

Please Support the FRA Education Foundation

Before addressing some important information, I want to offer a special thank you to individual Shipmates, Branches and others that generously contributed to the FRA Education Foundation during the past year. These contributions helped fund scholarship awards presented to deserving scholars attending colleges throughout the country.

The 2017 FRA Education Foundation scholarship cycle commenced on September 1, 2016 and

continues until the scholarship application deadline of April 15, 2017. In conjunction with this, the Foundation Board of Directors asks for your assistance in helping

spread the word about this important program.

As many readers know, the Foundation is a separate 501(c)(3) educational organization that was established in 2009. The Foundation has a volunteer five-member board of directors that manages administrative support, solicits contributions to support annual scholarship awards, and oversees investments and the annual selection process that identifies qualified individuals to receive awards. The Foundation also reports to the FRA National Board of Directors and I submit an annual report that's published in the delegate kit at each FRA National Convention. If you've not already done so, please check this out to learn more about our work.

During 2016, a total of 22 scholarships were presented to scholars from 15 states. Award recipients were announced in the September issue of *FRA Today*. The list is also posted on our web page at www.fra.org/foundation.

Although we've been awarding generous scholarships for a number of years, many Shipmates and Auxiliary members may not be aware of who is eligible to apply for annually awards. Those who qualify 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. Applicants must be on active duty, Reserve, retired or honorably discharged from the United States Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard, or the spouse, dependent biological, step or adoptive child, biological, step or adoptive grandchild, or biological, step or adoptive great grandchild of the non-member.

As FRA NED Emeritus and Foundation President, I believe that we cannot overemphasize this program as a *valuable benefit of membership in the FRA* and a high-interest issue with prospective members. It's also especially important to mention Foundation scholarships when speaking with active, Reserve, retired and qualified Sea Service veterans when discussing the value of FRA membership.

Additional information is available on the Education Foundation page on the FRA website at www.fra.org/foundation, or by clicking the Events and Programs tab on the web site landing page and selecting the FRA Education Foundation. Application forms with detailed instructions can be accessed via the links on the lower part of the Foundation page.

Information brochures and small color posters are also available for distribution to local schools or at FRA Branch outreach events. These items can be requested by contacting PRPEC Bob Washington at FRA National Headquarters at 1-800-372-1924, or via e-mail at bobw@fra.org.

Thanks for your assistance in helping spread the word about this important program. **FRA**

By NEDE Joe Barnes

