

MINUTES

American Quilt Study Group Executive Committee

January 19, 2026

Zoom

Executive Committee members present: Millie Kehrli, Joanna Evans, Kristin Barrus, Sharon Pinka, Selina Toedter (taking minutes), Nancy Bavor (past president) and Carrie Dell (Executive Director)

Millie Kehrli called the board meeting to order at 6:07PM EST.

Motion to accept the agenda made by Joanna Evans, seconded by Millie Kehrli. None opposed, the motion passes.

November 10, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed. Minutes on the rolling membership vote should be changed. While the information was correct for the minutes, rolling membership will be implemented at a later date due to the re-vote of the bylaws.

Motion to approve the minutes with changes was made by Kristin Barrus. Second by Selina Toedter. Motion passed with none opposed.

Q & A follow up discussion

There were some emails and phone calls from members to the board following the January 11, 2026 Bylaws discussion.

It has been difficult to effectively communicate with members, but phone calls have been the most personal and productive format. A spreadsheet to track who has been reached out to directly would ensure all members with concerns have been heard. Joanna Evans observes that this has been a frustrating and stressful situation, which could be assisted by an email re-committing ourselves (as the board) to the Community Guidelines.

It is difficult to know what the process should be when emails are addressed to the full board, and we can perhaps create better protections for our staff and volunteers in addition to a reiteration of our commitment to the Community Guidelines.

There has been continued misinformation and a disproportionate negative response to the Futures group. Individuals with particular contention will be noted and the board will develop a plan to address those concerns.

Millie suggests re-stating the board's commitment to Community Guidelines and continued Town Halls on contentious topics including ageism more generally. We would like to create a better sense that there is opportunity for everyone at AQSG.

There is a sense that members had lots of questions about social media and suggests we circle back to that topic as well. Carrie adds that Jill Alexander is continuing to work on a presentation about social media.

Carrie clarifies that when the Members-Only Facebook page is re-opened, non-quilt discussion will not be visible.

Future Town Hall topics should include social media and social media etiquette in addition to an overview of what we welcome as an organization. Dates to be confirmed.

Bylaws ad hoc committee

Anyone volunteering to be on a committee will be approved, barring any extreme issues

The proposed committee includes Kathleen Decker, Ronda McAllen, Mary Wolter, Deborah Cooney, Eileen Hayes, Millie Kehrli, Nancy Bavor, and Deb Dahab (if she is inclined). Joanna Evans offers her support.

It was clarified that the Policy and Procedures document is internal and functional, and should not be addressed by this committee.

The aim is to complete changes before the next Blanket Statements.

Financials/2026 Draft Budget

Carrie shared her screen to go over 2025 Actuals vs Budget and draft 2026 Budget.

Carrie notes that printing, shipping, and travel costs have gone up significantly. We would like to see an increase in the number of new memberships this year, as a result.

We have made about \$72,000 in revenue on the 2025 Portland Seminar. We expect the 2026 Seminar to be less expensive than 2025. Publications costs came to over \$44,000.

Paypal and credit card charges are also high at over \$8,000. Some of this is offset by individuals choosing to offset the fee cost at the time of their transaction.

Occupancy should be decreased significantly, given the new work-from-home model for office staff.

Kristin asks for clarification on how many board members we currently have and whether open spaces need to be filled. This may be a consideration as we develop strategic plans.

Carrie suggests we explore using the endowment for operations expenses. Nancy Bavor clarifies that she can speak to this at the next board meeting after speaking with Dawn Heefner and reviewing the relevant documents. She agrees that we look into accessing that fund. Otherwise, tighter budgeting will have to be reviewed. The cost for printing and shipping the directory and *Blanket Statements*, for example, should be assessed. Carrie will look into the line-item of designer fees as well.

There is currently no line item for legal advice fees, which will be expected in 2026. Carrie will look to adding that into 'Professional Services'.

Carrie will send a Google Drive link of the document to the Executive Board.

Winter Virtual Seminar Update

Carrie reports planning is going well. Sandra Sider will be the keynote speaker. We have 8 proposals for study centers and Susie Jerome will offer her *Textiles 101* lecture for free. The timeliness of the board's approval is crucial so we have full information and registration available ahead of QuiltCon.

The publications committee is prepared to release the new guidelines for *Uncoverings* articles, including a new word count range, creative possibilities, and museum exhibit research papers. Sharbreon Plummer has referenced and linked similar policies in other research publications, to show that this is not a novel development in scholarship. If the board approves at the end of the month, this can be shared out ahead of Winter Virtual.

It is important for AQSG to see an increase in *Uncoverings* submissions to keep it a vibrant publication. Joanna suggests Sharbreon present a study center at Winter Virtual to learn about the new formats. Nancy Bavor is assembling a list of institutions with relevant academic departments so we are adequately targeting potential contributors.

The committee appreciates the innovative approach.

There has been some hesitancy about releasing the expanded call for papers so soon after the Bylaws Q&A. The executive committee feels we have learned from recent events, and should not deviate from the proposed timeline.

Joanna adds that proofreaders will be going through the 2025 book with corrections from the authors. The corrected version will be the one uploaded to UNL Commons. These details have not been completely released to membership. At least one member has vocalized displeasure over the low quality of the 2025 publication and was happy to hear corrections will be made.

The errata sheet is expected to be extensive. Millie suggests that the corrected PDF could be accessed via the Members-only pages of the website. The 2025 *Uncoverings* will be added to UNL Commons in 2028. Millie and Joanna agree that presenting an 'updated version' rather than an errata sheet will be the least inflammatory and protects our editor.

We will inform membership when the updated version is available.

Web Security

A recent Facebook post revealed that direct links to members-only pages do not require certification to access.

Email

A member was recently concerned there was an unmonitored email account and felt there is confusion on what email address to use. Aqsg2@gmail.com is the main email.

AQSG@AmericanQuiltStudyGroup.org is also active and goes to the same place. Becky and Carrie have individual direct emails.

Next Meeting

Second Wednesdays was proposed. Confirmation to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Selina Faulkner Toedter
January 19, 2026