

## NAWIC Founders Scholarship Foundation

Debra M. Gregoire, CIT, NFSF Administrator

Dear NAWIC Northeast (1) Region Members and Guests:

For many years we have heard how NAWIC is the best kept secret in the construction industry. Every year NAWIC Founders Scholarship Foundation (NFSF) awards thousands of dollars in construction scholarships. This year was no exception. Over the last several months I have answered questions regarding basic information about NFSF, how the program works and why a chapter should work with NFSF.

NAWIC Founders' Scholarship Foundation (NFSF) is a self supporting scholarship program. It was established to assist in providing the construction industry with trained employees through education. The Foundation is supported and maintained through income from investments of a trust fund. Income is obtained through voluntary contributions from NAWIC's affiliated Chapters, as well as other interested contributors.

Donations are tax deductible due to the Foundation's 509(a)(3) status. Chapters must specify the amount of the award(s). Minimum scholarships are \$500 with increments of \$100, \$200, \$300 etc. In view of the high costs of post-secondary education, however, the Foundation STRONGLY encourages awards at a minimum of \$1,000. Administrative fee is \$100 for the first award with \$25 for each additional award.

Chapters may specify either Undergraduate or Trade scholarship be awarded. NAWIC members and families, who are not eligible for scholarships from NAWIC chapters under current IRS regulations, can apply for NFSF administered scholarships. NFSF may also award scholarships from the Fund's interest income.

If a NAWIC chapter solicits funds for a scholarship grant by telling donors their contributions are tax-deductible as charitable donations, then the money raised must be kept in a separate bank account, with a separate ledger to identify the funds. These moneys must be sent to NFSF, which is a 509(a)(3) designated organization. This is necessary in order for donors to take a deduction on their income tax for the year in which they gave the money. Donors may suggest a name for the award, although the NFSF retains the right to reject any suggestion that does not seem appropriate. Appropriate suggestions for scholarship names would be in the name of the chapter, a distinguished past member or officer of the chapter, or a local employer who has been very supportive of the chapter.

Only NFSF application forms will be used to solicit applicants for awards. The award will be made in strict adherence to EEO guidelines and according to the qualifications of the applicants. All Chapters will be notified of their scholarship recipients. NFSF will make every effort to award scholarships in accordance to the criteria provided by the donor. If this is not possible NFSF will contact donor(s) and request either to broaden the criteria or NFSF will continue to hold funds until an applicant meets specified criteria in the future. Un-awarded funds are *Not* returned to chapters or donors due to IRS ruling. This is in violation of the tax-exempt status of Fund.

The NAWIC Founders Scholarship Foundation (NFSF) met on the weekend of March 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Cleveland, Ohio. NFSF members Robin Fulton-Meyer, Judy DeWeese, Cindy Johnsen and Debbie Gregoire worked very hard to meet the NAWIC chapter requirements to award the scholarships. Those chapters who participated in this year's scholarship awards –thank you.

At AMEC 2015-President Field has graciously asked NFSF to have a workshop on Saturday morning. NFSF will also be maintaining an informational table throughout the week of AMEC to answer all questions of the NAWIC members regarding NFSF.

Thank you to all the chapters, regions and members who have and continue to support NAWIC Founders Scholarship Foundation.

Sincerely,  
Debbie Gregoire, CIT  
NFSF Administrator, 2014-2015