



Vienna Quilters Unlimited: Just The Facts

WHO: [Vienna Quilters Unlimited](#) (VQU) is a chapter of [Quilters Unlimited](#) (Big QU). It is a group of 70 to 80 people, both beginning and experienced quilters, who explore the quilting world and give back to the community. While a majority of our members come from Vienna others come from across the Northern Virginia area.

WHEN: VQU meets in the evening on the third Tuesday of the month from September to June. Most meetings are held at Thoreau Middle School in Vienna. When you attend, please use entrance 8 at the back of the school. Most meetings take a hybrid format with part of the group attending in person and part of the group attending virtually via Zoom. The hybrid format allows VQU to meet the needs of all its members. Because the meetings are hybrid, VQU is able to invite speakers from across the United States and occasionally from around the globe, providing our members with top quality presentations.

The group gathers, either online or in person, between 6:30 and 6:55 pm. At 7 o'clock the meeting opens with announcements and welcomes. The featured speaker or presentation typically begins immediately. Presentations last between 60 and 90 minutes followed by a brief business meeting and sharing. During sharing members ask for advice, show their latest projects and celebrate their accomplishments.

Please be sure to check the [online schedule](#) for any changes from the routine. Typically, the December and June meetings involve some type of festive gathering and frequently do not take place at Thoreau.

WHAT: VQU members participate in numerous activities throughout the year. The chapter has an active charitable committee which works with several local organizations to produce quilts, pillowcases, and other needed comfort items. Members can complete these projects entirely on their own, can pick up a kit put together by VQU, or turn in quilt tops that need quilting. VQU supplies batting and thread for charity projects. VQU longarm quilters charge a small fee to quilt charity quilts. That fee covers the cost of batting and thread.

VQU also typically has at least one fundraiser a year. Sometimes this fundraiser is in the form of an auction, other times it's a raffle. The fundraiser is decided on by the membership early in the year.

A newsletter is published each month and emailed to all members. The newsletter includes the calendar of meetings and events, updates, activities and projects that members can try.



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Because we live in a virtual world VQU also hosts a monthly virtual *Sit n' Sew* on the first Saturday of each month from 3:00 – 5:00. Participants just relax, work on their own projects, chat and ask for advice all via Zoom.

Each Spring VQU hosts a retreat at a nearby retreat center (usually about a 2-hour drive). For 3-5 days members spend the days sewing, learning, and building friendships.

During July and August activities slow down so we try and gather for a picnic sometime during the summer.

VQU also participates in one or more locally sponsored events each year. In the past these events included activities such as Viva Vienna and the Newport News Sewing Expo.

In addition to all of this, VCU members also have full access to everything that [Big QU](#) has to offer, including resources and speakers. VCU members can also frequently attend workshops offered by other QU chapters on a space available basis.

DIGITAL COMMUNITY: VQU is active across multiple digital platforms. [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [VQU's web page](#) are readily available resources for all members. Big QU also has a virtual presence and manages the QU website and membership for all chapters. Big QU has a phone app called Wild Apricot that members can use to access information.

Ready to join? Join by clicking [here](#) and selecting Vienna as your primary chapter. If you already belong to another QU chapter, join Vienna as an Associate Member.

Questions? Contact the VQU president at VQUPresident@quiltersunlimited.org or talk to any of our members. We all love to “talk quilting.”