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 Schneider, 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.

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 thankyou 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

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

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 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 4H 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.
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. Paperclip 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!

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.

QOVF Staff
Let us know how we can help you ...
Karen Demaree, Director
karen.demaree@QOVF.org

Catherine Roberts, Founder
catherine.roberts@QOVF.org

June Moore, Executive Director
june.moore@QOVF.org

Eric McCarty, President,
Board of Directors
eric.mccarty@QOVF.org

Mike Sloan, Member,
Board of Directors
mike.sloan@QOVF.org

Joyce Lundrigan, Treasurer
joyce.lundrigan@QOVF.org

Marianne Fons, Liaison to
Quilting Industry
marianne.fons@QOVF.org

Lori Kutch, Deputy Director
lori.kutch@QOVF.org

Deb Heater, Longarm Coordinator
deb.heater@QOVF.org

Susan Gordon, Destination Coordinator
Susan.gordon@QOVF.org

Terry Yates, IT Director
terry.yates@QOVF.org

Karla Locke, Media Manager
karla.locke@QOVF.org

Mailing Address:
Quilts of Valor Foundation
P.O. Box 728
Lebanon, NH 03766

State Coordinators (SCs) are here to assist you establish new groups, help raise funds, 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.