



FEEA HELPING HAND

Vol. 17, Issue 1

"A Newsletter for FEEA's Friends and Volunteers"

Winter 2007

Scholarship Issue

For many Americans, the end of December marks the official start of winter and the celebration of various holidays. For FEEA, late December brings the joyful anticipation of another Scholarship season.

We're especially excited about the 2007-08 competition because of the addition of the FEEA-NTEU Scholarships.

On October 11, 2006, FEEA and the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) announced the creation of a new component to FEEA's annual scholarship contest, the FEEA-NTEU Scholarships. Thanks to more than \$700,000 donated to FEEA by NTEU as a result of unused administrative funds from the Special Rates Case (more on NTEU's web site www.nteu.org), FEEA was able to endow a new scholarship fund which will provide at least six scholarships of \$5,000 each as part of FEEA's annual scholarship program.

Students will compete for the FEEA-NTEU Scholarships with the same application they submit for FEEA's regular scholarship program. The judging committees in each of FEEA's 26 regions will submit their top two winners to the FEEA-NTEU Scholarship judges, who will choose five or more of those applicants as winners of an additional \$5,000 for that academic year. All applicants eligible for FEEA's annual contest are also eligible to win a FEEA-NTEU Scholarship.

So, one application could get you a FEEA scholarship of \$500 - \$2,500, plus a FEEA-NTEU scholarship worth an additional \$5,000. That's up to \$7,500 for school with just a single application!

In addition, students and sponsors who

belong to a number of employee unions and management associations with FEEA-administered scholarship programs may also be eligible for additional awards by using the appropriate application/instructions supplied by the union or association. FEEA currently works with the American Federation of Government Employees (www.afge.org), Blacks In Government (www.bignet.org), the Federal Aviation Administration Managers Association (www.faama.org), the Federal Managers Association (www.fedmanagers.org), and the National Hispanic Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (www.nhcfae.org) to provide scholarships to their members. Eligible federal employees and their dependents completing these organizations' FEEA scholarship applications receive entry to the organization-sponsored competition, as well as the FEEA and FEEA-NTEU contests.

FEEA also works with a number of regional chapters and groups to provide special scholarships in different parts of the country. More information about these programs is listed on page 8 of this newsletter.

If you're not yet familiar with the details of FEEA's annual contest, please turn to pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter for our "Scholarship 411" and "Frequently Asked Scholarship Questions" columns. The application itself appears on pages 5 and 6. A downloadable version that allows applicants to type in and print their information is available on our web site www.feea.org by clicking on the "Download Applications" link.

Director's Column

It's scholarship time again here at FEEA, and as you read on page 1, we're especially excited about the 2007-08 scholarship contest. We've got the new FEEA-NTEU scholarships, which will provide an extra \$5,000 to at least six exceptional students this year, as well as new programs for AFGE and BIG members.

I'm especially proud of what FEEA has been able to do working with groups like AFGE, BIG, FMA, FAAMA, FEW, NTEU, NARFE, NCSSMA, PMA, NFFE, SEA and NHCFAE. The affinity scholarship programs FEEA administers for most of these groups provide an extra membership benefit to feds by making them eligible for multiple scholarships with one application, helping to make college a bit less expensive for a number of families each year. But beyond scholarships, these programs have strengthened the ties FEEA has with each organization and enabled us to help each other and federal employees in many ways.

Funds for the affinity scholarship programs are raised by each organization, separate from FEEA's annual scholarship program. Many of the groups hold raffles, drawings, golf tournaments, silent auctions and other fundraisers, often at annual conferences or other membership meetings. FEEA assists in these efforts by attending the conferences and helping to explain where the scholarship money goes. We also get the chance to speak to sizable groups of federal employees about FEEA's larger mission, including our emergency assistance

program. Many feds have not previously heard about FEEA, so these opportunities go a long way toward increasing FEEA's visibility and reach in the federal community.

A number of the organizations – most notably FMA, NFFE, FAAMA, AFGE, NCSSMA and NTEU – have encouraged their members to volunteer for FEEA, taking on the roles of scholarship chairs in a number of our regions, serving on scholarship committees and providing information to their co-workers not just at CFC time but throughout the year. These well-informed and enthusiastic volunteers are one of FEEA's best resources in our effort to educate and provide services to more feds each year.

Each organization contributes to the larger mission of helping civilian federal employees in need in the way that works best for its membership. One size does not necessarily fit all, and the creative ways we've found to work together for the benefit of all feds pays tribute to the non-partisan commitment we all have to FEEA's mission.

I'm looking forward to continuing and growing FEEA's relationships with federal employees in 2007, both individually and through the numerous groups to which they belong. FEEA will continue to be "federal employees helping federal employees" in every way.

I wish you all a happy, healthy 2007, and hope to see many of you throughout this year.

Steve Bauer, Executive Director



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News Notes



CELEBRATING PUBLIC SERVICE

Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW), celebrated the first Monday-Sunday in May each year, recognizes the contributions of public servants and gives government agencies at all levels the opportunity to educate the public about how public employees affect and improve our quality of life every day. Many agencies at the federal, state and local levels also use PSRW as a time to educate the public about career opportunities.

The Public Employees Roundtable at the Council for Excellence in Government has

SCHOLARSHIP 411

FEEA's scholarship program is an annual, merit-based competition open to civilian federal and postal employees, their spouses and dependents. Eligible students must be in a degree-granting program at an accredited college or university. Scholarships are not available for private primary or secondary school studies or other programs.

All applicants must have a minimum 3.0 GPA on an unweighted 4.0 scale. Sponsors must have at least three years of service by August 31, 2007, to be eligible for the 2007-08 contest.

Applications are judged by 26 volunteer committees across the country during the summer months, with awards generally made in late Summer through early Fall. Award checks are made out to the student and his/her school to ensure the scholarship is used for authorized school expenses. Once a check is deposited into the student's school account,

spearheaded the national celebration of PSRW since its inception, hosting a week-long series of events and exhibits on the National Mall and coordinating celebrations across the country. From tanks to technology, security to space exploration, PSRW showcases the innovation and excitement of government at its best.

For more information about celebrating PSRW where you live and work -- including a handy "How to Celebrate Public Service Recognition Week" guide -- please visit www.excelgov.org/psrw or call 202-728-0418.

PSRW 2007 runs May 7-13, 2007.

the application of the funds is between the student and the school.

Students should be careful to include all required elements with their application packages--the absence of any single element is an immediate disqualifier. The check boxes on the application form should assist in making sure all necessary items are accounted for prior to mailing. Applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, March 30, 2007, in order to be considered. Many areas of the country still experience snow and ice in late March, so please be sure to keep an eye on the weather and plan accordingly to get your application in the mail by the deadline. Late applications are not accepted for any reason.

The Timeline below, along with the FAQ section on page 4, should answer most remaining questions about the program. If you require additional information, please send e-mail FEEA to admin@feea.org.

Scholarship Timeline

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Applications Available Due March 30, 2007			FEEA Processes Receipt Letters mailed by early June		Committees Judge Awards made mid-August to late September			1 st Checks Mailed Awards \$500 and less receive full amount. Over \$500 receive half.		2 nd Checks Mailed Winners of awards over \$500 receive final check.	

FREQUENTLY ASKED SCHOLARSHIP QUESTIONS

Q. How does FEEA define "civilian federal employee"?

A. For the purposes of FEEA's programs, a civilian federal employee is one who is employed directly by the U.S. Federal Government (i.e. not a contractor) and receives federal benefits (ex FEHBP, TSP, CSRS or FERS, Annual Leave, etc). This includes employees of the Commissioned Corps (ex Surgeons General, Public Health Service, etc.).

Q. I'm an active duty military employee. Can my family members apply?

A. FEEA scholarships are available only to civilian federal and postal employees and their families. The military relief organizations for each branch of service (AER, NMCRS, etc.) may be able to make suggestions. Links to the military relief organization web sites can be found in the [Links](#) area of our web site www.feea.org. Military members and children are eligible for FEEA scholarships if they are sponsored by a civilian federal employee spouse/parent.

Q. I recently retired after many years of civilian service. Can my family members apply?

A. FEEA scholarships are available only to active civilian federal and postal employees and their families. Children and grandchildren of retired federal employees who are members of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) may be eligible for NARFE's scholarship program. For more information, contact NARFE through their web site www.narfe.org.

Q. I'm a state government employee. Can my family members apply?

A. The Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund (FEEA) provides scholarships only to employees of the U.S. Federal Government and their dependents. Employees of state, county and municipal governments are not eligible for FEEA scholarships unless sponsored by a civilian federal employee spouse.

Q. How do I apply for the new FEEA-NTEU

scholarship?

Eligible students who complete FEEA's regular scholarship application are automatically eligible for the new FEEA-NTEU scholarships. More information about those scholarships is available on page 1 of this newsletter.

Q. I was homeschooled during high school. What should I submit in place of a transcript?

Generally, whatever documentation is/was accepted as part of the college application process will suffice. Many school districts also require periodic reports or testing of homeschooled students which show the types of coursework completed and the student's progress. These reports, or similar, covering the student's high school level (and above) studies would also be acceptable. Please be sure to include a letter indicating that the student was homeschooled and is providing an alternative transcript.

Q. I'm a step-parent. Is my step-child eligible? What about if my ex-spouse claims our child as a dependent, but I'm the federal employee?

A. Children and step-children are eligible as dependents regardless of which parent claims them for tax purposes. All children remain eligible as long as they can be claimed on any parent's tax return. Adult children no longer eligible to be claimed as a dependent are not eligible for the program.

Q. If my sponsor will have three years of service on September 1, 2006, am I eligible? What about if my GPA is 2.9?

A. No. Your sponsor must have three years of service by August 31, 2006 and your GPA must be 3.0 or higher for your application to be considered. FEEA does not make exceptions for any of our requirements.

Q. Do I really have to provide all the information requested in order to be eligible? What if I leave out the list of awards, extracurriculars and community service activities?

continued on pg. 8

FEEA 2007-08 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCEDURES

BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- ⇒ The FEEA Scholarship Program is for current civilian federal employees and their dependent family members (spouse/child). Adult children and other relatives are eligible if claimed on the sponsoring employee's tax return. Active duty military members and their dependents are eligible only through a sponsoring civilian employee spouse. Military retirees and dependents are eligible if the retiree (or retiree's spouse) is a current civilian federal employee.
- ⇒ The applicant or the applicant's sponsoring federal employee must have at least three (3) years of civilian federal service by August 31, 2007. No additional consideration is given for service beyond the minimum requirement.
- ⇒ Past active duty time will count toward this requirement if included in the service comp. date on the Standard Form 50.
- ⇒ The applicant must be at least a college freshman by the fall 2007 semester.
- ⇒ All applicants must have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average (CGPA) unweighted on a 4.0 scale. Current college freshmen must have a minimum 3.0 GPA for the fall 2006 semester.
- ⇒ All applicants must be current high school seniors or college students working toward an accredited degree and enrolled in a two- or four-year undergraduate, graduate or postgraduate program.
- ⇒ Applicants who are dependents must be full-time students. Applicants who are federal employees may be part-time students.

APPLICATION AND NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES

- ✓ All applicants must submit a complete application package postmarked no later than **March 30, 2007**.
- ✓ All applications MUST include two self-addressed #10 envelopes with **39 cents** postage each.
- ✓ **It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the application package is complete and on time.** This includes transcripts sent directly by a school. FEEA does not notify applicants when items are missing. Applications with items missing after the deadline has passed are considered incomplete. **Incomplete or late applications will not be considered or acknowledged.**
- ✓ An acknowledgement receipt will be sent to eligible applicants who submit a complete application by the deadline. Processing and mailing of receipt letters may take 8-12 weeks after the deadline, due to the volume of applications received. Applicants desiring earlier confirmation of delivery should use a mailing service that provides delivery confirmation.
- ✓ **Applicants will be notified of their final status by October 30, 2007.** Please be aware that our committees make every effort to deliberate and provide final results prior to the start of the school year, however, unavoidable delays do sometimes occur.

MAILING INFORMATION

- ✉ Place all of the required materials, unfolded, in the same 9" x 12" (or larger) envelope.
- ✉ **No Staples, No Paper Clips, No Folding.**
- ✉ Mail the complete application package to:

**FEEA Scholarship Program
8441 W. Bowles Ave., Suite 200
Littleton, CO 80123-9501**

- ✉ Applicants desiring immediate confirmation of delivery should use a mailing service that provides delivery confirmation.
- ✉ **Make sure your application package is postmarked no later than March 30, 2007.**

FEEA 2007-08 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE CHECK THE BOXES TO ENSURE YOUR APPLICATION PACKAGE IS COMPLETE:

- ☐ **This FEEA Scholarship Application Form:** A photocopy of the scholarship application form is acceptable.
- ☐ **Essay:** Typed, double-spaced, essay **not exceeding two pages** on the topic: **The Federal Government is always looking for bright young people who will choose to make public service a career. Come up with a slogan and explain your marketing strategy to recruit more people to government service.**
- ☐ **Written Recommendation/Character Reference:** Please submit a written recommendation/character reference from a supervisor, coworker, community leader, teacher or counselor. **Must be submitted with application package.**
- ☐ **Transcript:** The transcript must show a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. An official transcript is not required; photocopies of transcripts are acceptable. Report cards are acceptable for Fall 2006 grades.
High School Seniors: Submit full high school career transcript that includes fall 2006 grades.
College Freshmen: Submit a transcript that verifies at least a 3.0 for the fall 2006 semester.
Applicants not currently enrolled: Submit a transcript from the last school attended.
All other applicants: Submit full post-secondary career transcripts that include fall 2006 grades.
☐ **Check here** if your transcript is being mailed directly by the school. Transcripts must be postmarked by the application deadline of March 30, 2007. **It is the responsibility of the student to ensure separately mailed transcripts arrive on time.** An official transcript is not required; photocopies of transcripts are acceptable.
- ☐ **List and Briefly Describe Awards, Extracurricular and Community Service Activities:** Please provide this list on a separate page. Provide enough information so that the scholarship review committee will understand your accomplishments. **Include relevant dates and average time spent at each activity.**
- ☐ **Copy of ACT, SAT or Other Examination Scores:** This is required for applicants who are high school seniors; optional for all other applicants.
- ☐ **Copy of Most Recent Standard Form 50 "Notice of Personnel Action."** Form must be **no older than January 2005.**
**If applicant is a federal employee, submit the employee's own form. *If applicant is a dependent of a federal employee, then the sponsoring employee's form should be submitted. *If a current SF-50 is not available you must submit a current pay stub and a letter from personnel identifying your duty station, grade and service comp. date.*
- ☐ **Two Self-addressed, Stamped, #10 Business-size Envelopes with 39 cents First Class Postage Properly Affixed.** We will use the first to acknowledge receipt of your application and the second to provide results of the competition.

Do not fold or bind any pages with staples or paper clips.

Place all materials, unfolded, into a 9 x 12 in. (or larger) envelope postmarked no later than **March 30, 2007.**

MAIL TO: FEEA Scholarship Program, 8441 W. Bowles Ave., Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80123-9501

Please complete the following. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Applicant's Name: _____
Complete Home Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Social Security #: _____ Home Telephone #: _____
E-mail Address: _____

Federal Employee's Name: _____
Relationship to Applicant: ☐ Father ☐ Mother ☐ Spouse ☐ Self ☐ Other (specify) _____
Federal Employee's Work Tel. #: _____ Length of Federal Employment: _____
Federal Agency Name: _____ Duty Station: _____
Federal Employee's E-mail Address: _____

Applicant's Unweighted Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA): _____ (must be 3.0 or higher on 4.0 scale)
College/University (attending or planning to attend): _____
Class Status as of Fall term 2007 (must be at least a college freshman by fall term 2007):
☐ Freshman ☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior ☐ Senior ☐ Graduate Student

**FedHelp****GIVING BACK TO THE FEDERAL COMMUNITY**

One of our favorite tag-lines here at FEEA is "Federal Employees Helping Federal Employees" – a tribute to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) donations to FEEA #1234 that stay in the federal community helping a wide variety of feds through scholarships and emergency loans and grants. But it doesn't tell the whole story.

FEEA is also about companies doing business with and for federal employees and choosing to give something back by supporting FEEA. Our corporate sponsors help in a variety of ways, all of which help FEEA's programs thrive.

The Blue Cross/Blue Shield Association's Federal Employee Program (www.fepblue.org) supports FEEA's scholarship program each year by sponsoring more than \$60,000 in awards across FEEA's 26 regions. BCBSA also encourages its affiliates around the country to contribute to scholarships in their local region, resulting in additional prizes in many FEEA regions. Local BCBS affiliates also provide volunteers to serve on FEEA scholarship committees and host regional award ceremonies in many areas.

BCBSA has also come to the rescue on many occasions when disaster has struck federal employees particularly hard. From quick infusions

of cash to help provide grants to feds suffering the effects of wildfires, floods and tornadoes; to an overnight transfer that started our World Trade Center/Pentagon Fund after 9/11; to \$100,000 just days after Hurricane Katrina struck, BCBSA is always there when federal employees are in need.

With deep roots in the federal community, GEICO (www.geico.com/federal) has a special commitment to serving feds each and every day. As a long-time FEEA sponsor, GEICO's annual donation of \$25,000 to FEEA's Emergency Assistance Program secures the continuity of the program from year-to-year. GEICO employees are also quick to jump in when FEEA needs a helping hand, setting up and helping to staff a phone bank during a major 9/11 fundraiser and often sharing exhibit space at conferences to help FEEA keep costs down and ensure more money is going directly to feds in need.

Wright & Co. (www.wrightandco.com) and Federal News Radio (www.federalnewsradio.com) also support FEEA's programs with donations to the scholarship program and PSA's/in-kind support respectively. We're also delighted to welcome Long Term Care Partners (www.ltcfeds.com) as a new scholarship sponsor for the 2007-08 program.

The stalwart support of these corporate sponsors enables FEEA to go about the daily business of helping civilian federal and postal employees secure in the knowledge that our mission is very much their mission too.

High school seniors and current college students should be sure to complete the FAFSA --

Free Application for Federal Student Aid -- before the July 2, 2007 deadline.

More information is available at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

FEEA Direct Pledge Coupon

I missed you in the CFC! Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to FEEA in the amount of \$_____.

Your donation may be by credit card, check or money order payable to FEEA and mailed to: FEEA, 8441 W. Bowles Ave. Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80123-9501.

Credit Card Information (circle one):

Visa MasterCard AmericanExpress

Exp. Date: ____/____ Amount \$_____

Card # _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please complete the following for all direct pledges:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

FAQ's continued from pg. 4

A. Yes, you really do have to provide ALL the information requested. Applications missing ANY ONE of the required elements are considered incomplete and are not sent to our committees for consideration.

Q. Why does the judging process take so long?

A. FEEA's regional scholarship committees are all-volunteer and are generally composed of current civilian federal employees who must coordinate their schedules in order to meet and give full, thoughtful consideration to each application. Some committees have 400 or more applications to review and we'd much rather they take the time they need to fully consider all applications than make hasty decisions. Every effort is made to complete the process in a timely manner, but sometimes it's just not possible to have results ready in time for the start of the fall semester.

Q. How are FEEA scholarships funded?

A. Scholarship funding comes from CFC donations and corporate sponsors. 50% or more of the money raised during CFC in each of FEEA's 26 regions stays in the region to provide scholarships to federal employees and their eligible dependents.

Special Awards

Members of Federally Employed Women's Great Lakes, Hoosier Hills and Miami Valley chapters can check with their leadership for more information about FEW scholarship opportunities. Members of AFGE chapter 1658 and NTEU chapter 23 can also check with their leadership for scholarship information. New York Regional Management Society members can find information at www.ncssma.org/nyms/nyms.htm and Coloradans can learn about a special opportunity from NARFE's Colorado Federation at www.narfe-colorado.com. TSA employees in the Connecticut region can contact Deb Perry at Deborah.Perry@dhs.gov or 860-804-4123 for more information.

All special scholarships are funded by the associated organizations, separate from the funding of FEEA's annual program. Organizations are responsible for providing information to their members about the scholarships and for all necessary fundraising. FEEA is happy to work with federal employee-associated membership organizations, unions and others to create new scholarship opportunities for federal employees and their families. Please contact FEEA at admin@feea.org for more information.

2007-08 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSIDE!

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 100
Littleton, CO

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Littleton, CO 80123-9501

