

**Report of the Scholarship and Grants Committee
of the NSEA Board of Directors, 2013-14**

Dave Shrader, Verdigre, Co-Chair

Members of the committee are: Dave Shrader, Verdigre and Gordon Peeks, North Platte, co-chairs; Sean Nutzman, Milford; Carolyn Campbell, Bayard; Bobby Miller, Omaha; Marina Garner, Hyannis; Meeghan Hartfield, Omaha; and Doug Sheppard, Fremont.

The committee administers the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Professional Development Fund and the Belz-Lynch-Krause Educational Grant Fund as follows:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska Professional Development Fund: Since 1986, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska has provided financial aid to college-bound NSEA certificated members who are covered by either a single or family Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska health care policy. Scholarships may be used by members to pursue an advanced degree; to seek an additional teaching endorsement; or to take course work to meet certification requirements. All courses must be taken for credit.

There are generally three application periods each year, to coincide with the end of spring, summer and fall college sessions. Interested association members must complete the online application form and submit it by the deadline as noted for each semester. The online application form and addition information can be accessed through the NSEA website.

Each applicant may apply for scholarship dollars for no more than three hours of college course work during any session. Books and other supplies are not covered. Previous scholarship applicants, whether successful or not, are always eligible to re-apply. Applicants may be recipients of only two of the three scholarship cycles each school year.

The Scholarship Committee's continuing goal is to award stipends to the largest possible number of NSEA members from all six districts. The Committee follows set criteria in judging each application. Applicants need to follow directions completely when filling out the application form. The committee will discard application forms that are not complete and accurate. Applicants need to check their work carefully to ensure an optimum consideration by the Committee for their request.

Stipend winners must present evidence of successful course work completion before they receive the grant money.

Belz-Lynch-Krause Educational Grant Fund: The grants are named for John Lynch, NSEA's executive director from 1959 to 1974; Paul Belz, who held that post from 1974-84; and Helen Krause, former NSEA president and Nebraska's first member of the NEA's Executive Committee. Eligible recipients of the Belz-Lynch-Krause Educational Grant Fund include NSEA members, groups of NSEA members or NSEA local associations.

Grant requests shall be related to improving a local association, development of instructional materials or to provide staff development for individuals of a local association. Applications must include a project abstract, not to exceed four typed pages, including the following information: need; how the project will address the need to relate to professional growth goals, a project description; time-line; a budget; and method of evaluating the project.

Watch NSEA's monthly magazine, *The Voice*, for details on both of these opportunities.