



Annual Membership Meeting
of the
American Wine Society Educational Foundation

American Wine Society Conference
Westfields Marriott
Chantilly, VA

Saturday, November 8, 2025

AWSEF Board of Trustees:

Kristen Lindelow	President
Walt Rachele	Treasurer
Denise Griner	Secretary
Bonnie Lance	VP for Corporate Development
Therise Collier	VP for Private Development
Isabelle Lesschaeve	VP for Scholarships
Eric Feldhake	General Counsel
Ron Natalie	AWS Vice-President



Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, November 8, 2025 7:30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Call to Order – Kristen Lindelow
2. Call for Additional Agenda Items – Kristen Lindelow
3. Introduction of the AWSEF Trustees – Kristen Lindelow
 - Election Results and Thank You
4. Secretary's Report – Denise Griner
 - Review and approve Minutes from 2024 Annual Meeting
5. Treasurer's Report – Walt Rachele
 - Review and approve current Financial Report
6. Introduction to 2025 Scholarship Recipients (list attached) – Isabelle Lesschaeve
7. Recognition of Contributions – Kristen Lindelow
8. Silent Auction Report – Denise Griner
9. Les Sperling Annual Fruit Wine Award – Kristen Lindelow
10. Banfi Raffle Winner Drawing – Walt Rachele
11. Adjournment – Kristen Lindelow, President



AWSEF Annual Membership Meeting

Benton Convention Center.
Winston-Salam, NC
Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024, 8:00 a.m.

MINUTES

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Kristen Lindelow – President. Other Board members attending were: Denise Griner - Secretary, Therise Collier - VP for Private Development, Eric Feldhake - General Counsel and Walt Rachele, Treasurer.

2. Call for Additional Agenda Items –Kristen Lindelow - President

Kristen called for additional agenda items. There were none.

3. Introduction of the AWSEF Trustees – Kristen Lindelow - President

Kristen introduced the Board members (listed above) who were present. The others were unable to attend due to a variety of family and/or work situations.

4. Secretary's Report – Denise Griner - Secretary

- Review and approve Minutes from 2023 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%.

Over a half million dollars in Scholarships awarded to Graduate Students to date.

6. The 2024 Scholarship Recipients

For the record, and as previously reported, scholarships have been awarded to these eight student researchers:

- **Michael Cook, PhD candidate at Texas A&M University**, was awarded the AWSEF scholarship funded by Banfi Wines.
- **Amanda Fleming, PhD candidate at the University of Arkansas**, was awarded the AWSEF scholarship funded by Virginia Wydler.
- **Nikolas Wilson, PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia**, was awarded the AWSEF scholarship funded by the AWS Chapter: Ocean Isle Beach, NC.
- **David Campbell, PhD candidate at Pennsylvania State University**, was awarded the AWSEF scholarship funded by the W.J. Rachele Endowment.
- **Ezekiel Warren, PhD candidate at Pennsylvania State University**, was awarded the AWSEF scholarship funded by the AWS Chapter: Lehigh Valley, PA.
- **Emma Guilbault, MSc candidate at Pennsylvania State University**, was awarded the AWSEF scholarship by the AWS Chapters: Dayton/Springfield, OH
- **Walter Sanders, MSc candidate at the University of Georgia**, was awarded the AWSEF scholarship funded by the AWS Chapter of North Alabama.
- **Sydney Rogers, MSc candidate at the University of California, Davis**, was awarded the AWSEF scholarship funded by the AWS Northern Loudoun County Chapter in Memory of Rick Adams and in Honor of Christy Adams.

Videos the students made, summarizing their research, were viewed.

7. Recognition of Contributions made in 2024

Banfi, N. Alabama, North Carolina, Ohio, and Benefactor

8. Silent Auction Report – Therise Collier, VP Private Development

Therise reported the total collected for the Silent Auction was \$7,938, and \$1,400 for Banfi Bottle Raffle.

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 2024 awardee was announced to be Tim Traxler of Bellefonte, Pennsylvania for his 2022 Red Raspberry wine.

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

Phillip Koon, North Alabama Chapter was the winner of the online raffle
F. Gerstka won the bottle at the conference

11. Adjournment – Kristen Lindelow - President

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 AM.

2025 AWS Educational Foundation Scholarship Recipients

Brandt Bastow, *PhD candidate at the University of California–Davis*

Scholarship in Memory of Thomas King (Anonymous Donor)

Developing rapid, affordable methods to detect smoke taint using fluorescence spectroscopy and chemometric modeling, empowering growers with timely harvest decisions during wildfire events.

Arpa Boghozian, *PhD candidate at the University of California–Davis*

AWS Chapter of Cleveland, Ohio Scholarship

Investigating the impact of Grapevine Red Blotch Virus on fruit development to support new enzyme-based vineyard practices that preserve quality and reduce grower losses.

Michael Cook, *PhD candidate at Texas A&M University*

W. J. Rachele Endowment Scholarship

Studying irrigation strategies across Texas wine regions to improve grapevine resilience, wine stability, and berry composition in the face of climate extremes.

Hannah Frank, *PhD candidate at Cornell University*

AWS Chapter of Meadowlands, NJ Scholarship

Modeling beneficial soil fungi (arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF)) to give growers a predictive tool for soil health and cost-effective decisions about inoculants.

Isidora Silva-Valderrama, *PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia*

Banfi Vintners Scholarship

Predicting the virulence of grapevine trunk disease pathogens and developing tools to reduce their impact and safeguard vineyard longevity.

Jesse Stevens, *MSc candidate at Washington State University*

AWS Chapter of North Alabama Scholarship

Optimizing UVC light as an eco-friendly treatment for powdery mildew and refining sulfur application guidelines to minimize phytotoxicity risks.

Douglas Vines, *MSc candidate at the University of Minnesota*

Virginia Wydler Scholarship

Advancing cold-hardy grapevine breeding by uncovering genetic traits related to winter survival and late bud break in cold climates.

Nikolas Wilson, *PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia*

AWS Special Scholarship

Testing mitigation strategies for heat-stressed grapevines, including mitigation and canopy sprays, and comparing heat tolerance across key grape varieties.

**American Wine Society Educational Foundation
Scholarship Funds**

		December 31 2023	December 31 2024	September 30 2025
ASSETS:				
Cash Bank Accounts				
Atlantic Union Bank		16,716.26	15,630.74	-
Truist Bank				17,055.16
Investment Accounts:				
Fidelity (Endowment)		994,508.93	1,260,159.03	1,434,675.35
Vanguard (Restricted Funds)		48,850.11	51,751.91	38,675.12
Total Investment Accounts		1,043,359.04	1,311,910.94	1,473,350.47
Total Assets		1,060,075.30	1,327,541.52	1,490,405.63
Liabilities:				
	Notes			
RESTRICTED FUNDS - SCHOLARSHIPS				
ALEXIS DESCAUNETS HARTUNG (2019)		34.00	34.00	34.00
AWS COMPETITIONS (JUDGES)	(4)	-	-	-
AWS SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP	(1,5)	1,406.00	3,500.00	532.00
AWS WJCP Fund (2018)	(4)	1,715.00	1,715.00	1,715.00
BANFI VINTNERS FOUNDATION	(1,2,3)	-	3,500.00	-
CARROLL COUNTY MARYLAND	(3)	150.00	1,420.00	2,745.00
CLEVELAND OHIO	(1)	925.00	3,925.00	425.00
COLUMBUS OHIO		2,072.00	2,072.00	2,072.00
DAYTON/ SPRINGFIELD OHIO	(2)	5,023.20	2,373.20	3,820.20
ELECTRIC CITY PENNSYLVANIA(2017)		192.00	192.00	192.00
GLIMMERGLASS NEW YORK(2018)		163.00	163.00	163.00
HOUSTON TEXAS	(5)	210.00	210.00	-
LAUREL HIGHLANDS PA		1,080.00	1,080.00	1,080.00
LEHIGH VALLEY PA	(2)	4,601.00	1,876.00	1,876.00
MEADOWLANDS NJ	(1,3)	700.51	700.51	440.51
In Memory of: Ken Brewer	(1)	-	-	3,500.00
MESILLA VALLEY NEW MEXICO(2015)	(5)	322.00	322.00	-
NORTHERN LOUDOUN CO (NoLoCo)	(2)	5,193.00	1,693.00	1,693.00
Northern Virginia Chapter		-	1,000.00	1,000.00
NO NAME ALABAMA	(3)	-	-	-
NORTH ALABAMA	(1,2,3)	3,500.00	4,060.20	5,567.20
NORTH WAKE NC		-	2,650.00	2,650.00
OCEAN ISLE BEACH NC	(2,3)	3,505.00	-	-
SMOKY MOUNTAIN TN		862.50	862.50	862.50
SOUTH CAROLINA-Tuller (2019)		364.73	364.73	364.73
SC-Norm Tuller (2021)		700.00	700.00	700.00
SOUTH EASTERN PA REGION(2022)		1,245.00	1,245.00	1,245.00
THOMAS JEFFERSON KENTUCKY		1,660.00	2,560.00	2,660.00
W.J. RACHELE Endowment	(1,2,3)	5,000.00	5,000.00	-
Virginia Wydler	(1,2,3)	3,500.00	3,500.00	-
		-	-	-
AWSEF LIABILITIES		4,726.17	5,033.77	3,337.98
		48,850.11	51,751.91	38,675.12
NET ASS				
AWSEF ENDOWMENT (Fidelity)		794,043.75	1,019,968.84	1,273,389.19
Change in Endowment		200,465.18	240,190.19	161,286.16
GENERAL (Atlantic Union/Truist)		16,716.26	15,630.74	17,055.16
TOTAL ENDOWMENT & GENERAL		1,011,225.19	1,275,789.61	1,451,730.51
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
		1,060,075.30	1,327,541.52	1,490,405.63
In Balance =				

Notes to Balance Sheet:

- Scholarship awarded in 2025
- Scholarship awarded in 2024
- Scholarship awarded in 2023
- Consolidated to WJCP Fund 2023
- Consolidated to AWS Acct 2025

American Wine Society Educational Foundation

Income Statement

Years ending 2025, 2024 and 2023

	9/30/2025	2024	2023
Income			
Donations	17,501.79	28,955.20	31,036.98
Silent Auction	-	9,334.00	3,409.00
Banfi Bottle Raffle	340.00	2,750.00	1,300.00
Interest - Atlantic Union Bank/Truist	277.08	1.67	1.46
Interest - Vanguard	1,804.21	2,396.60	2,211.27
Dividends & Interest - Fidelity	13,680.16	53,195.39	24,108.21
Total Income	33,603.24	96,632.86	62,066.92
Operating Expenses			
Credit Card Fees	6.96	1,204.10	123.05
Scholarship Expenses	-	-	200.00
Insurance	694.00	718.29	694.00
Office expenses	30.50	63.00	343.98
Tax Returns	551.25	525.00	500.00
Website & IT Costs	249.95	180.80	-
Total Operating Expenses	1,532.66	2,691.19	1,861.03
Scholarship Awards			
AWS Special Scholarship	3,500.00		
BANFI	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
Carroll County MD			3,500.00
Cleveland OH Scholarship	3,500.00		
Dayton/Springfield OH		3,500.00	
Lehigh Valley Scholarship PA		3,500.00	
In Memory of Thomas King	3,500.00		
Meadowlands NJ Chapter Scholarship	3,500.00		3,500.00
No Loudoun County, VA		3,500.00	
No Name Alabama			3,500.00
North Alabama Scholarship	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
Ocean Isle Beach, NC		3,500.00	3,500.00
W.J.Rachele Endowment	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Virginia Wydler	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
Total Scholarships Awarded	29,500.00	29,500.00	29,500.00
Fluctuation in Value of Funds			
Fidelity Endowment Fund(mark to market)	161,286.16	212,004.71	172,965.39
			-
Net Income (Loss)	163,856.74	276,446.38	203,671.28