

MINUTES

American Quilt Study Group Board of Directors
October 15, 2025
Portland, Maine – Seminar 2025

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

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

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

Also present at the beginning of the meeting were AQSG members of the Strategic Planning Committee and Darren McFee, of Nonprofit Wizards, who worked with the committee on the Strategic Plan.

AQSG members: Merikay Waldvogel; Colleen Hall-Patton; Lenna DeMarco; Jill Alexander; Stephanie Dykes; Mary Wolter; Marybeth Stalp; Vanessa Rico; Katy Williams O'Donnell; David Bailey

Nancy Bavor called the board meeting to order at 5:08 ET pm.

The meeting began with Nancy asking all board members, including those who will begin January 1, 2026, to introduce themselves to 4 new people each day while at Seminar.

Call for Changes to the Agenda and Approval:

Deb Dahab: information on new board orientation and announcement of new board members will be added to the agenda.

Motion to approve the revised agenda by Colleen Pokorny. Second by Millie Kehrli. Approved.

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 3, 2025 board meeting by Joanna Evans. Second by Deb Dahab. Approved

The first part of the meeting was a review of the Strategic Plan by Darren McFee. Darren worked with Mary Lafferty, marketing consultant in Lincoln, NE. A copy had been sent to board members prior to this meeting. This was an explanation with an intent to have a vote by the board.

Darren explained the sections of the Strategic Plan draft. Each was considered by everyone at the table, with modifications made to the wording of the mission and vision statements. This process continued through the draft with changes made to the documents as we moved along.

Changes can be seen by comparison of the draft to the approved document.

Motion to approve the Strategic Plan by Millie Kehrli. Seconded by Nancy Bavor. Approved.

New Board Orientation will be by zoom on December 4, 5 pm CENTRAL time. It will last about 1.5 hours. Two weeks before, the new board members will receive the board manual. Please bring questions!

The meeting continued with the following board members: Susan J. Jerome; Colleen Pokorny; Millie Kehrl; Sharon Pinka; Selina Toedter; Kristen Barrus; Deb Dahab; Nancy Bavor; Jodi Bratch; Joanna Evans. Executive Director Carrie Dell, Hallie Bond, and Becky Fisher attended as well

Publications Committee

Colleen Pokorny: The Publications Committee has addressed the issue of using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in AQSG publications and other programs. They defined AI as well as assistive versus generative work for authors, editor, reviewers and the use of images. Best to address the issue before it becomes a problem. The committee looked at policies from other organizations. The policy was introduced to the board. Discussion followed, including what would the consequences be for misuse. That has been left for the future.

Motion to approve the draft policy for the use of artificial intelligence written by the Publication Committee by Deb Dahab. Seconded by Selina Toedter. Approved.

Governance Committee

Deb Dahab: Changes in the by-laws need to be approved by the membership. These are the changes to the by-laws proposed by the Governance Committee. The new officers will be elected at this meeting.

First change is in the by-laws and addresses membership payments. Currently, all memberships begin on January 1 of each year. The proposed change would allow membership to begin on the day the person actually joins and pays their dues. This is in Article III of the by-laws.

The new mission statement needs to be put into the by-laws.

The board of directors will meet at least quarterly, and these meetings can be over the internet except for the meeting during the annual AQSG Seminar. All board members should attend that one in person.

Future board members can identify the next president-elect of the board to allow that individual to attend board meetings and have an overlap in knowledge and experience.

Board resignations should be sent to the president of the board and the Executive Director.

Gendered language in the by-laws will be changed to more neutral wording.

Other “small changes.”

Motion to adopt the changes to the by-laws as recommended by the Governance Committee by Millie Kehrl. Second by Jodi Bratch. Approved.

Proposed new officers for the board:

Millie Kehrlie – president; Selina Toedter – secretary; Joanna Evans – first vice president; Kristen Barrus – treasurer.

Motion to accept the slate of nominees by Deb Dahab. Second by Nancy Bavor. Approved.

Quilt Study Theme 2027

The theme is recommended by the Publications Committee and past chairs. It is voted on by the board. Barbara Goetz has volunteered to be the next chair of Quilt Study 2027.

Five themes were recommended by the Publications Committee: Inscribed; Commemorative; Kansas City; Sampler Quilts; Not your typical neutral. There was discussion about each topic. Potential venue interest is always a consideration. The board decided on Commemorative Quilts, with a description inclusive of many commemorative events, personal to international.

Motion to accept the theme for Quilt Study 2027, Commemorative Quilts, as written for the announcement that will be completed by Sunday October 19, by Colleen Pokorny. Second by Joanna Evans. Approved.

The next board meeting will be held on December 7, 2025.

I forgot to note the time the meeting was adjourned!

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Jerome
October 24, 2025