

New Scholarship Program Coordinator

The 2017 FRA Education Foundation scholarship cycle is well underway and will continue until the scholarship application deadline of April 15, 2017.

The Scholarship Program Coordinator is very important to our scholarship program. The individual serving in this job ensures that all goes smoothly during the application, adjudication and notification process.

This is a part-time contracted position and since November 2011, Marilyn Smith served as our coordinator and did an excellent job overseeing the program. Marilyn assumed the position from Shipmate Vince Cuthie who, in addition to other NHQ staff responsibilities before retiring, began serving as scholarship program coordinator for FRA before the Education Foundation was established in 2009.

Marylin recently announced she will be moving back home to Massachusetts with her husband, former USCG Reserve Force Master Chief Jeff Smith. So we began the search for a capable and committed replacement from the DC area.

During discussions with several Foundation and Association leaders, one individual was consistently mentioned as a great person to step into the position. Alicia Landis, retired FRA Administrative Director, who did an outstanding job for the Association while working as a key member of the NHQ team was that person. When asked to serve in the coordinator job, she answered yes. I'm pleased to report, effective January 4, 2017, Alicia will be the new Education Foundation Scholarship Program Coordinator.

Her duties include: responding to telephone calls, email messages, and correspondence pertaining to the scholarship program; reviewing and collating application materials; liaising with the three-member volunteer screening committee members; reviewing and updating applications posted on the Foundation page on the FRA website (www.fra.org/foundation); ensuring compliance with established program milestones each year and managing notification of award selectees.

Although a part-time contracted position, this is the only paid Foundation job. She reports to the Education Foundation Board via the president of the Foundation, and maintains liaison with the Foundation's Assistant Treasurer, currently Nora Graham, who also serves as FRA's Finance Officer. Landis will occasionally work with other NHQ staff as necessary.

It is important to remind everyone about the 2017 scholarship application deadline of April 15, 2017 is fast approaching. It's also important to remind all applicants about the importance of following application instructions and submitting complete packages since incomplete submissions will not be considered by the review committee.

Those eligible to apply for college scholarships include: **FRA**

Shipmates; spouses; dependent biological, step or adoptive children; biological, step or adoptive grandchildren; or biological, step or adoptive great grandchildren of an FRA member.

Non members of the association may also apply for the limited number of annual awards. Scholarship eligibility criteria is included on the application forms, which are available along with additional information, on the Education Foundation page on the FRA website or by clicking the **Events and Programs** tab on the website landing page and selecting the FRA Education Foundation. Application forms can be accessed via the links on the lower part of the Foundation page.

As always, thanks for your assistance in helping spread the word about this important program and for encouraging eligible individuals to apply for 2017 scholarships. **FRA**

By NEDE Joe Barnes