

NSEA Scholarships and Grants Committee Report For Delegate Assembly 2015

By Co-Chairs David Shrader, Verdigre; Doug Sheppard, Fremont

Members of the committee are: Dave Shrader, Verdigre and Doug Sheppard, Fremont, co-chairs; Sean Nutzman, Milford; Bobby Miller, Omaha; Marina Garner, Hyannis; Daniel Spatzierath, Mitchell; Rita Bennett, Lincoln; Andy Isaacson, Papillion-LaVista; David Witt, Hastings; and Melissa Boutwell, Lexington.

This 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 NSEA certificated members who are covered by either a single or family Blue Cross/Blue Shield health care policy and who are seeking additional endorsement or post-graduate hours. 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 in 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 completely and accurately filled in. 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 member 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.