1998 and Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1999. The 1998 region seminar was held in El Paso, Texas. It was the first time region seminar information could be accessed on the Internet. The 1999 region seminar was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Carolyn Standing Webb, Wasatch Chapter, Salt Lake City, Utah, was the Rocky Mountain recipient of the Educator's Award of Excellence. Becky Autry made our region website a reality. The region approved monies for the assistant region director to travel within the region to promote region interests. At the national level, Judy Richards was the secretary to the region's committee meetings, and served on the finance committee. In October 1999 she was elected to the national nominating committee.

2000-2001: Kay Haley of the Western Idaho Chapter, Boise, Idaho, served as Region Director. The 2000 spring board meeting was held in Wallace, Idaho, hosted by the Silver Valley Stitchers. The region seminar in 2000, *Wild Flower Festival*, was held at Copper Mountain Resort and hosted by Colorado Chapter. The 2001 spring board meeting was in Cheyenne, Wyoming, hosted by Cheyenne Chapter. A workshop by Libby Sturdy was offered in conjunction with this meeting. The 2001 seminar, *Have Needle Will Travel*, co-hosted by Four Corners Chapter and Pajarito Chapter, was held at Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado.

The Educator's Award of Excellence was given to Marie Filip, Desert West Chapter, Grand Junction, Colorado in 2000 and to Carolyn Sherman, Pikes Peak Chapter, Colorado Springs, Colorado in 2001. The Jody Gergens Scholarship was awarded to eight region members during the 2000-2001 term.

The Region Officers' Notebook was rewritten, streamlined, and stored on computer disk and copies were provided to each officer and region representative. The region's website was developed by Becky Autry to offer new features such as Chapter of the Month, Teachers, and Shops in our region, as well as chapter correspondence courses and classes offered throughout our region. Region seminar registration information and class pictures were also featured on our website. The *RMR Band Sampler Book* was reprinted and sold as our fundraiser.

Rocky Mountain Region offered to host the 18th National Exhibit in 2004 and national seminar in 2012. The offers were accepted and appreciated by the national board of directors. Carole Rinard was chosen to chair the 18th National Exhibit to be held at the Art Center at Fuller Lodge in Los Alamos, New Mexico. The Rocky Mountain Region sponsored the needlework room in the Storr Doll House, a national dollhouse project to be permanently housed at EGA headquarters in Louisville, KY.

2002-2003: Becky Autry, Pikes Peak Chapter, Colorado Springs, Colorado served as region director. During these two years, the emphasis of the region was chapter support. The first region-sponsored (funded) Group Correspondence Courses (GCC) were offered. The first GCC, *Options in Hardanger*, had 77 participants with an almost fifty percent completion rate. *Hearts and Flowers* followed shortly thereafter and, at the end of 2003, *White Queen*, designed by the region's own Carolyn Standing Webb, was offered. The Rocky Mountain Region paid for the cost of each course along with postage for texts and completed pieces. The region also offered a postage reimbursement program to chapters to help offset postage costs for the additional newsletters sent to anyone outside of the immediate chapter, such as national and region officers/chairs.

Work continued on the 18th National Exhibit. Region seminars were held in Salt Lake City, Utah, (sponsored by the region board) and Boise, Idaho, (sponsored by Western Idaho Chapter). Monthly e-mails were sent to each chapter president and region representative with information on the national as well as region front. In 2002, the Rocky Mountain Region tied with the Sun Region for the most up-to-date chapter bylaws.

2004-2005: Wanda Anderson, Pajarito Chapter, Los Alamos, New Mexico, served as Region Director. The spring board meetings were held in Greeley, Colorado, (hosted by Centennial State Chapter) and Billings, Montana, (hosted by Midland Empire Chapter). The region seminars were held in Denver, Colorado (hosted by Foothills Chapter) and Grand Junction, Colorado (hosted by Desert West Chapter).

2006-2007: Carolyn Standing Webb, Wasatch Chapter, Salt Lake City, Utah, served as region director. The spring board meetings were held in Elko, Nevada, (hosted by Ruby Mountain Stitchers Chapter) and Fort Collins, Colorado, (hosted by Rocky Mountain Chapter). The region seminars were in Glorieta, New Mexico, (hosted by Sandia Mountains Chapter) and Park City, Utah, (hosted by the region board).

2008-2009: Connie Fudge, Silver Valley Stitchers Chapter, Wallace, Idaho, served as Region Director. The spring board meetings occurred in Grand Junction, Colorado (hosted by Desert West Chapter) in '08 and Albuquerque, New Mexico (hosted by Sandia Mountains Chapter) in '09. Region seminars were held in Denver, Colorado (hosted by Colorado Chapter) and Boise, Idaho (hosted by Western Idaho Chapter). Winners for the EGA National Gold Thread Award from Rocky Mountain Region were Caela Conn Tyler (Colorado Chapter, Denver, Colorado) ('08) and Nancy Miller (Foothills Chapter, Denver, Colorado) ('09). Shirley Kay Wolfersperger (Sandia Mountains Chapter, Albuquerque, New Mexico) was the Jody Gergens Memorial Scholarship winner in 2008 and Mary Hawthorn (Pikes Peak Chapter, Colorado Springs, Colorado) received the scholarship in 2009.

In these two years:

- The region's bylaws were revised and approved (not due again until 2015)
- All board members were sent information packets prior to each of the 4 yearly meetings
- 2-part, carbonless motion forms were instituted at board meetings
- The Region Officers' Notebook & Region Seminar Guidelines were reviewed and put on the region website
- Cheyenne ('08), Four Corners ('09) and Syringa Stitchers ('09) Chapters were dissolved.
- The region moved to annual dues collection to align with national's move to do the same (begins 2010)
- The region began paying for region board lunches
- E-mail voting protocols were created
- Event cancellation insurance was purchased, for the first time, to cover region seminars '10 & '11
- RD visited Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, and El Paso (TX) chapters
- Region board was restructured, adding a Youth Chair and Marketing/Membership Chair
- A \$300 stipend was approved to go the Region Webmaster each year
- \$500 per chapter Education Initiative developed (began in 2010)

2010-2011: Barbara Ing, a member of Desert West chapter, was the Region Director for this period. On January 1, 2010, the region had 644-chapter members and 60 MALs, and the membership grew to 677 after dues renewal. Two new chapters were created:

Southern Colorado Thread Benders (2011) meeting in Pueblo, CO, and Segoe Lily (2011) meeting in Salt Lake City, UT. Casper Needle Guild (WY) and Pike's Peak Chapter (CO) celebrated 35 years while the Colorado Chapter celebrated 45 years in 2010. Formation was begun on a region online chapter after interest was shown during a region survey. Chapters were encouraged to create a Facebook page. Seminar 2010 "*Mystery by Design*" was sponsored by Wasatch Chapter in Salt Lake City.

Seminar 2011, "*Star Spangled Stitching*" was held in Denver, sponsored by Foothills Chapter. Members were encouraged to enter the Prospectors exhibit (original non-juried stitchery) at each seminar

Four Group Correspondence courses were offered during these years and a new grant of \$500 was created to assist each chapter to engage a professional teacher. The program had a time limit of five years.

Along with the usual Outreach programs, the region adopted EGA's national Bookmark Outreach project. Our goal was one bookmark for every member. The region turned in 1,296 bookmarks stitched by 10 RMR chapters. These were presented to various charities for distribution. During 2010 a chapter survey, 53% of the region's members participated as volunteers for the EGA at the national, region, and local levels.

2012-2013: Kathy Melville, Midland Empire chapter, served as region director. The 2012 spring region meeting was held May 4-5 at Buffalo Thunder Resort in Santa Fe, NM in preparation for the region to host the National Seminar, "*Santa Fe Enchantment*" – October 27-November 2, 2012. Caela Tyler served as the Seminar Chair. Region Reps were once again offered a stipend of \$100 for attending the meeting.

Fall 2012: The annual region meeting was held Nov. 3 at a restaurant near the Buffalo Thunder Resort. The preview for our 2013 region seminar was held in a separate nearby hotel. The national seminar was well attended by region members. After receiving the seminar profits, a committee was formed to audit the region financial records, propose the best way to maintain the records from one treasurer to the next, and how best to manage the seminar profits.

Spring 2013: The region meeting was held in conjunction with the 2013 Region Seminar "*Lucky Ladies*" June 23-13 in Grand Junction, CO. Jeanne Chazen was seminar chair. The region voted to give each region chapter a \$1000 stipend from the national seminar profits with the remainder placed in a money market account for later use. The region also decided to task Becky Autry with the job to enhance the region website and make it more user friendly.

Fall 2013: The region meeting was held in Billings, MT Oct. 26-27. The board voted to add a new board position, Website Liaison, and to hire a webmaster to make the actual changes on the website. All changes to the website would pass through the liaison.

2014-2015: Janice Wood, Foothills Chapter, Lakewood, Colorado served as region director. The spring region meeting was held in Palmer Lake, CO in conjunction with the opening of the EGA's 20th National Exhibit.

The region seminar hosted by Sandia Mountains, The Turquoise Trail, and Pajarito Chapters took place in August 2014 in Old Town Albuquerque. Desert West Chapter hosted the spring meeting April 2015 in Grand Junction. It was preceded by a crazy quilting class taught by chapter members Barbara Ing and Patsy Burton. The region's first region retreat "*To the Finish*" was held in Glenwood Springs, CO in October 2015. Kathy Melville chaired the retreat committee of region members.

The region hired a professional webmaster in February 2014 and the board position was changed from Webmaster to Web Liaison. An updated region logo was approved including a colorized version for use on the website and other electronic media.

The region sponsored an outreach project with Paraclete Designs that put together kits and embroidery teaching materials for classes in the US and abroad. Chapters brought numerous materials to Glenwood Springs and 24 boxes were sent off to Paraclete at the meeting.

In 2015 the region received its \$5000 portion of the Gay Phillips Trust Education Grant and guidelines were put in place to use that money for chapter GCCs and an on-line studio class.

The bylaws of the region and each of its chapters were updated in 2015 as mandated by national. The board voted to change the term of region officers from two to three years.

2016-2018: Nan Windle - Foothills Chapter, Lakewood, CO - served as region director, beginning in April of 2016 upon the death of RD, Patricia Toulouse - Sandia Mountain Chapter, Albuquerque, NM.

The 2016 spring Region meeting was held in early April in Denver - hosted by Foothills Chapter. Before this meeting, a class was offered by Kurdy Biggs – Crescents and Crystals. At this meeting Mary Ann Forman accepted the position of Outreach Chair and Carolyn Sherman became Historian. In late August of 2016, Trudy Pohawpatchoko became Assistant Region Director. This filled all the executive board positions.

The 2016 RMR Seminar was hosted by Pike's Peak Chapter, Colorado Springs, in August. The spring meeting of 2017 was hosted by Sandia Mountains Chapter in Albuquerque, NM. A Zentangle class was taught by Shirley Kay Wolfersberger prior to the meeting.

The second RMR Retreat, in August 2017, was hosted by the RMR board, with Debbie Tennis as chair, in Taos, NM.

The 2018 spring Region meeting was held in May in Salt Lake City, hosted by Wasatch Chapter. A class was taught by Carolyn Standing Webb on eyelet stitches. At this meeting the Retreat Guidelines document was passed unanimously.

We did not have a 2018 region seminar, but the RMR Annual meeting was held in Denver, hosted by Colorado Chapter, in early November. A class by Kurdy Biggs was presented the Friday before the meeting for all who wished to take it.

During Nan's term, a \$5000 Gay Phillips Trust Education Grant (EGA) was spent down to the last penny. Each chapter in the region who wished to offer a GCC class had the fee paid by the region. Sixteen chapters participated. Also, using the grant money, two email canvas pieces, taught by Toni Gerdes and Jeanette Rees, were offered to all members of the region. A total of 281 stitchers registered for one or both canvas classes.

During this period, we mourned the death of Caela Tyler and Barbara Loftus, well known national teachers, and Kathy Lind, a member of our RMR board.

2019-2021: Trudy Pohawpatchoko, Colorado Chapter, served as region director.

Spring 2019: The Spring Region Meeting was held in Casper, Wyoming, and was hosted by Casper Needle Guild. Before the meeting a class was offered by India Hayford - *Spiral Bracelet: Yemenite Jewish Embroidery*. The EGA National Fall Board Meeting was held in St Louis, MO, in conjunction with the National Seminar *Gateway to Stitching*. The following 2 chapters from the RMR region were dissolved: Sego Lily and Thread Artists.

Fall 2019: The Fall Region Meeting was held in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, in conjunction with the 2019 Retreat, *Linger at the Lake*, at the Coeur d'Alene Resort. Connie Fudge was the chair. There were 62 members in attendance. The mentors were Kurdy Biggs, Jennifer Riefenberg and Sharron Rusewald. The theme of the 2019 Prospectors Exhibit was *Tranquility*, and there were 3 pieces for the Exhibit.

Spring 2020: The Spring Region Meeting was supposed to be in Albuquerque, New Mexico, but the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way we did business, and the meetings were held via WebEx. Before the meeting we had a special lecture from Jacqui Clarkson on Sashiko, a Japanese embroidery technique. The lecture was posted on the RMR website. The 2020 Clare Award winner was Janice Wood. The award was later

presented at a Colorado Chapter meeting as the 2020 Seminar had been postponed.

Seminar 2020 - *Rocky Mountain Roundup*- was supposed to be held in Denver, CO in August. With COVID-19 still in full swing, we worked with Karen Andreassen (HelmsBriscoe) and the Doubletree hotel to move the Seminar to 2022.

We decided to join [TechSoup.org](https://www.techsoup.org) as a non-profit to allow the Region access to discounted technology subscriptions. We purchased a Zoom license through TechSoup for the region. Four individual chapters were able to purchase 'sub-licenses' at the discounted rate.

Fall 2020: We moved the 2020 Annual Region meeting from August to October and again held the meetings virtually using the Region's Zoom account. The board voted to regularly hold non-event region meetings, into the foreseeable future, via Zoom.

TrudyTalks were started in the Fall, with India Hayford, Annette Gutierrez-Turk, Jeanette Tombaugh, Jennifer Riefenberg, and Kurdy Biggs as speakers.

RMR RoadTrips were also started in the Fall, with Twisted Stitches and Ewe Count featured.

The 2020 Gold Thread nominee from RMR was Ellie Ames.

Spring 2021: In accordance with the new policy, the Spring Region Meeting was held virtually via Zoom. Before the meetings, a special lecture was given by Jaime Bernstein on Montmellick embroidery. The lecture was posted on the RMR website.

The 2021 Clare Award was voted to be given to Nan Windle. The 2021 Gold Thread recipient from RMR was Trudy Pohawpatchoko.

Trudy Talks were continued in the Spring, and featured Toni Gerdes, Nan Card, Carolyn Standing Webb, Becky Breshears, Teresa Huester, and Judith Baker Montano.

RMR Road Trips were also continued in the Spring and featured Shepherd's Bush, Needlepoint Joint, Treenway Silks, Tinkers Treasures, and Downing Street Needlepoint.

Fall 2021: The Fall Region Meeting was held in person in Midway, Utah, in conjunction with the 2021 Retreat, *Window to the Wasatch*, at The Homestead Resort. Connie Fudge repeated as the chair and did a fantastic job. There were 51 members in attendance and the mentors were Toni Gerdes, Nan Card, and Teresa Huester. The 2021 Clare Award was presented to Nan Windle at the closing banquet.

The theme of the 2021 Prospectors Exhibit, held at the Retreat, was *Memories*. There were 22 items on display - 10 original pieces and 12 memorial pieces. We had 4 first-time exhibitors: Michelle Bonser (2 pieces), Nan Card (3 pieces), Sandra Scribner (1 piece) and Laura Sandison (2 pieces). In addition, we had two special

exhibits. RMR - *Memories in Honor of Barbara Loftus*, (and other designers/teachers from the region who had passed away). These were pieces that our members had stitched or collected from these teachers and designers. The other special exhibit consisted of completed Region Education Project pieces that had been offered to RMR members -*Well of Wishes* (by Ruthmarie Hofman) and *Crewel Necessities* (by Kim Sanders).

2022-2024

Postponed due to the Covid pandemic, RMR Seminar *Rocky Mountain Roundup*, was finally held in Denver, May 19-21, 2022, and hosted by Centennial Chapter and Colorado Chapter. Seminar Chair, Henri Jonas resigned due to health issues, and Cynthia Land stepped in bringing the seminar to a successful conclusion. The Prospectors Exhibit: *The Roundup* featured eleven original/adaptations and 5 retrospectives. The host chapters exhibited 29 pieces of Western Themed embroidery.

RMR offered free virtual lectures to its members. Howard Kurtz presented *Sartorial Embroidery during the La Belle Époque Era 1890 -1914*. Krista West spoke on *Greek Folk Embroidery*. Trudy Pohawpatchoko's interview with Michelle Carragher and rebroadcast. She also interviewed EGA President, Karen Hamilton, and hosted a virtual Road Trip to a shop within the region. The Directors Club offered *Memories of the Heart*; a canvas project designed by Toni Gerdes to the region. Proceeds benefited the Jody Gergens Scholarship fund.

Other items of significance this year: RMR email addresses were established to improve and provide secure communications for the region board. Joanne Ingersen from Pikes Peak Chapter was named RMR's Gold Thread Award nominee. EGA's board of directors approved the dissolution of Rocky Mountain Web Stitchers. RMR acquired a Dropbox account to store its records online. Foothills Chapter celebrated its 50th Anniversary.

In 2023, RMR began holding virtual stitch-ins for the first time. Joanna Lord acted as host. All region members and Members At Large living within the region's borders were invited to attend the monthly meetings. Another first for the region, a newly created Chapter Guided Event was held. It began with a virtual lecture presented by Jennifer Reifenberg called *Color Sings* and was followed up with her online course, *Potato Chips* which was offered to every region chapter for use as a program. Seven chapters and 65 people participated.

Three virtual lectures were sponsored by RMR: *Sudbury Hall Samplers* with Claudia Dutcher Kistler, *Dissolve; Sparkle and Crunch: Creating Texture with Mixed Media* with Laura Smith; *The Bayeux Tapestry: History, Stitchery, Mystery* with Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer. Two virtual classes, *Centerpiece*, a Brazilian embroidery taught by Mendie Cannon, and *Clover and Tulips*, a Florentine canvas work piece designed and taught by Gail Stafford were offered as well. The RMR Directors' Club project was *New Mexico Doorway 2*, a design by Janice Wood.

The region board meeting was held in Ogden, Utah in May 2023. The board approved holding virtual board meetings twice yearly at the discretion of the RD, unless the meeting can be held in conjunction with an in-person event. It also approved changes

to the schedule announcing the Region Slate of Officers and to voting. An “Online Communications” position was added to the standing committees.

Three RMR were members juried into EGA’s virtual *Through the Needles Eye Exhibit*, Teresa Huester, Sandra Scribner, and Carolyn Standing Webb. Carolyn’s *Aspen Leaves in Autumn* won the RMR award.

Former RD, Trudy Pohawpatchoko was sworn in as EGA Vice President for 2023-2025 at the Annual Meeting in Boston.

In May 2024, Vicki Bridges, ARD chaired RMR’s first Education Event, *Education Santa Fe (ESF)*. It was designed to reduce the cost of a region event. It was held at the Drury Inn, Santa Fe where the hotel’s free Kick Back Hour was very popular. Offering one day classes, and half day classes, ESF featured a majority of local teachers and a national teacher. Registrants could select from museum tours, lectures and still find time to enjoy the unique city of Santa Fe.

Online Education Santa Fe registration and online payments were accepted using PayPal for the first time as well. The Directors’ Club project subsequently used Pay Pal to accept payment for their 2024 offering, *Solitaire* designed and donated by Kurdy Biggs. For the few not interested in paying online, mail in registration and payment methods were available.

Beki Adam and Deb Ogden won the RMR sponsored scholarships for Education Santa Fe. The Prospectors theme was *The End of the Santa Fe Trail*. It had 19 entries from 11 members.

Region virtual lectures offered included: *An Update on the Northern New Mexico Museum of Lace* with Laurie Waters. *Stumpwork: Then and Now* with Celeste Chalasani. *Embroidery in Viking Age Scandinavia* by Raven Fagelson. Raven followed up with virtual training sessions for chapter representatives in a unique form of coaching called “Viking Stitch.” The stitch could be learned and then used as a chapter program as another Chapter Guided Event.

RMR sponsored a virtual class with Celeste Chalasani, *Coneflower*. Region Education Chair, Ellie Ames began hosting quarterly virtual Education Meetings to support chapters with programs and workshop ideas. Sandia Mountains celebrated its 50th Anniversary

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.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION BANNER

The RMR banner was designed by Nancy Price of the Manos Encantadas De Santa Fe Chapter. The piecing and final assembly was done by Carole Rinard and Della Mae Watts of Desert West Chapter, Grand Junction stitched the logo.

It was stitched in 1987 before the national seminar in Parsippany, New York. This was the first national seminar sponsored by a region.

The banner is two feet by three feet and made with two-inch-wide strips. It is stitched to a back and is reversible (sunrise/sunset to daylight). The letters and mountains are done in a deep burgundy chain stitch.

The traveling case for the banner was made by Carole Rinard.

The banner is kept by the Region Director and is displayed at region board meetings as well as region and national seminars.

A gavel was made for the region by Carole Rinard's father, Arthur Nelson. The striker plate was donated by Armida Taylor. The cases for the gavel and striker plate were made by Carole as well. The region chapters at the time were highlighted on the map with beads. This was possibly done during Armida's term as RD.

REGION DIRECTORS

1980-1983	Nancy Miller, Foothills Chapter
1984-1985	Kay McQuiddy, Rocky Mountain Chapter
1986-1987	Carole Rinard, Pajarito Chapter
1988-1989	Jacqueline Winton, Manos Encantadas de Santa Fe Chapter
1990-1991	Barbara Loftus, Colorado Chapter
1992-1993	Barbara Scott, Sandia Mountains Chapter
1994-1995	Bette Sargent, Foothills Chapter
1996-1997	Armida Taylor, Western Idaho Chapter
1998-1999	Judy Richards, Ogden Needlework Guild
2000-2001	Kay Haley, Western Idaho Chapter
2002-2003	Becky Autry, Pikes Peak Chapter
2004-2005	Wanda Anderson, Pajarito Chapter
2006-2007	Carolyn Standing Webb, Wasatch Chapter
2008-2009	Connie Fudge, Silver Valley Stitchers Chapter
2010-2011	Barbara Ing, Desert West Chapter
2012-2013	Kathy Melville, Midland Empire Chapter
2014-2015	Janice Wood, Foothills Chapter
2016-	Patricia Toulouse, Sandia Mountains Chapter (passed away in April 2016)
2016-2018	Nan Windle, Foothills Chapter (ARD, moved into RD position)
2019-2021	Trudy Pohawpatchoko, Colorado Chapter
2022-2024	Joanna Lord, Foothills Chapter
2025-	Vicki Bridges, Rocky Mountain Chapter

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
2025	Carolyn Standing-Webb, Ogden Chapter

**RMR RECIPIENTS– EDUCATORS AWARD OF
EXCELLENCE**

1993	Shirley Kay Wolfersperger, Pajarito Chapter
1995	Jody Gergens, Centennial State Chapter
1996	Susan Tidwell, Sandia Mountains Chapter
1998	Carolyn Standing Webb, Wasatch Chapter
1999	Connie Fudge, Silver Valley Stitchers Chapter
2000	Marie Filip, Desert West Chapter
2001	Carolyn Sherman, Pikes Peak Chapter
2002	Carolyn Bivens, Sandia Mountains Chapter
2003	Kathy Melville, Midland Empire Chapter

In 2004, this award was renamed, but the criteria remained the same.

RMR RECIPIENTS – GOLD THREAD AWARD

2004	Becky Autry, Pikes Peak Chapter
2005	Nan Windle, Sandia Mountains Chapter
2006	Ann Pinfield, Foothills Chapter
2007	Barbara Loftus, Colorado Chapter – NATIONAL WINNER
2008	Caela Conn Tyler, Colorado Chapter
2009	Nancy Miller, Foothills Chapter
2010	Bette Sargent, Foothills Chapter
2012	Carole Rinard, Pajarito Chapter – NATIONAL WINNER
2013	Barbara Ing, Desert West Chapter
2014	Kathy Lind, Wasatch Chapter
2015	Vivian Wilson, Colorado Chapter
2016	Jane Wheeler, Desert West Chapter
2017	Janice Wood, Foothills Chapter
2020	Ellie Ames, Sandia Mountains Chapter
2021	Trudy Pohawpatchoko, Colorado Chapter

2022 Joanne Ingersen, Pike's Peak
2025 Kay Robison, Wasatch Salt Lake City Chapter

RMR RECIPIENTS – GOLDEN NEEDLE AWARD

2025 Deb Ogden, Pikes Peak Chapter

YEAR	SEMINAR/RETREAT/IN-PERSON EVENT CHAIRS
1983	Kay McQuiddy & Marilyn Blake, Rocky Mountain Chapter (Ft. Collins, CO)
1985	Kathy Moawad, Sandia Mountains Chapter (Albuquerque, NM)
1986	Carolyn Sherman, Colorado Days I, Pikes Peak Chapter (Colorado Spgs, CO)
1987	Susan Goodman, Colorado Days II, Colorado Chapter (Denver, CO)
1988	Jody Gergens, Colorado Days III, Centennial State Chapter
1989	Jennifer Kutzik, Rocky Mountain Chapter (Ft. Collins, CO)
1990	Penny Franz, Cheyenne Chapter (Cheyenne, WY)
1991	Sug Fitzner & Helen Alexander, Desert West Chapter (Grand Jct, CO)
1992	Kay Haley, Western Idaho Chapter (Boise, ID)
1993	Jacqueline Winton, Sandia Mountains Chapter & Pajarito Chapter (Angel Fire, NM)
1994	Mary Ellen Donaldson, Casper Needle Guild (Casper, WY)
1995	Barbara Loftus, no region seminar – hosted national seminar (Denver, CO)
1996	Janell Nieto (Stitch-In) Las Cruces Chapter (Las Cruces, NM)
1997	Terri Richards & Tina Richards Herman, Ogden Needle Guild (Ogden, UT)
1998	Marsha Mascorro, El Paso Chapter (El Paso, TX)
1999	Louise Ihle, Pikes Peak Chapter (Colorado Spgs, CO)
2000	Barbara Loftus, Colorado Chapter (Copper Mtn, CO)
2001	Wanda Anderson, Pajarito Chapter & Jean Poe, Four Corners Chapter (co-chairs) (Durango, CO)
2002	Kay Haley, Region Board (Salt Lake City, UT)
2003	Carol Hermann, Western Idaho Chapter (Boise, ID)
2004	Beverly Bell, Foothills Chapter (Denver, CO)
2005	Laryn Henson, Desert West Chapter (Grand Jct, CO)
2006	Jane Moses, Sandia Mountains Chapter (Glorieta, NM)
2007	Wanda Anderson, Region Board (Park City, UT)
2008	Karen Race, Colorado Chapter (Denver, CO)
2009	Myrna Cruz Western Idaho Chapter (Boise, ID)
2010	Carolyn Standing Webb, Wasatch Chapter (Salt Lake City, UT)
2011	Janice Wood, Foothills Chapter (Denver, CO)

2012	Caela Conn Tyler, no region seminar – hosted national seminar (Santa Fe, NM)
2013	Jeanne Chazen, Desert West Chapter (Grand Jct, CO)
2014	Nan Windle, Sandia Mountains Chapter (Albuquerque, NM)
2015	Kathy Melville, Region Board – Retreat (Glenwood Spgs, CO)
2016	Becky Autry, Pikes Peak Chapter (Colorado Spgs, CO)
2017	Debbie Tennis, Region Board – Retreat (Taos, NM)
2018	No Region Seminar or Retreat
2019	Connie Fudge, Region Board – Retreat (Coeur d’Alene, ID)
2020	Henri Jonas, Colorado Chapter – (Denver, CO) Rescheduled to 2022 due to COVID19
2021	Connie Fudge, Region Board – Retreat (Midway, UT)
2022	Colorado (Denver) and Centennial State (Greeley) Chapters – Co-sponsors. Due to health issues, original seminar chair, Henri Jonas stepped down and Cynthia Land assumed the post
2024	Vicki Bridges (Chair)– “Education Santa Fe”, Santa Fe, New Mexico
2025	Joanna Lord (Chair) – “Pike’s Peak or Bust”, Region Stitch-in, Colorado Springs, CO
2027	Sandra Scribner (Chair) – “Gem of a Weekend”, In-Person Education Event, Boise, ID

CHAPTERS AND LOCATIONS

Chartered:

10/65	Colorado Chapter, Denver, Colorado
03/72	Foothills Chapter Lakewood ,CO
11/74	Sandia Mountains Chapter, Albuquerque, New Mexico
01/75	Pikes Peak Chapter, Colorado Springs, Colorado
09/75	Casper Needle Guild, Casper, Wyoming (dissolving 2026)
11/76	Centennial State Chapter, Greeley, Colorado
03/77	Pajarito Chapter, Las Alamos, New Mexico
12/77	El Paso Chapter, El Paso, Texas (dissolved 2025)
12/77	Ogden Needlework Guild, Ogden, Utah
07/78	Needle and I Chapter, Idaho Falls, Idaho (dissolved 2002)
10/78	Manos Encantadas de Santa Fe Chapter, New Mexico (dissolved 1992)
11/79	Western Idaho Chapter, Boise, Idaho
12/79	Rocky Mountain Chapter, Ft. Collins, Colorado
01/80	Midland Empire Chapter, Billings, Montana
01/83	Prairie's Edge Chapter, Wyoming (dissolved 1993)
01/83	Timpanogos Chapter, Utah (dissolved 1987)
06/83	Desert West Chapter, Grand Junction, Colorado
01/84	Cache Chapter, Logan, Utah (dissolved 1987)
10/86	Cheyenne Chapter, Cheyenne, Wyoming (dissolved 2008)
01/87	Wasatch Chapter, Salt Lake City, Utah
03/88	Las Cruces Chapter, Las Cruces, New Mexico (dissolved 2025)
05/90	Thread Artists Chapter, Bozeman, Montana (dissolved 2019)
10/93	Syringa Stitchers Chapter, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho (dissolved 2009)
05/96	Four Corners Chapter, Durango, Colorado (dissolved 2009)
08/96	Knotty Needle Chapter, Lapwai, Idaho (dissolved 1998)
08/96	Silver Valley Stitchers Chapter, Wallace, Idaho (dissolved 2025)
02/97	Starflower Stitchers Chapter, Pocatello, Idaho (dissolved 1999)
10/98	Silver Threads Golden Needles, Silver City, New Mexico (dissolved 1999)
01/04	Ruby Mountain Stitchers Chapter, Elko, Nevada (dissolved 2010)
05/05	Turquoise Trail Chapter, Albuquerque, New Mexico
09/07	Treasure State Stitchers Chapter, Great Falls, Montana (dissolved 2016)
04/10	Southern Colorado Thread Benders, Pueblo, CO
01/11	Sego Lily, Salt Lake City, UT (dissolved 2019)
08/12	Rocky Mountain Web Stitchers, internet chapter (dissolved 03/2022)