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Independent Pattern Company Alliance Associate Membership / Mentorship Program

Purpose

To expand on our mission of increasing awareness of and setting the standard for quality, independent fashion pattern companies.

To afford fledgling pattern companies the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of membership in the IPCA.

We wish to offer a one-year **associate membership** program.

Associate Membership

The one year associate membership will allow a candidate the time and guidance needed to meet the requirements necessary for full membership within the IPCA.

It is our hope that we can promote the sewing industry by helping a fledgling pattern company to avoid common pitfalls and to create a cost effective product that is:

- professionally packaged
- professionally drafted
- professionally graded
- well-written with well-illustrated instruction sheets

In turn, we will increase our membership and benefit the industry at large.

Benefits to the Associate Member

Within a supportive, confidential relationship, the associate member will have the opportunity to network and ask questions of a mentor, with the goal of developing a professional line of fashion patterns which meet the standards established by the IPCA.

The associate member will work toward the goal of meeting the criteria of full membership and the enjoyment of benefits within the IPCA, an association that:

- identifies us as quality pattern makers
- offers a vehicle for economical cooperative advertising
- offers a supportive networking environment
- provides opportunities for beneficial cross-promotion
- creates a benchmark within the home sewing industry for a high standard of patterns

Requirements of the Associate Member

The candidate will complete an application and submit one or more current fashion patterns for evaluation.

The associate member agrees that the goal is to produce a high quality pattern line and to become a full member of the IPCA.

The associate membership term is for one year with a per annum fee of \$175.

Within one year of admission as an associate member, application for full membership to the IPCA will be submitted. The application will include fashion patterns and sample garments for review by the jury committee, as set out in the criteria section of Membership Qualifications.

At the discretion of the IPCA, an associate membership may be extended for a second year. Fee for the second year is \$175.

How the Program will Work for the Associate Member

Upon acceptance as an associate member, the candidate will be assigned a mentor from within the IPCA membership. An agreed upon number of consultations will be established. Consultations may take place by e-mail, telephone or in person at the premises of the mentor.

The associate member is invited to attend two annual events - the Puyallup Style Show and the International Textiles Expo in Las Vegas where she may shadow, learn and assist at the events. While the associate member will be restricted to consultations with her assigned mentor only, she will have an opportunity to meet and network with the other IPCA members at these events.

Associate members will be included in applicable e-mail conversations with the exception of voting or discussions on memberships or associate applications.

Associate members will be invited to observe the annual general meeting where they will have non-voting status, (although their opinions may be considered).

Restrictions

The associate member may consult with her assigned mentor only.

The associate member may not vote at the Annual Meeting.

The associate member may not use the IPCA logo, or participate in advertising programs or contests.

The associate member may not participate as a designer in the IPCA stage shows.

Consultations will not include classes or products which the mentor would normally offer as part of her business. If the associate member wishes to take one of these classes, he/she will pay for them at the going rate.

Responsibilities of the IPCA Mentor

The assigned mentor will contact the associate member and set up a mutually agreeable schedule of consultations.

The mentor will make herself available and advise within her abilities.

At the mentor's discretion, she may wish to ask the assistance of another IPCA member for advice or expertise not within the mentor's range.

It is agreed that the mentor's advice is offered in a spirit of generosity where she shares her own experiences in business. The mentor neither benefits from nor is liable for the outcome of any decisions made by the associate member.

More information can be obtained by contacting:

IPCA

Attention: Janet Pray

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