With the American death toll from Coronavirus standing at over 280,000 and climbing as of December 7, 2020, the WVQI Board of Directors have voted to cancel the Spring 2021 General Meeting and the June, 2021 West Virginia Quilters Festival in Summersville. Plans for the Fall 2021 General Meeting and the November, 2021 Retreat at Cedar Lakes are still in place at this time, and will be reevaluated closer to the time of those events. We have also voted to cancel dues for 2021, and will extend everyone’s memberships for one more year.

Dates for the next West Virginia Quilters Festival will be June 16-18, 2022. The Judge and Teachers are being contacted, and asked to reschedule to accommodate this change. The theme for the Festival, Log Cabin Quilts, will still be our focus. There will be a Special Exhibit of Log Cabin Quilts by Amy Pabst. And the theme of the Friday Night Challenge, “The Greatest Generation,” will carry over as well. This theme, which has an eerie parallel to the terrible pandemic we are now enduring, was inspired by the 2019 Special Exhibit, “Quiltmaking That Saw Us Through World War II.”

It was with a heavy heart, and after much consideration, that the Board made these decisions. If we were to hold the Festival this coming June, we would need to have planning meetings in January, March, April, and May. Not enough people will have been vaccinated by then, and many of the volunteers were not willing to endanger themselves or their families by attending these planning meetings. If we went ahead and held the Festival anyway, and had very low attendance, we would lose thousands of dollars of WVQI members’ money. Even though some members may not agree with these changes, no Festival is worth endangering or losing a single one of our members’ lives, not to mention wasting the funds entrusted to the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors expect to publish the next newsletter in the Summer of 2021, to keep our members up to date on the Fall General Meeting and the November Retreat at Cedar Lakes.

Thank you for your understanding in these difficult days. I believe that the quilts made during this time will, decades from now, be held in the same high esteem as those made during the Great Depression. I hope that you all are taking comfort in creating beautiful, useful quilts, and that you and your loved ones come through this thing unscathed.

Joni Hoffman

WVQI Festival Coordinator