

## AAUW Summer Picnic and Annual Business Meeting

This event was held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Bennington on Saturday 6/28/2025

The meeting was called to order at 12:20 by President Suzanne Kirkpatrick.

The full amount of AAUW dues are tax deductible.

Arts interests will be demonstrated after dessert. The idea came from the Program Committee and members are welcomed to share a passion at upcoming social events. Suzanne encouraged folks to let her know of their interest.

A long discussion ensued about the difficulty of getting scholarship applicants. Kathy Wagenknecht broached the subject and urged the membership to consider donating to National for a one time contribution. Wendy Lyons suggested a Youtube video to promote AAUW and their mission to familiarize potential applicants. Cathy McClure said that Rotary was facing similar challenges in promoting their scholarship. Tim Payne, new SVSU Superintendent was noted as a someone who may be influential in getting the word out.

Mary Ellen Munley suggested an amendment to partner with Rotary to support someone local vs. providing funds to National. Norma McShane said that we should wait since there had been an interest expressed by one person, paperwork awaited. Sheila Mullineaux asked about funding tech training vs college. Ursula Wolz spoke of a downward trend in enrollment and dropouts. Female refugees were noted as a population to which we could do outreach. Advertising at the hospital was suggested. Could/would online classes count? Stress that the support is not limited to tuition.

In the end a motion was made by Mary Ellen Munley to provide \$1,000 to National and that a more conscious effort be made with publicity of our scholarship. Sheila Mullineaux seconded (I also have a note that Julie Haupt seconded). There was one nay vote. In September the motion was amended to add, "If the possible candidate who had already asked for an application but had not yet returned it, and she was determined to be a good candidate, we would give the scholarship to that person." [added September 25, 2025]

I KNOW I DID POORLY with the wording of the above paragraph. Please help with it.

The upcoming Board Officers were noted:

Suzanne Kirkpatrick agreed for another term as President

Fronia Simpson continues as Secretary

Mary Elizabeth Groupe is assuming Treasurer duties. We thank outgoing Treasurer Jan Day for her service.

A motion was made by Judy Murphy to accept the Board nominees and seconded by Cathy McClure.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43.

Respectfully submitted by  
Berta Winiker (filling in for Fronia Simpson)