

MINUTES

American Quilt Study Group Board of Directors
December 7, 2025
Zoom meeting

Board members present: Susan Jerome; Colleen Pokorny; Deb Dahab; Kristin Barrus; Nancy Bavor; Joanna Evans; Sharon Pinka; Millie Kehrli; **Jodi** Bratch; Selina Toedter; Joanna Dermenjian

Board members not present: Mary Fons; A'donna Richardson

2026 BOD: Jill Alexander, David Bailey and Colleen Hall-Patton

Others present: ED Carrie Dell; Becky Fisher; *Blanket Statement* editor Hallie Bond; *Uncoverings* editor Sharbreon Plummer

Also present at the beginning of the meeting were Matthew Monk and Beverly Evans with 2028 Seminar proposal at Winterthur Museum.

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

Call for Changes to the Agenda and Approval:

Joanna Evans questioned if some small corrections she sent along to Secretary Susan Jerome had been completed and forwarded to the office. Carrie Dell will check to see if the revised minutes had been uploaded into the google drive for board members. Approval can be done via email.

2028 Seminar Site Proposal:

Matthew Monk, supported by Beverly Evans, presented a remarkably well organized and developed proposal for having AQSG Seminar 2028 at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. The co-chairs would be Matthew, Beverly, and AQSG board member and secretary Selina Toedter.

Why Winterthur? The museum has about 700 quilts! And is in an area with other groups that could offer support. The opening reception and Study Centers would be at Winterthur. The museum infrastructure can support this kind of conference. Winterthur offers hotels very close to the buildings in which Seminar would be focused. The two things the museum cannot offer are hotels onsite, and a place for the auction. **Does this include Silent Auction – we didn't ask.**

The proposal incorporated a new model for AQSG Seminar, focused on strengthening connections with institutions. This could result in more cost-effective seminars and higher membership numbers. And connections with other like-minded groups. Attendees would rotate through different presentations, exhibits, and collections within the museum rather than having many pre-seminar tours away. But there are also regional exhibits that could be added before or after Seminar.

Questions and answers, and discussion.

Motion made by Millie Kehrli to instruct Carrie Dell to work with Matthew Monk, Beverly Evans and Selina Toedter and begin organizing the AQSG Seminar 2028 to be held at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. Second by Joanna Evans. Motion passed.

New Business

There was a question about discount memberships for special events. Carrie Dell and Becky Fisher will work with the Membership Committee on the discount codes.

Joanna Evans reported that AQSG has become a member of a professional organization

Nancy Bavor thanked those members of the board who are leaving on December 31, 2025.

Financial Report and 2026 Preliminary Budget

These reports have been included here although they were presented and discussed at different times in the meeting. Carrie Dell gave an explanation of the draft 2026 budget that will be finalized and approved next year.

Kristen Barrus presented the expenses and income for 2025 organized by pie charts. Nancy Bavor had set a goal of having a one-million-dollar endowment by the end of 2025, which has been reached.

A question was raised about the cost of the designer for *Blanket Statements*, as the 2026 budget is \$6,500.00 while Hallie Bond as editor is paid \$3,000.00. This led to a discussion of ways to decrease the amount of money AQSG pays for its publications.

Discussion included the use of other computer programs, on-demand printing, fee for receiving printed material. A poll can be distributed to members to determine the demand for printed copy vs. digital copy. Important to keep the request for information clear: an option would be to prevent an increase in membership dues while preserving the benefits of receiving high-quality publications.

It was noted that a perk of Seminar is getting a hard copy of *Uncoverings*. PDFs are searchable. Members already pay extra for printed *Blanket Statements* and membership directory.

Bylaws Review/Revisions and the Strategic Plan

Nancy Bavor will spearhead the creation of work plans to develop reasonable goals by the committees. Goals include having a conversation about possible name change, and the budget. Nancy will be invited to committee meetings.

Joanna Evans asked about timetable for membership to see the Strategic Plan. Carrie Dell explained that the summary is on the website and that the complete plan is for internal use for board members.

Nancy Bavor and Deb Dahab went through the by-laws to find anomalies that aren't up to date. Changes in the by-laws need to be approved by the membership. All the changes to the by-laws "as recommended by the Governance Committee" that were voted on by the board

during the October 15 meeting now need to be voted on by the entire membership. Highlight the changes and include the new mission statement.

This vote will be yes or no to approve or not. The majority of those voting is the deciding number of votes. This should be done by the end of the year 2025.

AQSG Endowment Policy

Nancy Bavor has been working on clarifying the distribution policy for the endowment grants. She has asked other similar organizations about their policies. AQSG policy needs to be clear and economically responsible. Nancy will work with Millie Kehrli (incoming board president) and Dawn Hefner on the grants committee to get this work done.

Publications

Sharbreon Plummer gave updates on implementing the Strategic Plan through both AQSG publications. She proposed some changes to the submissions policies including the word count and type of article.

Discussion included thoughts on how to expand AQSG reach. Can the *Uncoverings* presentation be 45 minutes long? How can sponsorships for these presentations be expanded? Can presentations be made virtually?

These ideas will be organized by the Publications Committee for approval by the board.

The next board meeting will be held 2026.

It has been an honor. Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Jerome
December 15, 2025