



MINUTES

American Quilt Study Group Board of Directors

April 12, 2026

Zoom

Board members present: Millie Kehrli; Sharon Pinka, Colleen Hall-Patton, Jill Alexander, David Bailey, Joanna Evans, Mary Wolter, Vanessa Rico, Kristin Barrus, Selina Toedter (taking minutes)

Board members not present: Mary Fons

Others present: Carrie Dell (Executive Director), Sharbreon Plummer (*Uncoverings* Editor), Hallie Bond (*Blanket Statements* Editor), Nancy Bavor (Past President)

Millie Kehrli called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm EST.

Call for Changes to the Agenda and Approval of previous minutes:

Joanna Evans requested we add discussion about the Town Hall, but her questions were answered informally.

There was a short discussion about mentors. Currently there are about 7 active mentors, and fewer requests for mentors than in the past. However, mentors are always being recruited and should reach out to Colleen Hall-Patton if they are interested. The minimum qualifications for mentors and *Uncoverings* reviewers were discussed, since we find many people are screening themselves out.

Options for sharing work (*Uncoverings*, study centers, *Blanket Statements* etc.) and receiving mentorship (what if people do not have the goal of publishing but would like to become a dealer, for example?) were also noted as potentially requiring better explanation to members.

Motion made by Jill Alexander, second by Mary Wolter to approve the agenda. None opposed, motion passed.

Motion to approve February 1, 2026 minutes made by Joanna Evans, seconded by Colleen Hall-Patton. None opposed, motion passed. *Note: There were no corrections made via email made to the December 7th minutes. With none opposed, those are also approved.*

Endowment fund policy

Millie Kerhli thanks board members for their close reading of the Endowment fund policy draft. There was one typo fixed during our brief discussion and no questions.

Motion made by Colleen Hall-Patton to approve the policy, Joanna Evans seconds. None opposed, motion passed.

Publication task force on research responses

The Publications committee report details that committee's discussion about offering the opportunity to respond to research in a respectful and standardized manner. Blind peer review before publication in *Uncoverings* is currently the only window for formal feedback to be sent to the writer. Research presented outside of *Uncoverings*, as in *Blanket Statements* and study centers, should also be open to academic disagreements.

There is currently no way to respond to an author publicly after they publish, as in a "letters to the editor" section. AQSG has previously had researchers present their work before it's published in *Uncoverings*, but this has not been the norm since the 1980s.

Feedback will likely take the form of factual corrections, and fundamental, philosophical disagreements with the paper. In academic discourse, the best response to the latter is one's own paper. Few people are likely to do the work to make an 'official' rebuttal, but giving the opportunity is important. Everyone benefits when research on a topic is expanded; new information is not a negative thing, and research is never static.

A page on the website was discussed as an option. Sharbreon Plummer suggests creating a form where we can gather basic information (what are you responding to,

what is your background, etc.), followed by a space to upload a document with the written response including citations, etc.

Joanna encourages more volunteers to join the task force, since this is an ongoing topic requiring further discussion. Our process for gathering and reviewing responses must be carefully considered, since they will be held to the same standards as the original research.

Quilt Study Co-chair opening

We struggled to find a co-chair for the 2027 Quilt Study, and the volunteer that had committed to the role has stepped down. Barbara Goetz is very experienced and capable, but as we approach 2027, another chair will have to be identified.

It was suggested that some of the previous participants may be interested, since they're familiar with the project. However, current participants cannot also chair.

Financial Report

Carrie shared the final version of the 2026 budget.

There were just ten requests for a hard copy of the membership directory, so Carrie recommends no longer offering that service. Physical copies of *Blanket Statements* are similarly inefficient and financially burdensome. It was suggested that we give warning to members ahead of these changes. Fees will need to continue to rise as printing becomes more expensive.

Jill Alexander notes that the marketing committee has considered adding an “updates” page of the website where we can discuss internal affairs. This could be a good place to give members a preview of organizational changes and discuss financial matters like this.

The budget shortfall at the end of 2025 was about \$48,000. The endowment fund has averaged \$852,100 over the past three years, so these are the corresponding ranges of withdrawal for 2026 and future years:

- 7% \$59,600
- 6% \$51,100
- 5% \$42,600
- 4% \$34,100

There is time to educate members on the use of our endowment fund and avoid any potential misunderstandings. We may want to consider releasing a simplified explanation of the fund and how it would be used, being sure to highlight the benefits that members will receive.

Motion to suggest taking a disbursement of 7% of the three year rolling average of the year-end balances for 2023, 2024, and 2025 of \$852,100 made by Joanna Evans and seconded by Millie Kehrli.

The executive committee unanimously recommends the disbursement of 7% of the three year rolling average of the year-end balances for 2023, 2024, and 2025 of \$852,100. This will fund the Endowment Grant requirements and support the organization for the year ahead.

Motion made by Jill Alexander to approve the executive committee's recommendation, seconded by Mary Wolter. All approved without opposition, the motion carries.

There was some discussion about the 2026 budget, focusing on where costs have increased. There are some new initiatives and increased marketing around profitable events that we expect will offset some of these costs in the years ahead.

Motion to approve the budget made by Mary Wolter, seconded by Jill Alexander. All approved, none opposed, the motion carries.

Thank you to everyone who has worked on the 2026 budget and endowment policy.

2027 Board of Directors

The nominating committee chair position is vacant and David Bailey just began his first term on the board, so there is no slate of nominees to review at this time. Two board seats are currently empty, one board member is expected to re-run for election, and two others are coming to the end of their maximum terms. There will be 9 returning board members.

David Bailey will be in contact with potential nominees and have them complete their onboarding paperwork as soon as possible. The board is asked to provide feedback/approval via email as soon as possible since candidates must be announced in *Blanket Statements* (submission deadline May 1st).

Seminar

The Seminar committee has been meeting regularly and all tours are planned. Transportation is a concern, since all options explored so far are expensive. Carrie is chairing the committee, so there is no expectation that the budget will be exceeded. Registration will open up on May 2nd for membership, and May 1st for volunteers and board members.

Carrie asks that board members read and give feedback on study centers via email as soon as possible.

The board was encouraged to maintain a visible presence by continuing interaction with and in social media spaces.

The office is working on negotiating a satisfactory contract with a hotel in the 2028 location.

Membership Committee

We cannot be sure that Mary Fons will continue on the membership committee. Committee members have been asking about the next meeting, and we cannot delay their work.

Vanessa Rico volunteered to become a member of the membership committee and take up chairmanship. David Bailey approved of this solution, and the board is excited to see Vanessa take up this role.

Job openings/Job Descriptions

Carrie shared two job descriptions with the board ahead of our meeting. Carrie developed both descriptions after speaking with a contact in HR and the Nonprofit Association of the Midlands.

An Educational Programs Director would work closely with showmakers (which we would like to see become a standing programming committee). Post-2020, digital programming is the best way to engage current members and attract new members, so an education lead will be the best possible investment. There was some discussion about how the showmakers committee would be chaired, and whether the board membership requirement could be an honorary position.

It was suggested that the Administrative Assistant description include a clear expectation that they must attend Seminar and live in Lincoln, NE. Both descriptions need more clarification on hours and wages.

Carrie welcomes further notes via email ahead of Wednesday 15th, when she plans to post the ads.

Additional Business

Millie would like us to start sending hand-written thank you notes from the board when we receive large donations. Currently, Carrie writes a note and the system generates a receipt. There are no gifts waiting on notes at the moment, but Joanna Evans volunteers if the need arises.

The next board meeting is June 7th.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joanna Evans, and seconded by David Bailey. None opposed, the motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Selina Faulkner Toedter
April 12, 2026