



MINUTES

American Quilt Study Group Board of Directors

June 7, 2026

Zoom

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

Board members not present: Mary Fons, Mary Wolter

Others present: Carrie Dell (Executive Director), Stephanie Capps-Dyke (Educational Programs Director) 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

No changes suggested.

Motion made by Joanna Evans to approve the agenda, second by Colleen Hall-Patton with all in favor.

Approval of previous minutes - April 12, 2026

Corrections from Jill Alexander and Joanna Evans were sent via email.

Motion to approve April 2026 minutes was made by Joanna Evans and seconded by Colleen Hall-Patton with all in favor.

Finance

Seminar registration for Lincoln 2026 is going well (154 registered, +20 over this stage last year). Public advertising has not started yet, so we expect that to boost numbers.

We are gaining new memberships though not at the same rate as last year (which was a peak year for new memberships and overall membership). Renewals are slightly down compared to last year, though we are seeing more mid-year renewals than usual. We currently have about 774 members overall, slightly lower than this time last year.

The hiatus of the membership committee may be a factor – it is now a priority of that committee and chair Vanessa Rico to follow up with lapsed members. They find many are unaware that their membership did not renew.

Our investments continue to perform well despite a turbulent market.

Before Kristin wraps up as Treasurer, she will be writing a report on the Endowment Fund, which will be included in the Annual Report and *Blanket Statements*. An announcement of this forthcoming article will go in July News & Notes. Cost increases (inflation, printing, etc.) and changes in revenue streams (Seminar earnings, membership dues, and new events) will also be included. The earnings from the Endowment Fund are key in helping us stay risk-averse. Millie and Kristin remain open to meetings or calls with members who have further questions.

Standing Committees

The board has considered turning the Showmakers Committee into a standing Programs Committee, chaired by a board member. This would include Seminar, Study Centers, Winter Virtual Seminar, and recorded programs. Stephanie will continue to be very involved in the committee as a staff member. Adding this committee does not require an amendment to the bylaws.

Nancy will continue to work on the strategic plan as Strategic Planning and Operations chair. An Excel spreadsheet will be used as a tracker and project-management resource.

We are looking for volunteers in several committees, especially Governance.

Annual report

The 2025 year-end finances have been prepared by our accountant. Nancy Bavor will be sending her write-up to Carrie by July 1. We would like to print enough annual reports for all seminar attendees.

New staff positions

Stephanie Capps-Dyke has been hired and onboarded as Educational Programs Director.

Tia Aldred, the new Administrative Assistant, has been performing very well and completing tasks. One of her main upcoming projects is organizing our files and physical property into a climate-controlled storage rental facility. An additional unit has been rented for Friends of the Needle exhibit objects.

Similarly, Jill Alexander has been working with Carrie on developing a succession/emergency resource of passwords and digital files for the long-term safety of the organization.

Research Grant selection

There is currently no chair of the Research Grants Review Committee, who usually reviews and makes a recommendation to the board. Committee members are kept anonymous and the previous chair had resigned just a few days before the application deadline. Nancy Bavor volunteers to serve as interim chair. It was noted that many of the project timelines begin in July so time is of the essence.

It was clarified that there is no precedent excluding board members from applying to grants. Further discussion followed on the need to review the grant application process; it is unclear what kind of feedback applicants receive, there are inconsistencies in the documentation required, typo corrections needed, etc.

The committee will meet this week and send their recommendations to the board for approval. The documentation and process will be reviewed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm EST. Followed by a closed Executive Session.

The next board meeting is August 26, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Selina Faulkner Toedter

July 1, 2026

*For questions and comments related to operations or these minutes, please email carrie.dell@americanquiltstudygroup.org