



www.egacarolinas.org

The mission of The Embroiderers' Guild of America is to inspire passion for the needle arts through education and the celebration of its heritage.

From the Mountains to the Sea ...

From the Region Director

Different but the same . . . When I think about the members of the Carolinas Region (CAR), I realize that in some ways we are different. Our 15 chapters are spread over 4 states, some meeting in large cities while others meet in small towns or rural areas. Some of us are lucky enough to live only a short distance from our chapter meeting places while others spend a considerable amount of time traveling to their meetings. Some chapters have a large number of members while others have small groups. Some chapters are able to meet all year long while others have to suspend operations during the summer because their members tend to leave

the area for those months.

However, I have come to realize that our members share many traits, as well. All of us joined EGA so we could meet others who share our passion for

needlework. We want to improve our skills and learn new stitches or techniques. We love to fondle threads and fabric and can't wait to learn about the latest gadgets and other "must haves" to increase our stitching pleasure (and our stash!). We enjoy playing with color and get satisfaction from seeing a piece progress (even if it never manages to be finished!). We yearn to make new friends who can advise us, cheer our victories, and support us through our sad times.

Our chapters are also alike in another important way: When I read the annual reports that I recently received from our chapter presidents, I realized that virtually all of them noted the same concerns: Their members are aging and membership is declining. "Old-timers"

(RD REPORT, Continued on page 13)

VOLUNTEERS
are our greatest assets.
You could make a difference!

Please consider a leadership position in CAR:

Assistant Region Director
(3-year term)

Nominating Committee member
(3-year term)

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CALENDAR	
2020	2021
May 22-24 — <i>Crossing the Carolinas</i> , CAR Seminar, Clemmons, NC	Spring — CAR Spring Retreat and Region Meeting: TBD
Sep 4-8 — <i>Boston Stitch Party</i> , EGA Seminar, Boston, MA	Sep 1-5 — <i>The Magnificent Stitch</i> , EGA Seminar, Chicago, IL
Oct 2-4 — CAR Fall Retreat and Region meeting, Rock Hill, SC	Fall — CAR Fall Retreat and Region Meeting, TBD

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EGA Chapter Reporting Requirements		
<i>Attn: Chapter presidents, region reps, and editors: it is your responsibility to be sure your membership officer, secretary, and treasurer know when and where to send these items.</i>		
WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
Minutes of board and general meetings (unless included in the chapter's newsletter)	Within the month	Region Director
Membership roster	At the same time you send membership info to National Office	Region Director; CAR Newsletter Editor
National dues and membership information	Renewals no later than May 31 annually. New members immediately upon joining	National Office
Region dues and membership information	Same time as sent to National	Region Treasurer
Chapter newsletters	When sent to members	Region Director; Assistant Region Director; Editor, RegioNews; Region Outreach Chair
EGA Chapter Officer Change List (EGA Form)	Within 2 weeks of election	Region Secretary; Region Director
Education questions/information	As needed	Region Education Coordinator
Annual chapter report	By December 15	Region Director
Annual financial report	By February 15	Region Director; EGA Headquarters

RegioNews

The Carolinas Region, EGA, publishes *RegioNews* quarterly. Standard practice is to distribute it to all chapter members in the Carolinas Region via email.

Chapter newsletter editors: Remember to share this newsletter with your members who do not receive email.

Advertising is accepted for 1-year (4 issues) intervals at \$10/year. Contact editor Cathie Barker for details. There is no cost for emailed

newsletters. Subscriptions are available for \$6/year for four printed issues. Send requests to the *RegioNews* editor Cathie Barker and checks, payable to Carolinas Region EGA, to Elizabeth Little, treasurer of Carolinas Region.

Reprint information: All EGA chapters have permission to reprint any material found herein except items that are marked with a copyright notice.

Financial Reminders

Reminder:
CAR follows the same prorated dues schedule as is in place for national EGA, as follows:

Prorated Dues Schedule	
If Joining:	Region dues are:
April 1 - June 30	\$4.00 (100%)
July 1 - September 30	\$3.00 (75%)
October 1 - December 31	\$2.00 (50%)
January 1 - March 31	\$1.00 (25%)

WFStitchers

Welcome to our Cardinal Chapter Satellite

Last fall, we received an email from a stitcher in Wake Forest, NC. This stitcher meets on a regular basis with a group of friends who want to join EGA. The closest chapter to them is the Cardinal Chapter, but they are not able to travel to the chapter meetings. They wondered if there was another way in which they could become part of EGA and the CAR.

Did you know that there is a provision in the EGA Policies and Procedures (section 2.1.1.6) that covers this type of situation? In summary, a group of people who wants to form a chapter satellite asks the chapter to approve them and the name they choose to call their group. The satellite members pay regular chapter dues but hold their own meetings on a regular schedule and may decide to work on the chapter projects or ones of their own choosing.

The satellite members are kept informed about chapter events because they receive all chapter newsletters and other mailings. Satellite members can attend all chapter functions; in return, satellite members keep the chapter informed about their own activities and events and invite all chapter members to join them.

In short, satellite members are afforded all rights and privileges given to regular members. The satellite group appoints a liaison who can attend chapter board meetings and submit articles to the chapter newsletter to keep everyone informed.

We are very happy to welcome our 6 new members in the WF Stitchers satellite of the Cardinal Chapter! We look forward to meeting them soon. We have invited them to attend the Spring Seminar in Clemmons; if you meet any of them there, please give them a very warm welcome! ■

ELECTED OFFICERS

Region Director

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Program Grants

One of the benefits of belonging to the Carolinas Region is that chapters can apply for the \$150 education program grant to be used for an education project: a class, a GCC, supplies for a chapter project, etc. The CAR gives this grant to any of our chapters when they apply. We are now taking requests for 2020. Simply send Carole Overton, the Region Director, an email requesting the funds.

Please include the following:

- The name and address of your chapter treasurer in the email so the funds can be sent directly to that person, and
- A short description of how you plan to use the funds

Requests for this year must be made before December 31, 2020. ■

Volunteers

Are our greatest assets!

Please consider joining the team that keeps our Region running.

We're looking for a new **ARD** and a new

Nominating Committee member.

Or consider being an **AARDvark**.

Every little bit helps!

CARegion Chapters

Creating in the Carolinas: what our chapters are doing

AIKEN (Aiken, SC)

2019 flew by for members of the Aiken Stitching Belles in Aiken SC. We gained 5 new guild members, including a Master Craftsman in Crewel. Chapter members participated in both the Spring and Fall CAR meetings/retreats and benefited from the many opportunities of comradery, networking and learning. As a special group project, the Aiken Belles made and supplied the CAR ort basket favors for the Spring meeting!

Another fun group project was miniature basketmaking with yarn. Members surprised themselves with their weaving prowess and created mini masterpieces of various shapes, some intentional while others happened “organically”.



in-



This past year, the Aiken Belles organized two local Needle Arts exhibits of members’ completed pieces. One exhibit was held in the Aiken Library and the second was held later in the year at the Aiken Historical Museum.

Each exhibit displayed different pieces and highlighted the diversity of needle arts and mediums that our members use to express their creativity. An artist reception was held at the Museum, as well, and members agreed that this year’s Museum Exhibit was perhaps our best ever!



Each year we celebrate our annual Christmas/ Holiday Luncheon at a local restaurant and offer a hand-crafted ornament exchange for member who choose to participate. It’s always a treat to receive a handmade treasure from one of our stitching buddies.



This exchange was no exception, members outdid themselves with their generosity and creativity.

Outreach continues to be supported by chapter members though local food drives, cleaning the Museum where we hold our meetings and stitch-ins, and



creating hospitality/hygiene goodie bags for the local Salvation Army.

MILLWOOD (Columbia, SC)

The Millwood Chapter sadly noted the recent passing of one of their cherished members after a long illness. Trudy Harrison had been their Region Representative for many years. She will be sorely missed.

CHICORA STITCHERS (Myrtle Beach, SC)

For Chicora Stitchers, the November meeting was devoted to working on unfinished projects, of which we all have many. Then instead of a regular meeting in December we met for a Holiday luncheon. We had a lovely time and came home with a selection of adorable handmade items and a bag of threads; the challenge is to use at least one of the threads in a project before the end of the year!

January started off the year with Melanie Scott guiding us in making a Dorset Button. They turned out very well, and the history of the craft is fascinating.



Creating in the Carolinas: what our chapters are doing

CHARLOTTE (Charlotte, NC)

The Charlotte chapter enjoyed a Christmas ornament exchange in December. There were some beautiful examples of stitching skill, as can be seen in the photo at right.



In addition, one of the members had purchased a nativity set that seemed to have been hand stitched many years ago. She bought them and gave the set away as a door prize at the holiday party, knowing that they would go to someone who could truly appreciate the work involved in making them.

TRYON (New Bern, NC)

The Tryon Chapter is trying something new this year. Each month a different member has volunteered to teach a class. The Chapter has decided to use funds normally paid for teacher fees for materials for the classes. This is a good way to expose our newer members (at a minimal cost) to various techniques that they may not have tried before. At the same time, other members can enjoy participating in some smaller projects.

Also attached is a beautiful completed project that several of our members had fun stitching together from the EGA magazine. More experienced members helped less experienced members. The pictured one was stitched by Marianne Indoe.



GOLDEN NEEDLES (Concord, NC)

Golden Needles members enjoyed a holiday ornament trade and potluck for the December meeting.



Ornaments (left) were stitched by Patty Schmid *Be Merry*, Laura Smith *Sequin Waste Tree*, Barbara Horne-Stead *Poinsettia*, Evelyn Southards *Mimi Leaf Pine* by Mary Waldsmith from the December 2019 issue of *Needle Arts*, Marilyn Helms *Mousie's*

Christmas, and Patty Schmid *Peace Love Stitch* dish towel (seen here as the background).

Marilynn Helms, *Christmas Rooster* in canvaswork and a Joan Thomasson Santa.



Marilynn Helms, our Co-VP Programs, presented a tray filled with program projects from 2019. They included *Stumpwork Strawberry Needlebook*, *Canvaswork Altoid Tin*, *Blackwork Biscornu*, *Crazy Quilt Necklace in Yellow*, *Woolwork Strawberry*, and *Crazy Quilt Necklace in Blue*.



Our two Fiber Forum members displayed original designs: Marilyn Helms *Minuet in Marble* and Laura Smith *Necklace in a Day, Robin's colors*.

THE LAUREL (TLC) (Hendersonville, NC)

In December we enjoyed a holiday luncheon and ornament exchange at the Hendersonville country club. Two of our founding members (left) were in attendance. In January, TLC made 22 fleece blankets for one of our annual Outreach projects, Project Linus. (see below).



Alice Johnson



Cathryn Harrell



And coming in March, we are excitedly preparing for our chapter's Thirtieth Anniversary.

Now Is The Time...

You can win a scholarship or award only if you apply

Now is the time . . .

The Carolinas Region has many ways in which to reward its members, and all you need to do is apply.

On page 7 of this newsletter, you will find an article written by the 2019 winner of our CRESS scholarship describing the class she paid for with her winnings. Refer to that article for more information about how you can apply for this year's award.

Those of you who register for this year's Spring Seminar, "Crossing the Carolinas," can apply for the Roxie Hodgkin scholarship to attend this seminar. The award covers your class and kit fees. Applying is easy: Just check the appropriate box on the registration form. But hurry: The winner's name will be drawn on March 1.

Every year, the Carolinas Region recognizes a member who has gone beyond expectations to serve her/his chapter or the Region. The Gold Thread award is a coveted award

which symbolizes the importance of volunteering and the appreciation for the service provided. All EGA members are invited to nominate people, and then a National committee selects the winner for each Region. At the National Seminar each year, the winners are announced and one of those is selected as the National Gold Thread winner.

If you would like to nominate someone in your local chapter or the Carolinas Region, click on this link to the information on the National website: <https://egausa.org/scholarships-and-awards/> and scroll down to the Gold Thread Award section. You will find more information about this award as well as a link to the application form. Applications are due May 1.

EGA National offers several other scholarships and awards. Click on this link <https://egausa.org/scholarships-and-awards/> to see if you might be interested in applying for any of them.

Now is the time . . .

Now is a good time to VOLUNTEER to help Carolinas Region be our best.

Every little bit helps.

Join the team; it's a great way to make new friends,

learn more about your needlework passion, and have a lot of fun!



Don't forget the Carolinas Region's upcoming events:

Spring Seminar 2020: May 22-24, 2020 in Clemmons, NC*

Fall Retreat 2020: October 2-4, 2020 in Rock Hill, SC

Carolinas Region Fall Retreat 2020 will be held October 2 – 4, 2020, at the Fairfield Inn in Rock Hill, SC. Planning has just started, but we know you will want to mark this weekend on your calendar. Full details should be available in the spring.

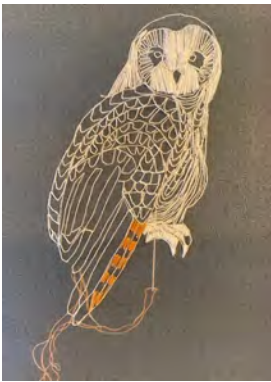
* See updated brochure at:

https://egacarolinas.org/events/2020_spring_seminar.pdf

CRESSScholarship

Winner attends workshop by teacher from Australia

The recipient of the 2019 EGA-CAR CRESS scholarship, Janet Stewart, is a member of The Laurel Chapter in western North Carolina. She attended the Tasmanian Screech Owl workshop taught by Gary Clarke, a teacher from Tasmania, Australia, who was on the international teacher's tour. The scholarship was used by Janet to pay for the class and all the materials. Here is her report about her experience.



Screech Owl in progress

MR. CLARKE taught the two-day workshop, sponsored by The Laurel Chapter, on November 16 and 17, 2019, in Hendersonville, NC. The event drew 28 participants

from Ohio, Tennessee, South Carolina, Florida, Kentucky, and North Carolina.

The embroidery project emphasized simplification of form and color. It was stitched on a stretched organza base using one strand of six-stranded silk. Each free form stitch created a sketchy look to the work. The colors used were muted and earthy, mimicking the owl's natural habitat.

After Mr. Clarke demonstrated how to stretch organza onto a wooden frame, the class members traced the owl design into their framed pieces. Then, the

straight lines in the design were stitched using silk thread and a 3/8-inch running stitch. Gradually the stitching advanced to curved lines. The bird's face required stitches both above and below the organza. The last step was the addition of color accenting the owl's feathers and face. At the end of class, Mr. Clarke provided detailed instructions on framing the stitched piece to allow for shadow play.



Janet Stewart, stitching the Owl.

Here are comments on the workshop from several attendees.

Peggy O'Connor: *"It was interesting to learn different techniques for stitching on organza to take advantage of the fabric's transparency."*

Janet Stewart: *"The unstructured nature of the project stretched me out of my comfort zone."*

Marcia Harrison: *"Working on organza with the unstructured nature of the stitches was an interesting challenge for me."*

Janet used her CRESS scholarship to create lasting memories from a wonderful class. ■



Gary Clarke teaches technique

Wouldn't you like to be this year's winner? You can receive up to \$300 to cover class fees, kit costs, and other expenses related to attending the class. Applicants must be members of the Carolinas Region. The class must be taken in the year the award is made and can include almost any kind of embroidery. This scholarship can even be used for an EGA Extended Study or Individual Correspondence Class but cannot be used for a class taken at a CAR Seminar.

For more information and the application form, please visit the Carolinas Region website (<https://egacarolinas.org/education/education.htm>). Applications must be received by the Education Coordinator by May 1 to be eligible for this year's award. Let us help you get your "stitching fix"!

Crossing the Carolinas

Don't miss the fun at CAR Spring Seminar 2020

Registration for *Crossing the Carolinas*, the Carolinas Region Spring Seminar 2020, is now open to everyone. The Seminar will be held May 22 – May 24, 2020, at the Village Inn and Conference Center in Clemmons, NC. Remember that a discount for early registration will end on February 15.

Registration includes the choice of 4 exciting classes or a “stitch with friends” option. The classes will be “Blue Bird of Happiness,” a thread



“Blue Bird of Happiness” by Joyce Houck
Thread painting (realistic silk shading);
Intermediate level

painting project by Joyce Houck; “Damsel fly Cuff,” beading on Ultrasuede by Barbara Ellis; “Rose Sampler,” a counted sampler by Sandi Cormaci-Boles; and “Garden of Stars,” a needlepoint piece by Peg Dunayer.

Our Board of Directors meeting will be held Friday afternoon, May 22, starting at 2:30 PM.

Other events included in the registration fee are a buffet lunch on Saturday and Merchandise Night that evening, followed by drawings for the lovely



“Damsel fly Cuff” by Barbara Ellis
Beading on Ultrasuede/leather;
Intermediate level

opportunity baskets that will be on display during the weekend.

There is also an optional tour of needlepoint at the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts in nearby Winston-Salem, NC, before the seminar starts. There are 2 time slots to select from: Thursday (May 21) at 2:30 PM or Friday (May 22) at 10:00 AM.

For more information and for the registration form, please click on this link to the registration brochure:

[https://egacarolinas.org/
events/2020_spring_seminar.pdf](https://egacarolinas.org/events/2020_spring_seminar.pdf)

Don't delay – you won't want to miss this event! We look forward to seeing you there. ■



“Garden of Stars” by Peg Dunayer, Needlepoint, Basic/Intermediate level
NOTE: Students will have a choice of one of the two colorways shown here



“Rose Sampler” by Sandi Cormaci-Boles

NewsfromNational

By now you have probably thumbed through your December issue of *NeedleArts* enough times that your magazine automatically opens to your favorite pages. One of those pages should be p. 27, where you will find an exciting announcement about the new Golden Needle awards to be initiated at the National Seminar 2020 in Boston this fall.

In short, members are invited to submit pieces for exhibition at the Seminar. All of these pieces must fit the theme of the seminar each year and must have been completed in the past

2 years. The theme for this year is “Boston Stitch Party” which includes ideas such as Plymouth, Boston, Independence, Tea Party, and so forth. EGA notes that the stitcher does not have to attend the seminar to enter or to win.

Judges will award 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place ribbons for counted, canvas, surface embroidery and beading and will judge both professional and non-professional entries in the following categories:

- Best Original Design
- Best Non-original Design (needs designer’s permission)

At the Closing Banquet, the following awards will be announced:

- People’s Choice
- Best in Show
- Judge’s Choice
- Best Depiction of the Theme
- Best Piece That Was an EGA Class (includes face-to-face classes, GCCs, online classes, local chapter or regional classes, etc.)

Don’t you want to be in one of the first to enter a project for this new exhibit? For more information, go to the EGA website: egausa.org/goldenneedleawards

We hope to see a good representation of our Carolinas Region stitching skills in Boston! ■

Thanking Marion Scoular, A Friend to EGA

At the Closing Banquet of the National EGA Seminar in St. Louis this past October, the various regions were invited to show their appreciation to Marion Scoular, a teacher who has been involved with EGA for 50 years. Our own Region was the recipient of Marion’s teaching over the years, most recently at our last seminar at Ridgecrest in 2018.

The Carolinas Region gave her a small assortment of items: Sandy Washington, the owner of “Sandy’s X-stitch on the go” in Hendersonville, stitched a beautiful Hardanger insert for the top of a wooden music box. The box played “Wind Beneath My Wings,” one of Marion’s favorite songs. Inside the box, we included a beaded pendant made by Elizabeth Little featuring the logo from the 2017 National Seminar that our region hosted in Asheville and two beaded chains made by Cathie Barker that could be worn with or without the pendant. We received the following lovely thank-you note from Marion:

The printed statement in the card read: *Somehow, just saying “thank you” doesn’t seem like enough. But I hope you know how much your kindness has meant to me.*

Marion added these heartfelt words:

Please express to my many friends in the Carolinas Region; my gratitude for the exquisite gifts I received. I’ve chatted with Sandy and discovered she stitched the music box top. How does she do it?! And right – I do love Wind Beneath My Wings.

The beaded necklaces are truly lovely. Please . . . a special thank you to the excellent beader(s?).

It is going to take some time to “come down to earth”!

How was I going to get everything home, as I flew? My delightful roomie from Louisville offered to take everything, including the leftover Merchandise Night stuff home in her car and ship it from there. As we were negotiating this after the Banquet, Marylyn Doyle and Jane Ellen Bolzuweit handed her enough money to cover the shipping!

***What wonderful friends I have!
A Happy Thanksgiving to All – Fondly, Marion***

RecruitingAtTheExpo

Imagine a convention center filled with vendors who specialize in sewing, quilting, embroidery, and other needlework crafts. Imagine the venue filled with customers whose passion for the needle arts rivals our own. Imagine how excited they would be to find out that EGA exists and that there are chapters nearby. Now, imagine the Carolinas Region's booth - - - it is the perfect place to recruit new members. Won't you help us make this dream a reality?

The Original Sewing & Quilt Expo sponsors shows around the country. Their website advertises it as "three days of classes and workshops, stage shows, runway fashion shows, how-to demos, incredible display galleries, fabulous shopping and more...".

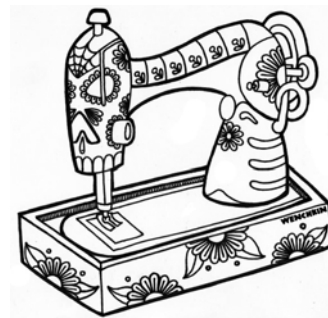
The show in which the Carolinas Region will participate will be held at Raleigh Convention Center in Raleigh, NC, on August 20, 21, and 22, 2020. We have arranged to get a booth which will allow us to display EGA projects that our members have worked on, set up a few people to stitch in public, and offer a small make-it/take-it project to teach people who may be new to stitching.



To get an idea of the scope of the Expo, check out the website: <https://www.sewingexpo.com/>. Since it is too early for them to publicize the specifics our show in Raleigh, you can look at the information about the show that will be in Atlanta in March to get an idea of what the Expo entails. It is overwhelming!

We have been in contact with members of the Dogwood Chapter (Tennessee Valley Region) who have sponsored a booth at the Expo in Atlanta for the past few years. Lynette Maton, their chapter president, has very graciously shared a lot of very helpful information and suggestions that will make our initial effort much easier to develop.

Although the show will be held in Raleigh, the Expo expects thousands of visitors from all over the country. Therefore, all of our CAR chapters stand a good chance of meeting stitchers who live in their areas. It would be wonderful if we had representatives from different chapters available to talk with interested people, so please think about joining us even for a half day.



What do you get in return for working at our booth at the show itself? The director of the Expo was so impressed with the Dogwood Chapter's booth and with visitors' responses to it that, after the first year, she announced that she would give free parking and free admission to anyone who worked at an EGA booth. This would be a great chance for you to explore the show for yourself when you were not working at the booth.

So, what can you do to help?

Before the show, help us:

- Make a plan about what kinds of projects to display; solicit and arrange for delivery of projects
- Develop a few handouts and posters
- Help to develop a floor plan that allows us to make the best use of our space and to showcase our projects while making room for the stitchers and the make-it/take-it area
- Gather display racks, cases, or other types of hanging gear
- Design and put together make-it/take-it kits
- Contribute one or more of your stitched projects for display (we hope to have a plan so we can designate how many and what kinds of pieces we will need)
- Sit at the information table at Merchandise Night at our Spring Seminar 2020 to answer questions

NOTE: It would also be wonderful if someone would volunteer to help Carole coordinate this event so nothing gets lost in the shuffle.

(EXPO, Continued on page 11)

RecruitingAtTheExpo



(EXPO: Continued from page 10)

At the show, you can:

- Help to set up the booth the afternoon before the show opens (Wednesday, August 19)
- Volunteer to serve for 4 hours (10 AM – 2 PM or 2 PM – 6PM) on one or more of the days of the show – we need 4 people per time slot: the jobs include stitching, teaching make-it/take-it, and greeting people who come to the booth. It would be OK to agree to rotate jobs with each other periodically if you prefer.

NOTE: Volunteers who serve the last afternoon of the show will work the show until 5:00 when the Expo closes, and then will spend the last hour helping us pack up the booth.

After the show, you can help us:

- Make sure we return all display items to the proper people
- Make sure the display racks and other items are returned to the proper sources
- Make a list of the supplies/items we have left to use for next year's show (assuming that all goes well this year!)
- Brainstorm with Carole as she writes up a final report

We should get started on the development stage soon so that we can inform people at our upcoming Spring Seminar. If we can come up with an appropriate make-it/take-it project before then, perhaps we ask people to bring some materials to the Seminar from their stash and could then hold a small work session to put together the kits there. Another option would be for chapters to volunteer to put kits together, if we can come up with a common plan ahead of time.

If we are prepared in time, we can also let our members know at the Seminar what kinds of display pieces we are looking for and/or start making a list of what people are willing to lend us for the display.

Although the show is months away, we do need to get started now. If you are interested in working on any of the planning stages, please send Carole Overton an email to let her know. I know that a number of chapters have taught make-it/take-it projects at the fairs and other places. It would be very helpful if you could send Carole your “lessons learned” or best practices or ideas for successful projects so that we can come up with a plan for this event.

If you want to volunteer to work at the event itself, Carole has set up a user-friendly, on-line registration system. Each work period is delineated and you can easily schedule yourself for one or more periods. Just follow this link: <https://signup.com/go/cyBDQGG> Signing up for a volunteer slot will be open until the event starts. It is possible for someone to cancel a registration later on so if a slot is full when you get a chance to look at the site, check back at a later time – a slot might have opened up.

Recruiting at the Original Sewing & Quilt Expo should prove to be a great experience for us and the perfect chance for people to find out about EGA and what it can do for them. Please contribute your time, projects, and/or ideas so that we can make the most of this wonderful opportunity!

Contact Carole Overton at sjocdo1@gmail.com with any questions, concerns, suggestions, or offers of help. ■

SAVE THE DATE!

Fall Retreat at Fairfield Inn, Rock Hill, SC

October 2-4, 2020

LECTURE: Early Southern Female Academies and samplers from the Asheville School.
By Cindi Lemkau , (The Laurel Chapter), Friday night

CLASSES: One day class (TBD); Make-it/Take-it class, Saturday*
Sit 'n Stitch, Camaraderie, Good Food! All Weekend!

BoD MEETING: Sunday morning

** Classes will be announced at our Spring Seminar in May.*

Executive Committee

Meet your new Executive Committee 2019 – 2022 (part 2)

In our last issue of *RegioNews*, we introduced two members of your new Executive Committee (EC), the members who are charged with leading the Region for next 3 years. In the previous article, you read about Carole Overton, the Region Director, and Laura Smith, the Region Secretary. This month, we would like to introduce to the other two current members of the EC.

Treasurer:

Elizabeth Little is probably well-known to all of you, as she has been an active member of the Region for many years. Elizabeth has held many CAR offices since 2009, including Assistant Region Director, Region Director, Secretary, and Treasurer. In addition, she won the well-deserved Gold Thread Award for our Region in 2011.

Elizabeth also currently serves as the treasurer for her Golden Needles chapter, which meets in Concord, NC. When she is not serving her chapter and region, Elizabeth is a CPA, although how she finds time to focus on

that when she is so busy with EGA is a mystery to many of us! A talented needlewoman, Elizabeth is a valued member of our Region who is always ready to volunteer to keep the organization moving ahead.

Education Coordinator:

Janice Wright is your new Education Coordinator. She is a member of the Piedmont Chapter and serves as their Region Rep. Janice was a Director of Event Planning and a Convention Services Manager for years before starting her own full-service meeting and event management company, JW

Events Group, that offers a variety of stitching retreats under the business name "Spirit of Stitching." In fact, you may have been lucky enough to have attended one her stitching events.

Married for 18 years, Janice is the proud mother of two children. She also serves as Vice President of the Board for Lionheart Academy of the Triad. When it comes to needlework, cross stitch and Hardanger are her favorites, but she loves learning new techniques and expanding her horizons. ■

A message from the RD:

I am extremely grateful to Laura, Elizabeth, and Janice for volunteering to fill these critical positions. Without such volunteers, your Carolinas Region would not be able to offer you the support and enrichment that you expect.

ARD needed:

However, our work is just beginning and we have a critical opening which needs to be filled if we are to continue. We need someone fill the position of Assistant Region Director. This person helps to develop and oversee the spring seminars and retreats and to plan policies, fills in for the RD when that person is not available, and shadows the RD in preparation for becoming

the RD when the next election comes around.

What does the ARD get in return?

She is able to get reimbursement for travel and ½ room payment for attending Region events. She is kept up-to-date on all Region and National policies. In her role as chair of the spring seminars and retreats, she meets many of the members of CAR and can formulate activities to meet their needs. She has a great impact on what happens in the Region. We can help you learn what to do — all you need to do is take the first step and apply!

Sadly, without having an Assistant Region Director elected during our Board of Directors meeting this coming May,

it is unlikely that we will be able to offer a full-fledged Spring Seminar as planned in 2022. Since the planning for these large, formal seminars has to start at least 2 years out and since the ARD is responsible for coordinating this event, we will have to change that 2022 meeting to another Spring Retreat and NOT a seminar with a choice of classes, merchandise night, etc. Don't make us take this drastic step!

We need your help. If you or any member you know would make an effective ARD, please contact either a member of nominating committee, listed elsewhere in this newsletter, or Carole Overton, the RD, as soon as possible for more information. ■

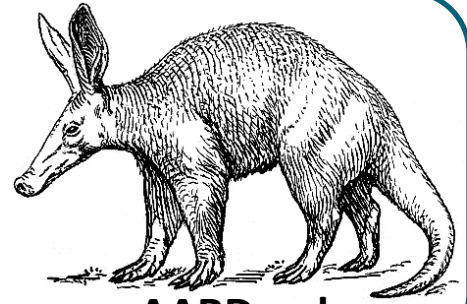
Volunteers Needed

NEEDED: Volunteers to fill some important positions

Assistant Region Director (3-year term)

Nominating Committee member (3-year term)

AARDvarks (any time; every little bit helps!)



AARDvark

(RD REPORT: Continued from page 1)

have held multiple offices over the years and are now burned out or are unable or unwilling to serve again, and no one else wants to hold office or take on any of the other leadership roles in the chapter. Chapter program chairmen are finding it very difficult to secure agreement from the members about projects to take on – the trend seems to be that members just want to stitch on their own pieces rather than working on a “group” project.

In fact, I know that CAR is not alone in these difficulties. When I attend the National EGA meetings, I hear the same concerns voiced by chapters and regions across the country. So, what can we do to improve the situation?

One important way to breathe life back into our organization is to recruit new members whose enthusiasm will spark the “old-timers” back into full participation and who will be willing to take an active role in furthering chapter and region activities.

To this end, the Carolinas Region has signed up to have a booth at the upcoming Original Sewing & Quilt Expo to be held in Raleigh, NC, on August 20 – 22, 2020. Other EGA chapters and regions have participated in this national needlework show in the past few years and have found it to be an excel-

lent way to attract interest in EGA and to increase membership. Although the Expo will be held in Raleigh, attendees will come from a wide area including but not limited to the 4 states in our Region (NC, SC, GA, VA). Therefore, each of our chapters has a stake in this event.

In a separate article elsewhere in this newsletter, I will explain the many ways in which you can participate to make our booth the best in the show. We will need help before the Expo opens (planning the displays, soliciting and collecting stitched pieces to show what we do, preparing kits for a make-it/take-it project, and setting up the day before the Expo opens), during the show (stitching in public, interacting with the visitors, teaching the make-it/take-it project), and immediately after the show (taking down the booth). If you work in the booth during the Expo, you will get free parking and free admission to the show, so that when you are not working you will be able to visit the other booths or take a class or two. Please read the article about the Expo and consider what you can do to help our Region and our chapters advance to the next level.

Despite all of the common concerns, there are also some glimmers of hope. Congratulations to the members of The Laurel Chapter who will be celebrating their 30th birthday in March!

That is quite an achievement. Many of our chapters have added new members even as they have had to take a few off of their rolls. A prime example is the Cardinal Chapter who recently voted to accept a chapter satellite: The WF Stitchers, a group 6 stitchers who meet in Wake Forest, wanted to join EGA so that they could take advantage of all of the benefits of EGA. See the article elsewhere in this issue to find out more about this process.

Many chapters have continued to host needlework displays, stitching classes, stitch-in-public events, and a variety of outreach projects that show their contributions to and involvement in their communities. I have also seen an exciting array of stitching projects that our members have worked on.

As a result, while I am concerned about the difficulties that our chapters are facing, I remain hopeful that our members will rally, that new members will spark renewed enthusiasm, and that the Carolinas Region will remain one of the premier regions of the Embroiderers’ Guild of America.

If you have any comments or ideas that may help us advance our goals, please let me know. In the meantime, continue to support your chapter and region. Our continued existence depends on you!

Happy stitching!
Carole Overton