

Feather Princesses, Inc. Guild Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by President Princess Dorothy Johnson, who welcomed the members and reminded everyone to silence their cell phones.

Guest Speaker

Princess Ritu Halder introduced guest speaker Paula Paradis, who presented her *Challenge Quilt Journey*. Paula shared wonderful tips and tricks for entering quilting challenges and encouraged members to take a leap and enter a challenge themselves.

Executive Board Reports

Vice President – Princess Ritu Halder

- Thanked Paula Paradis for her presentation.
- Encouraged members to be adventurous with appliqué by trying new techniques, fabric styles, colors, and more.
- Thanked the members who attended the No Frills Retreat for making it a fun experience.
- Discussed the terrific discount offered by Hampton Inn for hotel rooms booked by Guild members.
- Reminded members to be considerate of the hotel's pricing policies when booking or extending their stay for the retreat, including using the hotel's provided booking link and understanding that retreat pricing does not extend beyond the retreat dates.

Lunch Break

A break was taken for members to enjoy lunch and goodies shared at the hospitality counter, shop Paula Paradis's offerings, and make donations to the community service outreach project.

Membership

Princesses Betty Jo Lecaroz and B. J. Weber announced that 26 members were in attendance, including one returning member.

Secretary – Princess Melissa Labella

- Announced that the minutes from the August Guild meeting were available for review.
- Princess Michelle Barry will add the minutes to the website.
- Until they are available online, any Princess may request a copy for review.

Treasurer – Princess Mary Ann Vathy

- Thanked Princess Michelle Barry for her previous work as Treasurer.
- Announced the following account balances:
 - Starting Balance: \$18,355
 - Expenses: \$3,345
 - Ending Balance: \$15,005
- There were no questions regarding the finances.

Committee Reports

Sunshine/Birthdays – Princess Vici Miller

- Announced that the members in need of Sunshine this month are listed in the newsletter.
- Was pleased to report that a couple of those members were in attendance.
- Announced that there are no September birthdays to celebrate.

Community Service – Princess Mary Moody

In Princess Mary Moody's absence, Princess Barbara Belcher collected donations for the community service project.

- Princess Melissa Labella will deliver the food and money collected to Meals on Wheels of East Pasco County.
- A total of \$100 was collected during the meeting.

Healing Hearts Blocks – Princess Shirley Kaspryk

- Announced that no new patterns were available.
- No new Princesses were added to the list of recipients.

Lake Yale Retreat – Princesses Winnie Miale and Joanne Rodriguez

- Announced that the retreat meeting was held before the general meeting.
- Plans are being finalized for the retreat beginning October 22, 2026.
- Reported that 21 members attended the No Frills Retreat and 10 members will be attending Lake Yale.
- Winnie asked members to anonymously write down what is keeping them from attending Lake Yale. The responses will provide feedback for planning future retreats.

2027 Retreat – Princess Dorothy Johnson

- Discussed that several members attended the Retreat Meeting that morning and offered ideas for future retreat sites.
- Encouraged members to submit additional ideas by September 30.
- Information will be gathered, and any decisions will be shared at a future Guild meeting.

Library – Princess Mary Ann Vathy

- Announced that new books will be available at the October 14 Guild meeting.
- Requested volunteers to serve as "Book Buddies" by hosting boxes of books at their homes when the books are not being used at Guild events.
- Princess Dorothy Johnson thanked Princess Mary Ann for continuing as Librarian while also serving as Treasurer.

Membership Directory – Princess Michelle Barry

- Requested that new members see her to have their pictures taken for the directory.
- Offered continuing members the opportunity to have a new picture taken if desired.

Newsletter – Princess Michelle Barry

- Announced that October 2 is the deadline for article submissions for the next edition of *The Plume*.
- Shared that links to the website for Challenges, Healing Hearts Blocks, the Membership Directory, and other items are located on Page 9.
- Members reported that the password was not working to access the members-only area of the website.

- Michelle stated that the password change scheduled for this month will hopefully resolve the issue.

Show-Offs

Several Princesses shared completed appliqué quilts, as well as patriotic quilts of various styles in remembrance of September 11, 2001.

Princess Peggy Wattenbarger photographed each quilt.

Special Blocks – Princess Winnie Miale and Princess Dorothy Johnson

- Princess Winnie displayed completed blocks received for the Fall Harvest Block.
- Announced that one kit remains available for \$2.
- Princess Dorothy discussed the fabric distributed in July during the presentation on pre-cut fabrics.
- Members who would like additional fabric were encouraged to ask Dorothy, as she usually has fabric in her car when attending various groups and circles.
- Dorothy reminded participants that the goal of the Special Block is to challenge members to use pre-cuts in the block design.
- Members wishing to make a second block were asked not to piece the maroon background fabric. Dorothy will provide a solid piece.
- The Pre-Cut Special Block is due January 2027.

Special Events – Princesses Maritza Chinchilla and Melissa Labella

- Presented a questionnaire requesting ideas for the Christmas Luncheon.
- Based on the responses collected, members preferred to hold the luncheon at SpringHill Suites and have food delivered.
- Maritza will review the additional ideas regarding themes, games, specific restaurants, and other suggestions while planning the event.

Website – Princess Michelle Barry

Provided an update on the website and reported that she is working to resolve the issues preventing members from logging into the members-only area.

President's Report – Princess Dorothy Johnson

- Reported that September is National Sewing Month and that the Jacksonville Quilt Festival is approaching.
- Announced upcoming quilt circles and specialty groups.
- Princess Peggy Wattenbarger emphasized the importance of attending this month's Creative Circle for members who have been participating, as important decisions regarding the final design and layout of the project will be made.
- The Creative Circle meeting will be held September 21 at Jimmie B. Keel Library.

Jimmie B. Keel Library Recognition

Dorothy discussed the important role Jimmie B. Keel Library has played in the Feather Princesses Guild.

- The library is celebrating 25 years of being open, and the Guild would like to recognize the librarians.
- The librarians have specifically requested snacks. Members are asked to bring a snack to the October 14 meeting to help fill a basket to be delivered to the library.

- Dorothy has been in contact with the branch manager, who also requested a quilt.
- Dorothy is working to obtain specific information regarding the quilt's size, style, display area, and other details.
- Once the information is received, a committee will be formed to create the quilt.

Membership Recognition

Princess Dorothy Johnson recognized Princess Lois Bretzlaff as the first Guild member to renew her membership, in May 2026.

Door Prizes

Random numbers were drawn for door prizes, which were awarded by Princesses B. J. Weber and Betty Jo Lecaroz.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m. by President Princess Dorothy Johnson.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Labella, Secretary