



Membership Dues Scholarship

(Adopted November 2, 2009)

(Reviewed October 7, 2013)

A scholarship fund of \$1,000 was established through a donation from a League member who gave no specific instructions about selecting candidates or distribution of the funding. At its September 5, 2013, meeting, Board members decided that both principal and interest would be used for scholarship funding and criteria for distribution would be established.

This policy gives guidelines for awarding scholarships.

Procedure

In addition to individual, associate, and student membership, the League of Women Voters of Greater Las Cruces welcomes members who need scholarship funding to complete full payment of annual dues.

Awarding a scholarship is determined on a case-by-case request, and the award must be approved by the Board.

Any League member may bring to the attention of the Membership Director, individual(s) who may need such assistance or the applicant may self-nominate. The Membership Director will gather information for presentation to the Board for final approval. Nominees will be asked if they can pay any portion of the required dues.

The dues award will not be offered to individuals joining after mid-year. Dues collected November 1 and thereafter are paid at half-rate. Per member payments are not made on these new members until they renew on May 1, when they will be counted in the LWVUS January membership calculation.

Current scholarship members request renewal of scholarship awards by contacting the Director of Membership before the end of the current fiscal year. The Director of Membership brings the requests to the Board for renewal approval. Renewal is effective at the start of the new fiscal year, May 1.

Sensitivity must be employed when offering the member dues scholarships.

Criteria for scholarship award: In accepting scholarship dues payments, the recipients must agree to the following criteria:

- have an interest in the nonpartisan work of the League and uphold League principles.
- attend a League orientation meeting.
- attend at least three Lunch with a Leader meetings and the Annual Meeting.

Attachment: League Principles



Principles

Where Do the Principles Come From?

The Principles are "concepts of government" to which the League subscribes. They are a descendant of the Platform which serve from 1942 to 1956 as the national repository for "principles supported and positions taken by the League as a whole in fields of government to which it has given sustained attention." Since then, the Principles have served two functions according to the LWVUS Bylaws:

- 1) authorization for adoption of national, state, and local program (Article XII), and
- 2) a basis for taking action at the national, state, and local levels (Article XII).

The appropriate board authorizes action to implement the Principles once it determines that member understanding and agreement do exist and that action is appropriate. As with other action, when there are ramifications beyond a League's own government jurisdiction, that League should consult other Leagues affected.

The National Board suggests that any action on the Principles be taken in conjunction with current League positions to which they apply and on which member agreement and understanding are known to exist. The Principles are rather broad when standing alone, so it is necessary to exercise caution when considering using them as a basis for action. Furthermore, since 1974 most of the Principles have been an integral part of the national program.

The League of Women Voters believes:

- in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States and that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance between the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.
- that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.
- that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.
- that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.
- that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems that affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.
- that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.