

AQU MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Members present (26): Connie Blachut, Carolyn Brown, Linda Carey, Lynn Crain, Candie Delnore, Meriul Easton*, Olyvia Eldridge, Jeffrey Farlow-Dudek*, Candie Frankel*, Debra Gluszcak*, Carolyn Gora, Lisa Gorski*, Sue Kreutzberg, Gail Klepper, Jeri McKay, Marci Mills, Mary Pat Palombo, Faith Pfalz, Jan Piscitelli, Carole Price, Pamela Richardson, Jo Roll, Maura Ross, Kate Scheuer, Holly Watson*, Rosie Young

* Board member

Guest (1): Kyle Winkler (friend of Jeri McKay, joined AQU today!)

1. Welcome

Candie Frankel called the meeting to order at 10:20 am.

2. Approval of February 8 Membership minutes

A motion to waive reading of the February 8, 2025, membership minutes was made by Faith Pfalz, seconded by Maura Ross. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Carole Price, seconded by Pam Richardson. Candie Frankel will post the minutes on the website.

3. Treasurer's first quarter I&E report

Total income	\$11,763.43
Total expenses	\$20,210.28
Difference	(\$8,446.85)

Bank account totals

Beginning balance	\$24,977.36
Ending balance	\$16,530.51
Difference	(\$8,446.85)

4. 1st VP report--Programs

Programs for the remainder of 2025 are planned and posted on the website. Program planning for 2026 is underway and will be reviewed by the Board at its July meeting. Members who are interested in leading a program at a 2026 meeting should speak with the 1st Vice President.

5. 2nd VP report--Workshops

The next workshop will be Confetti Quilting on Saturday, May 17, in the Music Room. The presenter is Meriul Easton. Cost is \$40. Meriul will have an optional materials kit available for \$10.

A one-day fall workshop on Botanical Dyeing is under discussion. The presenter is Jan Piscitelli. The workshop will be on a Saturday, but the date needs to be finalized.

6. Special election/affirmation

The AQU by-laws allow for Board and Chair positions to be shared. This provision will help ensure ongoing coverage of key responsibilities when Board members are ill or on vacation. It may help members feel more secure about volunteering for a position.

As a first step in moving toward shared responsibilities, the Board proposed the following two new Board positions and asked for affirmation by the members. The two positions are:

Meriul Easton as Co-1st Vice President (to partner with Holly Watson)

Debra Gluszcak as Co-2nd Vice President (to partner with Lisa Gorski)

The members present voted unanimously to affirm Meriul and Debra in their new positions.

7. Search for Secretary or two Co-Secretaries

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, AQU is obligated to have three positions: President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Future business will be to accept Meriul Easton's resignation as Secretary and to elect a new Secretary, or two Co-Secretaries. These are also Board positions. Candie Frankel advises doing this with consecutive actions in one meeting, so that AQU is not without a named Secretary.

Linda Carey volunteered to be a Co-Secretary. Linda is a snowbird who is in SWFL November through April.

New member Gail Klepper volunteered for Co-Secretary but withdrew her offer when she realized that her summer vacation schedule wouldn't provide the needed coverage when Linda is out of town.

We will continue to seek a member who is able and willing to partner with Linda Carey as Co-Secretary.

The voting to accept Meriul's resignation and to affirm two new Co-Secretaries may occur when Linda is out of town.

8. Glimmer exhibit--Jan Piscitelli

Jan Piscitelli is coordinating the "Glimmer" exhibit at Coco Estero. Key dates:

Intake at the gallery: Sunday, May 4, 11 am to 2 pm

Exhibit: May 6 to May 29, 2025

Opening Reception: Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 5 to 7 pm

Jan reports that she has only 3 people signed up so far. She requests that many more members participate to ensure that the exhibit is a success. Signup is on the AQU website.

9. Location search update

Connie Blachut and Candie Frankel have visited four possible locations for AQU meetings and workshops that will be more affordable than our current arrangement with St. Hilary's. Connie is preparing a spreadsheet and powerpoint talk, which she will present to the Board at its May meeting.

10. Retreat 2026

AQU members liked the Christian Conference Center venue and accommodations, so Lisa Gorski reserved the following dates with them for next year's retreat: Sunday, March 15, through Thursday, March 19, 2026.

11. Old business

DeStash Sale: The Board feels that while the DeStash Sale was a fun event for us, it did not draw an outside crowd, despite email and print advertising. For 2026, we'll work some version of the DeStash Sale into our regular program. Members can always bring in items for giveaway or swapping at any meeting.

Tickler calendar: Members can view the Tickler calendar on the website under Members Only. It is a living document that we can update if new tasks come up.

Facebook: We are still in transition. A Peace River Quilt Guild member with experience in Facebook admin has agreed to coach Jef and Holly. They plan to meet before Holly goes on vacation in June.

YLI thread survey: AQU has achieved its quota and received \$200 worth of gift cards. The Board will be making the purchases on the YLI website and will decide when and how to gift the threads to our members.

12. New business

ACSWF 60th Anniversary "Time Passages" Exhibit: Carole Price and Candie Frankel were accepted into this juried exhibit.

AQU Exhibit at Alliance for the Arts: Carolyn Gora reports that she is trying to line up a joint exhibit at Alliance for the Arts in 2026 featuring AQU and the SWFL Fine Crafts Guild. Carolyn is a member of both groups. Both groups combined should be able to provide enough artworks to fill the gallery space. Carolyn volunteered to coordinate this exhibit for AQU.

Chico's sample sale: Maura announced that Chico's will be having a sample sale in May that will include all sizes. The sale will run for about 2 weeks. She'll let our members know the dates as soon as they are available.

"Textile Treasures" Artist Meet & Greet: This event will be at Gulf Coast Village on May 6, 2 to 4 pm. The accompanying exhibit will feature work by Gulf Coast Village residents and North Fort Myers Arts Association. A featured artist is AQU's Sheilana Massey.

13. Adjournment

Candie Frankel adjourned the meeting at 11:10 am. Scheduled program was Funky Faces by Jo Roll.

Respectfully submitted,
Candie Frankel, Acting Secretary