

Scholarship Applications Due April 15

The application and supporting materials for FRA Education Foundation scholarships must be submitted and postmarked by the deadline, April 15, 2017.

According to Mike Patton of the *Forbes* magazine advisor network, “Education costs have soared over the past few decades.” He notes obtaining a college education is getting more expensive and cites statistics indicating, “The average tuition and fees at a public university for the 2014-2015 school year were \$9,139 for in-state and \$22,598 for out-of-state students. The average cost of a private university was \$31,231.” Patton also states “While the cost of education continues to climb, having no education may be far worse in terms of lost wages.”

The Application Process

Upon receipt at FRA National Headquarters (NHQ), applications are reviewed to ensure all information is included. The LA FRA scholarship applications are also sent to NHQ and then forwarded to the appropriate Auxiliary officer for processing.

After the initial review process, Foundation Scholarship Program Coordinator Alicia Landis forwards complete packages to the three-member committee who objectively reviews each application. The process uses a grid that lists the attributes from the application and supporting materials that include financial need, academic standing, character and leadership qualities.

NOTE: Incomplete applications are not accepted. Instructions list all information and supporting materials required for each award—we receive numerous incomplete applications.

Eligibility unfortunately varies somewhat by award due to legacy award requirements; however, all applicants must be U.S. citizens affiliated with the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard through their service or that of their spouse, parent, grandparent or great-grandparent. FRA members in good standing, their spouses, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are eligible for

a wider range of scholarships. Recipients must be full-time students at an accredited U.S. college or university. Applicants who meet eligibility requirements will be considered for other scholarships and notified about awards during the summer before the fall semester. Only scholarship winners are notified.

Additional scholarships include:

FRA Member Scholarships: Students may apply if the applicant or sponsor is an FRA member in good standing, currently or at time of death. In addition, the applicant can be the spouse; dependent biological, step or adoptive child; biological, step or adoptive grandchild; or biological, step or adoptive great-grandchild of the FRA member.

Legacy Scholarships: Students may apply for the **Colonel Hazel Elizabeth Benn, USMC, Scholarship** if they are an unmarried dependent child of the sponsor and are enrolled, for the fall of 2017 as a freshman or sophomore undergraduate at a U.S. state- or regionally-accredited institution of post-secondary education. The sponsor must be an FRA member in good standing, currently, or at time of death, and served or is now serving in the Navy as an enlisted medical rating (Corpsman) serving with the U.S. Marine Corps. Students may apply for the **Angelo and Mildred Nunez Scholarships** if they are the qualified daughter or son of enlisted Navy personnel who are or will be pursuing post high-school, undergraduate education at an accredited U.S. college or university.

FRA Nonmember Scholarships: Students may apply for this scholarship if the applicant or sponsor is not a member of the FRA, living, on active duty, reserve, retired or honorably discharged veteran of the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard. The applicant may be the spouse; dependent biological, step or adoptive child; or biological, step or adoptive grandchild; or biological, step or adoptive great-grandchild of the FRA non-member.

Help spread the word about our scholarships and encourage individuals to apply. Information and applications are at: fra.org/foundation. **FRA**

By NEDE Joe Barnes