



Annual Membership Meeting
of the
American Wine Society Educational Foundation

American Wine Society Conference
Hyatt Regency Riverfront
Jacksonville, FL

Saturday, October 24, 2026

AWSEF Board of Trustees:

Kristen Lindelow	President*
Walt Rachele	Treasurer*
Dean Scott	Secretary
Bill Ellis	VP for Corporate Development*
Isabelle Lesschaeve	VP for Scholarships*
Eric Feldhake	General Counsel
Ron Natalie	AWS Vice-President
*Absent	



Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, October 24, 2026 7:30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Dean Scott
2. Call for Additional Agenda Items – Dean Scott
 - Introduction of the AWSEF Trustees – Dean Scott
3. Secretary's Report – Dean Scott
 - Review and approve Minutes from 2025 Annual Meeting
4. Treasurer's Report – Walt Rachele
 - Review and approve current Financial Report
 - Recognition of Contributions – Dean Scott
5. Introduction to 2026 Scholarship Recipients (list attached) – Isabelle Lesschaeve
6. Silent Auction Report – Denise Griner, Trustee Emeritus
7. Les Sperling Annual Fruit Wine Award – To be announced at banquet
8. Announcement of Patricia Gallagher medal award – Bill Ellis
9. Adjournment – Dean Scott



AWSEF Annual Membership Meeting

Westfields Marriot.
Chantilly, VA

Sunday, Nov. 8, 2025, 8:00 a.m.

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Kristen Lindelow - President

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 AM by Kristen Lindelow - President

2. Call for Additional Agenda Items –Kristen Lindelow -

President Kristen called for additional agenda items. There were none.

3. Introduce of the AWSEF Trustees and introduce new board members

Board members attending were; Denise Griner - Secretary, Bonnie Lance - VP for Corporate Development, Eric Feldhake - General Counsel Isabelle Lesschaeve, VP for Scholarships and Walt Rachele, Treasurer.

Kristen introduced the Board members (listed above) who were present. Introduced new board members Bill Ellis and Dean Scott

4. Secretary's Report – Denise Griner - Secretary

- Review and approve Minutes from 2024 Annual Meeting

As the minutes were both pre-distributed via Internet and previously reviewed by the Board, reading the minutes was dispensed with. The minutes were approved.

5. Treasurer's Report – Walt Rachele, Treasurer

- **Review and approve current Financial Report**

As the report was both pre-distributed via Internet and previously reviewed by the Board, reading the report was dispensed with. The report was approved.

The AWSEF Expense Ratio is 3% for the past 6 years

5. The 2025 Scholarship Recipients

For the record, and as previously reported, scholarships, of \$3,500 each have been awarded to these 8 student researchers;

2 MSc Students

- **Jesse Stevens, MSc Candidate at Washington State University** was awarded the AWSEF scholarship funded by the AWS Chapter of North Alabama
- **Douglas Vines, MSc Candidate at the University of Minnesota** was awarded the AWSEF scholarship funded by the Virginia Wylder

6 PhD Students

- **Brandt Bastow, PhD Candidate at the University of California–Davis** was awarded the AWSEF scholarship funded by the Scholarship in Memory of Thomas King (Anonymous Donor)
- **Arpa Boghozian, PhD Candidate at the University of California–Davis** was awarded the AWSEF scholarship funded by the AWS Chapter of Cleveland, Ohio
- **Michael Cook, PhD Candidate at Texas A&M University** was awarded the AWSEF scholarship funded by the AWS Chapter W. J. Rachele Endowment
- **Hannah Frank, PhD Candidate at Cornell University** was awarded the AWSEF scholarship funded by the AWS Chapter AWS Chapter of Meadowlands, NJ
- **Isidora Silva-Valderrama, PhD Candidate at the University of British Columbia** was awarded the AWSEF scholarship funded by Banfi Vintners

- **Nikolas Wilson, PhD Candidate at the University of British Columbia** was awarded the AWSEF scholarship funded by the AWS Special Scholarship

Videos the students made, summarizing their research, are available on the website.

6. Recognition of Contributions made in 2025

Banfi, North Alabama, North Virginia, Springfield/Dayton Ohio, Jefferson, Maryland, Virginia Wylder, Meadowlands and Benefactor

7. Silent Auction Report – Denise Griner

Denise reported the total collected for the Silent Auction was \$5,787, and \$1,560 for South African Pinotage Bottle Raffle. The online Banfi bottle collected \$1,140.

As the Silent Auction is a major part of fundraising for AWSEF scholarships each year, thanks very much to all volunteers, donors of items, and all who bid on items!

9. AWSEF Les Sperling Annual Fruit Wine Award

The Les Sperling award is presented annually by the Foundation, in memory of Les for his vital work in founding the Foundation, to that amateur winemaker awarded Best In Class for fruit wines in the annual AWS Amateur Wine Competition. However, the results of that competition will not be announced until tonight. (Note that, subsequent to this meeting, the 2025 awardee was announced to be Richard Adams for his 2024 “Red Raspberry” wine.)

10. Banfi Bottle Raffle Winner Drawing – Walt Rachele- Treasurer

Jay Davis, North Wake Chapter was the winner of the online raffle

John Hoffman won the bottle at the conference

11. Adjournment – Kristen Lindelow - President

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 AM.

American Wine Society Educational Foundation

Income Statement

Years ending 2026, 2025 and 2024

	9/30/2026	2025	2024
Income			
Donations	19,495.39	36,757.79	28,955.20
Silent Auction	-	7,577.00	9,334.00
Banfi Bottle Raffle	-	1,140.00	2,750.00
Interest -Truist	139.35	367.11	1.67
Interest - Vanguard	1,652.45	2,263.22	2,396.60
Dividends & Interest - Fidelity	14,742.04	46,364.49	53,195.39
Total Income	36,029.23	94,469.61	96,632.86
Operating Expenses			
Credit Card Fees	-	146.80	1,204.10
Scholarship Expenses	200.00	-	-
Insurance	946.00	694.00	718.29
Office expenses	55.50	141.59	63.00
Tax Returns	598.11	551.25	525.00
Website & IT Costs	272.89	453.84	180.80
Total Operating Expenses	2,072.50	1,987.48	2,691.19
Scholarship Awards			
AWS Special Scholarship		3,500.00	
AWSEF In Memory of Kenneth Brewer	4,000.00	3,500.00	
BANFI		3,500.00	3,500.00
Carroll County MD/G. Hamilton Mowbray	4,000.00		
Cleveland OH Scholarship		3,500.00	
Dayton/Springfield OH	4,000.00		3,500.00
Lehigh Valley Scholarship PA			3,500.00
Meadowlands NJ Chapter Scholarship		3,500.00	
No Loudoun County, VA			3,500.00
No Name Alabama			
North Alabama Scholarship	4,000.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
North Wake, NC	4,000.00		
Ocean Isle Beach, NC			3,500.00
Smokey Mountain TN	5,000.00		
W.J.Rachele Endowment	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Virginia Wydler	4,000.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
Total Scholarships Awarded	34,000.00	29,500.00	29,500.00
Fluctuation in Value of Funds			
Fidelity Endowment Fund(mark to market)	214,522.11	178,736.51	212,004.71
Net Income (Loss)	214,478.84	241,718.64	276,446.38

**American Wine Society Educational Foundation
Scholarship Funds**

		December 31 2024	December 31 2025	July 31 2026	August 31 2026	September 30 2026
ASSETS:						
Cash Bank Accounts						
Atlantic Union Bank (closed 2024)		15,630.74	-	-	-	-
Truist Bank			17,167.47	17,647.17	14,026.24	14,364.91
Restricted Fund Accounts:						
Fidelity (Endowment)		1,260,159.03	1,484,810.03	1,646,858.96	1,701,847.45	1,714,074.18
Vanguard (Scholarship Accounts)		51,751.91	59,765.13	42,917.58	47,137.22	47,280.38
Total Investment Accounts		1,311,910.94	1,544,575.16	1,689,776.54	1,748,984.67	1,761,354.56
Total Assets		1,327,541.52	1,561,742.63	1,707,423.71	1,763,010.91	1,775,719.47
LIABILITIES:						
	Notes					
RESTRICTED FUNDS - SCHOLARSHIPS						
ALEXIS DESCAUNETS HARTUNG (2019)		34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00
AWS SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP	(2,4,5)	3,500.00	532.00	695.00	695.00	695.00
AWS WJCP Scholarship (2018)		1,715.00	1,915.00	1,915.00	1,915.00	1,915.00
AWSEF In Memory of: Ken Brewer	(1,2)	-	3,500.00	-	-	-
BANFI VINTNERS FOUNDATION	(2,3)	3,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
CARROLL COUNTY MARYLAND	(1)	1,420.00	4,095.00	595.00	595.00	595.00
CLEVELAND OHIO	(2)	3,925.00	425.00	425.00	425.00	425.00
COLUMBUS OHIO		2,072.00	2,072.00	2,072.00	2,072.00	2,072.00
DAYTON/ SPRINGFIELD OHIO	(1,3)	2,373.20	5,320.20	4,150.20	4,650.20	4,650.20
EMERALD COAST Chapter		-	-	3,500.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
ELECTRIC CITY PENNSYLVANIA(2017)		192.00	192.00	192.00	192.00	192.00
GLIMMERGLASS NEW YORK(2018)	(4)	163.00	163.00	-	-	-
HOUSTON TEXAS	(5)	210.00	-	-	-	-
LAUREL HIGHLANDS PA		1,080.00	1,380.00	1,380.00	1,380.00	1,380.00
LEHIGH VALLEY PA	(3)	1,876.00	3,153.00	3,353.00	3,793.00	3,793.00
MEADOWLANDS NJ	(2)	700.51	440.51	1,700.51	1,700.51	1,700.51
MESILLA VALLEY NEW MEXICO(2015)	(5)	322.00	-	-	-	-
NORTHERN LOUDOUN CO (NoLoCo)	(3)	1,693.00	2,958.00	2,958.00	2,958.00	2,958.00
NORTHERN VIRGINIA Chapter		1,000.00	2,250.00	2,250.00	2,250.00	2,250.00
NORTH ALABAMA Chapter	(1,2,3)	4,060.20	6,867.20	3,367.20	7,000.00	7,000.00
NORTH WAKE NC	(1)	2,650.00	3,500.00	-	-	-
OCEAN ISLE BEACH NC	(3)	-	-	-	-	-
SMOKY MOUNTAIN TN	(1)	862.50	862.50	862.50	862.50	862.50
SOUTH CAROLINA-Tuller (2019)		364.73	364.73	364.73	364.73	364.73
SC-Norm Tuller (2021)		700.00	700.00	700.00	700.00	700.00
SOUTH EASTERN PA REGION(2022)		1,245.00	1,245.00	1,245.00	1,245.00	1,245.00
THOMAS JEFFERSON KENTUCKY		2,560.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
W.J. RACHELE Endowment	(1,2,3)	5,000.00	5,000.00	-	-	-
TIPPY TASTERS		-	-	3,500.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
VIRGINIA WYDLER	(1,2,3)	3,500.00	3,500.00	-	-	-
AWSEF LIABILITIES		5,033.77	3,795.99	2,158.44	305.28	448.44
		51,751.91	59,765.13	42,917.58	47,137.22	47,280.38
RESTRICTED FUNDS -Endowment						
AWSEF ENDOWMENT (Fidelity)		1,019,968.84	1,284,072.75	1,497,176.62	1,498,426.85	1,499,552.07
Change in Endowment		240,190.19	200,737.28	149,682.34	203,420.60	214,522.11
GENERAL Operating Account						
TOTAL ENDOWMENT & GENERAL		1,275,789.61	1,501,977.50	1,664,506.13	1,715,873.69	1,728,439.09
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY						
		1,327,541.52	1,561,742.63	1,707,423.71	1,763,010.91	1,775,719.47

Notes to Balance Sheet:

- Scholarship awarded in 2026
- Scholarship awarded in 2025
- Scholarship awarded in 2024
- Consolidated to AWS Acct 2026
- Consolidated to AWS Acct 2025

The 2026 AWSEF Scholarship Recipients

William Anderson, MSc Candidate at Texas A&M, is developing GLRaV-3-resistant *Vitis vinifera* rootstock varieties using traditional and novel techniques.
Virginia Wylder Scholarship

Aliyah Brewer, PhD candidate at Cornell University, is advancing the resilience of new wine grape varieties through downy mildew disease resistance.
AWS Chapter of Dayton/ Springfield, OH Scholarship

Sarah Caballero, PhD candidate at Oregon State University, is developing a protective coating designed to prevent smoke-derived compounds from entering grapes pre-harvest.
AWS North Wake Chapter Scholarship

Harper Esterak, MSc candidate at Texas A&M, studies how growing conditions of American oak in Texas may influence how oak expresses itself in wine.
AWS North Alabama Chapter Scholarship

Hannah Frank, PhD candidate at Cornell University, studies grapevine interactions with arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) to help growers produce high-quality wine grapes with optimized inputs.
AWS Carroll County Chapter, G. Hamilton Mowbray Memorial, in memory of Bill Eisberg

Agostino Gamba, MSc candidate at the University of California at Davis, investigates and quantifies the effects of Grapevine red blotch disease, GRBV, on vine physiology, as well as production and fruit quality metrics.
AWS Educational Foundation Scholarship, In Memory of Ken Brewer

Daniela Menendez, PhD candidate at Virginia Tech, works to advance the sustainable management of the spotted lanternfly (an invasive planthopper, SLF) in American vineyards.
W.J. RACHELE Endowment Scholarship

Taran Rowles, MSc candidate at the Pennsylvania State University, develops innovative techniques and tools for ground cover and soil management that improve North American vineyard sustainability and wine quality.
AWS Smoky Mountain Chapter Scholarship, in the name of Alcide L Porell

All recipients are also awarded a one-year membership with the American Wine Society.

The AWSEF is dedicated to supporting the next generation of leaders in the grape and wine industry.

Scholarships are made possible by generous contributions from AWS chapters, endowed funds, and individual donors.