

New Scholarship Year Commences

The 2018 FRA Education Foundation scholarship application cycle commenced on September 1, 2017 and continues until April 15, 2018. Scholarship information and applications are posted on the foundation page of FRA's web site at: www.fra.org/foundation

This follows closely the announcement of the 2017 scholarship selectees listed in the September 2017 issue of *FRA Today* which concludes the 2017 cycle. A total of \$90,000 was presented to 21 scholars from 16 states this year based on need, academic proficiency and character. **Thanks to all Shipmates and branches for the contributions that helped make these awards possible.**

The awards total is less this year due to the elimination of a contribution from FRA, however, the foundation continues funding legacy awards in memory of deceased Shipmates Glenn F. Glezen, Robert W. Nolan and Joseph R. Baranski.

Since my last *FRA Today* column in the spring, I submitted a report on the foundation's work to the FRA National Board of Directors and presented a report to the Budget and Finance Committee in July. Both included the following recommendations:

- The Foundation Board recommends that FRA leadership and individual Branches **continue supporting the FRA Education Foundation, and that information regarding the foundation and its scholarship awards be disseminated** at Regional meetings and during leadership visits to branches and other Association / sea service related functions.
- The Foundation Board recommends that information be disseminated regularly about registering for and using the **Amazon Smile program (smile.amazon.com)** to help support the foundation. Information is detailed in a flyer and should be disseminated via Regional meeting, branch newsletters, and at branch meetings.
- The Foundation Board recommends **including detailed information on the foundation as part of annual leadership training** to expand aware-

ness and help support the foundation's mission which is directly related to FRA's mission and cardinal principles.

Please help spread the word to anyone planning to attend college during the 2018-2019 academic year. Applications with detailed instructions are also available via the www.fra.org/foundation link. Be sure to check it out.

CFC Update

Since 2012, the foundation has been approved to participate in the annual Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), and hopefully will be approved to participate again this year. As I write this, the foundation and other organizations have yet to receive official notification of acceptance.

This year is NOT "business as usual" for the CFC according to Patrick Maguire, who coordinates participation for the Military Support Groups of America. A federation of military related organizations, which has, tentatively accepted the foundation pending final CFC approval through the federal Office of Personnel Management (OPM) which oversees the program.

According to Maguire, the transition from the old CFC to the new CFC is taking the federal government longer than anticipated. OPM has not finished its 2017 eligibility reviews—which means the federation cannot yet issue formal acceptance of participation in the campaign.

That said, the campaign is starting on October 2 this year, a month later than in 2016, and runs until January 12, 2018. **This year, participation is also expanding beyond Federal, Postal and military personnel to include retirees from these communities.** The donation process is also being revamped and simplified by replacing the CFC modules in Employee Express and myPay.

More to come on this—and thanks for your continuing support. **FRA**

By NEDE Joe Barnes



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