



**REPORTING FROM NEBRASKA CITY, NE**

Compiled by June Moore and Marianne Fons

*We came from different areas of the country, different places in the organization, different backgrounds, but our heartbeat was strong and in perfect rhythm. We left with great expectations for the years to come. Any pain was left behind, and growth is inevitable.*

—Kerry Barnes, NY Coordinator

*Putting faces with names cemented relationships deeper than imaginable. True friendships were formed, knowing more about those who were there before us. I came away knowing they have my back.*

—Carol Olson, MN Coordinator

*The food served to us was awesome; each meal was topped by the next!*

—Sherra Bailey, WV Coordinator

*Susan Gordon and her core group did an amazing job orchestrating this conference. It was a beautiful thing to see those of us willing and able to help those just beginning their QOVF journey. To be able to visit with coordinators whose strengths were our weaknesses was just wonderful. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lori Kutch for being our voice with the Board of Directors.*

—Sharon Ledbetter, ID Coordinator

*To listen, share ideas, and goals in an effort to help others be successful in keeping a common mission alive was valuable in helping me continue on this journey.*

—Elizabeth Mathews, AL Coordinator

*The best take-away was all the learning—the Organizational Chart with descriptions, the*

*Continued on page 2*



*Pictured are: front row, Cyndy Billmeyer (IA), Lenny Truitt (DE), Laurel Braunstein (DE), Dennis Taylor (TN) with his wife Doyleene Taylor behind to his right shoulder, Martha Smith (KS), Stephanie Logan (WY), Carol Olson (MN), Sherra Bailey (WV); second row: Betsy Podriznik (GA), Barbara Conner (GA), Deb Granger (MI), Sharon Ledbetter (ID), Diane Jaeger (UT), Di Richards (IN), Laurel Kindley (MO), Elizabeth Mathews (AL), Hannah Bailey (WV); third row: Kerry Barnes (NY), Cynthia Chaffee (TX), Barbara and Keith Nessle (OK), Suzan DiCarlo (SC), Julia Schroeder (NE), Joanne Jones (GA), Ann Rehbein (IA); fourth row: Mike Moore (WA), Carol Olsen (WA), Susanne Wolf (NC), Janice Cutting (NH) Anne Mixon (SC), Kristie Culpepper (AL), Duane Granger (MI), Kathy Thorne (DC); fifth row (at center): Deb Heater (IL), Susan Gordon (GA); back row: June Moore (WA), Karen Demaree (WI), Lori Kutch (WA), Judie Yates (CA), Terry Yates (CA), Joyce Lundrigan (NH), Marianne Fons (IA). Not pictured, Jeff Thorne (DC), photographer.*

**A NEW NAME FOR OUR NEWSLETTER!**

By June Moore

As you can see, the votes are in, and our newsletter has a new name. Thanks, everyone, for submitting ideas and for voting.

Here are the finalists and the numbers:

- QOVF Bugle, 40
- QOVF Connections, 58
- QOVF Mail Call, 38

QOVF Salute, 100  
QOVF Threads, 116

*Quilts of Valor Foundation Threads* was suggested by both Di Richards of Indiana Chris Fisher of Michigan. Each will receive a patriotic fat quarter bundle from quilt show vendors Deb and Duane Granger of Freedom Star United. Thank you, Deb and Duane, for your generosity and to Tony Jacobson for a beautiful masthead design!

## Nebraska City, Nebraska cont.

treasurer's report, the Deputy Director's role, best practices, and Under Our Wings!

—Betsy Podriznik, AL attendee and Under Our Wings presenter

Our foundation has ten wonderful years of roots and all we have to do is make our tree grow.

—Diane Jaeger, UT North Coordinator

I am one of the few men in this organization. While I still do not feel like one of the roses, I no longer feel like a thorn. Policies and procedures that were new to me have now been clarified. I have been energized and have made a greater commitment to further the cause and mission of QOVF.

—Dennis Taylor, TN Coordinator

We came to the heart of America, Nebraska. We opened our hearts and minds. We listened, laughed, and cried. We are the first generation of Quilts of Valor Foundation, and we have met our future.

—Jeff Thorne, DC Coordinator

For this to have been the first time we came together in ten years, it was as if we've known each other all our lives. The information inside our new manual is really awesome and very helpful. I love having a go-to book that I can look up super important information.

—Hannah Bailey, QOVF Youth Liaison

The sharing of questions, concerns, ideas, and feelings was thought provoking and also served to refresh my resolve to continue to support the mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

—Laurel Braunstein, DE, MD Coordinator

We came, we talked, we conquered. The contributions of each and every one were gathered into our hearts and souls and then set together like quilt blocks into a master plan to bring comfort to all those who have been impacted by war.

—Di Richards, IN Coordinator

I was so honored to receive a military "challenge coin" from Diane Jaeger. I know that it is a special memento and denotes a job well done—over and above what is expected!

—Cyndy Billmeyer, IA Coordinator

As the time for the first QOVF Leadership Conference approached, I had high hopes, great expectations and a feeling that good things would result from this gathering. Thanks to the hard work of event planner Susan Gordon, Director Karen Demaree, Deputy Director Lori Kutch, NE Coordinators Sara Kenny and Julia Schroeder, board members Joyce Lundrigan and Marianne Fons, and a fantastic group of attendees, the result was beyond my wildest dreams. As for 2015... "You ain't seen nothin' yet!!"

—June Moore, Executive Director

## UNDER OUR WINGS, THE SMALL-GROUP WAY

By Sandy Keller, QOVF Longarmer

I am a QOVF longarm volunteer, quilting two tops a month. I also volunteer with Kairos Prison Ministry, where I am part of a very small staff. When my co-worker Laurie's son was injured in Afghanistan, everyone wanted to help make Drew a Quilt of Valor, though only two of us are quilters. Two others have general sewing knowledge and three do no sewing at all.

With help from everyone, I coordinated a mini "Under Our Wings" event in my own sewing room over a weekend, setting up four sewing machine work stations. The quilters taught the sewers how to rotary cut and piece patchwork. The non-sewers learned to press and shuttled pieces from station to station. We had such a good time, everyone is ready to make more QOVs.



Sandy Keller and Kairos Prison Ministry co-workers. Their group's Quilt of Valor is coming together on Sandy's design wall.

When the quilt was bound and labeled, Drew's mother delivered it to him in person. I wanted to share this story with everyone via the newsletter because of Drew's thank-you letter. I believe this 26 year old Marine has eloquently expressed in just a few paragraphs the reason we make Quilts of Valor. He has graciously allowed me to share his letter "to the quilt ladies." Here is an excerpt:

I can assure you I will cherish this gift and all that it means for my entire life.

My children will find themselves spending their first months here on a quilt made one night by a group of good doers for someone they believed was worthy.

When my great grand children open up an old chest filled with everything that represents who I was they will see that quilt; underneath the purple heart and the pictures of me playing baseball in 2nd grade; underneath the Afghanistan and American flag. Under whatever I have in my future, will be the quilt from the past holding everything up, protecting it all from the elements.

The word awesome has been watered down by informal and repeated use. I urge you to look up its definition. This gift is awesome in the word's purest and most literal sense. I thank you all very much for sacrificing your time and efforts to do this.

Drew



Drew Bacon, USMC

## CHECK OUT SPECIAL FUNDING FOR OUR FOUNDATION WORK

By Laurel Kindley, MO Coordinator  
laurel.kindley@QOVF.org

Many companies offer generous matching programs for employees who volunteer time to non-profit foundations such as ours. Such programs increase the companies' positive impact on their community. Some businesses provide a set monetary donation amount for every hour an employee volunteers. Others provide grants once employees reach certain volunteer hour thresholds.

Employer examples are Carmax, which provides a \$10 grant for every hour an employee volunteers—up to \$10,000 annually—and 3M, which offers \$250 grants for nonprofits once an employee volunteers 20 hours in one year.

To find out if your employer has a donation program, check with the Human Resources or Community Relations department. Yours may not, but spread the word anyway among your QOVF



Laurel Kindley, left, accepts a BIG donation to QOVF from Tammy and Ron Anzelone. Tammy, a CitiCards employee, suggested Laurel apply for a Citi grant. Ron, also a Citi employee, is a veteran. The big check was presented to Laurel at a special company luncheon honoring employees who are veterans. Laurel's first QOV is in the background.

friends so they can look into available opportunities at their own workplace.

Outright donations are also available from many companies. Last year, after I

spoke about Quilts of Valor Foundation to a Kansas City quilt guild, a listener who works for Citi Cards put me in touch with her employer. After speaking with a manager in the Public Affairs/Community Development department, I was given a grant request form. Joyce Lundrigan (QOVF Treasurer) helped me with the information I needed to complete the form and, within a few weeks of submitting it, I received a call that the Missouri Chapter of Quilts of Valor Foundation had been awarded \$2000! The money has been used to provide fabric and batting for several Missouri groups.

To find appropriate companies to approach, google "companies in (your city or nearest major city) that hire veterans," or "companies in (your city) that offer grants to nonprofit charities." Filling out forms takes time, and funds may not come through right away, but your efforts will pay off in the end in much-needed funds for QOVF!

## NEBRASKA 4H QOVs COMFORT IN RAMSTEIN

Information provided by Phyllis Schoenholz

Quilts of Valor made by Nebraska 4H youth during statewide Under Our Wings programs in 2011 and 2012 have had heartening impact at the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF) at Ramstein Air Base in Germany.

The wounded that arrive at Ramstein are generally transferred to Landstuhl Air Force Base for treatment. Thank you notes and photos from CASF ICU nurses and USO workers show young quilt makers their efforts mean a lot. They write:

*Thank you for making and sending these amazing quilts. We greatly appreciate your time, energy, efforts, and quilting skills. Thank you for caring about our Wounded Warriors, and covering those touched by war with a comforting and healing Quilt of Valor.*

Nebraska 4-H youth from all over the state made a total of 40 Quilts of Valor in 2011, 82 in 2012. As part of this year's program, York County alone has produced 23.

(Editor's note: Phyllis Schoenholz is a University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Educator. Her. Email address is phyllis.schoenholz@unl.edu.)



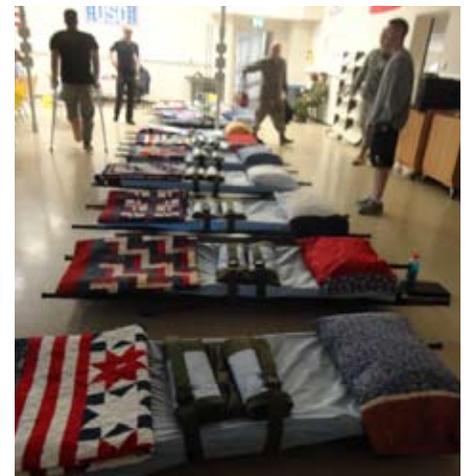
A soldier unfolds a healing quilt.



In Nebraska, York County 4-Hers display a few of the 23 Quilts of Valor they have made this summer.



Quilts are used in gathering areas at the Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility (CASF) at Ramstein Air Base unit.



A Quilt of Valor is laid out in readiness for each wounded soldier that comes into the CASF facility.

## HOW TO HANDLE CASH DONATIONS

By Joyce Lundrigan

At our leadership conference, State Coordinators asked how cash donations should be handled. The best procedure, whether the donor wants a receipt or not, is to take the cash to your bank, get a cashier's check payable to Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF), and mail to:

Quilts of Valor Foundation  
PO Box 728  
Lebanon, NH 03766

This method keeps donation money separate from your personal finances so there can be no confusion. As we

emphasized during the conference, it's important to keep impeccable financial records so there is never a question from the IRS or anyone else about where donated money has gone. These are best practices that protect everyone involved, especially you!

I suggest you keep handy a receipt book that makes duplicates. That way, you can give a receipt to any cash donor who wants a one. Paper-clip the duplicate to the cash until it gets to the bank, and send the duplicate receipt with the cashier's check so that a tax donation receipt can be issued to the donor. Of course we would need their name and address on the receipt.

Please do not send cash through the mail!

## STATISTICS

### Iraq

Killed: 4,486

Wounded: Many

### Afghanistan

Killed: 2,254

Wounded: Many

### Suicides to Date:

30,137

**Total QOVs Awarded as of 8/13/13**

88,144

## Reminders

### Remember the R's

**REGISTER** Yourself, your group, or your shop as a part of the QOVF community.

**REPORT** quilts awarded directly by you or your group <http://www.qovf.org/quiltsawarded-report.html>

**RECRUIT** friends, family and locate organizations to donate time, talent and/or funds. We need Coaches, Rookies, Local Quilt Shops to cover all combat service members and veterans touched by war.



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Let us know how we can help you ...

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State Coordinators (SCs) are here to assist you establish new groups, help fundraise, establish new points of contact and to maintain QOVF standards. If you have any questions or need guidance, please contact the SC for your state. A full list can be found at <http://www.qovf.org/content/regional-coordinator-overall-view.html>

For more information regarding QOVF Structure and Volunteers, please visit: <http://www.qovf.org/content/about-us.html>

### Newsletter

June Moore, *Editorial Director*

Marianne Fons, *Editorial Assistant*

Tony Jacobson, *Graphic Designer*

*The mission of Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover all those service members and veterans touched by war with wartime quilts called Quilts of Valor (QOVs). Quilts of Valor Foundation is not about politics. It is about people.*