



Carolinan RegionNews

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**4th Quarter, November
2025
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The Carolinan Region, EGA includes 15 chapters located in North Carolina, South Carolina, and parts of Georgia and Virginia representing about 300 members.

Message from the Region Director

Submitted by Gail Smith, Carolinan Region Director

The hot days of summer are behind us & we look forward to the calming Autumn – warm days & cooler nights here in the CAR. During the Fall Retreat, the tradition of electing new officers continued . . . well sort of: Our new Region Treasurer is Nova Shultz, from The Laurel Chapter; our new Region Secretary is Dee Pierce, from the Florence Chapter; and our new Region By-laws Chair is Jeni Huebner, from the Piedmont Chapter. My warm thanks to those who are stepping down for all the work, guidance, & patience they showed me as I learned this job and heartfelt appreciation for those who stepped up to keep the CAR going forward.

The Nominating Committee continues its work to find us a new Director of Education and a new member for the Nominating Committee. I asked them to find stitchers to fill those positions first. I am not power-hungry nor do I like to control things. Those who know me know I speak the truth. Nor

Calendar/Events/Important Dates	
11/12-16/2025	EGA National Seminar, Dallas, TX
1/2 - 1/30/2026	Vote on EGA Bylaws revisions
1/15/2026	Deadline for Legacy Scholarship application
1/20/2026	Sign up for EGA National Seminar in Orlando
4/24 – 4/26/2026	CAR Spring Retreat, Rock Hill, SC
9/25 – 9/27/2026	CAR Fall Retreat, Rock Hill, SC
10/9-10/14/2026	EGA National Seminar, Orlando, FL

Table of Contents	
Message from the Region Director	1-2
Changing of the Guard: CAR Welcomes New Officers	2-3
CAR Outreach Reminder	3
CAR Chapter News	4-6
CAR Spring 2025 Retreat: Teaching Tables (Part III)	6-7
CAR Fall 2025 Retreat	7-9
Save the Dates	9
CAR Fall 2025 Board Meeting Minutes	10-12
CAR Reporting Requirements	13
CAR EC Members	14



The mission of the Embroiderers' Guild of America is to inspire passion for the needle arts through education and the celebration of its heritage.
<https://egausa.org/>

am I one to say, “Well my time is up, so see you later.” I know the next Region Director will arrive just when they should, so hang with me a little longer.

It was after the Fall Retreat ended that Barbara Dexter-Smith stepped up to say that she would become the Editor-in-Chief of the *RegioNews*! My deep, deep thanks to Carole Overton, who kept the *RegioNews* going for the past year. We welcome Barbara, who is looking for articles about embroidery, lessons learned, experiences, and just about anything else.

Going forward, please mark your calendar for our next Spring Retreat, 24-26 April at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Rock Hill, SC. While you are doing that, move on down to September, saving the dates of 25-27, for the Fall Retreat. These two retreats will be planned and organized by the Florence Chapter, aka Florence Floozies. They will help us celebrate the Nation’s 250th birthday at both retreats. More information will be coming.

A big change that Carole Overton & I are working on is to have registration done on-line. There is no better time to get the CAR into the 22nd Century than now, and that is with on-line registration! Once we get all the wrinkles ironed out of it, we will take the next big step of accepting electronic payments. But let’s get this done first. There will be an option to print out the registration form & mail it in as usual, but it will be very easy to fill the form in and submit it online. As for payment, please note – payment will be in check form, for the time being. Just like normal, you will be sending in a check for the CAR Spring Retreat.

The CAR will be 45 years on 21 Feb 2026! Viva la CAR! This just snuck up on me so I am working on how to celebrate this event. Any ideas? We will continue to go forward by remembering our past & embracing the future.

Yours in stitching,

Gail Smith
Carolinas Region Director



Changing of the Guard: CAR Welcomes New Officers

Submitted by Carole Overton, CAR Website/ZOOM Coordinator

At our Carolinas Region Board of Directors meeting on September 28, 2025, we bid farewell to our “retiring” officers: Marguerite Ewing (Secretary), Elizabeth Little (Treasurer), and Becky Buie (Bylaws Chair). It should be noted that Elizabeth has held just about every Region office at least once, and has served as Treasurer for at least 3 terms. I have used quotation marks around the word *retiring* because I am sure these loyal members will continue to offer their services in other ways. You have our thanks – we are very grateful to all 3 of you for your contributions to our ongoing work. We hope you get to enjoy a little of your “retirement” before you take on another region task!

We also installed new region leaders: Dee Pierce took over as CAR Secretary, Nova Shultz became the CAR Treasurer, and Jeni Huebner accepted the position of Director of Bylaws.

During the meeting, I announced that, although I had enjoyed serving as the Interim Editor of this newsletter for the past year, I had to relinquish those responsibilities. Fortunately, Barbara Dexter-Smith, a member of The Laurel Chapter, offered to take up the mantle. She and I have collaborated on this issue and then Barbara will take over. Please continue to send her your articles, photos, chapter news, and other information so that she can share them with the region. You may reach Barbara at newsletter@egacarolinas.org.

As per voting at the Board meeting, the region has expanded its Executive Committee (the members who guide the work of the region). The committee is now composed of the 7 following voting members: Region Director, Assistant Region Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Education, Website Coordinator, and *RegioNews* Editor.

We want to welcome all of these volunteers and thank them for accepting the challenge of helping to guide our region over the next 3 years!



CAR Outreach Reminder

Submitted by Millie Strobel, CAR Outreach Chair

A reminder that as Region Outreach Chair, I need a report from each chapter on their outreach projects. The programs may be something charitable, such as, bookmarks for a literary program, Habitat Sampler, Linus blankets, and the like. Outreach may also be stitching in public to promote your chapter and National EGA; a display of needlework in a library, or any other area; or any other activity to promote your chapter and/or National EGA.

Please complete the outreach form you may download from the National Website, or contact me and I will send you a copy of the form. I need all info sent to me (outreach@egacarolinas.org) by **January 5, 2026**, so I am able to meet the National deadline of January 15th. Thank you for your help with this report.



EGA Bylaws Revision

EGA National is proposing some changes to its bylaws and needs your vote. Online voting for the revised bylaws will open on January 2, 2026 and close on January 30, 2026. Please check out your December issue of *Needle Arts* for further information about the proposed changes.

CAR Chapter News

Kaleidoscope of Colors

Submitted by Mary Grosser, Tryon Chapter Member

A mixed media art show was hosted by the Tryon chapter of EGA along with two other groups (Contemporary Needle Arts and Watercolor Artists of Fairfield Harbor), on Friday 10/17/2025, in New Bern, North Carolina. Not only did it present 89 different art projects in multiple media (cross stitch, canvas embroidery, thread painting, petit point needlepoint, blackwork, stumpwork, hardanger, watercolor painting, and acrylic painting), but it also presented similarly themed pieces all in different medias. Highlighted were three pieces which all included foxes. They were placed together for the viewer to be able to compare the differences and likenesses of each media. Also grouped together in this manner were a bouquet of tulips, a boat in water, landscapes with buildings, and autumn scenes. This exhibit was attended by close to 90 visitors and individual tours were given as requested. It was a true collaboration among artists of different techniques.

Fun with Felt

Submitted by Laura Smith, President, Golden Needles Chapter

In September, Connie Morris and Patty Schmid guided the Golden Needles in stitching up some festive fun with surface embroidery! Together, they created adorable partridge and pear ornaments on wool felt, using a charming design by Larissa Holland from her Twelve Days of Christmas series. The best part? The designs were pre-printed on sticky soluble fabric—no basting or tracing required! After peeling away the backing, members chose their favorite wool felt colors (provided by Connie and Patty), stitched away, and then washed off the soluble fabric to reveal their beautiful creations. It was an easy, enjoyable project that brought plenty of holiday cheer to everyone!



Piedmont Chapter Hosts Batik Class with Laura Smith

Submitted by Jeni Huebner, Region Representative, Piedmont Chapter

In October, the Piedmont Chapter (Greensboro, High Point, Winston-Salem) hosted Batik to Stitch, a two-day workshop taught by Laura Smith. Laura's extensive knowledge in batik dying and mixed media techniques were combined to produce hand-dyed pieces to then be embroidered with embellishments.

Laura started with an introduction into the Indonesian art of batik wax-resist fabric dying. Then she instructed the students in wax melting and stamping with the use of tjaps ("chops"), how to then fill in with dye, and over-wax any part of the design that should not take more dye in the next steps.

Laura discussed color theory and worked with each student on color combinations between the images and backgrounds. Wax removal was the last step, scrubbing off the built-up wax and then ironing out the remaining wax with blotting papers (lots of them!) Then it was time to stitch!

Laura spent time with each student choosing embellishments from the large stash she brought to jazz up the dyed fabrics. Students had their choices of beads, metallic threads, charms, and more for each of their pieces. Most were so taken with the dying process, that many attendees spent both days doing batik-ing, deciding to finish embellishing at home.

Participants included 10 chapter members, a member's mom, and 5 guests. Piedmont advertised on Facebook through their page, as well as NC EGA, Tarheel State Stitchers, and NC Stitchers groups. The "mom" commented that learning batik gave her a whole new appreciation for the work that goes into this hand-dying process. Her chapter-member daughter said, "I didn't have much interest in batik, but I signed up because my mom wanted to attend the class. It turns out it was a great experience; there was joy in learning something, and I really enjoyed it. It's never bad to try something new!"

Piedmont had so much fun that they are looking into putting together a chapter kit of the base materials and tools needed for future projects. Laura's teaching style and attentiveness made this a great weekend. This is what makes EGA such a great resource!



Help for VA Tech Stitchers

Submitted by Gail Smith, Carolinas Region Director

Over the past year, I have been contacted by a number of you concerning the VA Tech Chapter. You wanted to help them somehow be able to survive & grow, but how? Did they need fabric or threads or patterns or what?

Almost all of us are totally blown away that the chapter was formed & continues today. What with college life being what it is, there is always a turnover as students learn, experience, and graduate. So, how can we help them stay an active chapter?

There are a couple of things to remember, such as if physical things were sent to them, where would they keep them? What things do they do as projects? What tools do they have? The biggest challenge is the storage thing – people come & go, so who keeps the stash? Think about your reaction when your chapter is notified that they are the recipient of another stitcher’s stash.

After talking with the VA Tech Chapter stitchers, honestly, the best support you could give them is money. I was told that when a potential stitcher comes by for a visit or 2, they really like the chapter. However, when it is pointed out that there is a cost to be a member, that person skedaddles away. Money donated to the chapter would be used to help offset the cost of a new membership for a year. From what I understand, it would not pay the whole expense, but possibly half the amount. So, a \$30 membership could become a \$15 expense for the new member. Does that make sense to you?

If you would like to help the VA Tech Chapter, the best way is to use PayPal. Remember they are the future (financially) while we are the present (checks/cash). This is their account – PayPal@egavt. So, there you have it.



CAR 2025 Spring Retreat: Teaching Tables (Part III)

Submitted by Carole Overton, CAR Website/ZOOM Coordinator

This is the last installment of our series on the Teaching Tables from the Carolinas Region’s Spring Retreat 2025. The retreat was reviewed in the May 2025 issue of this newsletter, which you may access here: https://www.egacarolinas.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/2025_RN_2QTR.pdf].

The highlight of that weekend was a series of teaching tables: Every two hours, a “teacher” would present information about an aspect of needlework, based on a combination of the study of the issue and her own personal experiences. We received packets from 5 of the teachers to publish in our newsletter. This month, we are including the final two handouts. For your reference, below are the links to find all of the available handout packets:

Fabrics (prepared by Susan Winter):

<https://www.egacarolinas.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/The-Fabric-of-Our-Stitches-CAR-EGA-Spring-Retreat-2025.pdf>

Threads (prepared by Betsy Morgan): https://www.egacarolinas.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Threads-for-Embroidery_Betsy-Morgan.pdf

Frames (prepared by Leslie Brady): https://www.egacarolinas.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Frames_Brady.pdf

Tools (prepared by Janet Noble):

https://www.egacarolinas.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Tools-document-for-CAR-Newsletter_Noble.pdf

Calculating Fabric Size Needed (prepared by Carole Overton):

https://www.egacarolinas.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Calculating-Fabric-Size_Overton_SpringCAR-2025.pdf

We hope these packets encourage you to do your own investigations!



CAR 2025 Fall Retreat

What a Crazy Fall Retreat!

Submitted by Gail Smith, CAR Region Director

OK, the CAR retreat was held the end of September, so the question is: Are you rested up yet? By the time I got home on Sunday evening, it had certainly been a day, after a crazy good weekend. I took 2 whole days to do laundry & put things away; then there was making breakfast & doing up the bed each morning. Retreat was over. Was it? Sadly it was, I had to tell myself, for now. But I knew that the planning would begin again in a week or so for the 2026 retreats.

Christine Haimann did a grand job as the event Registrar; Marguerite Ewing made the “Back to Class” bags each of us received. She found all the goodies that were inside. How does she do it? Well, all I can say is that it’s magical. Julia Tison made the ‘Region’ gift bags for Lea Peacock, EGA National’s President, & her friend Judy Brady.

There were so many faces of stitchers that I could recognize from past retreats. Walking around the place, I heard conversations of friends sharing what had been going on the past 6 months. It was really great to realize that members of 14 of the 15 region chapters were all gathered together.

Having classes was an overwhelming success & we couldn't have chosen better teachers than Leslie Mehard Brady & Betsy Morgan! They were so relaxed, patient, and encouraging to all their students. The projects, Introduction to Jacobean Crewel (Leslie) and Ode to Loara (Betsy) were the perfect projects to get us back to class.

Susan MacRae gave a clear & concise talk about the Technical Excellence program. I think a number of stitchers came away with a better idea of the why & how that the Technical Excellence came to be, as well as what it entails. My thanks to Susan, Leslie, & Betsy for teaching all of us something.

We had 2 special guests for the weekend – EGA National President Lea Peacock & her friend Judy Brady, Tip of Texas Chapter, South Central Region. This is what President Lea wrote to me & you:

Dear Gail & CAR Members,

I had so much fun at your retreat! Not to brag but I have finished both projects. Most importantly I enjoyed meeting everyone . . . what a fine region you have!

Lea

That weekend was an opportunity for everyone to see the NC & SC panels of the America's Tapestry project that they had been hearing about. We were grateful to see that a few of you took the opportunity to stitch on them.

The business meeting was held on Sunday & the new members of the Board of Directors were sworn in. The new Region Treasurer is Nova Shultz; Region Secretary is Dee Pierce; By-laws Chair is Jeni Huebner; and *RegioNews* editor is Barbara Dexter-Smith. We are still in need of a Director of Education, Assistant RD, and new member of the Nominating Committee. The budget for 2026 was voted on & accepted.

Two new positions were voted on to be added to the Executive Committee. They are the *RegioNews* editor and the Website Coordinator. The times have changed & these 2 positions are an integral part of the workings of the CAR. It is time that they had an input, as well as the responsibility of voting on region matters.

So, now we are working on the 2026 calendar. My job was to get a contract with Hampton Inn, Rock Hill, (for a better rate, which I did) for the same weekends as we had this year. Did you put it on your calendar yet? 24-26 April and 25-27 September. So, my job is done. Now the Florence Chapter will take over. They are handling the registrations, payments, any teaching/learning events, stash events, baskets, and anything else I might have forgotten. Until the next time we meet, be well, stitch daily, talk to your friends & family, and we will gather in April!

A Wonderful Learning Experience!

Submitted by Carole Overton, CAR Website/ZOOM Coordinator

I had a wonderful time at the Fall 2025 CAR Retreat in Rock Hill. I was excited to find out that there were approximately 70 attendees, including both chapter members and Members at Large. Everyone seemed to get along well and stitching groups formed and re-formed over the weekend. Strangers were made to feel welcome and lots of new friendships were forged.

I was lucky enough to be able to take both classes: As one who much prefers cross-stitching to surface embroidery, I was leery about taking a crewel class. Believe it or not, however, I did not feel intimidated or stressed in Leslie Brady's *Introduction to Jacobean Crewel* class. Her project included a variety of stitches to keep our interests, we had time in class to practice each one, and her instructions and encouragement were always helpful. Susan MacRae, a Master Craftsman in Crewel, served as an additional support and often walked around the room to demonstrate a stitch or answer questions.

Betsy Morgan's *Ode to Loara* class was fascinating. She started with a review of the life of Loara and the history of Loara's sampler and shared several of her own samplers which featured common motifs found in many early samplers. The class focused on practicing some of the stitches needed to make the actual projects and ended with a very helpful lesson on how to make cording (including a special "reverse" method which makes the cording twist look smoother) and tassels.

Our Board of Directors meeting on Sunday morning was run efficiently and quickly so we were able to get back on the road before 10 AM.

All of the attendees with whom I spoke told me that they had a great time and were very happy that they had come. I hope that all of you will have a chance to experience a region retreat at some point. You will come away with lots of good memories, and you might even get some stitching done!



SAVE THE DATES: CAR 2026 Retreats!

Both the Spring 2026 and Fall 2026 CAR Retreats will be held at the Hampton Inn in Rock Hill, SC. Be sure to save the dates on your calendar so you do not miss an event!

Spring Retreat: April 24- 26, 2026

Fall Retreat: September 25 – 27, 2026

Registration for the Spring Retreat will open in early January 2026.

CAR Fall 2025 Board of Directors Meeting: Minutes from September 28, 2025

Submitted by Dee Pierce, CAR Secretary



**Carolinas Region EGA
Board of Directors Meeting
Rock Hill, SC
9/28/2025**

Gail Smith called the meeting to order at 8:31 am

Executive Committee in attendance:

Gail Smith (RD)
Carole Overton (Website)
Julie Anderson (ARD)
Janet Noble (Education)
Elizabeth Little (Treasurer)
Marguerite Ewing (Secretary)

Special Guest:

Lea Peacock, National President of EGA
Judy Brady, Tip of Texas Chapter, South Central Region

Voting Delegates in Attendance:

Aiken Stitchin' Belles:	Susan MacRae (P) Belinda Ebert (RR)
Blue Ridge:	Betsy Hanson (P) Theresa Underwood (Proxy for Pat Parks)
Charlotte:	Virginia Martin (Proxy for Susan Banbury) Connie Miller (RR)
Chicora:	Katrina Lawrimore (RR)
EGA AT VA Tech:	Nicole Roatch (P) Sarah Shultz (RR)
Florence:	Julia Tison (P) Sallie Folk (RR)
Golden Needles:	Laura Smith (P)
Low Country:	Kate Wendorf (Proxy for Frances Della Penna) Terri Goodwin (RR)

Magnolia:	Betsy Morgan (P)
Millwood:	Janet Noble (P)
Piedmont:	Heather Rushforth (P)
	Jeni Huebner (RR)
The Laurel:	Carlie Holdridge (P)
	Barbara Dexter-Smith (RR)

Chapters not represented:

Cardinal
Star Stitchers
Tryon

The attendance indicated there was a quorum, so the meeting continued.

Executive Committee Reports

Julie Anderson (ARD) reported no news at present, but she is looking for a replacement for her position.

Elizabeth Little (Treasurer) reported the CD's that need renewal have been renewed with a locked-in rate of 3.68%. Funds are stable until these mature. She made the motion that Chapter Grants remain at \$150 per chapter for the year 2026. The motion passed. There were a few numbers in error in the budget packet given. They were corrected. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Janet Noble (Education) thanked the teachers for the classes this retreat. There are teachers needed for Fall 2026. Any information would be helpful. The CRESS Scholarship for 2025 was awarded to Jessica Boudreaux-Hnatiuk.

Carole Overton (Website/*RegioNews*) reported the Website has all updated information. In a discussion with Webmaster, on-line payments would not affect the website. There were 40 zoom sessions hosted. There have been three editions of *RegioNews* released this year, with one more coming out soon. Carole also stated that she is no longer able to continue writing the *RegioNews* and asked for a replacement.

Dee Pierce (Nominating Chair) reported that the positions of By-Laws Chair, Secretary and Treasurer have been filled. We are still in need of a Director of Education plus adding another Nominating person.

Old Business

Gail Smith (RD) reminded members of the twice-monthly stitch-in meetings scheduled on zoom. Everyone was encouraged to attend these. Leslie Brady has an ongoing Special Interest Group (SIG) on surface embroidery which meets on the third Saturday of each month. There are also several other SIGs available for stitchers.

The joint Seminar with TVR has been cancelled. The reason behind this is a difference in the way finances are handled between TVR & CAR.

The Teaching Tables at the Spring Retreat were a hit. They were enjoyed by all and will continue in the future.

“Growing Your Chapter” is now “Growing Your Connections.” These are zoom sessions from National each 4th Saturday at 1pm. She encouraged members to sign in and see what is going on.

New Business

Gail Smith (RD) Recognized Chapter Anniversaries

Magnolia	50 Years
Millwood	50 Years
Florence	45 Years
Laurel	35 Years

National Seminars:

Dallas	<i>Nov 12-16, 2025</i>	
Orlando	<i>Oct 9-14, 2026</i>	The theme is “Wish Upon a Stitch”
Tucson	<i>Sept 15-19, 2027</i>	The theme is “Needles that Inspire”

Laura Smith will be hosting the Educational Exhibit at the Orlando Seminar and asked for volunteers to assist her.

Announcements

Gail Smith (RD) announced that the Florence Chapter will be serving as chair for the Spring and Fall retreats in 2026.

A major change is that registration will be on-line for the Spring Retreat 2026. People not able to do this on-line will still have the option of printing out the brochure & mailing in their registration. Payment for the Spring Retreat remains in the form of a check. We are in the process of learning about e-payments & hope to have that ready for the Fall Retreat.

The voting on and swearing in of new officers:

New Officers:

Dee Pierce-Secretary
Nova Shultz-Treasurer
Jeni Huebner-By-Laws

Each candidate accepted the responsibilities of the job and were duly sworn in.

President Lea Peacock asked that we check our email & be sure to complete the survey that was sent out to all members.

With no other business, meeting adjourned at 9:18.



Help Wanted

The Carolinas Region is looking for a few good workers: We have positions that need to be filled. If you are interested in one or more of these opportunities, contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee at nominating@egacarolinas.org:

Assistant Region Director

Director of Education

Seminar Director

Website Coordinator

We need you!



EGA Chapter Reporting Requirements

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.

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
1. Minutes of board and general meetings (unless included in the chapter's newsletter)	Within the month	Region Director
2. Membership roster (Life and Plural members)	Within the month	Region Director; CAR Newsletter Editor; Website Coordinator
3. Region dues and membership information (Life and Plural members)	Within the month	Region Treasurer
4. Chapter newsletters	When sent to members	Region Director; Assistant Region Director; CAR Newsletter Editor; Region Outreach Chair
5. EGA Chapter Officer Change List (EGA Form)	Within 2 weeks of election	EGA National
6. Education questions/information	As needed	Region Director of Education
7. Annual chapter report	By December 1	Region Director
8. Annual financial report	By February 15	Region Director; EGA Headquarters

Carolinas Region Executive Committee		
Region Director	Gail Smith	regiondirector@egacarolinas.org
Assistant Region Director	Julie Anderson	asstregiondirector@egacarolinas.org
Director of Education	Janet Noble	education@egacarolinas.org
Secretary	Dee Pierce	secretary@egacarolinas.org
Treasurer	Nova Shultz	treasurer@egacarolinas.org
Committee Chairs		
Bylaws	Jeni Huebner	bylaws@egacarolinas.org
Community Outreach	Millie Strobel	outreach@egacarolinas.org
<i>RegioNews</i>	Barbara Dexter-Smith	newsletter@egacarolinas.org
Seminar Director		seminardirector@egacarolinas.org
Website Coordinator	Carole Overton	website@egacarolinas.org
Nominating Committee		
	Katrina Lawrimore (-2029)	nominatingchair@egacarolinas.org
Nominating 2	Nancy Gannon (-2028)	
Nominating 3		