

Maryland State Firemen's Association Scholarship Committee
Meeting Minutes

The Maryland State Firemen's Association Scholarship Committee meeting convened on Thursday May 13, 2004 at 7:00 pm at the College Park Volunteer Fire Department in College Park, Maryland.

Members of the committee in attendance were:

George Kennett
Robert Ryan
Dr. Jim Milke
Barry Munroe
William Olson
Brenda Fosler Johnson
Margaret Woltz
Pete Piringer
Jim Deskin
W. Faron Taylor
G. Dale Fishack, Jr.
Ron Siarnicki
Alice Olson – Guest
Glenn Fishack – Guest
Woltz - Guest

Chairman Siarnicki opened the meeting by welcoming everyone who attended and provided a brief explanation of the agenda for the evening. He confirmed that each member had received their package of scholarship applications and copies of the minutes of the last meeting.

The Chairman reported the status of the proposed law changes to the Maryland Tuition Remission Program and that the revised law was forwarded favorably out of the House Committee but did not make it out of the State Senate. In addition, the Chairman reported that he had sent letters to each past president of the Maryland State Firemen's Association and their respective home companies to solicit funds for the scholarship program. The chairmen reported that three new scholarships had been pledged as a \$1,000.00 per year for five years in the names of three different MSFA past presidents.

Copies of updated scholarship application documents had been received by the Chairman since the scholarship applications had been distributed to the committee and were given out to all who were in attendance. At this point, the discussion moved on to the application process for the 2004 awards. Committee member William Olson reported that he and Jim Deskins had done some preliminary budget projections based upon the information that he was provided by the Treasurer Gene Curfman and that he had prepared recommended award levels for the returning students. Brenda Fosler included in the discussion that it was the committee's policy to provide \$3,000.00 to students of four year educational institutions and \$2,000.00 to students enrolled in community colleges. Robert Ryan noted the need for the committee to look at financial needs of students and a discussion ensued leading to a motion by Dale Fishack that inquires be made as part of the application process requesting applicants to declare any other financial assistance they have received. Second by Jim Deskins and passed unanimously by the committee.

The committee moved onto a review of the 2004 scholarship applications of those students who had been supported by the committee last year. A motion was made by Dale Fishack to approve \$17,000.00 for those six students who were returning scholarship winners. Seconded by William Olson, approved unanimously by the committee.

Awardee:

Laura Elizabeth Rose	\$3,000.00	STC/BOV
Kevin Reynolds	\$3,000.00	CON & MSFA
Howard T. Callahan	\$3,000.00	CON & MSFA
Megan Nyers	\$3,000.00	CON & MSFA
Stephen Sindler	\$3,000.00	MSFA
Emily Twilley Derbyshire	\$2,000.00	CON & MSFA

After a review of the committee finances, George Kennett made a motion to keep \$10,000 in reserves in the committee account to cover potential scholarship needs next year. Seconded by Dale Fishack and approved by the committee unanimously. At the conclusion of this vote, it was determined that the committee had \$30,000 left to distribute this year. The committee moved forward with the review of the new applications they had received for this award period.

Motion by Jim Deskins to award the 2004 Heimer award, seconded by George Kennet and unanimously approved by the committee.

Awardee:

Holly Anne Hathaway	\$2,000.00	HEIMER & MSFA
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Motion by W. Faron Taylor to award 6 scholarships on behalf of Shock Trauma/Board of Visitors in the amount of \$17,000.00, seconded by William Olson and passed unanimously by the committee.

Awardees:

Daniel Nott	\$3,000.00	STC/BOV
Adam Buckingham	\$3,000.00	STC/BOV
Donald Cather	\$3,000.00	STC/BOV
Sarah Pysell	\$3,000.00	STC/BOV
Caroline Rebecca Pace	\$3,000.00	STC/BOV
William Rosebrough	\$2,000.00	STC/BOV

Motion by William Olson to award the 2004 Ladies Auxiliary to the Maryland State Firemen's Association Scholarship, seconded by George Kennett and passed unanimously by the committee.

Awardee:

Jeffrey Alan Clements	\$3,000.00	LAMSFA & MSFA
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Motion by W. Feron Taylor that the remaining available funds, \$9,000.00, be awarded to the six remaining qualified scholarship applicants. Seconded by Dr. Milke and passed by the committee unanimously. Included in the motion was the stipulation that if any additional scholarship funds are acquired between now and this years convention, that these six students will receive preference in distribution of these monies.

Awardees:

Adam D. St. John	\$2,000.00	MSFA
Andrew Laird	\$2,000.00	MSFA
Joseph Kurry	\$2,000.00	MSFA
Shane Lee Mellin	\$1,000.00	MSFA
Jeffery James Dean	\$1,000.00	MSFA
Michael Flick	\$1,000.00	MSFA

Motion by Robert Ryan that the four remaining scholarship applicants be advised that they did not qualify for awards this year because two did not submit a completed application package and the other two were not currently enrolled in a program eligible for financial support at this time. Seconded by Dale Fishack and passed by the committee unanimously.

The committee approved a total of 20 Scholarship Applications this award cycle totaling \$48,000.00 in financial assistance to members of the Maryland Fire Service. The Chairman was instructed to prepare the award letters for distribution before the upcoming State Convention in Ocean City next month. Letters of invite will also be sent to the three graduating students who have been receiving support form the Scholarship Committee over the past few years.

Brenda Fosler Johnson asked that when the 2004 award letters are sent, included in the message should be a reference to the State Tuition Remission Program. The Chairman committed to include this information in the award letters.

Motion by Jim Deskins and seconded by Brenda Fosler Johnson that each committee member destroy their copies of the scholarship applicants once the committee verifies the Chairman's report of awards and the meeting minutes.

At this time, past Chairman William Olson made some personal comments of gratitude to the committee and provided his insights as to how well the committee has worked together over the years.

George Kennett thanked the committee for their efforts and commended how pleased he was with the process this year and how appreciated he was that the committee was able to award scholarship to several fire serve members from his area of the state. George also reported that the funding request he sent to SMECO was denied by the company due to their non-profit status and the fact of them being a co-op. George stated that he will continue other avenues for financial support.

The Chairman announced that incoming President Robert Jacobs has asked for the names of the committee for next year and the Chairman asked that if any member wished to exit the committee, to please inform him of such by Wednesday May 19, 2004. The Chairman also

asked Brenda Fosler Johnson to check with the University of Maryland Baltimore Campus to determine if they would like to send a liaison to the Scholarship committee meetings. She advised that she will inform the Chairman of her search results by the committee deadline.

Robert Ryan suggested that the committee add Joanne Hildebrand from the University of Maryland University College to the committee as well. The committee approved both of these potential memberships for the committee.

Past Chairmen Olson concluded his comments by asking the committee to keep the memory of Mickey Harris in their minds as a valued and dedicated committee member prior to his death. The committee agreed.

As the meeting drew to a close, the Chairman thanked all of the committee for their efforts and commented that the committee had achieved the following goals that were set at the November 2003 Meeting:

1. Establish quarterly meetings.
2. Utilize technology more to improve committee operations
3. Establish an internal communications system for the committee.
4. Seek additional corporate sponsors for scholarship funding.
5. To continually evaluate the scholarship program to ensure student needs are being met.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Submitted by:

Ronald Jon Siarnicki, Chair