

MINUTES

American Quilt Study Group Board of Directors
June 1, 2025
Zoom

Board members present: Sharon Pinka, Selina Toedter, Deb Dahab, Nancy Bavor, Susan Jerome, A'donna Richardson, Kristin Barrus, Millie Kehrli, Joanna Dermenjian

Not Present: Mary Fons, Colleen Pokorny, Jodi Bratch: Lisa Erlandson and Tara Miller have respectfully resigned from the AQSG board

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

Nancy Bavor called the board meeting to order at 6:05 ET pm.

Call for Changes to the Agenda and Approval:

Nancy Bavor began by asking if there were additions to the agenda. Reports on Seminar 2025 and the Strategic Planning session at Lincoln NB will be discussed first.

Motion: Deb Dahab moved to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2025 meeting. Millie Kehrli second. Motion approved.

Governance Committee: The Consent Agenda includes approval of the committee reports. The Governance Report includes a motion in it – that the Board appoint Joanna Evans to fill a vacancy and complete Tara Miller's board position. This led to a discussion of the recent board resignations of Lisa Erlandson and Tara Miller.

Each person is a dedicated member of AQSG but resigned due to work and personal reasons. AQSG has a "strong bench" of people who could be asked to fill these two vacancies, with many opportunities to ask others to help. Tara Miller's vacancy is longer, so hers will be filled.

Motion: Kristin Barrus moved to accept the motion within the Governance Committee report to appoint Joanna Evans to fill Tara Miller's board position. Millie Kehrli second. Motion passed.

Study Center Committee: The committee proposed a disclaimer for the study centers only, not for *Uncoverings* or *Blanker Statements*. The disclaimer will be for both Seminar and Winter Seminar sessions. Board discussed a possible process for a future problem. We also discussed how possible it was to vet study centers. In the end, it was decided to add a disclaimer to the Study Center information – the disclaimer in the Study Center Committee report will be used, with edits if there is time.

The Board discussed the offer of two free, one-hour Study Center sessions and agreed that this was a good idea.

Treasurer 's Report: The grant process needs clarification. It is not always clear what the grant actually will support. Currently the grants are not submitted anonymously.

Discussion included the idea that the grants should be vetted through a blind selection process. It was decided to put together a group to explore re-writing the grants for clarification.

Motion: Kristin Barrus moved to accept the Consent Agenda. Selina Toedter second. Motion passed.

New Business

Volunteer Contracts: Carrie Dell had sent out wording for a volunteer contract to the Board for discussion.

Discussion included thoughts on whether volunteer expectations should be added to each committee's charges. It's good to have a list of expectations for committee members. Each potential member should be asked, "what can you contribute? How much time can you give each month and/or over a year?" Other ideas included an Agenda Template for each committee.

It was decided to give ownership of the requirements for each committee. What are the committee's action items? Is there a timeline for what needs to be done within the committee? Carrie Dell will develop a very basic form for committee guidelines and have the Executive Committee look at it. Also send it to committee chairs for input.

There was some discussion about term limits for committees, and if the Winter Seminar should be spread out over a series of weekends. Nothing formalized.

Futures Group: It was proposed to make this group a formal committee. Kristin Barrus discuss the group's beginnings and how it has developed.

This led to a discussion about the AQSG mentors' program, forums, discussion groups and boards. How can AQSG share information, interests and research? Beyond study centers and the publications? How can AQSG create virtual connections to special interest groups?

The Futures Group would be a separate, non-exclusive group that could act as a gateway to AQSG membership and participation. Can it include newer members of any age? Can it act as a conduit to other committees?

Nancy Bavor proposed making an announcement at Seminar about this new project.

More discussion on mentorship. Can interest in this be included on the membership form? Can the form have a link?

Kristin Barrus and Selina Toedter will explore all of these questions.

Funding for Fellowships: Nancy Bavor reported that there were 7 applicants for fellowships this year to attend Seminar. Carrie Dell has secured sponsors for 5 of them. AQSG has funds for 2 fellows to attend. All seven have been accepted. (There was an 8th applicant who is a paper presenter and will receive support through that funding and was not considered for this fellowship.)

Strategic Planning update: Nancy Bavor reported on the April 2025 Strategic Planning session held in Lincoln, NB. The sessions included diverse voices and were well-led by Darren Macfee, consultant from Nonprofit Wizards, and Mary Lafferty at No Regrets Marketing. There will be a review of the mission statement, which will be restated to be welcoming. The Steering Committee will receive the information from the Strategic Planning session to review.

Update on Seminar 2025: Carrie Dell reported that the pre-Seminar tour prices will be included in the registration information. The spreadsheet for volunteers, etc. is “live” and can be added to. The Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at 5:00 – 5:30, at which time Darren Macfee will present the Strategic Plan to the Board for approval.

Study Center Recommendations: At the time, 13 study centers had been proposed. One was to be an hour free program. The Study Center Committee proposed that the 12 two-hour programs, and 1 one-hour program be accepted by the Board. So voted.

There was a proposal to have an “open mic” session as part of the Show & Tell. This would allow people to briefly talk about their research – “What are you working on?” There was also a proposal to have a whiteboard available with the same question – What are you working on? People can share information.

A third idea involves having a “Quilt ID Day” at Seminar. Not appraisals, but an opportunity for people to bring in a quilt for analysis. A form such as what was used for many quilt documentations can be filled out – fabrics, batting, family history, patterns and designs, etc.... With a label from AQSG. Base this on quilt documentation days.

Next meeting is August 3, 2025

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Jerome
June 9, 2025