



# Carolinan RegionNews

[www.egacarolinan.org](http://www.egacarolinan.org)

**2nd Quarter, May 2026  
Volume 43, Issue 2**

*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*

### 45 Years of Embroidery

Ever so long ago, yet only the blink of an eye, the Carolinan Region was chartered on February 21, 1981. There were chapters before there was a Region; the earliest chapter listed in the History document is Orangeburg Needlework Guild, Orangeburg, SC in 1973. There had to be more chapters, but that information is missing. The Region consisted of North & South Carolina, at that time. The designation of regions would help in the flow of information from National to the Chapters as well as in reverse. EGA was growing fast.

Who was the first RD? That’s a good question. It was 1984-1985 that Dolly Fehd, of Augusta, filled the roll. So, somewhere, in that timeframe, eastern Georgia (Augusta area) joined the Carolinan Region.

We are here today because of the stitchers who have paved the way through the decisions they made about keeping education as the focus of EGA. Education happens in formal

Calendar/Events/Important Dates	
6/1/2026	Deadline for EGA Research Fellowship Grant
9/25-9/27 2026	CAR Fall Retreat Rock Hill, SC
10/9-10/14 2026	EGA National Seminar, Orlando, FL

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*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/>

settings, and it happens in casual one-on-one settings. It is in the sharing of our projects that we keep educating other stitchers, and we keep learning.

I was so pleased to see so many of you at the CAR Spring Retreat. The Florence chapter has my heartfelt gratitude for all they did to make the retreat so special. The projects being worked on were so different. From simple designs to complex; small to huge (that would be Susan MacRae again); mono pallet to eye-popping colors. It was a joy to spend time with you, and I look forward to seeing you again at the Fall Retreat in Rock Hill, SC, at the end of September.

Yours in stitching, Gail Smith CAR RD

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## **CAR Spring Retreat 2026: A Sampling of Photos**

*Submitted by Carole Overton, Aiken Stitchin' Belles*

We just got back from a wonderful, friendly, and educational stitching weekend at the CAR Spring Retreat! The Florence chapter volunteered to plan and host this event, centered around the theme of celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Many people were stitching patriotic designs. What fun!



All attendees were given a few “welcome” gifts:

- Kit for a small, beaded flag pin (directions, beads, and a handful of safety pins)
- Ruler
- Skein of DMC S820, satin floss in the color “Sapphire,” in honor of the region’s 45<sup>th</sup> (sapphire) anniversary. This was the color used for the model of our anniversary ornament.
- A cookie decorated with the anniversary logo – cute and delicious!

We spent the weekend stitching and visiting with old and new friends. While most members gathered in the Catawba room, we also spilled over into the breakfast area (shown in this photo) where there was more room to spread out. In both rooms, we admired the wonderful array of patterns, colors, and techniques that reflect our Region members’ skills. How inspiring!



There were no classes this weekend. Instead, the event offered 3 Teaching Tables:

Teaching Table: History of Samplers

Marguerite Ewing reviewed some of the history of samplers and sampler motifs.



Teaching Table: Tools of the Trade

Marguerite Ewing discussed the history of some common needleworking tools and prompted a discussion of other useful items.



### Teaching Table: Types of Samplers

Sallie Folk shared several of the samplers she had stitched to help her explain the different types of samplers. An array of colors, styles, and motifs to please everyone!



We were awed by the variety of opportunity baskets (so many ways to incorporate the theme of American's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary). The winners' names were drawn a few at a time, interspersed with Marguerite's questions and answers about historic events. We all learned a few things. As promised, EGA is all about education! The lucky winners were all smiles!

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The weekend ended, as usual, with our business meeting. Before we knew it, the weekend was over.

Many thanks to the Florence Chapter for their efforts and to all participants for making the weekend a great one!

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## ***Judith and Susan Richardson Scholarship***

The following is from the EGA website on the newly established Scholarship.

“Win a scholarship to take EGA Teacher Certification in the technique of your choice. The Judith and Susan Richardson Scholarship will be awarded to benefit teacher certification candidates in the EGA Teaching Certification Program seeking their first EGA certification. The scholarship will equal the cost of the teacher certification program (\$190 after completion of the \$10 screening process). In addition, this scholarship awards the successful candidate \$100 to help cover the costs of materials and expenses incurred while preparing required submissions. The Judith and Susan Richardson Scholarship is part of the Designated Scholarship Fund established by the EGA Board of Directors in January 2006 to act as a repository for donations made to award specifically designated scholarships. The Fund welcomes donations. This scholarship will be awarded annually until less than \$300 is available. Any remaining funds will be transferred to the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Any EGA member may apply without regard to gender, race, religion, national or ethnic origin. Prospective candidates must be approved by the teacher candidate screening committee before applying for the scholarship. Screening procedures are available for a \$10 fee from headquarters. All candidates accepted into the program will receive the scholarship application procedures. Applications will be processed any time throughout the year”

For more details on this new opportunity consult the Scholarship and Awards section of the EGA website.

## ***EGA Research Fellowship Grant***

In 1990, the Education Department of the Embroiderers’ Guild of America (EGA) established the Research Fellowship Program to promote research at the highest level in all

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areas of embroidery and allied textile arts, and to promote relationships between EGA and other grant-making and research institutions. Cash grant(s) are awarded annually in amounts of up to \$1,000. Requirements and Conditions Research for the successful applicant shall result in an article in an EGA-approved publication or materials describing the project. Examples include: a feature article in EGA's magazine, Needle Arts, a slide program with an accompanying script, or another project approved by EGA. This grant may be applied to any aspect of the recipient's project, such as travel, research materials, embroidery supplies, or fees. Purchase of office equipment and rental of building space is not an acceptable use of funds. Grant recipients need not have their projects completed during the year in which their grant is distributed. However, two interim reports on the research activities will be due by June 30 and December 31 of the distribution year. The project itself may then be submitted by July 1 of the year immediately following the year of distribution of funds. Upon written request, the Scholarship Review Committee may grant an extension.

Applications for 2026 are due June 1<sup>st</sup>. See more details in the Scholarship and Awards section of the EGA website.

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## ***CAR Fall Retreat 2026: Previewing a Class on Thread Painting***

*Submitted by Carole Overton, on behalf of the Executive Committee*

We are very pleased and excited to announce that we will be offering a class at our upcoming Fall 2026 retreat in Rock Hill. Leslie Brady, from the Magnolia Chapter in Charleston, will be giving us "An In-depth Introduction to Thread Painting Embroidery." This will not be a "project" class. Rather, you will learn a variety of techniques that will impact your skills in thread painting. See attached flyer for the details.

While the plans for the retreat are still underway, we wanted to provide this information to give you time to think about this opportunity. You will register for the class as part of the registration process for the Retreat itself. We are hoping to send out the registration packets in June. We expect this class to fill up early, so once registration opens you should act quickly to be assured of a seat. Leslie has graciously agreed to offer the class at another retreat if we end up with a waiting list.

*\*Inaugural class offered at the CAR Fall Seminar on Sept. 25-26, 2026*

## **An In-depth Introduction to Thread Painting Embroidery** A Day and a half technique class in notebook format with Leslie Mehard Brady

Welcome to thread painting, the art of creating hyper-realistic, painterly images using nothing but needle, thread, and an alarming amount of patience. This notebook or technique class is your deep dive into the mechanics and methods that make thread painting magic happen.

We're setting aside projects and finished pieces to focus purely on the *how*—breaking down each step that transforms thread into art. Consider this your laboratory: a space to practice and build your confidence and technical foundation without the pressure of perfection.

You'll practice fundamental techniques: long and short stitch (the backbone of realistic shading), thread blending (because nature doesn't come in discrete color blocks), and directional stitching (more of the secret sauce).



Fair warning: side effects may include an obsessive thread collection reorganization and the irresistible urge to stitch everything you see! Bring your curiosity and let's decode the art of thread painting together!

**Proficiency:** Beginner Intermediate (for the confident beginner and all levels beyond)

**Prerequisite knowledge:** Some surface embroidery experience helpful

**Kit Cost:** \$55.00 per person

### **Kit Contains:**

- Tight-weave ground fabric with traced design motifs
- Backing fabric (high quality cotton muslin)
- DMC Stranded Cotton Floss
- Appletons Crewel Wool (1 colorway)
- Embroidery/Sharps needles and Chenille needle
- Susan Bates Hoopla Hoop
- 45+-page, full-color, printed curriculum
- Doodle cloth

  
**LESLIE BRADY**  
*Embroidery*

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## Class Modules:

### Part 1: Technical Foundations and Preparation

- Thread Painting Defined
- History and Evolution of Thread Painting
- Essential Tools and Materials:
  - Selecting appropriate ground fabrics
  - Framing up properly
  - Which needles to use and when
  - Importance of lighting and magnification
- High-level overview of the Principles of Color Theory
- Transferring Designs
  - Using a light box and/or bright window
- Tracing tools (pens and pencils)
- Thread Types and Selection
  - Creating the illusion of light and shadow



### Part 2: Let's Paint with Thread

- Starting and ending threads
- Motif outlining
- Order of stitching
- Directional guidelines for various motifs
- Thread control and tension management
- Sample stitching - long and short stitch
  - First Row | Second Row | Third Row

### Part 3: Intermediate and Advanced Techniques

- Long and short stitch for different shapes
  - Curved shapes
  - Leaf Turn
  - Overlapping flower petals
  - Round shapes (i.e. fruit)
  - Animal fur

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LESLIE BRADY  
Embroidery

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## **EGA: WAYS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EMBROIDERY**

*Submitted by Carole Overton, CAR Website/ZOOM Coordinator*

Have you taken advantage of the many ways in which EGA promotes education? In this article, I will focus on two of them that I have found to be very interesting. They have broadened my horizons and enhanced my knowledge and appreciation of many forms of needlework.

- **VIRTUAL LECTURES**

Each month, EGA National hosts a virtual lecture which offers a discussion about a given topic related to needlework. Sometimes the speakers share their experiences and examples of their work, sometimes they cover a particular type of embroidery, sometimes they present helpful tips and techniques. All the lectures I attended were extremely interesting and informative. Now that EGA has moved to a webinar format, there is room for everyone. I strongly encourage you to join these sessions. They are well worth the small price of admission and the time you will spend.

- **EGA BLOG: Embroidery from Around the World**

If you have not been reading the EGA Blog, you have been missing a host of articles about embroidery techniques from around the world. Past articles are available online. Click on this link and scroll through the topics to get started:

<https://egausa.org/latest-news/>

EGA's mission is "to inspire passion for the needle arts through education and the celebration of its heritage." Take advantage of these opportunities!

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### ***Note from Barbara Dexter-Smith, RegioNews***

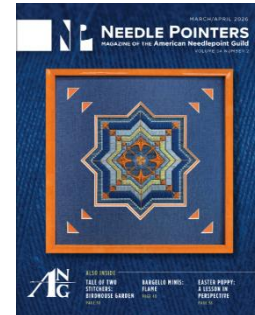
The deadline for submissions to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter RegioNews is August 1, 2026. Please send me information on interesting events in your chapters to [newsletter@egacarolinas.org](mailto:newsletter@egacarolinas.org)

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## ***CAR Tryon Member's Design Featured on Cover of ANG Needle Pointers***

*Submitted by Carole Overton, CAR Website/ZOOM Coordinator*

Those of you who belong to ANG (American Needlepoint Guild) may have been as awed as I was by the cover photo of the March/April issue of ANG's *Needle Pointers* magazine. Did you know that this eye-catching piece was designed and stitched by a member of our Carolinas Region, **Mary Grosser** from the Tryon chapter?



Mary explains that she created this piece, **Spinning Threads . . . A Contemporary Thread Sampler**, while taking a design class with Debbie Rowley. Her piece was so lovely that she was asked if she would be willing to submit it to the magazine.

If you get a chance to see the magazine, look for the full directions for this piece on pp. 24-29. Mary encourages you to stitch this easy design using your choice of threads.

When you see Mary, tell her “Congratulations on a job well done!”

Happy stitching!

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### ***Note from Nova Shultz, Carolina Region Treasurer***

Why does the Carolina's Region have CDs, and are they a sound financial tool? The Carolina's Region (CAR) currently has three CDs with varying mature dates. The CDs earn interest, so the resource earns its keep. Even though the interest is not high, it helps to replenish the CAR resources as money is spent on region retreats, grants, and awards. It has been a useful tool to support the Region's operating account, so it has proved to be a sound financial tool.

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## ***Special Interest Groups (SIGs): New Sessions***

*Submitted by Carole Overton, CAR Website/ZOOM Coordinator*

EGA has been developing a Special Interest Group program and is now offering 10 sessions on different topics, listed below. Three of those topics have recently been added. They are shown in bold type:

Beading (2 groups)

Counted Thread

### **Japanese Embroidery**

Metal Threads

### **Members at Large & Friends**

Silk, Metal, and Surface

### **Stump work/Dimensional/Mixed Media**

Surface Embroidery (2 groups)

For a complete listing of SIGs, contact information, and schedules, click on this link to the EGA website page: <https://egausa.org/special-interest-groups/>

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## ***Interview with Laura Smith***

*Submitted by Barbara Dexter-Smith, RegioNews*

Laura Smith is an embroidery innovator, nationally known designer, and process style teacher. She was consultant for EGA Challenge 2016 and past Chairman of [Fiber Forum](#) (2011-2015), a juried group of original designers within EGA. She holds the EGA [Master Craftsman in Color](#) and has served as chair for the Master Craftsman in Color Program since 2006. As a former director of an arts center, her education includes an MBA and undergraduate degree in chemistry. She is a member of the Charlotte Chapter.

*Where did your love for embroidery start?*

I first started stitching with my maternal grandmother, on pink huck towels using Swedish weaving. Then I moved onto counted cross stitch. I use many of the embroidery styles I have experienced over the years in my work.

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*You are known as an embroidery innovator. Tell us about your GCC classes (Embroidery with Mixed Media; Mark and Paint on Canvas and Fabric; Taming the Stash Monster), which feature mixed media, 3D textures and experimentation.*

I take a lot of photographs and note down ideas as they occur, which help when I am designing pieces for new classes. I am a process style teacher and in my own work make samples using materials such as Lutradur, Tyvek, acrylic gel medium and soluble fabric. I embellish the pieces with embroidery stitches. I want students to experiment with the materials and find ways to use them in their style of work. I encourage them to create their own designs when they are ready. So many people in EGA have high ability but are afraid to design or choose colors. I try to open the path to design for them.

*How did your education in business (MBA) and chemistry (undergraduate) prepare you for your work?*

The MBA has been very useful in the management of my business, such as organizing projects, developing class proposals, and marketing. The chemistry degree has been helpful when dealing with the mixed media materials which are chemically based. Through science education, I understand their composition, archival qualities, and the effect of heat on them.

*Describe your role as Chairman of the Master Craftsman in Color program from 2006 – 2018.*

I love color, so it was of interest to me to work with the judges and candidates in the Master Craftsman program. The Program has six steps. For example, Step One requires an essay on ‘Color Harmony/ Color Symbolism’, two stitched projects and an artist’s statement for each piece. All the steps require documentation of threads and fabrics used. There is an extensive bibliography to assist students.

*Describe your work as Chairman of the EGA Fiber Forum from 2011-2015.*

My goal was to establish stronger communication between Fiber Forum members who are located across the U.S. and in Canada. We began to use a yahoo group so that everyone could be included. I also improved communication between Fiber Forum and EGA and thus boosting membership. Fiber Forum has so much to offer. It is a group of original designers within EGA. Fiber Forum works need to be original but not necessarily ‘far out’ designs. Members are juried in, but you can become a Fiber Forum friend with a \$10 fee. It offers an in-person retreat annually and a meeting during National Seminars. Fiber Forum now has online lectures about once a month.

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*You are responsible for setting up the EGA Education Exhibit at National Seminar 2026.*

Yes, I have a lot of experience of setting up exhibits as I have a background as Executive Director of an Art Center where I staged over 40 exhibits. Preparation is the key to organizing a successful exhibit, so I am recruiting volunteers. Please email [EducationExhibitChair@egausa.org](mailto:EducationExhibitChair@egausa.org) if you would like to join the team.

*Describe the classes you are teaching for National Seminar.*

My in-person class is called “Going Places: Hands on Design & Color.” Students will use a photo from their travels or closer to home to design a piece then make it with thread, fabric, and mixed media materials such as Lutradur, fabric paint, gel medium. *Yosemite Falls* shows Laura’s class sample.



*Yosemite Falls* is an example for the three-day in-person class *Going Places*, but students will create their own designs with Laura’s support for learning the design process.

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The other class will be taught virtually as part of National Seminar. It is called “Possibilities for Mixed Media and Embroidery” and features eight videos, three Zoom meetings, and a comprehensive kit. The kit includes a thirty-page text, a stitchable accordion fold book (eight 5”x7” pages of 100% rough cotton rag paper,) and mixed media materials. The pictures show Laura’s sample book entitled *In Tuscan Gold*.

A personal “thank you” to Laura for spending time speaking to me for this article.



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## ***Volunteers Needed: Education Exhibit at EGA’s 2026 National Seminar in Orlando***

*Submitted by Laura Smith, Liaison, EGA Education Exhibit 2026*  
[educationexhibitchair@egausa.org](mailto:educationexhibitchair@egausa.org)

If you are attending or visiting [Seminar 2026 in Orlando](#), please join us for the EGA Education Exhibit. The Education Exhibition shows EGA’s embroidery education programs, two award competitions (Bobbie Pilling Award and Golden Needle Award), and certifications for teaching, judging, and embroidery appraisal. I’m looking for

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volunteers to work with the Education Exhibit Team. We need help with setup, take down, and docents (monitors) for all open hours.

By observing the entries, you'll learn about EGA's educational programs. Observation feeds your love of embroidery, giving you ideas and motivation. You'll learn how to care for the embroidery and some exhibit "secrets" such as security solutions and why we avoid touching embroidery. You'll see how the entrants have wrapped their work for shipping and view the forms that they have completed, including artist statements. For more information on the Exhibit Schedule and volunteering, visit the EGA website ([egausa.org](http://egausa.org)).

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## ***Chapter Program Ideas***

***Compiled by Barbara Dexter-Smith, RegioNews***

It can be challenging to come up with monthly programs in your chapter to engage your members. Many of our chapters use the EGA petite projects to highlight a particular embroidery technique that is then taught in a short workshop by a talented member of the chapter.

Other ideas include the following:

The Charlotte Chapter recently hosted the multi-talented, best-selling author, Allie Pleiter. Allie has published over 60 books covering a wide range of topics and time periods. Her latest mystery series, Nimble Needle Mystery, takes place outside of Asheville, NC where Shelby Phillips juggles managing her mom's needlepoint shop and local murder investigations.

The Tryon Chapter had a presentation from member Leslie Gagnon on 'Colonial dressmaking'.

The Laurel Chapter had a program where members brought in their 'first or worst' embroidery projects. We learned a lot about fellow members!

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## ***Chapter Newsletters***

Many of our chapters have hard working newsletter editors that create a monthly newsletter for their chapter members to share local information. Here are a sampling of screenshots from some newsletters featuring their Outreach activities:

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The Tryon Chapter worked on a Library display. Carolyn Braly, Newsletter Editor

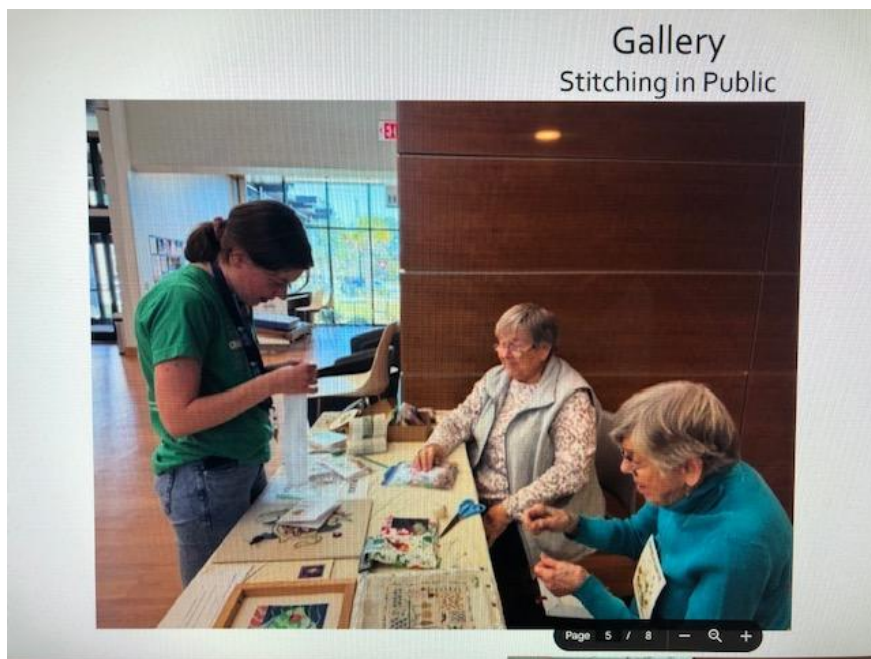
## LIBRARY DISPLAY

Our Set-up Crew



Displays





Magnolia Chapter – Stitch in public day. Mildred Strobel, Newsletter Editor.



Low Country Chapter – Stitch in public at The Kitchen. Debora Brandt, Newsletter Editor.

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Our presence at 2026 Fiber Fest was a success. I want to thank those volunteers who manned our table on Friday and Saturday, and those who also stopped by the NC Panel to assist with its completion.



Cardinal Chapter at Fiberfest. Graciela White, Newsletter Editor

## 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 (Plural members)	Within the month	Region Director CAR Newsletter Editor; Website Coord.
3. Region dues and membership information (Plural members)	Within the month	Region Treasurer
4. Chapter newsletters	When sent to members	Region Director; Assistant Region Director; Editor, RegioNews; Region Outreach Chair
5. Education questions/information	As needed	Region Director of Education
6. Annual chapter report	By December 1	Region Director
7. Annual financial report	By February 15	Region Director; EGA Headquarters

### Carolinas Region Executive Committee

Region Director	Gail Smith	regiondirector@egacarolinas.org
Assistant Region Director		asstregiondirector@egacarolinas.org
Director of Education	Janet Noble	education@egacarolinas.org
Secretary	Dee Pierce	secretary@egacarolinas.org
Treasurer	Nova Shulz	treasurer@egacarolinas.org

### Committee Chairs

Bylaws	Jeni Huebner	bylaws@egacarolinas.org
Community Outreach	Millie Strobel	outreach@egacarolinas.org
RegioNews	Barbara Dexter-Smith	newsletter@egacarolinas.org
Seminar Director		seminardirector@egacarolinas.org
Website Coordinator	Carole Overton	website@egacarolinas.org

### Nominating Committee

Nominating	Katrina Lawrimore (-2029)	nominatingchair@egacarolinas.org
Nominating 2	Nancy Gannon (-2028)	
Nominating 3	Vacant ( -2029)	