

“How & Why We Have the Past Presidents Scholarship Fund”

To the Ohio Division Chapter Presidents:

In May 1998, I was installed as the Ohio Division President. Just prior to taking office, I contacted all the past Ohio Division presidents asking them to attend a meeting following ODAM that year. The response was excellent – we had over 10 past presidents in attendance. In my previous 4 years on the Ohio Division Board and through my many travels throughout the State, many IAAP members asked me if there was a way the Ohio Division could help the smaller chapters with scholarships. Many were too small and did not have the funds to award in scholarships. These members and chapters wanted a way to be recognized in their communities via the publication of scholarship offers plus the impact on students in their areas.

My goal at this meeting with the past presidents was to form a committee of the past presidents and ask them to come up with guidelines for a scholarship that we could offer to ANYONE in any part of the State. The scholarship(s) would be available to all of our chapters, large and small, but especially the small, so they could access the publicity and the ability to offer this scholarship in their communities. The past presidents took the ball and ran with it. Through some excellent fund-raisers and sizeable donations by the past presidents themselves, we were able to offer our first scholarships the following year – May of 1999. We offered two \$500.00 scholarships. The fund raising continued and we worked harder and harder to be able to offer these scholarships for the smaller chapters, but to also compliment additional scholarships offered by our larger Ohio Division Chapters. Through our members’ excellent support and the efforts of the Past Presidents Scholarship Committee, our scholarship fund grew and we were able to give two \$750 scholarships in 2000 and 2001. In 2002, 2003, 2004, and again this year, 2005, we have been able to offer TWO \$1,000 scholarships.

In the last two years it has come to our attention that many chapters and IAAP members were unsure of the duties of our committee and what we are trying to achieve. We are not offering these scholarships in competition with the scholarships offered by the chapters, but as an additional opportunity. We have always believed we are contributing to all of the Ohio Division Chapters by being able to offer scholarships and working to keep this scholarship fund growing.

This Past Presidents Committee has been an excellent tool for several reasons.

1. We can work together with Division members to offer scholarships to our students and bring the best-known secret to our future.
2. It gives the past presidents of our division the opportunity to again give back to you – our Ohio Division Membership – the many, many hours of pleasure and memories you have given us.
3. It gives our past presidents the opportunity to stay active, to enjoy attending ODAM, and have fun.

On behalf of the Past Presidents Committee, we hope this explanation helps all chapters and members better understand the “How & Why” we developed this scholarship and work so hard on our fund raising efforts. If I can answer any questions or visit your chapter to explain our purpose, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours in IAAP®,

Mary Lou Wilton CPS/CAP

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Past Presidents Committee