

History of Sun Region, EGA

On September 21, 1977 needle arts in the deep South took a significant step forward with the finalization of efforts to form the Sun Region by the then existing Florida Chapters of The Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc.

As early as 1972, groups of people interested in needle arts had organized locally in several areas in the State. One of the earliest of these was located in Ft. Lauderdale. The Gold Coast Needle Arts Guild was chartered on November 15, 1972, becoming the twenty-second chapter of The Embroiderers' Guild, Inc (EGA). Their area went from Hollywood to Palm Beach with an interest group in Stuart. Eventually the chapter divided to form the Hibiscus Chapter in Palm Beach, the Coral Springs Chapter in Coral Springs and Ft. Lauderdale remained the Gold Coast Chapter. Boca Raton joined the ANG.

Another early group was formed in Jacksonville, receiving its charter from EGA on May 23, 1973...the second Florida chapter. They chose the name LeMoyné Chapter to honor Jacques LeMoyné, a local artist. Their second president, Jon Ferguson, was one of the spark plugs in the forming of the EGA Sun Region and served as the region's first director.

The Central Florida Chapter, centered around Orlando, received its national charter on September 12, 1973, and became the third EGA chapter in Florida. The group was organized and inspired by Felicia Schwaner who also served as the chapter's first president and for whom their library is named.

In Ft. Myers, a group of fifteen women met and decided to form an EGA chapter to be named Sea Grape. One of their group was Jean Kirkpatrick, a former national president of EGA. They were awarded a charter in February 1974. At the urging of Jon Ferguson, Sea Grape became an early member of the Sun Region.

During 1977, Biscayne Chapter voted to join the Sun Region and became one of the founding members.

In Clearwater, the Sun Coast Chapter was organized in April 1976 and became one of the original members of the Sun Region.

Although some chapters have disbanded for various reasons since the Sun Region's formation, other chapters have joined and grown and developed as interest in needle arts has been promoted and grown throughout Florida.

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The chapters, by location and charter date, are listed below.

Gold Coast (D)	Ft. Lauderdale	1972
LeMoyne (D)	Jacksonville	1973
Central Florida	Orlando	1973
Sea Grape	Ft. Myers	1974
Biscayne	Miami	1975
Sun Coast	Clearwater	1976
Indian River	Melbourne	1977
Sea Shell (D)	Panama City	1977
Ancient City Needlers(D)	St. Augustine	1979
Okefenokee (D)	Folkston, GA	1979
Sarasota	Sarasota	1980
Stitching Gators	Gainesville	1980
Treasure Chest (D)	Ft. Pierce	1980
duClay	Orange Park	1980
Sand Dollar	Daytona	1980
Neapolitan	Naples	1981
Gulfview	New Port Richey	1982
Hibiscus (D)	Palm Beach	1983
Coral Springs (D)	Coral Springs	1983
Sand Dunes	Ft. Walton Beach	1983
Canopy Road (D)	Tallahassee	1988
Plantation (D)	Margate	1990
Sand Hill Crane	Spring Hill	1992
Chain Stitchers	Mt. Dora	1996
South Broward Stitchers (D)		1996
Canopy Oaks	Tallahassee	2006
Bermuda Guild of Stitchery	Bermuda	2009

(D) Indicates that the chapter has dissolved.

All of the chapters have developed interest groups in their areas through exhibits, teaching sessions, and outreach programs. There are currently 16 active Sun Region chapters.

The very first region seminar was held in Orlando in May 1979, and was hosted by the Central Florida Chapter. A hundred “students” were in attendance from every region chapter. The seminar ran from Sunday to Saturday and set the pattern for many successful region seminars to come.

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Sun Region Past Directors

The region directors are listed by the dates of their terms of office. Jon Ferguson was appointed by National EGA to form the Sun Region and lead it through its organizational stage. There were six charter chapters.

<u>Region Director</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>
Jon Ferguson	1977-1980
Dot Specht	1981-1984
Pat Carrington	1984-1986
Clarke Harrison	1986-1988
Janet Hill	1988-1992
Blanche Berry	1993-1994
Margaret Kinsey	1994-1998
Adrienne Meyer	1998-2000
Dee Mullins	2000-2004
Barbara Harrison	2004-2005
Malvina White	2005-2007
Jenna McClooney	2007-2011

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The Sun News – What it Means to You

Purpose of the Region Newsletter

The Sun News serves the region in two ways:

1. It informs Sun Region members. Some of the information provided includes chapter activities (including photos), educational opportunities, notices of upcoming events, news from EGA national and much more. Chapter newsletter editors are encouraged to forward *The Sun News* to every chapter member.
2. It is our “public face” and a window to EGA for prospective members. All Sun Region members are encouraged to share our newsletter with family, friends and associates. The *Sun News*, along with our website www.sunregionega.org and our Facebook page, [Sun & Sea Embroiderers](#), work together to publicize EGA, Sun Region and our individual chapters.

Who Receives the Region Newsletter

The Sun News is sent without charge to Sun Region board members and committee chairs, chapter presidents and chapter newsletter editors, as well as Region Directors and region newsletter editors of all the other regions, and select national officers. Past Sun Region Directors also receive *The Sun News*.

Individual subscriptions for printed and mailed copies are available for \$5 per year. E-mail copies and subscriptions are free.

Region Representative’s Responsibility to the Newsletter

It is the responsibility of each Region Representative to send a chapter report to the Newsletter Editor by the deadline date. Please include in the report: program/workshop plans, list of shows, activities and other information you wish to share with other chapters. Deadline dates are March 1, June 1, Sept 1 and Dec 1. Your Sun News editor’s contact is sunnews@sunregionega.org.

Please take the time to share the newsletter with your chapter members. Portions of it may be condensed for reproduction in chapter newsletters. Consider bringing a copy to the next chapter meeting.

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Newsletter vs. Meeting Packet

What information is contained in each publication?

	Newsletter	Meeting Packet
Region Director	Letter from the RD	RD's report from national. Any special reports that board would need to refer to during the meeting.
ARD	Upcoming (current) meeting information, Clip & Mail	Saturday evening program. Information about the following region meeting.
Treasurer	Abbreviated financial report	Detailed financial reports and proposed budgets. Recommendations (motions) related to finance
Education	Upcoming events	Update on programs, i.e. GCC, new or changes in procedures.
Marketing	Items that motivate chapters to recruit and retain members – recruiting tips	Social media details: website, Facebook Presentation information
Bylaws		Proposed bylaws or Ps & Ps revisions
Membership		Report on membership trends and new dues procedures
Website	Encouragement to use website	
Newsletter	Deadlines	
Outreach – ARD		Updated outreach report by chapter
Ways & Means	Ways & Means announcements	Ways & Means announcements
Seminars	National and Region Seminar advertisement and hype	Final reports
Region Representatives	Region Rep's chapter reports	
Special Submissions	Recognition, announcements, photos, events. Stories about individual chapter successes: exhibits, special outreach projects, programs, etc. Feature articles that create excitement.	
EGA Information	Articles, news releases, EGA information designed to attract new members.	

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