

AQG Monthly Newsletter

September 2026

PRESIDENT - LORI MCCLUSKEY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to a new year at AQG!

September always feels a little like the beginning of a new school year—a chance to reconnect with quilting friends, welcome new members and look forward to everything ahead.

We have an exciting year ahead, with wonderful programs and workshops, opportunities to learn and contribute, and some new ways to make it easier for members to find information, stay connected and get involved.

One project I'm particularly excited about is our AQG Brand Refresh—an opportunity for all of us to help shape how AQG presents itself to our community. We hope you'll share your thoughts and ideas for refreshing our Guild logo and banner. Whether you have a complete design or simply an idea you'd like us to consider, we'd love to hear from you.

Most of all, I hope this is a year when we continue to learn from one another, create some treasured quilts, share what we know, welcome new faces and enjoy being together. Whether you've been an AQG member for many years or are joining us for the first time, there's a place for you here.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our September meeting!

Lori
President

Things to Remember

Doors opens at 6:30 pm

Things to Remember

- Show 'N Share
- Your own drink.
- Nametag
- Treats if named below

Membership for 26-27

- Full Membership \$35
 - Six In-person
 - 3 Zoom
- Virtual Membership \$20
 - 3 Zoom
- Both Memberships incl.
 - Workshops
 - Retreats
 - Sew days
 - Social meetings
 - 50/50 and Draws

Treats Provided by:

John Rait
Krista Zaleski
Carol Dworschak
GF: Mara Harrison

No Drinks Are Provided.



AQG BRAND REFRESH

We Want Your Ideas!



The Branding Committee needs your input. Tell us what you would like to see, and what you would rather avoid - as AQG refreshes our logo, nametags and Guild banner. Members, friends and family are welcome to contribute.

You don't need to be a designer or submit a finished logo. A sketch, colour combination, lettering idea, photograph, quilt or fabric inspiration, banner idea, digital concept - or simply a thought about what represents AQG - can help shape what comes next.

How to share your idea

- Use the attached AQG Branding Refresh - Idea Submission Form.
- Tell us about your idea and include whatever helps us understand it.
- Tell us the story behind your idea - what inspired it and how you think it represents AQG.
- Ideas may be combined, adapted or developed. This is not a contest.

Submit your ideas

EMAIL

By October 28, 2026

almontequiltersguild@gmail.ca

OR

IN PERSON

October 21, 2026 meeting

Share an idea & enter the draw! Everyone who submits an AQG Branding Refresh - Idea Submission Form will be entered in a draw for a \$50 gift certificate to a local quilt store of their choice. The draw will take place at the November AQG meeting.

What are we looking for?

OUR NORTH STAR

Welcoming • Creative • Diverse • Community • Inclusive • Friendly • Inspiring • Skilled • Local

Welcoming & Inclusive Reflects our diverse community.	Timeless & Recognizable Simple, distinctive and clearly AQG.
Versatile & Legible Works at different sizes and in colour or black & white.	Craft-Ready Can translate to fabric, appliqué or embroidery and work with our Guild banner.

Our Journey, Your Ideas

Our goal is to honour AQG's history while creating a visual identity that reflects the Guild we are today.

WE ARE HERE ↓



AQG 2026 Fall Retreat

October 23-25, 2026

Friday, Saturday, Sunday



**Brunton Hall, 9th Line,
Beckwith Township**

**Friday & Saturday – 9 am
to 9 pm**

Sunday – 9 am to 3 pm

Cost - \$150.00

There are only 25 spots available.

**Come for the creativity, laughter and
inspiration and leave with lasting memories!**

Registration Opens on Tuesday, Sept 22, 2026

September Meeting

Program



This month, our speaker is our very own, Louise Miller, Carrying on a Family Tradition. She will share with us her quilting journey, as her trunk show will show her progression over the years.

Shop of Showcase

Happy Wife Quilting



Jen has a wonderful selection of fabrics, notions, patterns and kits in her shop. Her Christmas fabrics are in, and they are beautiful. She also has classes and provides long arm quilting services.

Check our her website for all she offers and calander for her hours.

[Happy Wife Quilting.](#)



September Block of the Month

The Block of the Month is an opportunity to learn a new block or to hone your skills with a block that you may already be familiar with. A full set of instructions is provided along with a suggested colour palette.

Submit your completed block to enter a draw each month. The draw winner receives all the completed blocks to create a full quilt. At the beginning of the new quilting season - fall of 2027 the assembled quilts will be entered into a second draw for a prize to be decided by the board.

The draw for completed quilts from last season will be conducted by Johanne and Amanda Vajda at our September 2026 meeting. The blocks you've won and show it at the September meeting, your name will be entered into a draw for a special prize!

We love to see what you've created and celebrate the beautiful quilts that grow from our Block of the Month program.

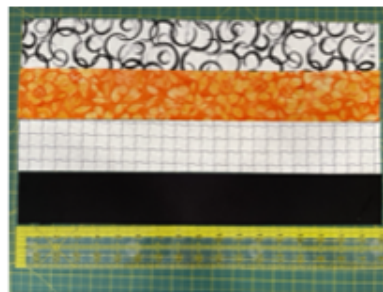
SEPTEMBER BLOCK OF THE MONTH HIDDEN WELLS QUILT BLOCK

Cut strips 2.5" by 18"

2 strips black and white pattern

1 strip orange, solid or pattern

1 strip solid black



Sew lengthwise to form a strip 9"x 18" wide in this order:

1 black and white pattern

1 orange, pattern or solid

1 black and white pattern

1 solid black

Press seams in one direction

Cut the pieced strip into 2 - 8.5" squares

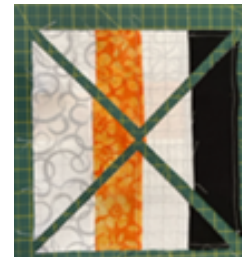


Place the squares together right sides together at right angles - one vertical and one horizontal. Pin at the corners to make certain the corners meet exactly.

Sew all four edges around the outside. Do not pivot at the corners but go right off the edge.

Cut on both diagonals so you have 4 blocks

Carefully press the seams.



Exchange 2 opposing squares so that a square is formed in the middle of your 4 patch.



Sew together to complete your block.





“SAVE THE DATE”

Saturday October 24th and Sunday October 25th 2026, 3-6pm
US Eastern time... is the “All Star Sampler Platter”

The Almonte Quilters Guild (AQG) is pleased to offer you this event free of charge, to all 2026 - 27 AQG members. (Valued at \$25 USD per person)

What is the “All Star Sampler Platter” you say? In the comfort of your own home, you can watch along with 10000+ quilters world wide, 22 teachers across 2 afternoons. You'll find fresh techniques to try, and new teachers to follow.

Here is a link to check out what will be available.

[All Star Sampler Platter](#)

Sit back and enjoy 6 hours of wonderful quilt teaching, across 2 afternoons. Have your notebook handy.

Keep your eyes open for an email to follow which includes the link. Don't miss out on this special treat from the Almonte Quilters Guild.



Quilties

AQG Quiltie Program

The Almonte Quilters Guild is continuing our Quiltie Program, providing a small quilt—or “quiltie,” as we call them—to every baby born at the Almonte General Hospital. These special gifts are greatly appreciated by the families of newborns.

Over the summer, we delivered 90 quilties to the hospital! An AQG quiltie is a 24-inch square quilt made especially for a newborn. Quilties should be made with cotton fabrics, preferably with a flannel backing, and be lightly quilted.

We have a supply of batting and some flannel backing available for members who would like to make quilties. These materials will be available at our guild meetings.

For more information, please visit the AQG website or reach out to the Quiltie Coordinator.

New This Year — Quiltie Prizes!

We are excited to offer a prize draw at every in-person guild meeting for members who contribute quilties.

For each quiltie donated, you will receive one ticket. The draw will take place at the meeting.

So, the more quilties you make, the more chances you have to win—and, most importantly, the more newborn babies and their families you can help!

Thank you for continuing to support this wonderful community program.

Check out the Cuties on Quilties on the next page to see how much they are loved in the community.

Cuties on Quilties



Thank you for the quilt from baby Jonah.



Maddie loves her quiltie



Alden loves his quiltie

Community Quilts

We are encouraging members to continue to make quilts for charitable donations. As your new Community Coordinator I have chosen to work with a few organizations that may need our lovely quilts to warm their loved ones. I have reached out to the following organizations:

Lanark County Interval House 'LCIH' – are pleased we have reached out to them and I will deliver 10 quilts to them in September.

The Home Hospice North Lanark 'HHNL' have enough quilts for the moment, I will check back with them in the winter to see if they have a need at that time. They were very appreciative that we thought of them.

I Spy Quilts for the Lanark Paramedics, I am waiting to hear from them. Wheelchair quilts for seniors in long-term care.

I Spy/Child size (40 x 48)
Lap quilt (42x50).
Wheelchair quilts (40 x 40)

If you need fabric, batting or help finishing the quilt, email community@almontequiltersguild.ca.

Pam Weatherby
Community Outreach

All quilts are welcomed. I will find a good home for them!



Community Outreach

The AQG had an information booth at the Mississippi Mills Community Open House on September 9. Thank you to our volunteers Lori and Louise.



AQG was also represented at Fibrefest this Sept 12 & 13, sharing information about the Guild and welcoming visitors interested in quilting. A big thank you to Leslie Whitby, Rita Martin, Doré Dunne, Janice Fraser, Louise Miller and Mara Harrison for volunteering their time at the Guild table.

Events like these are a great opportunity to introduce AQG to the community, but they depend on member volunteers. Please consider volunteering at future Guild events — even a partial shift makes a difference.

We looking forward to welcoming a few new guests at upcoming meetings. If you know someone who enjoys quilting or may be interested in the Guild, please invite them to join us. New and prospective members are always welcome!



Library

Book Review of New book in the Library Take a quilting journey around the world with **“Panel Perfect 3-Yard Quilts”**, a collection designed to celebrate your favorite fabric panels. Each quilt is named after a unique location to embody the essence of the quilt. Patterns are written for full-yard panels, 10" panel blocks, 8" panel blocks, and 7" panel blocks. All 8 patterns are directional fabric friendly in the fabric #1 position. Whether you are an experienced quilter or a beginner you will find a quilt you will like.



Virtual Sew Days Sat 9am - 3pm



Saturday virtual sew days will continue to run weekly, every Saturday from 9am to 3pm. All are welcome to join, for all or part of any day. No signup, just use the link which will be sent to all members after the September meeting.

Until then, the current link is still active (see the Members Only section of the web page) for Saturday Sept 11 & 18.

Virtual Hand Sew Days Thurs 7pm - 9pm



Thursday hand sewing session will continue every second week, on Thursday nights from 7 to 9 pm.

Any handwork is welcome - but no machines please!

Again, a new link will be sent to all members.

Upcoming dates for this year are Sept 24, Oct 8, Oct 22, Nov 5, Nov 19, Dec 3 & Dec 17

Corkery Community Centre Sew Days

Fourth Tuesday of the Month

3447 Old Almonte Road, Carol Homestead Park

We're excited to announce that we've secured sewing space at the new community centre in Corkery. Beginning in September, we'll be hosting Sew Days on the fourth Tuesday of each month, and we hope you'll join us for creativity, learning, and good company.

Our first Sew Day will be held on **Tuesday, September 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

The centre is easy to reach year-round — the roads are paved and reliably plowed thanks to the nearby fire hall and school. Inside, you'll find a large, bright room with excellent natural and overhead lighting, perfect for sewing and quilting.

Because the space is not yet fully equipped, please bring:

- Your sewing machine and supplies
- A small table (or two) for your machine
- Your lunch, snacks, and drinks

This will be a relaxed, flexible sewing day. Work on your own projects, contribute to our charity initiatives, learn to quilt, improve your techniques, or simply enjoy time with fellow makers.

To get started, we'll be asking for a \$5 donation to help cover rental costs until we see how popular the Sew Days become.

Coordinators: Leslie Whitby • Brigid Whitnall • Pam Ross

Information: lesliewhitby6@gmail.com

Shop on Showcase

Planned for this year we have

Sept 21 – Jenn from Happy Wife

Oct 19 - Jenn McMillian from fabric ink

Nov 16 – Rosalie Gerber from Sew Crafty

Apr 19 – Quilter's Barn and Gifts

May - Jenn Hamilton - Young Vintage Fabrics



June Show and Share



Krista Zaleski's President's Challenge
Viewers' Choice quilt



June Potluck



Recap of June Meeting

Our June meeting combined the Guild's annual potluck with the completion of the AGM. Members approved the 2025 AGM minutes, President's and Treasurer's reports, and the proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-laws.

The 2026–27 Executive was also confirmed. Lori McCluskey was acclaimed as President, Robin Hall as Secretary and Carol Dworshak as Program Director. Krista Zaleski continues as Vice-President, Pam Ross as Treasurer, and Sue Fowler moves into the Past President role. Several other Guild positions were filled, including Kathy Panagapko as Membership Coordinator, Rita Martin as Quilties Coordinator, Mara Harrison as Newsletter Editor, and Krista Zaleski as Zoom Coordinator. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help keep the Guild running. The Workshop Coordinator, Community Projects Coordinator, and 50/50 & Draws Coordinator positions remained open at the end of the meeting.

After the AGM and potluck, members enjoyed the regular meeting activities.

Block of the Month Winner

Rita Martin

President's Challenge Winner

Krista Zaleski sident's Challenge.

50/50 Winner

Barbara Fowler won \$85.50 in the 50/50 draw, while

Seasonal Draw Winner

Robin Hall won a \$100 Sew Crafty gift certificate.

The evening wrapped up with Show and Tell and a wonderful display of members' finished projects.

Quilting Tips, Tricks and Trivia

Using thread wax strengthens the fibers, stops tangling, and helps the thread glide smoothly through fabric during hand sewing.

How to Apply Thread Wax

- Cut the thread: Measure and cut a manageable length, about 18 to 24 inches long, to prevent knots.
- Hold the thread: Lay the strand of thread across the top of your beeswax.
- Pinch with your thumb: Place your thumb gently over the thread to hold it against the wax.
- Pull through: Pull the thread steadily through the wax just once or twice; a very thin, invisible layer is all you need.
- Smooth it out: Run your thumb and forefinger along the strand to distribute the wax evenly.
- Set the wax (optional): For extra durability, run a warm iron over the thread layered inside a piece of scrap paper.



Event Calendar 2026-2027

September 21	Monthly Meeting - Louise Miller, "Carrying on a Family Tradition" trunk show
October 19	Monthly Meeting - Jenn McMillan, "A love letter to needle turn applique."
October 23-25	Fall Retreat
November 16	Monthly Meeting - Astrid Bordush from Apples & Beavers
January 18	Monthly Meeting on Zoom - Robin Bogaert "Adding exciting techniques to your quilt repertoire"
February 15	Monthly Meeting on Zoom - Andrea Tsang Jackson "Approaches to transparency"
March 15	Monthly Meeting on Zoom - Brandon Wulff "Trunk show of Biscotti"
April 9-11	Spring Retreat 2027
April 19	Monthly Meeting - Activities Night
May 17	Monthly Meeting - AGM and Demos
June 21	Monthly Meeting - Potluck
October 2-3	2027 Quilt Show
October 15-17	Fall Retreat 2027

AQG Executive Roster 2025-2026

Thank you to all our volunteers for supporting us throughout the year. If you are interested in helping out in 2026-2027, please let any of the executive team know or contact almontequiltersguild@gmail.com. The official role descriptions are available here [AQG By-Laws](#)

ROLE	2025/2026	e-mail address
President	Lori McCluskey	president@almontequiltersguild.ca
Vice President	Krista Zaleski	vp@almontequiltersguild.ca
Treasurer	Pam Ross	treasurer@almontequiltersguild.ca
Secretary	Robin Hall	secretary@almontequiltersguild.ca
Program	Carol Dworschak	program@almontequiltersguild.ca
Webmaster	Jessica Tripp	webmaster@almontequiltersguild.ca
Membership	Kathy Panagapko	membership@almontequiltersguild.ca
Newsletter	Mara Harrison	almontequiltersguild@gmail.ca
Community Project	Pam Weatherby	community@almontequiltersguild.ca
Quilties	Rita Martin	almontequiltersguild@gmail.ca
Retreat	Cate MacLean	retreat@almontequiltersguild.ca
Workshop	Pamela Weatherby	workshop@almontequiltersguild.ca
Block of the Month	John Rait	almontequiltersguild@gmail.ca
Social	Cate MacLean	almontequiltersguild@gmail.ca
Library	Louise Miller & Zuzana Dobias	almontequiltersguild@gmail.ca
Quilt Show Chair	Krista Zaleski	quiltshow@almontequiltersguild.ca
Communication	TBA	almontequiltersguild@gmail.ca