



Sierra Mountain Quilters Association Newsletter

January 8, 2026

Doors open at 12:30 P.M Meeting begins at 1:00 P.M.

Host Greeters: Laura Gonzalez

Program: Game Day Bunko

SMQA GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

JANUARY 8, 2026

Call to Order

Flag Salute

Welcome

Reports:

**Secretary - Minutes from December
4, 2025 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

New Business

Show & Tell

Program: Game Day

2026 Program Schedule

January - Game Day

February - Bits and Pieces Hidden Gems

March - Cuddle Quilt Workday

June - Ice Cream Social

November - Veteran's Day Program

December - Winter Luncheon

Circle Hostesses and Greeters for

January: Laura Gonzales

February:

March:

April:

June:

July:

August:

September:

October:

November:

December: Guild Board Members

**Sierra Mountain Quilters Association
General Meeting Minutes, December 4, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by president, Sue Johnson, at Bee's Bakery followed by the flag salute. Sue recognized December birthdays and anniversaries. The 2026 Mystery Quilt signup was passed around.

Secretary, Janet Morita Laura Gonzalez made a motion, Rebecca Brannon seconded, to accept the November 6, 2025, general meeting minutes. The motion carried.

First Vice Presidents, Joan Earnest and Sally Walker. Joan announced The program in January will be a game day, in February, members of Bits and Pieces will be Hidden Gems; and in March, it will be a Cuddle Quilt workday. The yo-yo trees on the tables were made by Anything with Fabric and she told everyone to take one home.

Treasurer, Lisa Kernaghan, reported the 2026 budget is completed. Bev Gulley made a motion and Mel Peters seconded to approve 2026 budget. The motion carried.

The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Membership, Ku'ulei Arredondo, reported we have 100 members. In January, it will be time to reenroll.

Cuddle Quilts, Tricia Lacey, announced 513 cuddle quilts were turned in this year. Awards will be announced in January.

Margie Williams conducted the monthly block raffle which was won by Sandy Giersch.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m. followed by lunch, in memoriam, installation of new officers, show and tell, mystery quilts, and a drawing for prizes.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Morita, secretary.



President's Message Wendy's Windows

Happy 2026 Sierra Mountain Quilters!

2025 was a big year for our guild. The bi-annual quilt show represented the talent and creativity of our members. Members sold Opportunity Quilt Raffle tickets, bringing in over \$10,000 to support the guild for the next two years. Thank you. Cuddle quilt sewers (a person who sews) showed up strong, making quilts, pillowcases, wheelchair bags, isolate covers, belly bands, etc., that were delivered to multiple organizations to comfort and assist those in need. Thank you.

The Spring and Fall retreats were filled with members and guests who came together for a common purpose: to create uninterrupted for a few days and let the kitchen staff feed and clean up afterwards.

Programs were given by various members and outside speakers. Workshops brought us new techniques to learn and build our skills and camaraderie. Our last meeting was a warm, creative, and delicious Winter luncheon attended by 63 members at Bee's Bakery. Thank all of you who hung your mystery quilts and participated in Show and Tell. Thank you, Teri De La Torre, for installing the 2026 officers with rules and wit. Thank you, Tina and Elizabeth, for opening up your restaurant for the Guild and making our last meeting of the year memorable.

Thank you to the 2025 Board and committee members for working diligently all year. Your efforts have built the guild back up to 100 members. We have junior members who not only participated in the quilt show but also continued to bring their show and tells to inspire all of us to complete projects and proudly share with others.

As America celebrates its 250th year, I am looking forward to honoring Veterans with Quilts of Valor presentations this year. As a 401C4, it is our mandate to give back to our community. The Mariposa ladies have made a beautiful quilt to be used by a community organization to help them raise money. If you know of a community organization who is looking for this type of item, please let me know.

I am looking forward to this year listening, working together, and building a great bond between each member. Let's talk to each other, not about each other. Let's celebrate learning and growing. Let's challenge ourselves and each other to build a skill we did not know we could.

Let's cheer and encourage others to visit and join in the fun. Let 2026 be a positive and join in the fun. Let 2026 be a positive and inspiring year.

Amenities

2 cards were sent in December:
A get-well card to Joanne Brysendean
Thinking of you card to Faith Moore

Spring Retreat dates April 13-16, 2026, more information to come next month! Contact Laura with any questions, 559 676-0205.



Spinelli, Patty	01/04
Burrow, Anadel	01/06
Pennington, Linda	01/06
Madaus, Joanie	01/07
Russell, Teresa	01/10
Murray, Samuel	01/12
Gonzalez, Francie	01/20
Sobel, Cynthia	01/29
Donahue, Laura	01/31

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](#).

January Refreshment Signups

**Linda Miller,
Nancy Swanson,
Bev Gulley,
and Peggy Myers.**

Membership

Ku'ulei Arredondo

January is almost here, time to renew your membership. The 2026 Membership form will be available online by January 1, 2026. You can renew your membership Online, at the meeting, or by mail. The membership form has been revised to simplify if there are no changes to your personal information.

We are 100 members strong, and I hope we can continue to grow.

Fall Retreat

Mark your calendar, the dates for the Fall Retreat are Monday, September 14th ~ 17th at ECCO

Calling all members. We are still needing volunteers for the Opportunity Quilt. We would love to see all members participate. Wendy will be prepping the fabrics and giving personalized instructions. No need to square up the units that are completed. We will also need volunteers for removing the papers, binding, making the label, etc.

1st Vice Presidents' Message

Joan Ernest

Happy New Year to 2026!! Goodbye to 2025! We had a very nice time at our Winter Luncheon in early December. We used Bee's Bakery outdoor patio and it was very comfortable. A combination of good things lent it to being great. Great weather, good space heaters and the plastic tent over the open wall all kept the heat in. The food was delicious and oh, my goodness, the mystery quilts were fantastic! With those quilts on the walls it felt as if we were in a cozy indoor space. Teri De la Torre got the officers installed in her adorable funny way. Coming up in January we have our annual Game Day. And, due to popular demand, we will be playing Bunco again! It was so much fun last year. If you've never played, have no fear. It is very easy to learn, and it doesn't take any brains. Since it relies completely on luck, if you lose a lot, no biggie. If you lose a whole lot, you may win a prize for the Biggest Loser!! It does require a lot of movement so that you end up sharing a table with almost everyone who's there. Be sure to come on January 8th to enjoy the fun. Remember it's a daytime meeting that begins at 1 pm with the doors open at 12:30 pm. See you there!

QUILT SHOW 2027 – UPDATE

We are still looking to fill in a couple of committee chairs for the 2027 Quilt Show.

The positions are Opportunity Quilt Scheduling and Vendors. Talk to a friend and volunteer together. I can also help with sharing the load.

This is a great opportunity to get to know some of the members better. If you are on the fence, come to our next Quilt Show Committee meeting on Friday,

February 6, at 2pm, at Bear Paw. Don't miss out on the fun!
Thank you – Maria Ciccarelli

We are still looking for more Opportunity Quilt Volunteers

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lisa Kernaghan

November 30, 2025

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance 11/1/25 \$11,516.93

Credits in November \$163.93

Debits in November \$814.00

ENDING BALANCE \$10,866.86

(11/30/2025)

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Balance 11/1/25 \$9,407.25

Credits in November \$8.58

ENDING BALANCE \$9,415.83

(11/30/2025)

CD ACCOUNT

Balance 11/1/25 \$10,350.01

ENDING BALANCE \$10,350.01

(11/30/2025)

CIRCLE INFORMATION

Both of the following circles are open to everyone

ANYTHING WITH FABRIC

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

Mindful Stitchers

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.



Cuddle Quilt Corner

Sandy Johnson

"December is the time for remembering the past and reaching for the future."

A great year in cuddle quilt donations along with all the other items. A total of 536 assorted items were made. Give yourselves a round of applause ladies!

Cuddle quilts, 154; wheelchair bags, 60; isolate covers, 6; heart pillows, 3; bibs, 24; scent hearts, 20 sets; belly bands, 50; pillowcases, 164; accessory bags, 29; sensory blankets, 26.

Items were donated to Veterans Home, Majestic Mountain Care Center, Helping Hands, Hines Hospice, Terry's House, Kases for Kids, Ryan's Cases for Smiles, Madera County Sheriff, Sierra Ambulance, and Mendota Farm Workers.

December donations were: Helping Hands, 24 bibs and 2 cuddle quilts and Kathy Burrow took 49 quilts to the Mendota Farm workers

Thanks to everyone who gave their time to make all these wonderful items for the Cuddle Quilt Program. And a big thanks to those ladies who helped make kits, donate finished items, sort fabric, write newsletter articles, and offer encouragement to those doing the work.

A prize will be awarded to the lady who donated the most cuddle quilts at our January meeting.

A special thank you from the Mendota Workers came through the individuals responsible for delivering the blankets thanking those who worked so hard to make those who received your quilts so loved this Christmas Season. Thank you on behalf of the Workers and their families.



Mystery Quilt

We are hours away from turning the last page of 2025 and ready to start a new chapter in 2026... and start a new Mystery Quilt project as well! We have 31 people currently signed up for 2026. I hope you enjoy this one!

I have sent a PDF to Sally Walker to post on our SMQA website. It tells you a little bit about the Mystery Quilt and offers a little note regarding fabrics for our new project.

I will follow up the first of next week with our first clue... so buckle up! This train is ready to roll!! I hope you enjoy the new project... and method of getting the instructions. I will continue to use the SMQA website for all Mystery Quilt instructions which will be posted the first week of each month.

Sinta Boreland

December Show and Tell





2025 Mystery Quilts





Services from our Advertisers

BEAR PAW QUILTS & MORE
Up Coming Classes...

WEDDING STAR FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JANUARY 16 & 17
TEACHER: **WENDY HOLT**

CRISSCROSS APRON SATURDAY, JANUARY 24
TEACHER: **LINDA HAWKSWORTH**

FEATHERWEIGHT MAINTENANCE SATURDAY, JANUARY 31
TEACHER: **JOE YEATTS**

MELODY MEMORY BEAR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7
TEACHER: **BRENDA WILLOUGHBY**

Call us for More Information on Classes

559-683-7397

40761 Highway 41 - Suite 7, Oakhurst, CA 93644

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FABRIC
NOTIONS
PATTERNS



Did you miss out on the Martelli sale at Bear Paw? I have one for sale still in the box \$3500.00 I need to relocate and don't have the room. Also I have a Babylock Tiara sit down long arm for \$1500. Penni Simily 559-579-8319



Sierra Mountain Quilters Association 2026 Membership Form

Your membership dues support the many functions
SMQA including meetings, speakers, workshops,
newsletter, website, quilting retreats, circles, biennial Quilt Show and fellowship.

Membership: (Circle one) Individual: \$35; Family: \$50; Half Year: \$17.50

Date: _____

Please Print Clearly

NAME(S): _____

Date(s) of Birth: (Month/Day) _____

Fill out the section below, only if you have updates from last year's information.

ADDRESS:

Street Address _____

Mailing Address (If different from above) _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

PHONE: (Please put ** after preferred number)

Cell _____ Home _____ Work _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Contact Phone: _____ Relationship: _____

YOUR EMAIL: _____

Newsletters are delivered via email. If you don't have an email address and can't access our website at www.sierramountainquilters.org to view the newsletter and you are unable to have a friend print a copy for you, it can be mailed to you.

Note: Please mail your check to SMQA, P.O. Box 1359, Oakhurst, CA 93644

Membership Chair Use Only:

Date Paid: _____

Check #: _____ Credit Card (Online): _____

Square Terminal: _____ Cash: _____ Amount: _____

To pay online please follow link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScnoSYnIxac6AhBJ83nlgAPWRHPNOuxd8pm0Atk1T8tgtSBw/viewform>



Sierra Mountain Quilters Association

P.O. Box 1359
Oakhurst, CA 93644

sierramountainquilters.org



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

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