

HAPPY NEW YEAR to Iowa Black Powder Federation Members and readers of the Powder Horn News!

Do you know anyone seeking a college degree? Could that someone use some help offsetting the costs associated with that dream? There are several benefits available to IBPF members but I'd like to bring the membership up to speed on one specifically, The IBPF Scholarship Program.

First, a little background. In the spring of 2010, at the IBPF Board Meeting, discussions were initiated regarding sponsoring a Post-Graduate Scholarship Program. Those early discussions included things like; should we do this, if we did who would be eligible, what the participants would need to do to qualify & how much of a scholarship could the Federation support. We decided to further research and document some of the particulars based on the debate from that meeting and at the 2010 Fall Meeting, with a documented program in hand, we voted to move forward in soliciting participants. Then at the 2011 Spring Meeting we issued the first ever Iowa Black Powder Federation Scholarship!

Since the start of the program eight years ago we've issued a total of seven scholarships to an equal number of schools. Those schools include; The University of Northern Iowa, Grand View University, Northwest Iowa Community College, Mercy College of Health Sciences, University of Iowa, Benedictine College and Briar Cliff University.

Our original intent with this program was to offer something back to the membership that was both meaningful and beneficial. The following is a summary of the program. Eligibility includes that the participant or their guardian be an IBPF member, that an essay be completed and that said essay be turned in to the board of directors by March 1st. The essay is based on the participant's interpretation of the "Preamble to the Constitution of the IBPF". Scholarship winners will be selected at the spring IBPF meeting. And the scholarship winners will be awarded the scholarship when they start their Post-Secondary Education. Complete details about the program can be found on our website www.iowablackpowderfederation.net by clicking on the scholarship sub-title.

There is a **CHANGE IN THE PROGRAM EFFECTIVE THIS YEAR**. At the Fall 2018 IBPF Board Meeting it was decided to **INCREASE THE MINIMUM SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT TO \$500.00!** In previous years the minimum scholarship amount was half that! Why the increase? Because our members

are important, because education is important and because the young adults associated with this organization are important.

Regarding the essay I'd like to share a few comments. I've talked to high school Guidance Counselors and they all say the same thing. That students often don't know how to begin writing essays and they are intimidated by the competition. They figure that they can't possibly write well enough to win anyway, so why bother? Well it's up to us to remind them that \$500 is worth the bother and to help eliminate the feelings of intimidation. I think a good confidence builder would be to tell the person writing the essay something like this, "While the writer needs to be familiar with the IBPF's Preamble to the Constitution, the essay is more about the person writing it. We want to know about the author, their thoughts, their beliefs and their ideas. Think of the essay as writing about yourself, something you know more about than anyone else". That message should help build confidence. We should further encourage the person to go online as there are many sites available to help with scholarship essays. How to start the essay, how to transform your thoughts into written words, how to arrange segments of the essay in the correct order, etc. There are essay tips, examples, sample outlines and everything needed to direct the completion of the document.

As for the level of competition with other essay writers I offer this. The funding for this program comes from our raffles, IBPF sanctioned events, donations made specifically towards the scholarship program, ect. As such it is within reason to expect that multiple scholarships could be awarded. Please do not perceive this as a guarantee of payment. I just want all potential candidates out there to know that the likelihood of being awarded a scholarship is higher than you may think. Another thing to keep in mind is that the scholarship amount is **"a minimum of \$500"** which means that in the event of low participation the actual amount could be more.

A final thought about the program. As members we are the funders of this program and as such share a fundamental responsibility to promote participation. The program's success or failure depends on us. If you know someone that qualifies please initiate contact with them. In the end they will be grateful that you took the time, that you demonstrated an interest in them, that you cared about them.

Thank You!

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