



# Sierra Mountain Quilters Association Newsletter

**July 2, 2026**

**Doors open at 5:30 P.M Meeting begins at 6:00 P.M.**

**Host Greeters: Foot loose**

**Program: Footloose Sewing Circle Trunk Show**

## **SMQA GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA**

**Call to Order  
Flag Salute**

**Welcome: Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**Reports:**

**Secretary - Minutes from June 4, 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 - Laura Gonzales**

**Fall Retreat - Ku'ulei Arredondo**

**New Business:**

**Show & Tell  
Refreshments**

**Program: Footloose Sewing Circle Trunk Show**

## **2026 Program Schedule**

- July 2 Footloose: Hidden Gems
- August 5 Hidden Gem Wendy Holt
- Aug 6 Workshop Janet Morita Ice Dying
- Sept 3 Darla Hall
- Sept 4 Workshop Free Motion Quilting
- October 1 Gwen Weedon 20 Years of a Quilting Journey
- Oct 2 Workshop Ocean Art Quilt
- November 5 Veteran's Day Program
- November 6 Workshop: Joan Earnest House Shoes
- December - Winter Luncheon

## **Amenities**

**Sympathy Card was sent to the family of Betty Fisher and a Get Well Card to Ku'ulei Arredondo**

## Sierra Mountain Quilters Association General Meeting Minutes, June 4, 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 June birthdays and anniversaries. Secretary Janet Morita Mary Gaston made a motion, Deb Austin seconded, to accept the May 7, 2026, general meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Treasurer, Dianna Conaway the treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

First Vice President, Joan Earnest and Sue Johnson Sue announced On July 2, Footloose will present a trunk show. On August 6, Wendy Holt will present a trunk show. Janet Morita will teach a fabric dyeing class the following day. On September 3, Darla Hall will present a trunk show. On September 4, she will teach a free motion quilting class.

On October 1, Gwen Weedon will present "20 years of a Quilting Journey" and then, the following day, teach an Ocean Art Quilt class; 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. Joan reported she and Sue have volunteered to chair the Spring Retreat. It is scheduled for April 5-8, 2027.

Second Vice President, Sue Walker, reported the library sewing program for children will be July 7-9, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Ten members have volunteered to help. The library requires new volunteers to fill out and sign a form before the event.

Membership, Ku'ulei Arredondo, reported we have 93 paid members with 37 members and 5 visitors attending tonight. One of those visitors joined the guild to make it 94 members. Drawing winners were Sam Murray and Margie Williams.

Fall Retreat, Ku'ulei Arredondo, reported the dates are Sept 14-17. It will be daytime only. The cost is \$43/day and can be paid by check, cash or online.

Newsletter, Kathy Burrow, absent

Webmaster, Sally Walker, announced she has tickets for the opportunity quilt, and she encouraged members to sell or buy their tickets this year.

Cuddle Quilts, Tricia Lacey, announced 31 quilt kits were made at the last Cuddle Quilt workday. The next workday will be Aug. 25, (Tuesday). Last month cuddle quilts were donated to Valley Childrens, Hinds Life Care, and Terry's House.

Quilt Show, Maria Ciccarelli, sent a report. The Opportunity Quilt is here and completed. We still need a scheduler. Tickets need to be sold this year, and postcards will be available soon. Four vendors have already signed up for the quilt show.

Wendy announced Betty Fisher has passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m. followed by show and tell and the ice cream social.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Morita, secretary.

### Wendy's Window

**Happy July! I'm so sorry I won't be able to see you this month.**

**The 250th Birthday/Anniversary of the United States of America is coming up two days after our General Business meeting. It's a humbling thought to reflect on 250 years and all the changes we've experienced. Even this year, our guild and members have faced so much—health issues, births, deaths, weddings, accidents, and celebrations. As a guild, we're pretty good at checking in with each other, asking, "Have you heard about..." or sending a quick text. How often do we pick up the phone to chat? How often do we invite someone to grab a coffee or go for a walk? When was the last time you wrote a letter and sent it through the mail? In this fast-paced world, it's important to take a moment to look back.**

**Back in 1776, horses and buggies were the only way to get around. News traveled slowly, sometimes taking days, weeks, or even months to reach you. Everything was handwritten. Neighbors looked out for each other because there weren't many services available. My great-grandmother, born in 1882, gave birth to 12 children at home without any medical help. Sadly, three of them didn't make it. She made all the family's clothes and quilts by hand. Meals were cooked over a fire, and later, on a wood stove. She washed clothes on a washboard, wrung them out by hand, and hung them to dry. She was up before dawn and tended to her garden until she was well into her 90s. In the evenings, the family would get together. Each person would share a talent they had, like reading aloud, reciting a poem, singing in harmony, or putting on a play. If someone criticized another, they were encouraged to "get up and do it better. I always feel a pang of missing my great-grandmother, grandmother, and mother. They were my guides, teaching me the true essence of being a lady—that inner beauty, the kind that shines from within, is the most enduring and valuable. They showed me the importance of family and community through their actions, reminding me that love and support are always there. They also taught me that hard work is a gift, and striving for excellence is something to be proud of.**

**Before cell phones and pagers, Mom and Dad always told us to head home when the streetlights came on. We'd gather around the dinner table, sharing stories and laughter, enjoying each other's company. We eagerly awaited the arrival of letters from the postal carrier we knew by name. We walked more, and we knew everyone's eyes because we looked into them.**

**This July, please take a moment to appreciate all the beautiful sights and sounds around us in the Sierra Foothills. Watch a bird soar on a thermal, joining other birds in the sky. Notice how a tiny quail, so small, is already thriving with its family. Appreciate the gentle grace of the deer and the joyful hum of the hummingbird. Take in the majesty of the mountains and the strength of the trees. Connect with each other, spending quality time truly seeing and hearing. Write a heartfelt letter and see how much joy you can bring to someone else. Slow down and be present. It's a magical journey.**

**Cheers!  
Wendy**



**SMQA TREASURER'S REPORT RECAP**

Dianna Conaway  
5/31/2026

**Checking Account**

Beginning Balance 5/1	\$9,768.62
Credits	\$1,828.70
Debits	-\$1,786.15
Ending Balance 5/31	<b>\$9,811.17</b>

**Savings Account**

Beginning Balance 5/1	\$9,459.15
Credits	\$8.92
Debits	\$0.00
Ending Balance 5/31	<b>\$9,468.07</b>

**CD Account**

Beginning Balance 5/1	\$10,532.04
Credits	\$0.00
Ending Balance 5/31	<b>\$10,532.04</b>

**Fall Retreat**

Fall Retreat September 14th - 17th

Signups with payment at the June meeting,  
On Line or you can pay by mail to SMQA.

Payment can be mailed to my home  
address.



**Circle Hostesses and Greeters for**

- July: Footloose
- August: Gonzalez Family
- September: Bits and Pieces
- October: Anything with Fabric
- November: A Gathering of Stitches
- December: Guild Board Members



## Opportunity Quilt

### Quilt Scheduler Needed!

Wondering what that entails?

The Quilt Scheduler finds venues to display our Opportunity Quilt and sell raffle tickets. Taking our quilt out into the community is one of the best ways to showcase it and raise funds for our guild. We also take it to larger quilt shows and visit other quilt guilds, so the quilt gets plenty of exposure both locally and out of town.

The second part of the job is finding volunteers to transport the quilt, set it up, and sell tickets at each location.

Invite your bestie or make a new friend — this would be a great job for two people to share and work on together!

## Membership

Ku'ulei Arredondo

We have 94 current members. Welcome to our newest member to join this month was Janise Wilson.

## Our Mission

Promote the preservation of traditional needlework and quilting techniques, while encouraging experimentation in contemporary application of these techniques. Educate the public in general about the value of artistic, handcrafted quilted items.

Encourage cooperation, fellowship, creativity, and quality craftsmanship.

## 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](#).

Gus Arrrendondo	July 04	Phebe Burrow	July 20
Diana Conaway	July 17	Barbara Graas	July 19
Sue Graham	July 16	Beverly Gulley	July 29
Patty Huff	July 26	Jaydene Johnson	July 19
Sandy Johnson	July 01	Lisa Kernaghan	July 22
Tricia Lacey	July 07	Lynette Stanford	July 14
Nancy Swanson	July 26	Laurel Thompson	July 20
Carol VanKoff	July 29	Virginia Waters	July 11
Beverly Williams	July 16	Janise Wilson	July 17

**July Refreshments**  
  
**Lisa Kernaghan**  
**Peter Gonzalez**

Cuddle Quilt Corner  
  
Sandy Johnson and Tricia Lacey



This month we received 10 cuddle quilts and 8 wheelchair bags that were donated to Valley Children’s Hospital. Next cuddle quilt week day is August 25 in the community room at the library. Please plan to come, bring a friend! We are in need of LARGE wheelchair bags. They are very easy to make and are much appreciated by the recipients. Time is from 9:00 to 1:00 . If you can’t stay the entire time a few hours work is great.

*Sandy Johnson*

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

That was fun! Speaking here about the ice cream social. Everybody milling around, chatting it up, and eating delicious ice cream! Who could ask for more. I'd like to thank the board for the toppings and the scooping ... and a special shoutout to Joan Earnest for putting all these programs together. (Sue just does what Joan tells her to do!)

Next month will be fun too. We get to see what treasures are hidden on the walls, sofas, closets and piles of the members of the Footloose Sewing Circle. Those members include Joanie Madaus, Mary Ziebarth, Lisa Kernaghan, Wendy Holt, Barbara Graas, Ku'ulei Arredondo, Sally Walker, Lynn Gray, Deb Austin, Betsy Blum, Tina Horn and Dianna Conaway. This should be interesting and inspirational!

And what else are we looking forward to? Wendy Holt's trunk show on August 6. All that Judy Niemyer paper piecing! Should be awesome! Then Janet Morita's class in ice dying the next day! I'm so excited about it. Last time I brought home such beautiful hand dyed fabrics! It's easy and turns out so amazing!

After that is Darla Hall in September with a workshop in free motion quilting. In October, Gwen Weedon from Morro Bay showing us how to do an ocean art quilt. The November meeting will honor the veterans, and the next day Joan Earnest will show us how to make adorable house shoes. Winter luncheon in December & that's 2026! Woo woo!

## *June Show and Tell*







# 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](mailto:katsmountain@gmail.com) or see form listed on following page. Please

**BEAR PAW QUILTS & MORE**  
**OPEN TUESDAY - SATURDAY 10AM - 5PM**  
FABRIC NOTIONS CLASSES  
MACHINE REPAIR  
facebook  
**559-683-7397**  
40761 Highway 41—Suite 7, Oakhurst, CA

An advertisement for Bear Paw Quilts & More. The ad is set against a colorful quilted background. It features the business name in large red letters, operating hours in yellow, and a list of services including 'FABRIC NOTIONS CLASSES' and 'MACHINE REPAIR'. A cartoon bear is on the left, and a Facebook logo is in the center. The phone number '559-683-7397' and address '40761 Highway 41—Suite 7, Oakhurst, CA' are at the bottom.



**Sierra Mountain  
Quilters  
Association**

P.O. Box 1359  
Oakhurst, C 93644

[sierramountainquilters.org](http://sierramountainquilters.org)



[facebook.com/SierraMountainQuiltersAssociation](https://facebook.com/SierraMountainQuiltersAssociation)

**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](mailto:katsmountain@gmail.com)

**Deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> 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