

Education Foundation Updates



Joe Barnes

Scholarship Application Update and Award Notification Timeline

Complete applications that were submitted by the April 15 deadline for 2017 FRA Education Foundation scholarships are first reviewed by Scholarship Coordinator Alicia Landis, then forwarded to the three-member review committee. Shipmate Harry Kantrovich, former Scholarship Coordinator Marilyn Smith and former FRA Communications Director Eileen Murphy make up that committee.

This year's scholarship application breakdown is:

- Number of applications received: 213
- Total incomplete applications: 47
- Number of complete applications adjudicated: 166
- Number of LA FRA mail processed and then forwarded to the LA FRA: 142

These numbers are consistent with the total number of applications received annually since 2013, although the number of incomplete applications is somewhat less this year, which is good news.

The review process by the committee concludes in late May and scholarship recipients are notified in early June. Following reverification of applicants' submission information regarding membership, sponsors, and the like, checks will be processed and forwarded to the selectees' respective colleges in July. Names and photos of scholarship selectees will be published in the September issue of *FRA Today*.

The 2018 cycle commences on September 1, 2017 with the posting of the application forms on the Foundation web page at fra.org/foundation.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that allows customers to enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to charitable organizations selected by customers.

As a 501(c)3 charitable/education organization,

the Fleet Reserve Association Education Foundation is registered with AmazonSmile. Shipmates, Auxiliary members, their families, friends and others are encouraged to go to smile.amazon.com and register to support the Foundation (spell out "Fleet Reserve Association" when registering). Thereafter, when making purchases from Amazon.com products, 0.5% of the sales price of eligible products will be contributed to the Foundation via the AmazonSmile Foundation. It's important to go onto Amazon.com via the smile.amazon.com address. That is how Amazon.com identifies you and credits your chosen foundation, the FRA Education Foundation.

Military Support Groups of America

The Military Support Groups of America (MSGA) is a federation of America's finest national organizations that provides financial and other support for our nation's heroes—our service members, wounded warriors and their families.

MSGA supports a variety of charities that are grouped under the MSGA federation banner. It's easy to find a group you wish to support. More of the dollars contributed go to the charities for which they are designated, and less to administrative costs. For workplace givers, it's an easy way for employees to give to the causes they wish to support. Many workplace-giving programs offer payroll deduction plan as a painless way to give to the charity of choice. MSGA and its consultant staff can help establish a workplace program for employers interested in doing so.

All MSGA agencies are screened to ensure they meet the highest standards of substantive services, management and fiscal responsibility. The FRA Education Foundation has been accepted as a member of MSGA, pending approval for the Foundation to participate in the 2017 Combined Federal Campaign administered and overseen by the Office of Personnel Management. **FRA**

By NEDE Joe Barnes