



JUNE/JULY 2018

### From the Executive Director

Summer, the season between spring and autumn. The time when many quilters turn to another love—gardening. A time for vacations, weddings, family reunions, picnics with hot dogs, apple pie, and no mosquitos! I hope



*Ann Rehbein,  
Executive Director*

your summer is everything you hope it will be and that you are thinking about the next QOV you will make.

The QOVF Annual Conference was held in Myrtle Beach, SC, and started off with a festive Star Spangled Fundraising Dinner. The food was delicious, the message well delivered, and the auction baskets fun to bid on.

Clouds and rain prevented many from coveted walks on the beach, but the atmosphere inside was bright and sunny as a meet-and-greet with Marianne

Fons was a highlight for many. A sewing room outfitted with sewing machines and equipment allowed guests to take a break and sew a block or two. Each day began with a breakfast buffet before the conference activities started. Award ceremonies were held daily, and breakout or general sessions were held by each of the Executive Staff. The quiltmaker's shuffle (ask Ginger Fondren to demonstrate), Q & A, and a demonstration and giveaway from AccuQuilt by Pam Heller were other topics. A vendor mall and QOV store offered opportunities for members to find that certain something special.

A big thank you to Sandra Chambers, Event Coordinator, for ensuring a smooth conference experience and to the South Carolinians who did much of the work behind the scenes. I know they didn't do it alone, but special thanks go to Jim and Joan Wobbleton and to Anne Mixon. I would also like to thank Jeff Thorne for the amazing photos you see in this

newsletter. Click this [link](#) to view them all.

The QOVF Annual Conference closed with this reflection, and I was asked to share it in the newsletter:

### HANDS

*Look at your hands, these hands have seen a lot through the years. As a young child these hands held your parents' hands, then perhaps holding your first love's hands, your spouse's hand, your own child's hand. These hands have seen a lot, both good and bad, happy and sad. These hands have been jabbed by a needle and cut by a rotary cutter. These precious hands, your hands, are the hands of the most giving people in the world, these hands have comforted a warrior, healed an ache, soothed a bad memory, brought tears and laughter and hugs.*

*Thank you for the use of your hands.*

Until next time, quilt with piece and happiness, knowing you are making a difference.



*Thanks to highly engaged members, ideas and inspiration for moving the mission of QOVF forward were strong throughout the 2018 Annual Conference.*

## 2018 QOVF NATIONAL CONFERENCE



The 2018 Annual Conference wasn't all fun and games, but there was a fun photo session by the pool with attendees.



Ginger Fondren, Assistant ED, shows off the Quiltmaker's Shuffle.



"Presenting to Civic or Other Groups" was the topic of Renelda Peldunas-Harter's lecture.



Anne Mixon spoke about South Carolina's QOV system.



Sue Reich, QOVF Board President, introduced the new QOV book, Quilts of Valor—A 50 State Salute due to be published this fall.



*Elayne Gassett helped attendees understand the responsibilities of the longarm coordinators.*



*Marianne Fons shared several compelling stories with attendees.*



*Thank you for your service! Veteran attendees at QOVF Annual Conference pose for a photo together.*

*All 2018 QOVF Conference photos  
courtesy of Jeff Thorne.*

*Conference attendees enjoy a presentation.*





Daily QOV awards ceremonies are a highlight of the Annual Conference for many.



Sandy Chambers spoke about the Under Our Wings program.



A signature quilt made by Marianne Elliott and quilted by Les Page was a special part of the conference.



Conference attendees learn from one another and by attending special sessions that target specific topics.



John "Rowdy" Oxley tells his story at the Star-Spangled Banner Banquet.



Conference registration is a busy hub as participants check in.



Ann Rehbein introduces QOVF board members from left to right: Sue Reich, Renelda Peldunas-Harter, Liz Nolan, Mary Persyn, and Marianne Elliott.



Conference attendees learned much during their meeting sessions. Much of that knowledge will, in turn, be shared with their local QOV Groups.

## QOVF BOD OPEN POSITION

Quilts of Valor Foundation is seeking applicants for the position of Board of Director Secretary. The official bylaw description is: The Secretary shall be a member of the Board of Directors and shall attend all sessions of the Board and all meetings of the members and act as

clerk thereof, and record all the votes and minutes thereof in books to be kept for that purpose. The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the members and of the Board, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board or by the Chairman. The Secretary, or another person directed by the board, shall keep in safe custody the corporate seal of the

Corporation, and may affix the same to any document requiring it and attest the same. Members of the Board of Directors serve at no cost to the Foundation.

The BOD meets face-to-face twice a year and by teleconference on the 4th Thursday of the remaining months. Please submit your application to Mary Persyn at [mary.persyn@QOVF.org](mailto:mary.persyn@QOVF.org). Application deadline is July 23, 2018.



Renelda Peldunas-Harter presents at the Star Spangled Dinner.



Mr. George Olson receives his QOV award during the Star Spangled Dinner.

### FROM THE QOVF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' PRESIDENT

Quilts of Valor began as a grass roots organization in 2003. Our mission "to wrap military touched by war," is the driving force of the Foundation. With nearly 9,000 members nationwide and over 187,000 quilts awarded, the formation of our current structure: a Board of Directors (BOD), Executive Staff, State Coordinators, Group Leaders, and Members, is securely in place to accomplish our mission.

Beginning in January, 2016, I was voted to the BOD based on my experience serving on other state and national boards of successful quilting organizations. The immense scope, size, intensity, and expectations in all aspects of QOVF became immediately evident to me. In June, 2016, my first action as BOD President was to increase the size of the BOD from five to nine members in order to facilitate the membership's ability to accomplish QOVF's mission from a fiduciary and organizational standpoint.

Over the past two years, strategic planning has become a critical aspect of our expanded approach in meeting those responsibilities. Last fall, during strategic planning, the BOD determined it necessary to pay salaries to the Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, and Membership Coordinator. The continued success of QOVF required this more formal, professional approach equivalent with other national organizations. Salary schedules reflecting midwest, non-profit

organizations were reviewed. The final decision was reached based on recommendations by QOVF financial advisers, the 2017 BOD, and the 2018 BOD, effective January, 2018.

Salary expenditures for 2018 will total \$85,000 covering the Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, and Membership Coordinator. In all honesty, this amount reflects the low end of the salary scales of equivalent non-profit executive staff levels. In addition, our Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, and Membership Director were very reluctant to collect any salary.

If you currently promote QOVF as an ALL-volunteer organization, this information must be changed. QOVF has actually employed an accountant for many years. As we continue to grow, with outreach to national corporations or the defense industry for grants, and the need to conform to increased Federal requirements, this BOD business decision was necessary to move QOVF forward.

If you have any further questions about actions of the BOD or QOVF, please email me at [sue.reich@qovf.org](mailto:sue.reich@qovf.org).

On behalf of the QOVF BOD, I thank you for all you do for QOVF. At the membership level is where our real strength lies as we continue to fulfill the mission of QOVF with dignity, honor, and grace.

Sue Reich  
President, QOVF Board of Directors



### QOV SERVICE COIN AWARD WINNER

Anne Mixon Broadwater was nominated and awarded a QOV Service Coin for her dedicated efforts in South Carolina to fulfill the needs of that state. Anne and the network she has established awarded 2,420 QOVs in 2017. She obtained a local building in the town of Matthews, SC, and worked with the town and county officials to bring the building up to standards so that it can now be used as the SC State Headquarters of QOVF. Members meet weekly to make and sew QOVs and also hold award ceremonies at that facility. Anne was nominated by Jim and Joan Wobbleton and Susan Gordon.



Anne Mixon receives her service coin award from Sue Reich.

## 2018 BLOCK DRIVE IS A SUCCESS!

Information Provided by  
Suzanne DiCarlo

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2018 National Block Drive. We had a tremendous response of 6,804 blocks reported. These blocks will help with the 5,600 outstanding QOV requests. Based on 20 blocks per quilt, that's 340 QOVs that will be assembled to help reduce the backlog. Please check our [Facebook page](#) for pictures. Look to see if you find a block you made in one of the assembled QOVs. We hope to have the 2019 Block Drive posted later this summer. Keep an eye out for it! And thanks for helping with OUR QOVF mission!



## CONDOLENCES



J. Marie Norris, State Coordinator in Oregon, passed away on Sunday, June 2, 2018, in a single vehicle crash close to her home. We are grateful to have known her and to have recently visited with her when she attended the QOVF Annual Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC. She was a delight to talk to and dedicated to the mission of Quilts of Valor.

Private memorial services will be held at a later date. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to her family at the following address:

Karen Gilliam  
420 NE 40th St.  
Pendleton, OR 97802

## GOODBYES, HELLOS, AND HELP WANTED

Information Provided by Ann  
Rehbein

Elayne Gassett, Longarm Coordinator extraordinaire, decided to retire on her 75th birthday, June 2, 2018. Thank you, Elayne, for your dedicated service to QOVF, for the long hours you have spent, and for the compassion you have in serving our nation's veterans. Elayne has shared that she looks forward to being able to spend more time honoring the veterans on the local level in her area. We wish you the very best Elayne. Happy, happy birthday and many more!

Sheryl Bullman has assumed the duties of Longarm Coordinator. Sheryl had been assisting Elayne Gassett and is looking forward to being able to contribute in this capacity. Sheryl can be contacted at [sheryl.bullman@qovf.org](mailto:sheryl.bullman@qovf.org). Kathleen Decker has become a contributing editor for Threads. She can be reached at [Kathleen.decker@qovf.org](mailto:Kathleen.decker@qovf.org). Welcome to both these ladies!

Pam Leese, longtime State Coordinator for Florida has retired from that position. Thank you, Pam, for your many years of dedication to the veterans of Florida. Pam is looking forward to continuing to work in her local area. Also retiring is Warren Larsen in Iowa. Warren will continue to work with his group and certified shop. We wish them both well.

State Coordinator positions are open in Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Utah. Please contact Ginger Fondren for the job descriptions and applications. She can be reached at [ginger.fondren@qovf.org](mailto:ginger.fondren@qovf.org). Area coordinators are also welcomed in each state to help take the burden from the state coordinator. Contact your individual state coordinator or Ginger Fondren if you are interested in being an area coordinator for your state.

If you would like to be more involved in QOVF at the staff level, please contact Ann Rehbein at [Ann.rehbein@qovf.org](mailto:Ann.rehbein@qovf.org). Assistants are welcome for many staff positions to ensure coverage at all times or to do special projects. IT skills are especially needed at this time.

## MEMBER FEEDBACK

*Editor's Note: The following letter was received along with a request to share it with the QOVF executive staff and all members. It represents the opinion of the writer. It has been edited in length for brevity.*

Hello,

I am in complete agreement that in order to move this organization onto a more professional footing and negotiate with outside agencies for increased growth and other organizational support, the QOVF Director needs to have a reasonable salary in order to expect the director to utilize undivided attention to the many duties of this position. Not only is it customary for non-profit organizations to financially compensate officers, it is a matter of public record what the directors of non-profit organizations make. The salaries for the Scouts, both unquestionably great and ethical organizations, are markedly higher than the new QOVF Board salaries, and include retirement and other benefits.

Therefore, although it is a new phenomenon for QOVF to have compensated staff members, it is the rule for non-profit organizations, not the exception. These are the facts.

Now, for my opinion as a member (100% volunteer). Each person in QOVF should contribute as they wish, and as they feel comfortable. If they feel that they are exceeding their time, money, energy, or ability, they should feel empowered to redirect their resources so as not to overtax themselves. It is possible to give too much of oneself and exhaust time, money, or emotions. That is not the intent of a volunteer organization.

But for those of us for whom this activity is an indirect way of serving our country, and thanking warriors who have suffered traumatic effects of war, it should be reassuring that the organization is moving to a more professional level.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Kathleen Decker

## QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program

By Myra Coddens

Welcome aboard to our newest members of the Certified Quilt Shop Program. The following shops completed certification since the last newsletter:

Go 2 Quilt It Fremont, NE  
118 Fabrics & More Sweet Valley, PA  
Virginia Highlands Quilt Shop Abingdon, VA

Virginia has been added to the list of states with QOVF Certified Quilt Shops. Our program now has 108 shops in 38 states.

When completing the New Quilt Shop registration form, please note that if there is a current QOV Group working with the shop, there is no need to send an additional annual fee; this has already been paid through the QOV Group. Note: To simplify renewals and reduce confusion going forward, QOV Group and QOVF Certified Quilt Shop renewal dates are being recalibrated to the same date, regardless of when a shop originally registered.

(Myra Coddens is the QOVF Certified Quilt Shop Program Coordinator. Contact Myra at [myra.coddens@qovf.org](mailto:myra.coddens@qovf.org).)

## Quilts Reported

**2012:** 6,169

**2013:** 12,314

**2014:** 17,373

**2015:** 18,772

**2016:** 19,051

**2017:** 24,009

**2018:** 9,337

**Total: 188,712**

(from date of first award through  
31 May 2018)

*The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.*

### QOVF Core Values

Treating people with respect • Promoting excellence • Valuing service over self • Being accountable

**QOVF Founder and  
Board Member Emeritus**  
Catherine Roberts

**Board Member Emeritus**  
Eric McCarty  
Marianne Fons  
Walt Davis

**Board of Directors**  
Sue Reich, Chair  
June Moore, Secretary/Historian  
Michelle Nelson, Treasurer  
Elizabeth Nolan, Fundraising  
Renelda Peldunas-Harter, Member  
Mary Persyn, Member  
Marianne Elliott, Member  
Tony Jacobson, Member  
Mary Kerr, Member

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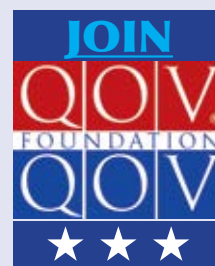
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For more information about QOVF, see  
[www.QOVF.org](http://www.QOVF.org)

For more information about the BOD,  
the QOVF staff, and how to contact your  
State Coordinator (SCs) go to  
[www.qovf.org/meet-us/](http://www.qovf.org/meet-us/)

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### Newsletter

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