VIRGINIA CONSORTIUM OF QUILTERS

December 2026 Volume 43 Issue 4

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear VCQ Members:

I'm happy to tell you how much the past two years as your president have meant to me. You are a great group of quilters whose talents know no bounds. I have enjoyed getting to know many of you and just wish it was every one of you. The quilter leaders who came before us in the Virginia Consortium of Quilters were so smart in setting up our Board so that half is elected each year, which ensures someone has gone before. Karilyn Pittman will become president at midnight New Year's Eve. She is bringing some great ideas and is very enthusiastic about VCQ, its history and its future. She will be a great president.

About the time Karilyn becomes president, we will have finished our annual New Years Eve Day quilting event. Details are in this newsletter. This special day has become one of our best recruitment tools. Free to everyone, 100 quilters share the last few hours of the year with friends, sewing and laughter. Kathy Hippeli is once again bringing us a stellar workshop. If you are among the lucky 100 and find you cannot attend, let Kathy virtualprograms@vcq.org or info@vcq.org or me president@vcq.org know. We always have a waiting list – someone will fill that spot.

In my tenure, the Board has updated the Policies and Procedures to reflect our use of technology, including on-line registrations, banking, newsletters, meetings and workshops. Sue Price began the process before the pandemic with Deb Schupp continuing the effort. This year the Board took on the project. We deleted many of the previously mandatory but out-dated chores that we were ignoring, such as mailing information and post cards before the In-Person meetings, and wrote procedures as they actually work now. That means we will be revising again in a few years as new technology is invented. But the quilters who will be leading us then will have our words to support them.

We have also revised VCQ regions to reflect where you quilters live, going from nine areas without firm edges to twelve areas of equal size and population. No Area Representative should be overly burdened. If one is, we have developed a plan to sub-divide that area into smaller units with the help of new Community Representatives. Debbie Repass led the charge on this one - we are still working on this so stay tuned for more on how you can help. Moving forward, we will need both Area Reps and Community Reps.

We also had so much fun because that's what quilting is all about. We have had incredible workshops both in-person and virtual. Come Quilt With Me Zoom events were held six times per month where the talk ranged from quilting to fabric design and processing to soup making. Many of us worked on Meghan Shafer's Mystery quilt during the Sunday sessions. We will have a showing of those quilts at the March meeting. The pinnacle of the year was Celebration where

we celebrated America's 250th Birthday! The weekend was filled with red, white, and blue. Quilts were made, friendships bloomed and a good time was had by all.

If you really want to enjoy the Virginia Consortium of Quilters, join a committee. You won't be overburdened - unless you volunteer for everything. What you will earn is the friendships of over 300 quilters from all over Virginia who want to hear your story and want you to hear theirs. You are a great bunch.

See you on Come Quilt With Me and at the next In-Person.

Kathy Gray, President

Virginia Consortium of Quilters

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A Message from Hopes & Dreams for ALS to VCQ

I am reaching out to you because your guild, the Virginia Consortium of Quilters, has won 1st place in our Sew Generous Guilds category for the 2025-2026 Challenge Year! Here is a link to our facebook post announcing the winners in case you'd like to share it - https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18MWRcWA4E/

As always, we are truly so grateful for everyone's donations. It is because of your guild that we were able to send over 1,000 quilts to our ALS community, and over 200 specifically to the ALS Nexus conference in Florida this year. Your donations mean the world to us ❤️.

We are getting the prizes put together. VCQ donated 55 quilts to Hopes & Dreams for ALS for the 8/1/2025 – 7/31/2026 year.

Thank you all for supporting this great charity project.

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Now, Fabulous NEWS….We collected 30 completed ALS quilts at the October 17, 2026 In-Person meeting, with other completed tops going to our wonderful longarmers to quilt for us. We are off to a great start!! Since our next In-Person meeting won't be until March 13, 2027, you have lots of time to create that simple 3 yard quilt top, 9 patch, strip quilt, etc. for ALS. The only requirement is that the minimum size is 45" x 60".

Thank you all again.

Karin McElvein

VCQ In-Person Meeting, October 17, 2026, Virginia Beach

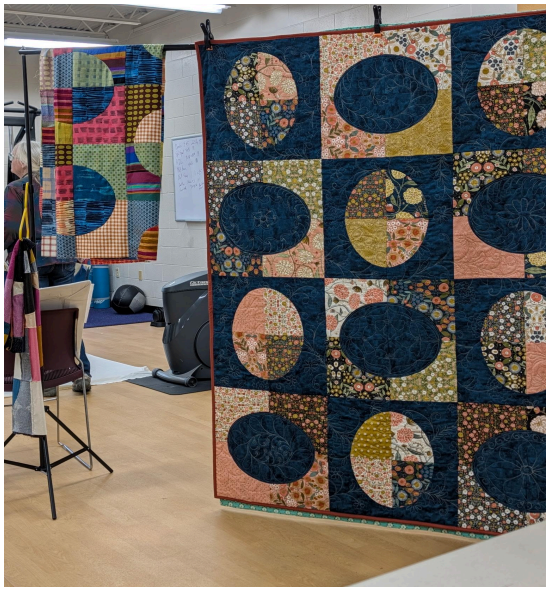
Even though the attendance was moderate and the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel was closed one way, about 40 quilters had a great time taking classes and socializing for the day in Virginia Beach. We had 4 guests and 4 first time In-Person Meeting attendees. The 3 teachers were awesome in showing classes several new techniques. We hope the 15 members from Tidewater made you feel welcome. In my unforeseen absence, I want to thank everyone who pitched in to help with registration, lunch, meeting details etc. Thanks to Faye for making the center pieces/door prizes for each lunch room table. An attendee from each table went home with the gift.

GREAT job to all who have spent time making tops, quilting and binding the ALS quilts. 30 completed quilts were turned in. Karin McElvein will be delivering them to Hopes and Dreams in early November. Have a great winter and see you all in the Spring.

Debi Harding & Jan Farrow

In-Person Programs/Facilities Chairs













SAVE THE DATES: 2027 VCQ In-Person Meetings

You may want to make an advance hotel reservation near the booked facilities.

March 13, 2027 - Memorial Baptist Church, 224 Taylor St., Staunton, VA 24401

June 12, 2027 - Ebenezer United Methodist Church, 161 Embrey Mill Rd., Stafford VA 22554

October 16, 2027 - TBD - possibly Richmond or Williamsburg

If you know of a church/facility that VCQ could possibly rent, near Richmond, that would be of great help to us. Contact Jan Farrow via email at inpersonprograms@vcq.org.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DAY VIRTUAL QUILTING CELEBRATION

Celebrate the final day of 2026 with quilting friends, creativity, and inspiration! Join the Virginia Consortium of Quilters(VCQ) as we welcome back nationally recognized quilt designer and Creative Grids ® educator **Deb Heatherly.**

Featured Project: COWEE STAR

Deb returns with another beautiful pattern fearing the **Creative Grids ® Cat's Cradle Tool (CGRDH1).** Participants in her September 2025 VCQ workshop will remember learning the versatility of this specialty ruler. Whether you're returning or joining Deb for the first time, get ready for a fun and inspiring day of quilting!

Meet Deb Heatherly

A former quilt shop owner and contributor to QUILT magazine, Deb now designs full-time for Creative Grids ®. Her accomplishments include:

Designer of **10 Creative Grids ® specialty tools**

Author of **8 books and over 100 quilt patterns**

Founder of **Grids Girls,** a Facebook community of 16,000+ quilters featuring education, inspiration, and mystery quilts

What You'll Need

Required Tool: Creative Grids ® Cat's Cradle Tool (CGRDH1)

Reserve a ruler: Contact Kathleen Hippeli at virtualprograms@vcq.org

Purchase locally: Available through your local quilt store

Ruler details: Add to your registration for $31. ($25 ruler and $6 flat rate shipping)

Pattern and Supply List: A future announcement will confirm distribution details. Materials are typically sent to registered participants 48-72 hours before the program.

Join Us for a Day of Quilting Fun!

Gather your fabrics, prepare your sewing space, and enjoy a wonderful day of learning and fellowship as we stitch our way into 2027! If you register and find that you cannot attend, please email Kathy at virtualprograms@vcq.org as soon as you know so we can fill your space.


Virginia Consortium of Quilters (VCQ)
VCQ
New Year's Eve Day
VIRTUAL QUILTING CELEBRATION
Featuring Deb Heatherly
COWEE STAR QUILT
Another great pattern using the Creative Grids® Cat's Cradle Tool (CGRDH1)!
Thursday, December 31, 2026
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Eastern)
Virtual Event – Join from the Comfort of Home!
FREE to VCQ Members & Guests!
Advance Registration Required.
Join nationally recognized quilt designer and Creative Grids® educator Deb Heatherly for a fun and inspiring day of quilting!
Learn new techniques
Enjoy a beautiful project
Quilt with friends
Stitch into 2027!
REGISTER TODAY!
Scan the QR code or visit:
https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/vcq-new-years-eve-day-virtual-program

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2026

Board Position	*Name*	*E-mail*
President	Kathy Gray	president@vcq.org
VP	Karilyn Pittman	vicepresident@vcq.org
Secretary	Karan Fisher	secretary@vcq.org
Treasurer	Constance Chappell Horne	treasurer@vcq.org
Membership	Lisa Frieman	membership@vcq.org
Historian/Documentation	Kitty Bull	historian@vcq.org
Programs /Virtual	Kathleen Hippeli	virtualprograms@vcq.org
Programs /In-Person	Jan Farrow/Debi Harding /Madeline Moonan	inpersonprograms@vcq.org
Facilities	Jan Farrow/Debi Harding	facilities@vcq.org
Newsletter	Judy Seltz	newsletter@vcq.org
Web Mistress	Tammy Halstead	webmistress@vcq.org
Publicity	Kelly Zuber	publicity@vcq.org
Celebration Chairs	Kelly Zuber & Kathy McCrea	celebration@vcq.org
Community Service	Karin McElvein	Karinlisa7@gmail.com

AREA REPS

Northern VA	Kathy Gray	kathythequilter@verizon.net
Shenandoah Valley	Vacant	
Lynchburg	Debbie Repass	debbierepass@msn.com
Culpeper-Madison	Janice Willis	Willis.janice5575@gmail.com
Richmond	Vacant	
Fredericksburg	Susan Fulton	Fultonsusan24@yahoo.com
Southwest	Paula Golden	paulacgolden@comcast.net
Peninsula	Sue Knapp	sunapp1@yahoo.com
Tidewater	Debi Harding	debi.harding@cox.net

WELCOME NEW VCQ BOARD MEMBERS

On January 1, 2027, the Virginia Consortium of Quilters will welcome a new Board. Our president will be Karilyn Pittman who has served two terms as Vice-President, written the Celebration brochure for several events and has co-chaired the Celebration Silent Auction for two events. With that much experience, we are looking forward to two very good years.

Karilyn will resign as VP and a new VP will be approved by the Board.

Karan Fisher was re-elected as Secretary so will be able to continue to not just take the Minutes but store the official documents for our organization.

Constance Horne completed the term of the former Treasurer and is half way through her two year term. She is keeping our monies safe and productive.

Lisa Frieman continues her very important job as Membership, keeping the Directory up to date and welcoming new members as well as those very important renewals.

Tammy Halstead is the newly elected Historian having served well as Web Mistress for several years. She is well suited to update our older files and save them for the future.

Good luck ladies, VCQ's future is in good hands.

Kathy Gray

President, VCQ

Thank you, VCQ Members!

I want to extend a heartfelt thank-you to all the VCQ members who took the time to create a quilt block for the appreciation quilt honoring our outgoing president, Kathy Gray. Each block is beautiful and represents a special contribution from our members. I'm so grateful for everyone's participation and look forward to bringing all these beautiful blocks together to create a quilt that Kathy will treasure!

~Karilyn Pittman, Vice President, VCQ

Celebration 2026 Quilt Challenge Winners

by Kitty Bull

Thanks to all thirty-eight participants in the “Americana Stars And Stripes Forever” Celebration 2026 Quilt Challenge. They were all wonderful! When hung together, created a beautiful show that everyone who attended Celebration 2026 was in awe of the creative talent displayed by each quilter. Thank you also to the 111 attendees who voted via ballot for their favorites in the two categories. Below are the winners that took ribbons in “Best in Show” and “Best Interpretation of Americana Theme”

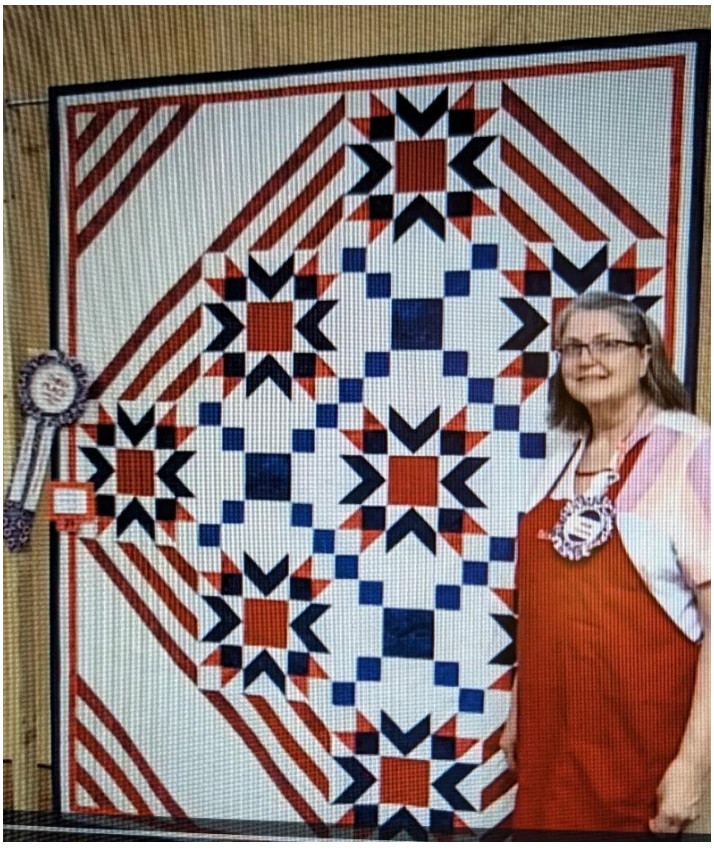
Congratulations to the First Place winner in **both categories**, Glynda Hylton, for her “Uniquely United” quilt. She said, “There are 50 unique stars representing each state and arranged in the quilt in the order they joined the United States of America. All are bordered by a red and white stripe to tie them together. I refreshed my history knowledge while making this quilt, which made it that much more fun!”





Janice Willis won second place “Best in Show” for her “Farmhouse Americana” quilt.

Heidi Haynes took third in the “Best In Show” with her “In the Spirit of Unity”.





Second place in “Best Interpretation of Theme” went to Kelly Zuber with “Quilting in the ‘New’ America.” “I designed the quilt using a block from "The Needleworker" by Bunny Leighton and incorporated 6" Scrappy Star Blocks by Leila Gardunia.”

Susan Price was the Challenge’s third place winner with “1776” for “Best Interpretation of Theme”. The 1776 flag has part of the Declaration of Independence printed on it.



Date for Newsletter Submissions

January 15th for February newsletter.

Please send material electronically to newsletter@vcq.org

Remember to check the Calendar tab on the VCQ website for meetings and events at www.vcq.org

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COME QUILT WITH ME ON ZOOM!

First Tuesday of the month from 1PM-4 PM

Third Saturday from 9 AM-noon

Every Sunday 2PM-5PM

COME QUILT WITH ME (CQWM) is an opportunity to sew with your friends from all over the state and beyond. We chat, share our quilting questions and projects. It is low key – you can come and go as you please. The Zoom link is in the Members Only portion of our web site. Your log in information is on the back of your membership card or you can phone or Direct Message a board member for help. For Direct Messages, please make sure your platform has end-to-end encryption (E2EE). If you are not certain, make a phone call. Texting without E2EE is not secure.

REMEMBER …..

Membership renewals are due at the end of the year.

You can check your expiration date at the end of every email.