Sierra Mountain Quilters Association Newsletter

September 3, 2026
Doors open at 5:30 P.M Meeting begins at 6:00 P.M.
Host Greeters: Bits and Pieces
Program: Darla Hall
Workshop: Darla Hall Free Motion Quilting

SMQA GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order
Flag Salute

Welcome: Birthdays & Anniversaries

Reports:

Secretary - Minutes from August 6, 2026 meeting
Treasurer - Dianna Conaway
First Vice Presidents - Joan Earnest & Sue Johnson
Second Vice President - Sue Walker
Membership - Ku'ulei Arredondo
Newsletter -Kathy Burrow
Webmaster - Sally Walker
Cuddle Quilts - Tricia Lacey
Quilt Show - Maria Ciccarelli
Opportunity Quilt
Spring Retreat - Joan Earnest & Sue Johnson
Fall Retreat - Joan & Sue
New Business:

Show & Tell
Refreshments

Program: Darla Hall: Journey of Organic Design

2026 Program Schedule

Sept 3 Darla Hall
Sept 4 Workshop Free Motion Quilting
Sept. 30 Workshop Ocean Art Quilt
October 1 Gwen Weedon 20 Years of a Quilting Journey
November 5 Veteran's Day Program
November 6 Workshop: Joan Earnest House Shoes
December - Winter Luncheon

Amenities
Sympathy Card was sent to Norm Weins and family at the passing of his wife Patty's Death.

Sierra Mountain Quilters Association
General Meeting Minutes, August 6, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by president, Wendy Holt, at the Oakhurst Community Center followed by the flag salute. Wendy recognized August birthdays and anniversaries.

Secretary Janet Morita Diane Ward made a motion, Sue Walker seconded, to accept the July 2, 2026, general meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Treasurer, Dianna Conaway The treasurer's report as published in the newsletter will be filed for audit.

First Vice Presidents, Joan Earnest and Sue Johnson Sue announced tomorrow, Janet Morita will teach a fabric dye class. On September 3, Darla Hall will present a trunk show. On September 4, she will teach a free motion quilting class. On Wednesday, Sept. 30, Gwen Weedon will teach an Ocean Art Quilt class and then on Thursday, October 1, she will present "20 Years of a Quilting Journey". November 5 will be a Veterans' program and then the following day, Joan Earnest will teach a house shoes workshop. December 3, will be the Winter Luncheon at 2:00 p.m. Second Vice President, Sue Walker, reported the summer sewing program went very well. She thanked those who volunteered.

Membership, Ku'ulei Arredondo, reported we have 95 members. Drawing winners were Kirsten Millholland and Bev Williams. She announced there will be no drawings at the winter luncheon. She has something else in mind.

Fall Retreat, Joan Earnest for Ku'ulei Arredondo, reported the dates are Sept 14-17. The sign-up has openings on Thursday.
Spring Retreat, Joan Earnest and Sue Johnson Joan reported the dates are April 5-8, 2027.

Newsletter, Kathy Burrow, absent
Webmaster, Sally Walker, no report

Cuddle Quilts, Tricia Lacey, announced the next workday will be Aug. 25, (Tuesday). 9:00-1:00 at the Oakhurst Library. We will be cutting out pillowcases. She has a new project; brace covers for the orthopedic department at Valley Children's Hospital. She will be making kits in the near future.
In July, Hinds Life Care and Valley Children's Hospital received items from Cuddle Quilts.
Quilt Show, Maria Ciccarelli, passed around a sign-up to sell raffle tickets for the Opportunity Quilt at the Shop Hop at Bear Paw in September. She is also arranging times to sell tickets at Bee's Bakery and Ace Hardware.

New Business Wendy reported that some members have mentioned the desire for membership books. A vote was taken by a show of hands, and the result was most members felt the printable roster is sufficient.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m. followed by show and tell, snacks and a trunk show by Wendy Holt.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Morita, secretary.

Wendy's Window

Happy September SMQA Members,

August was a warm month! Taking walks during the cooler evenings let us soak in those amazing sunsets. I bet you've all taken some beautiful pictures of the Sierra Foothills evenings, too. After 10 years, we're still amazed to live here.

Every day, I'm amazed by nature from my window. At our fountain, we see all sorts of birds enjoying the cool, clean water. I remember watching a large hawk land in the water, spending some time there and then stand on the edge to dry off before taking off. It was such a treat to see! I also saw a small woodpecker standing on a rock below the fountain. There were two doves on other rocks, not interested in the fountain at all. The woodpecker flew up to the fountain, then back to the rock. It seemed to be having trouble landing on the edge of the fountain. It tried five times, landing on the rock each time, walking around, and trying again. On the sixth try, it finally landed! I cheered quietly for it. The doves watched but didn't react. Then the woodpecker had to figure out how to lean down to drink the water. The water level where it landed wasn't high enough. It then realized it could walk around the edge, and that finally allowed it to drink. Once it had its fill, it flew away.

Watching that little woodpecker's determination made me think about how we all develop our quilting skills—or any other skills we pick up. How many times have we looked at a pattern, bought it, and then wondered if we could actually make it? Some of us are like doves, seeing it and not wanting to dive in. Others might start and then put it aside if something else comes up. But some of us are like the woodpecker, starting and finishing the project! No matter how you approach learning quilting, I'm so grateful and appreciative of each of you for bringing your joy to this guild. There's no right or wrong way to do it. Finished is better than perfect, and building skills one project at a time makes life more interesting and boosts our confidence.

Here's to confident, happy, creative quilters! Let's celebrate our growth together.

Cheers!

Wendy

SMQA Treasurers Report Recap
Per Board Meeting 08/24/26

Checking Accoumt	
Beginning Balance 6/1	**$9,777.97**
Credits	**$699.66**
Debits	**0**
Ending Balance	**$10,477.63**
Savings Accoumt	
Balance 7/31	**$9,478.41**
CD Account	
Account Balance 7/31	**$10,712.27**

Fall Retreat

Fall Retreat September 14th - 17th

Openings for Thursday

Check with Joan Earnest or Sue Johnson for more information.



Circle Hostesses and Greeters for

September: Bits and Pieces
October: Anything with Fabric
November: A Gathering of Stitches
December: Guild Board Members



Membership
Ku'ulei Arredondo

Hello everyone,

We have exciting news! Our guild continues to thrive and expand. We're delighted to introduce our newest members, **Meg Yearton** and **Marylyn Garibaldi**. Their arrival brings our total active membership to an impressive 95, a testament to our vibrant community!

For everyone's safety and to ensure we stay connected, please take a moment to update your contact and emergency information.

Our August meeting was a great success, with 45 members engaging in lively discussions. Your participation is what makes our guild so special.







New Member
Meg Yearton

CIRCLE INFORMATION

ANYTHING WITH FABRIC

Anything with Fabric meets 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Oakhurst Public Library every Monday. Contact: Sue Johnson or Joan Ernest. All are welcome.

A Gathering of Stitchers

. Open to New Members

The Mindful Stitchers focus on letting go of daily distractions, focus on our stitching, taking time to enjoy each step of our quilting journey as we share and learn with each other. We meet the second & fourth Thursdays of each month from 10:30- 12:30 at various locations. Please call Rebecca Brannon 760-415-7212 for meeting information

Bits and Pieces: Closed

Footloose: Closed

Members are asked to bring snacks to guild meetings twice a year—once for their birthday month and once in another month of their choice. If you're unable to bring snacks on your birthday month, please select a different month instead. To sign up see Joan E. at our next meeting or click here.



September Refreshments

A J Grant
Rhonda Lloyd
Margie Williams
Ruthie Conner
Sue Walker

Laura Ashley Spencer	Sept. 10
Ruth Conner	Sept. 9
Shirley Dunn	Sept. 13
Marilyn Harvey	Sept. 8
Mary Gaston	Sept 18
Sharon Sylvester	Sept 11

Cuddle Quilt Corner

Sandy Johnson and Tricia Lacey



Cuddle Quilt Corner

Last month we had a lot of activities and donations Our local Veterans Home received 8 cuddle quilts, and 5 wheelchair bags Hinds Lifecare received 5 lovely cuddle quilts Valley Children's Hospital received 14-foot brace covers

Sometime in the Fall we will plan for a workday at the storage unit. It needs cleaning out! In anticipation of the Tuesday August 25th workday, I want to thank all the ladies who came to help out.

Thank you to all our wonderful ladies who made these donations possible
Sandy Johnson

1st Vice President's Message Joan Earnest & Sue Johnson

Whoa! What a presentation by Wendy Holt at the August meeting! Who knew she'd had such an interesting past? It was fun to see the quilting she's done and get a feeling for how she's developed her skills! Thank you, Wendy!

The very next day we had everyone's favorite: Ice Dying taught by Janet Morita. I haven't seen anyone else yet, but I'm thrilled with the way mine came out. It's really inspiring to see these wildly beautiful fabrics. And we did it ourselves!

We've been lucky to find some fabulous presenters within our limited budget. Our next meeting, September 3, features a quilting teacher from the Levan Institute at Bakersfield College, Darla Hall. She'll do a workshop on September 4, to teach us some free motion techniques. She knows what she's doing and does beautiful work.

In October we have Gwen Weedon, with a presentation of her 20 years of quilting. Although we "always" have our workshop the day after the guild meeting, we've had to flip it for her, and the workshop will be the day BEFORE the guild meeting.....Workshop September 30, Guild meeting October 1. We'll be making an ocean art quilt by layering beachy fabrics. The results look so nice! Makes you want to cruise over the coast for a day or so.

Both of these classes are ready for signups online. Please join us ~~ the more the merrier! We always have a fun time working together. We wrap up the year with the Veteran's program on November 5, instructions in how to make cute house shoes on November 6, and the Winter luncheon on December 3. Whew! Looking back, it's been a fun and educational year! A big thanks to all of you quilters that sign up and make it possible

Quilt Show Update
Maria Ciccarelli

Exciting news—our Opportunity Quilt is starting to make the rounds! We are lining up several wonderful places to share the quilt, sell tickets, and celebrate the beautiful work our guild has created together.

Where the Opportunity Quilt Will Be Shown

- Heart of the Valley Shop Hop, September 10–12, at Bear Paw
- Woodcarvers Rendezvous, April 14
- Bear Paw at the Pines Quilt Retreat, March 3–7
- Ace Hardware and Bee's Bakery dates coming soon
- Road to California date still pending

How Members Can Help

- Please volunteer to sit with the quilt and help sell tickets. Sign-up sheets will be passed around at the next few meetings.
- If you have not picked up your tickets yet, please get them at the next meeting or at Bear Paw.
- Our cheerful goal is to have all members' tickets sold before the end of the year—thank you for helping make that happen!

A Little Scheduling Help Would Be Wonderful I am still looking for someone to help with scheduling the Opportunity Quilt. Much of the legwork is already underway, and I will gladly continue to support whoever is able to step in. It is a great way to be part of sharing our quilt with the community!
Thank you for helping make this a successful and joyful year for the Opportunity Quilt!

— Maria Ciccarelli

Patty Weins husband Norm has the following machines to sell plus a few more things from her sewing room. She had several nice machines and other products in her home. Norm would like to sell her stuff to her friends that she quilted with.
Machines:
Brother Innovis XV8550D Dream Machine 2 with Koala table $5.000
Brother Scan and Cut DX Model #DX225 with case and Accessoris $300.

Question call Norm Weins: 559-903-6818

Charlotte Hickman is downsizing and has the following items for sale. She would prefer to sell them to a SMQA member who will love them as much as she has. For more information contact Charlotte Hickman at 209-988 3868 cthickman@yahoo.com.





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August Show and Tell

















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If you are interested in advertising your Long Arm Skills, certified class skills or other services and would be interested in Advertising in the Newsletter please contact Kathy Burrow at katsmountain@gmail.com or see form listed on following page. Please



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REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE AT THE NEXT MEETING!

BOARD MEMBERS

President	**Wendy Holt**
First VP	**Joan Earnest & Sue Johnson**
Second VP	**Sue Walker**
Treasurer	**Dianna Conaway**
Secretary	**Janet Morita**

Board meetings are held at 1:00 pm on the fourth Monday of each month. Send Newsletter submissions to:
katsmountain@gmail.com
Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Amenities	**Linda Miller**
Circles	
Cuddle Quilts	**Tricia Lacey**
Historian	**Peggy Myers**
Parliamentarian	**Rebecca Brannon**
Membership	**Ku'ulei Arredondo**
New Member Support	**Ku'ulei Arredondo**
Newsletter	**Kathy Burrow**
Quilt Show Chair	**Maria Ciccarelli**
Webmaster	**Sally Walker**
Spring Retreat	**Laura Gonzalez**
Fall Retreat	**Ku"ulei Arredondo**