

What Does a TKGa Guild Membership Mean and Why Should My Guild Have One?

By Binka Schwan

We have been receiving inquiries lately regarding what the Guild Membership category of TKGa is and how that specific membership category can benefit a local guild. Let me see if I can help answer those questions!

The TKGa website has a public guild section as well as an affiliated guild “Members Only” section. The public area includes a section on what the TKGa philosophy of guild affiliation is, a state-by-state Affiliated Guild Locator, and also a section on resources for guilds.

If a local guild joins TKGa under the Guild Membership category, one of the benefits of that membership is that the local guild becomes a TKGa “Affiliated” guild. The guild is then included in the Guild Locator on the TKGa website. Because this portion of the website is open to the public, any knitter can find your affiliated guild without being a TKGa member. The Guild Locator lists all local affiliated guilds throughout the United States. It does not list guilds that are not affiliate members of TKGa. The locator is a significant benefit to your Guild, so when a new knitter moves into your town, he or she will be able to find kindred spirits very quickly! The locator includes the name of the guild, where and when the guild meets, contact information, and usually a little about the guild. My local guild in Scottsdale, Arizona, recently welcomed a new member who found us on the TKGa Affiliated Guild locator.

The public Guild Resources section has documents on program ideas and documents on guilds in general, which includes information on dues, expenses, insurance, etc. More

documents have ideas to promote knitting in your area, how to store guild materials, and even a template of suggested Bylaws that your local guild can use.

The TKGa Guild Membership category allows special access to guild-related materials and articles written specifically to help you with your local guild. These include articles on specific local guilds that have been spotlighted to help you see what local guilds across the country are doing. There are articles on guild management, technique articles, knitting patterns and also a TKGa brochure that can be downloaded and printed for information on the national association.

The Guild Membership category includes two website accesses, usually one for the President of the guild and one for another officer or guild member selected by the local guild. These two individuals in the local guild have access to the “TKGa Members Only” section of the website, which includes Cast On Magazine and our K2TOG monthly newsletter.

Please note that we encourage each local guild member to become an individual member of TKGa. A Guild Membership does not allow all of your members access to the Members Only sections of the TKGa website. Only the two individuals chosen by your guild have that advantage.

I hope this gives you an idea of what benefits a Guild Membership can give your local guild and your members. TKGa recognizes how important local guilds are to your community. Hopefully, your Guild will consider becoming a TKGa affiliated guild!