

QUILTS OF VALOR - January 2015 - Stephanie Logan

The Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF) is entering its 11th year, and after an amazing 10th year with unprecedented growth, we have found that there are some changes to the way we operate that must be made.

Our Board of Directors has been seeking corporate donors in order to ease the burdens on all of us to provide materials, quilting, and shipping fees and has found some roadblocks in this process. Applying for donations must be similar to my applying for a loan of sorts as the company donating wants to see your financial papers and know how many people may be impacted through the donation, etc. Because Quilts of Valor (QOV) has been growing so rapidly, especially this past year, the Board has not been able to provide this information. With over 10,000 volunteers from all over the country, it is very difficult to know who is doing what and who is already collecting funds on behalf of QOV. Changes became clear and have been put into place through a new membership structure.

Those groups and individuals who have been reporting their monies to the Foundation have, in the past, donated 10% of all monies received to QOVF. Those groups who received small donations found this burdensome as that 10% donation lost to them was a large amount of money unavailable for use to purchase fabrics. This has been changed so that 100% of all monies sent to QOV's treasurer (and ALL monies must be submitted) are reimbursable to the group to whom they belong. This is also tied to the new membership structure since the only people allowed to solicit donations for QOVF must be group members.

Not everyone who makes a QOV® must be a member of QOVF. So why should you become a member? Because:

- You share the passion of our Mission to cover those veterans and service members touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor
- Our organization has grown so much we need clear Policies & Procedures so we are all working consistently to accomplish our mission
- We need to know who is out there acting in the name of QOV®
- QOVF needs to become auditable to be able to raise corporate funds to support our local quilters and longarmers throughout the country.

There are many benefits to becoming a member; they include:

- The right for registered groups to use the QOVF® name to raise money, accept donations, and accept non-monetary gifts to meet local needs
- **100% use of all funds raised by your group**
- **Eligible for periodic matching fundraising dollars**
- A "Members Only" Page on the QOVF website with offers of deeply discounted supplies and tools, resources, and events

- A copy of our Policies & Procedures Manual and the many templates in the Appendices for your group's use
- 2015 Commemorative pin
- Access to the QOVF merchandise at an "expense reimbursement cost" to be used to raise donations in your area
- First knowledge about upcoming QOVF special events, and discounted opportunities to participate in other quilt related events
- Membership card
- Listing on the QOVF website
- Monthly reports on your group's account (income & expenses)

The membership is structured as follows:

- Groups can join for \$30 plus \$5 per member annual membership fee
- Individuals can join for a \$20 annual membership fee. They will enjoy all the membership benefits listed above, with the exception of being able to raise money or accept donations for their own use.
- We have established two groups: National Toppers Group and National Longarmers Group for all volunteers who do not have a local group. These individuals are eligible to join one of these two groups for the \$5.00 group-member fee.
- Lastly, for those groups who have a not-for-profit status special considerations are available from one non-profit to another. For more information on this option please contact Executive Director Susan Gordon at susan.gordon@govf.org.

Lastly, I need to mention 2 other important pieces of information. First, I desperately need groups to form for QOVF work in the Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, West Central and East Central regions of the State, and in every community throughout Wyoming! We have so many men and women who need to be served by us through our mission statement! I can't travel to these areas, as much as I'd like to; won't you please consider helping me out?

And finally, the 2nd Annual National QOVF Sew-In will be held Saturday, February 5. Please visit our facebook page (www.facebook.com/QuiltsOfValorWyoming) throughout January for information on participating in this Nation-wide event!