

MINUTES

American Quilt Study Group Board of Directors
April 13., 2025
Zoom

Board members present: Sharon Pinka, Colleen Pokorny, Selina Toedter, Jodi Bratch, Deb Dahab, Nancy Bavor, Susan Jerome, A'donna Richardson, Kristin Barrus, Lisa Erlandson, Millie Kehrl,

Not Present: Tara Miller, Joanna Dermenjian, Mary Fons

Others: ED Carrie Dell, *Blanket Statement* editor Hallie Bond

Nancy Bavor called the board meeting to order at 6:03 ET pm.

Nancy Bavor began with an update of the Strategic Planning meeting, held in Lincoln, Nebraska the previous weekend. She thanked all who attended the sessions and others who helped to organize and make the meeting a success.

Call for Changes to the Agenda and Approval:

Changes: Nancy Bavor noted that the Executive Committee had met and recommended approval of the 2025. That discussion will be added to the meeting.

Approval of the 2025 budget will be discussed and voted on.

Some board members had difficulty uploading their reports into the google drive. This led to a discussion about the new web site and how to upload committee reports into the google drive created by Carrie Dell. This will be part of a broader discussion by the Website Committee to reconsider how documents can be accessed on the website created by NEON. Questions asked included how much is a widget and can there be a demonstration on how something like that would work for AQSG? Members only access. What if someone drops their membership?

Motion: Deb Dahab made a motion to have Carrie Dell and the Website Committee explore options with the NEON, the website company, to find out how much widgets cost, the capabilities of add-ons, and how to make uploading documents possible and user friendly. Susan Jerome seconded. Motion passed.

Change: add to new business discussion of Tara Miller's proposal to close the physical office of AQSG and have Carrie Dell and Becky Fisher work from their homes.

Reports:

Marketing: Sharing is good. The committee report asks board members in particular to share AQSG on other sites. Please ask if you don't know how to do this.

Publications: Thanks to Colleen Pokorny and Vanessa Rico for delivering an executive summary of Vanessa's review of *Uncoverings* to identify the diversity of topics over time. The

report was given at the Strategic Planning session. It was suggested to publish this report in *Blanket Statements*.

Virtual Seminars: Discussion on offering them once a month.

Study Centers: Colleen suggested that the idea of offering a lightening round may cross over into Publications/Posters, etc. The two committees could work on this.

Governance: change the date from 2024 to 2025.

Motion: Deb Dahab motion to approve the agenda with changes, Jodi Bratch second, Motion approved.

Motion: Selina Toedter to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2025 board meeting, Millie Kehrli second. Motion approved.

New Business

Nominations for board beginning January 1, 2026

Deb Dahab and Jodi Bratch explained that there will be 7 open seats beginning in 2026, with two openings in the Executive Committee. The Governance Committee that the Board approve a slate of new and returning Directors recommended by the Nominating Committee for terms beginning January 1, 2026 as follows:

Colleen Hall-Patton, Nevada
Mary Wolter, Wisconsin
David Bailey, Illinois
Jill Alexander, Massachusetts
Vanessa Rico, Massachusetts
Jodi Bratch, California (returning)
Joanna Dermenjian (returning)

Bios and photos will be going to *Blanket Statements*.

Motion: Deb Dahab moved to accept the slate of nominees from the Governance Committee, Colleen Pokorny second. Motion passed.

Three members of the Executive Committee will be leaving in 2026 – Nancy Bavor, Deb Dahab and Susan Jerome. In order to help an incoming president, the Governance Committee proposed the creation of a new position – ‘President-elect.’ This person will attend Executive Committee meetings, etc. prior to formal installation as AQSG board president.

Motion: Colleen Pokorny moves the Board approve the appointment of Millie Kehrli as ‘President-elect’ beginning immediately. Millie’s name will be presented to the Board in October for approval as President along with other new officers as per our usual process. We **do not** plan to announce Millie as President-elect to the membership. The announcement of all new officers will occur in October at Seminar. Kristin Barrus second. Motion passed.

It was suggested that committee losing a chair begin the process of identifying a new one. Those who wish may remain on a committee as a non-board member, and not as a chair. The board needs to look at the new group coming in for expertise. Jodi Bratch will reach out to see what they may be interested in.

Closing the physical office in Lincoln, Nebraska

Motion: Tara Miller moves that AQSG cancel our office lease and save, at minimum, \$7800 per year, Lisa Erlandson second. Motion was not approved.

Much discussion ensued. Questions about storage for archives, renter's and liability insurance, pros and cons. What do Carrie Dell and Beck Fisher think, as the current staff? What about a PO box and the cost? What happens if or when Carrie Dell retires? After several attempts to revise the motion, and much discussion, the motion wasn't approved as it what presented.

Motion: Colleen Pokorny moved that the board instruct the AQSG staff to develop a comprehensive plan and budget, with a timeline, for the closure of the physical AQSG office, to be provided at the June 1, 2025 board meeting. Jodi Bratch second. Motion passed.

Financial Report

Kristin Barrus and Carrie Dell gave an overall explanation of the budget under consideration. Discussion included possibly charging members who want to receive a printed *Blanket Statements* and/or *Uncoverings*. It was noted that *Uncoverings* is a benefit of membership. Publications Committee can look at the cost benefit of this.

Motion: Kristin Barrus made a motion to accept the proposed 2025 budget, seconded by Millie Kehrl. Motion passed.

Showmakers Committee

The board circled back to a discussion about Virtual Seminar, Study Centers at Seminar, and Showmakers Committee. Some of the questions and discussion centered on: What are the pros and cons of having a Winter Virtual Seminar on a weekend in February? What's the business model for such a weekend – what does it cost? What is the value of hands-on programs vs. zoom?

It was decided to have a zoom meeting with the chairs of each committee to talk through some suggestions for what future programs could look like for AQSG members. The staff will facilitate.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Jerome
April 21, 2025

