

2018 Scholarship Committee Report

A. **Committee Membership:**

The **2018 VSA Committee** members were the following:

CVSL Representative: Bethel Patrick-Ogle (EDGE Swim Club)

GMSL Representative: Kelly Mahoney Theroux (Montpelier Swim Team)

SVSL Representative: Larry Besserer (Brattleboro Swim Team)

Backup for SVSL: Kim Jackson (Woodstock Swim Team)

Chair: Jan Mitchell-Love (Rockingham Swim Team)

The **2019 VSA Scholarship Committee** members:

All 2018 committee members are returning with one exception: Larry Besserer.

Kim Jackson will now be the SVSL Representative to the committee

B. **2018 Scholarship Details**

Number of scholarship applicants submitting completed packets: 17

Number of scholarship awards: 8

Amount of scholarship: \$5,000 total amount to award; awards were \$625 each

Process steps:

1. Monday, July 23rd, 11:59 p.m.: all application packet materials were due to committee chair.
2. Tuesday, July 24th, noon: committee members received copies of all application packets.
2. Friday, July 27th, noon: committee members gave decision on number of scholarships to chair. Decision was to award eight scholarships.
3. Monday, July 30th, noon: committee members gave chair their individual scholarship awards, ranking their decision from #1 to #17.

4. Tuesday, July 31st: committee chair gave final award information to VSA Treasurer.

5. Tuesday, July 31st: Treasurer mailed checks to Mary Gentry.

5. Saturday, August 4th: committee chair sent award speech to Mary Gentry.

6. Sunday, August 5th: committee members were told scholarship winners.

7. Sunday, August 5th: Bethe Patrick-Ogle gave out awards.

C. Discussion items:

1. **Discussion item #1:** who will determine number of scholarships: committee members or VSA?

Current practice: committee members see application pool, go through the packets, and then render a decision on the number of scholarships

Other alternative: the number of scholarships is set by the VSA

If VSA sets number, it has been suggested having eight scholarships which would mean \$625 to each scholarship winner

If number is set by VSA: question: what if the committee wants to give fewer than eight scholarships? Does the money carry over? Or does it go back into the VSA Treasury pool?

2. **Discussion item #2:** This year we had a special needs applicant. Going forward how should this be handled?

Mainstream all applicants (current practice) or establish a special scholarship?

--Special scholarship: question: obviously this would only be given if there were a suitable candidate. In the past, there have been few to none special needs applicants. So what happens to the money if it is not awarded? Is it carried over to the next year? Or does it go back into VSA Treasury pool?

--Current criteria (which has served VSA applicants well) might discriminate against special needs applicants.

Current selection criteria (from VSA Scholarship General Information document):

The winners will be selected using the following criteria (in no particular order):

1. Dedication: length of time swimming and average practice schedule
2. Excellence: overall performance in the pool
3. Essay question
4. Letter of recommendation (evaluation) from current swim coach(es)
5. Awards and honors received
6. Membership - in good standing - of the VSA

Do points #2 and #5 – and possibly #3 – disfavor special needs applicants?

Possible solution: treat special needs applicants on a case by case basis and make no changes in current practices.

Respectfully submitted:

Jan Mitchell-Love,
Chair, 2018 VSA Scholarship Committee
September 12th, 2018