

MINUTES

American Quilt Study Group Board of Directors

February 1, 2026

Zoom

Board members present: Millie Kehrl; Sharon Pinka, Colleen Hall- Patton, Jill Alexander, David Bailey, Joanna Evans, Sharbreon Plummer, 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 Kehrl called the meeting to order at 6:07pm EST.

Call for Changes to the Agenda and Approval:

December 7th meeting minutes will be approved by email, as they were uploaded past noon today. A reminder email will be sent reminding board members to send votes to Millie and Selina.

Motion made by Joanna Evans to approve the agenda without changes, seconded by David Bailey. None opposed, motion passed.

Winter Virtual Study Center proposals

Proposals were posted in the Google Drive. Sandra Sider has been confirmed as the keynote speaker.

There was brief discussion on the clarity of Study Center descriptions. Jill Alexander volunteered to develop more generalized and shorter descriptions as needed.

Colleen Hall-Patton agreed to be present for Susan Jerome's *Textiles 101* presentation to connect mentors and mentees.

Sharbreon Plummer will offer a more detailed and formal roll-out of the new *Uncoverings* submission formats with a free presentation at Winter Virtual Seminar.

These new guidelines will be shared out and posted on the website for people to review ahead of the presentation.

It was considered that Amy Reid may want some mentor support ahead of Winter Virtual since she had received some mixed feedback on her last-minute presentation at Portland Seminar. Nancy Bavor will be seeing Amy this month at an event, so will offer her support as Amy prepares. Nancy also volunteered to introduce Amy's Winter Virtual presentation. This form of mentorship may be beneficial to offer new applicants going forward.

Four fellows will be speaking at Winter Virtual, which is a testament to the success of that program. Former fellows like Amy Reid will be annotated as such in the program.

The board is pleased with the amount and variety of proposals. This Winter Virtual makes good use of our internal talent.

Motion made by David Bailey to approve all Winter Virtual study center proposals. Joanna Evans seconded. None opposed, motion passed.

Financial Report

Treasurer Kristin Barrus shared the Financial Report. While there are some upcoming decisions on income and expenses to be made, AQSG is in a healthy financial state. The 2025 Budgets vs. Actuals spreadsheet was also shared.

Kristin highlights that board expenses have grown, since we are being more inclusive of board members with a range of economic circumstances. Portland Seminar expenses and income have not been received completely, so those numbers will fluctuate over the next few months. The shortfall of about \$35,000 in the 2026 budget is not alarming, and within the expected range of our conservative approach.

Nancy Bavor is preparing a proposal to withdraw from the Endowment Fund now that it has reached \$1 million. This will be ready to present at the next Executive Committee meeting.

There was discussion around the 2026 budgeting timeline. The 30–60-day delay on sharing the 2026 budget allows the staff and Treasurer to get accurate numbers from the accountant. Since there aren't a lot of expenses in January and February, this delay has not been an issue.

Motion to accept the financial report and approve of the 2026 budget was made by Colleen Hall-Patton. Mary Wolter seconds. None opposed, the motion carries.

Strategic Planning

Nancy has met with AQSG committees and has decided on using Air Table to track progress on the strategic plan. This timeline and plan will be editable only by the staff.

It was confirmed that Jill Alexander will chair the Marketing Committee so Selina Toedter can move into Development chairmanship.

It was noted that there were only a few board reports available on the drive before this meeting. There was a brief discussion over chair and committee expectations, current vacancies, and newly filled positions.

Commitment to Board Standards

Joanna Evans reflected on the top-down language of our Community Standards, and drafted a re-affirmation of the board's commitment to the principles. The board supports the message and suggests no changes. It will be shared out to members via email tomorrow.

Updated call for *Uncoverings* submissions

The updated call for Submissions is a 3-page document that Sharbreon would like to share out to members. The Strategic Planning Committee highlighted some issues with the current *Uncoverings* application process, including fewer submitted proposals over the years.

Major changes include:

- Word count: there is a wide gap between the word count minimum between *Blanket Statements* and *Uncoverings*. 4,000 to 9,000 is the new word count range.
- Interviews: this is often treated as a data subset, but could be the basis of a broader thesis.
- Exhibition-focused studies: institutions that do not have catalogs or do not adequately archive their exhibit preparation could turn to *Uncoverings* to document their work. Sharbreon has included examples of exhibits and other journals.
- Visual essays: These blend research and archival work with artistic storytelling. Examples are given.. A maximum of 2000 words will offer context.

The new formats and expected increase in submissions will require a prioritization of presentations at Seminar and Winter Virtual Seminar. There will be a call for more mentors to support the new formats in news and notes. Sharbreon invites assistance with reviewing.

There was discussion around how to best inform members. The free presentation during Winter Virtual should answer most questions.

Uncoverings will be kept at the same length, controlling costs. Some newer members are not aware that there is a struggle to get quality original research articles for *Uncoverings*. It is expected that we will get shorter articles more than the other expanded options.

Questions and answers, and discussion.

By-laws update ad-hoc committee

Nine members have volunteered via email to help with the by-laws ad hoc committee. David volunteers to take part as well. The ad-hoc committee will review policies and procedures, articles of incorporation, and by-laws, as some of our practices are out of sync with written documentation. We have received advice from our attorney regarding what needs updating most and in what order. The ad-hoc committee will

submit feedback before a membership re-vote. Carrie will send an email with a Doodle Poll to get a sense of committee members' availability.

Additional Business

The timeline for Winter Virtual registration was discussed. Carrie will send an agreement and congratulatory email to presenters so we can roll out marketing. It was noted that we now have a short window to advertise Winter Virtual speakers and events. Moving the study center approval to our December vote depends on gathering applications earlier.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Joanna Evans. Jill Alexander seconds, none opposed. Motion passes at 8:08 PM EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Selina Faulkner Toedter
February 1, 2026