Sierra Mountain Quilters Association Newsletter

December 3, 2026
Doors open at 2:00 P.M Meeting begins at 2:15 P.M
Host Greeters: SMQA Board
Program: Christmas Luncheon
Bees Bakery

SMQA GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

December 3, 2026
Call to Order
Flag Salute

Welcome: Birthdays & Anniversaries

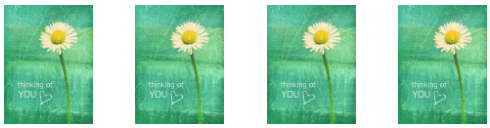
Reports:
Secretary - Minutes from November 5, 2026 meeting
Treasurer - Dianna Conaway
First Vice Presidents - Joan Earnest & Sue Johnson
Second Vice President - Sue Walker
Membership - Ku'ulei Arredondo
Newsletter -Kathy Burrow
Webmaster - Sally Walker
Cuddle Quilts - Tricia Lacey
Quilt Show - Maria Ciccarelli
Opportunity Quilt
Spring Retreat - Joan Earnest & Sue Johnson
Luncheon with 2026 Slide Show
After Lunch:
In Memorium - Charlotte Hickman
Installation of Board - Teri De La Torre

Show & Tell
Mystery Quilts
Pincushion Exchange

2026 2027 Program Schedule

December - Winter Luncheon
January – Game Day
February - Lura Schwarz Smith Trunk Show
March – Cuddle Quilt work day

Cards sent the month of November
Thinking of you card Nancy Hyde
Sympathy Card to N Dean Jensen
Get Well card to Patty Vincent



Circle Hostesses and Greeters
2026-2027
December: Guild Board Members
January: Anything with Fabric

Spring Retreat
April 5-8
Sign ups available in January

Sierra Mountain Quilters Association
General Meeting Minutes, November 5, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by president, Wendy Holt, at the Oakhurst Community Center followed by the flag salute. Wendy welcomed everyone and recognized November birthdays and anniversaries.
Secretary, Janet Morita: Sandy Eigenman made a motion, Rebecca Brannon seconded, to accept the October 1, 2026, general meeting minutes. The motion carried.
Treasurer, Dianna Conaway: reviewed the proposed 2027 budget. Patty Huff made a motion, Lisa Kernaghan seconded to accept the 2027 budget. The motion carried. The treasurer's report as published in the newsletter will be filed for audit.
First Vice Presidents, Joan Earnest and Sue Johnson: Sue announced December 3, will be the Winter Luncheon at 2:00 p.m. at Bee's Bakery. A representative from Toys for Tots will be there accepting donations. Sign-ups for the luncheon will be accepted until Thanksgiving. Salmon Salad and Chicken Marsala with mashed potatoes are the entrée choices. There will be a business meeting at 2:15 and the luncheon will follow. For the pin cushion exchange, they should be gift wrapped and walnut shells should be noted. Sign-ups are available for snacks and table decorators and greeters for 2027.
Second Vice President, Sue Walker:
Membership, Ku'ulei Arredondo: reported we have 99 members with 39 members and 3 guests attending today. We have a new member, Katy Penton. Drawing winners are Patty Huff and Margie Williams. Ku'ulei has found a new vendor to make name tags for $17 each. Spring Retreat, Joan Earnest and Sue Johnson reported the dates are April 5-8, 2027. Sign-ups will begin in January.
Newsletter, Kathy Burrow:
Webmaster, Sally Walker: no report
Cuddle Quilts, Tricia Lace: , announced cuddle quilts, wheelchair bags and pillowcases were donated to Majestic Mountain, Valley Children's Hospital received brace covers, and 8 cuddle quilts were sent to patients in Idaho. No kits will be available at the luncheon. However, she will accept finished projects. The unwanted fabric from cleaning out the storage unit went to Gleanings in Reedley. Sue Walker, Mary Gaston and Sharon Sylvester will be in charge of Cuddle Quilts next year.
Quilt Show, Maria Ciccarelli: announced we have sold $2704 in raffle tickets so far this year. New signups to sell tickets are available. She needs volunteers for Ace Hardware on Nov. 21. She also needs volunteers to sell tickets and white glove at Road to California on Jan. 20, 2027. She thanked everyone who has signed up
New Business: The proposed slate of 2027 Board Members is Co-Presidents, Wendy Holt and Kathy Millhollon; First Vice President, Margie Williams; Second Vice President, Sue Walker; Treasurer, Dianna Conaway; Secretary, Peggy Myers. Nancy Swanson made a motion, Bev Gulley seconded, to accept the proposed slate of 2027 officers. The motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m. followed by show and tell, and a presentation honoring the veterans.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Morita, secretary.

Wendy's Window

Happy December, SMQA Members.

Thank you for your hard work and attendance at the November meeting's Veteran's Quilt Ceremony. I felt honored and privileged to be in the company of these brave men and women. Seeing the looks on their faces when they saw the quilt they were to receive, witnessing their slight discomfort during the telling of each veteran's sacrifice and service, and experiencing their emotion when they were wrapped in their quilt by the quilt's makers were humbling and heartwarming.

I was grateful to recognize each member who contributed to making these quilts. It was fun to surprise Ralph Capone with a quilt. Having never been presented with a Veteran's quilt because he said, "I give, I don't receive", was a challenge to me to make sure, those words were no longer true.

I have seen so many people in my life, in various countries and cities, who feel they do not deserve to be recognized for what they have accomplished in their life. That makes me very sad. Being recognized for effort, kindness, service, and challenges conquered, etc., is not something we deserve. People watch and are impacted by others. They emulate what resonates with them. Celebrating someone who has given something without knowing they have is a human trait.

I am sorry I will not be with you for the December General meeting and luncheon. I have had a Cherrywood Fabrics Christmas Markets Rhine River Cruise booked for two-and-a-half years and it is finally here. I will think of each of you while on this journey. I am grateful for your patience, support, and encouragement over the last 10 years. I am thankful you all may have thought I was crazy taking on harder patterns and techniques and never told me I couldn't do that.

This December, please remember to welcome the new members or members you have not met. Welcome them to our guild with open arms, offering friendship, support, and encouragement. Invite them to sit next to you or attend a workshop together. That is how it started for me and I will be eternally grateful every day.

In gratitude,

SMQA Treasurers Report Recap
Per Board Meeting 10/01/26

Checking Account	
Beginning Balance 9/1	**$6,537.49**
Credits	**$2,243.52**
Debits	**$1,195.01**
Ending Balance	**$7,586.00**
Savings Accoumt	
Balance 9/31	**$9,482.00**
CD Account	
Account Balance 9/31	**$10,000.00**

Membership: Ku'ulei Arredondo

I'm happy to announce we are ending the year with 99 Members. Let's see if we can continue to grow. It's that time of year and we will have membership forms On-line, mail and at our January meeting. The membership is $35, 00 for individual, $50.00 for family. Do you have spouse and/or a grandchild you'd like to be a member? A friend or neighbor? All are welcome to join.

The 2027 Quilt Show is coming in May. Membership needs to be active to put in a quilt.

Have you started your Pincushion for the exchange at Winter luncheon? Please bring wrapped and let me know if it has Walnuts. You can put a note or card if you would like.

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 2

Do you enjoy sewing, quilting, embroidery, or other fiber arts? Come join **A Gathering of Stitchers 2**, a warm and welcoming group of needlework enthusiasts who enjoy sharing laughter, exchanging ideas, finding inspiration, and spending time together while working on our own creative projects. We meet once a month on the **second Thursday morning**, rotating among member homes in and near Yosemite Lakes Park. Whether you are an experienced stitcher or just enjoy working with needle and thread, you'll find a friendly circle and a place to share your love of needlework. **New members are always welcome!** For more information, please call Rebecca Brannon at 760-415-7212.

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.

December Refresments

Winter Luncheon



Deborah Austin	12-26
Joyce Azevedo	12-26
Helen Brown	12-18
Joan Earmest	12-14
Patricia Horne	12-23
Rhonda Lloyd	12-04
Janet Morita	12-26
Penni Simily	12-19
Sue Walker	12-25





Donations for November:

Hinds Lifecare received 5 cuddle quilts, 5 pillowcases, 3 wheelchair bags.
Veterans Home received 5 cuddle quilts, 5 wheelchair bags.
Valley Childrens Hospital received 13 foot brace covers, 5 cuddle quilts, 5 wheelchair bags.

*** WE NEED MORE CUDDLE QUILTS, PLEASE! ***
We will be accepting finished items at the Winter Luncheon. We will not be giving out any kits at the luncheon. One of our recipients is the Veterans Home. They especially like patriotic themes! (In case you have patriotic fabric left over from November!)

Cuddle Quilt Corner

Sandy Johnson and Tricia Lacey

1st Vice President: Joan Earnest and Sue Johnson

It's been a great year, hasn't it? Our programs included some of our own hidden gems, Highland Cows, improv quilting, ice dying, ocean art, a veteran's tribute and house shoes! It's been fun! All we have left for 2026 is the Winter Luncheon on Thursday, December 3. Please arrive at 2:00 pm so we can start the business meeting at 2:15 pm. Don't forget your contribution to Toys for Tots! If you have a Mystery Quilt, bring those by around 1:30 pm. Also, we're going to have regular show and tell after lunch. Other events of the day include In Memorium, installation of new board members, and a pin cushion exchange.

Just to give you a sneak peek into 2027 ~ January will be Game Day. February we will have a trunk show by Lura Schwarz Smith. (Can't wait for that!) And March will be our Cuddle Quilt Workday...that's always fun!

Yep, wrapping things up. It's been fun, and soon it will be out of our hands and into the capable hands of Margie Williams! Ring out the old and ring in the new!

Quilt Show Update
Maria Ciccarelli

Quilt Show Update: We're Making Great Progress!

Great news—opportunity quilt ticket sales have reached over $3000! I will have the exact total at the next general meeting Thank you to everyone who has helped us get this far.
This message is on repeat!
If you haven't had a chance to spend time with this beautiful quilt, there are still several opportunities to join the fun! Look at the dates below and your date book. Come ready to volunteer for your available dates. Sign-up sheets will be available at the next SMQA general meeting. Can't attend the December meeting but still want to help? Please call, text or email me. Remember: If you sign-up and plans change, please find a replacement for your time slot and let me know who they are.
Here are the upcoming dates when we need volunteers! Remember, this fundraiser helps us welcome amazing speakers and teachers, benefits every member, and keeps our membership fee affordable. Your time truly makes a difference! Every volunteer brings us one step closer to making our ONLY fundraiser a big success!
Upcoming Opportunity Quilt Showings—Come Join Us!
□ Bee's Bakery – Join us for a fun Saturday shift!
2026: December 19.
2027: January 9, February 20, March 13 & April 17.
Choose the shift that fits your day: 9am–11am or 11am–1pm. Bring a smile—we'll provide the beautiful quilt!
□ Bryant's Ace Hardware – Come be part of the fun on these Saturdays!
2026: December 12.
Pick your favorite shift: 10am–Noon, Noon–2pm, or 2pm–4pm. Every shift helps!
□ Woodcarvers Rendezvous – Join the team on April 14 and help us share the excitement!
□ Bear Paw at the Pines Quilt Retreat – Help us shine March 3–7!
□ Road to California – All slots are filled. Thank you to all that volunteered.
More Easy Ways to Help—and Have Fun!
□ Haven't picked up your tickets yet? Grab them at the next meeting or at Bear Paw, then help us keep the excitement—and ticket sales—growing!
□ Know of a great event where we could showcase the quilt? Please let me know—we'd love to explore it!
Also On Repeat: One More Volunteer Can Make a Big Difference!

We're still looking for someone to help schedule the Opportunity Quilt. Much of the legwork is already done, and I'll happily support whoever steps up. It's a fun and meaningful way to share our quilt with the community and help our fundraiser thrive!
Thank you to all who have volunteered so far. We appreciate it.

— Maria Ciccarelli – 559-760-3980 – maria@bearpawquiltsonline.com

November Show and Tell















Honoring our Veterans








Services from our Advertisers



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



Sierra Mountain Quilters Association

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Oakhurst, C 93644

sierramountainquilters.org

Visit us on Facebook

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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	**Joan Earnest & Sue Johnson**
Fall Retreat	**Ku"ulei Arredondo**