



UpCountry Quilters Guild

Newsletter

February 2026



Next Meeting

Tuesday, February 24, 2026
at 7:00 pm
Pickens Presbyterian Church
311 W. Main St.
Pickens, SC 29671

February Birthdays

Margie Imperatrice February 19



2026 Officers

President	Tami McLaren
Vice President	Cheryl Budnaitis
Treasurer	Linda Cassell
Secretary	Donna Anderson
Newsletter Editor	Beth Eastman
Tea and Sympathy	Stacey Thompson
Show and Tell	Gretchen Conway
Membership	Marina Gill
Hospitality	Rosemary Goodall
Publicity/Public Relations	OPEN
Co-Chair	OPEN
Community Service	Kay McKinney
Co-Chair	Edith Paige / Pam Jones
Special Events	Kris VanReken
Quilt Show Chair (2 Year)	OPEN
Website	Janice Hinson
Co-Chair	Beth Eastman
Presentation Quilt	Cheryl Budnaitis

Minutes – Donna Anderson

February 3rd

Meeting began with different soups, crackers, side dishes and desserts. Members participated in an ice breaker because there were several new members present. Members were asked to introduce themselves, tell what their favorite quilt was and/or what quilt they would like to make.

Tami McLaren called the meeting to order. She explained that a monthly notice would be sent out to all members with the minutes of the last meeting and a link to the website where other news items would be.

Minutes of the November/December combined meeting were approved as distributed. **VP** Cheryl Budnaitis presented the proposed calendar of programs for 2026. Handout was provided. She reminded members that the Sewing Bee is every Tuesday from 10 am to 4 pm at the Hagood Community Center in Pickens. Cheryl explained that if anyone has a big quilt that needs to be prepared for quilting, the kitchen at the Hagood Community has tables that can be moved together to provide a large space for this preparation. Carol Clanton explained that the Hand sewing group will start meeting the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1:30-4:00 pm at the Hagood Community Center. If any questions, please call Carol Clanton.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Linda Cassell. Budget will be presented at the February, 2026 meeting for approval. Any committee chair person should send their budgeted items to Linda Cassell or Tami McLaren by February 15.

Website: Janice Hinton shared that information regarding the Pigeon Forge quilt challenge is on the website.

Tea and Sympathy: Pam Jone's husband Rick is having foot surgery. Gretchen Conway is having surgery February 4. Please remember these people in your thoughts and prayers.

Membership: 35 members were present with 2 new members and 1 guest. Edith Page was the winner of the name tag drawing. Marina explained that the Bylaws called for dues to be paid by January meeting, however, since that meeting was rescheduled due to weather, the decision was made to extend the deadline to the February 24, 2026 meeting. Approximately 20 members have not yet paid their dues. A roster of members will be on the website and this information is password protected.

Hospitality: Rosemary Goodall had no report to give.

Publicity: Tami McLaren reported she will continue in this position until it can be filled by somebody else. She shared the newspaper article on the QOV presentation that was done for the Easley National Guard.

Community Service: Kay McKinney has pieces of batting already cut that would be appropriate for lap quilts and shoulder hugs.

Special Events: Kris VanReken gave reminder that we will have an August Picnic and then 4 weeks later a retreat. A planning committee will plan the retreat.

Quilt Show Feedback: Cheryl Budnaitis and Janice Hinson shared quilt show feedback. They will be interviewing each chairperson to document their processes so that this information can be utilized by others in the future. Cheryl asked the question as to whether we need to change the venue as the cost of so many drapes and pipes has increased and we had fewer quilts to display. She thanked Cathy Coster for preparing the wood bars for hanging the quilts.

Reminder: The Azalea Festival is April 25. The raffle quilt was displayed. Tickets for this quilt will be sold at different events. We also need boutique items to sell at these events. Signup sheets will be available for those wishing to help man our booths at these events.

QSC meets on March 13-15 in Columbia.

Foothills Piecemakers Quilt Guild will have their quilt show April 24-25 in Greenville at the Hejaz Greenville Event Center, 119 Beverly Rd, Greenville, SC.

Show and Tell-see pics in this newsletter.

Vice President –Cheryl Budnaitis

It was fun to hear about everyone's favorite quilts and what they would like to create in the future. At the February meeting, Donny Davis from the Busy Bee's quilt guild will present a trunk show on machine quilting quilts, should be interesting to see a new way of making quilts.

There is still time to participate in the Pigeon Forge quilt challenge - Snapshots in Time. You just need to create an 18.5 x 18.5 quilt top representing something that has happened in the past 250 years. A filmstrip border will be provided for you, making the final size 20.5 x 24.5. Then you can quilt it anyway you would like. Finishing kits for the borders and binding will be available on Tuesday Feb 24th either at the Pickens Hagood Community Center during the day or at the meeting that evening. Finished quilts will need to be turned in by the April 28th guild meeting. They will be delivered to Pigeon Forge May 15th and returned after the show June 11th.

Membership – Marina Gill

We had 32 in attendance. We had two new members to join (Jakki Wiseman and Brenda Sort) and one guest (Robin McCarthy). Name Tag winner was Edith Paige. Total members is up to 60.

Tea and Sympathy – Stacey Thompson

Please let Stacey Thompson know if you have any prayer request or praises you would like the Guild to be aware of.

Oconee/Pickens County QOV/Sit-N-Sew – Beth Eastman

Those comforted as of January 31, 2026:

Last Month – 1,651

Year to Date – 1,651

Lifetime Total – 437,630

We are recuperating from the Guard presentations and holidays. Everyone is busy making new QOV quilts and I say thank you to each one of them. I am in the process of contacting the 25 Veterans we have on our list to see when we can schedule coverings.

Our next meetings are February 20th for QOV and February 27th for Sit-N-Sew. Bring your lunch and prepare yourself to have a good time and Sew, Sew, Sew.

Treasurer's Report – Linda Cassell

The Treasurer's Report will no longer be posted in the newsletter. All information about Guild finances will be presented at each meeting.

Show and Tell – Gretchen Conway



Linda Cassell – Community Service Quilt



Gail Sexton – QOV she quilted



Barbara Day – Stars and Exploding Stars Quilts





Cheryl Budnaitis – Christmas Tree Skirts made for Nieces



Janice Hinson – Seattle and Ramsey Falls Quilts



Jakki Wiseman – Pineapple FPP Quilt



Katie Holder – Love and Hearts



Gretchen Conway – Thank you to Jakki Wiseman and Cathi Costner
for modeling the Hug Shawls

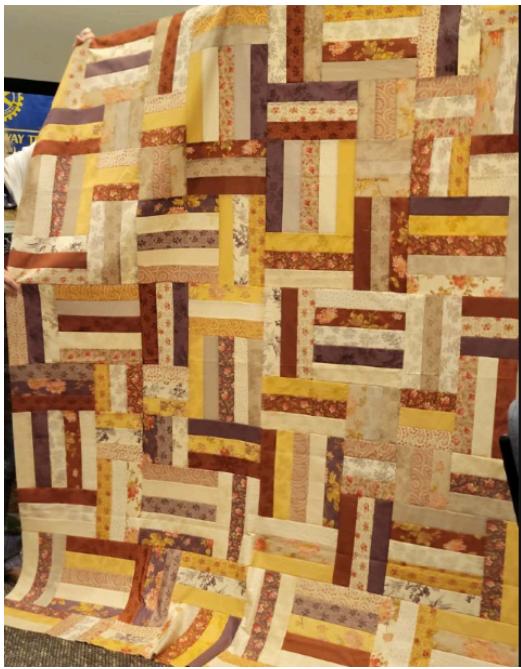




Gretchen Conway - Lap Quilts



Gretchen Conway – King Size Quilt made from Delectable Mountain blocks



Tami McLren – Popsicle Sticks (by Atkinson Designs – Material Vin DuJour by Moda) and Crisscross (3 yd Quilt by Fran Morgan)



Pam Hunt – French Roses and Green Patchwork Quilts



Beth Eastman –
4 SD Quilts

