

Feb. 26. 1994

Don C. Thomson
Seawolf Hostorian

Mr. Tom Olby
Seawolf Association President

Dear Tom,

There are, I believe, a number of important considerations that have not been included in our current Seawolf Scholarship proposal. The following suggestions are, therefore, submitted:

First the essay topic is fine but all applicants should be required to submit their high school and college transcripts unless they are just entering college in which case their high school transcript would suffice. The scholarship committee should screen the applicants grades closely and weight them appropriately as these generous scholarships should not be doled out to any C or D students. We should only be interested in helping those who have a standing record of wanting to help themselves. I believe that at least a B average should be required for their high school and college grades to be considered for our scholarships. This demonstrates that they have a proven record of really caring about their education.

Secondly scholarship grants should be worded "Payable at the completion of each semester upon submission to the scholarship committee of a transcript from their college or university indicating a B or 3.0 grade point average was achieved for that semester". This will act as additional encouragement and incentive for the student to work hard and strive for excellence. It will then cease to be just a handout and then becomes something that they earned by their own efforts and diligence. This sends the appropriate message to the student, further proof that diligence and hard work pays off, and enhances their self image and feelings of self worth. If the scholarship money is given without condition at the beginning of the year it sends the message that it pays to have a dad who is connected and involved in organizations.

Thirdly Scholarship applicants should be required to submit, with their application, a declaration of income signed by their parents showing their parents income for the previous year. This requirement is standard fare for most scholarship applications. Our scholarships should not only go to students who care about their education enough to have earned good grades but also to those most in need of financial assistance. These should be the two main considerations of the scholarship selection committee. It makes absolutely no sense for our organization, for example, to award scholarships to students whose families have six figure incomes when some of our other members sons and daughters may not be able to attend college without our assistance.

Lastly I would suggest that we make the scholarships for \$250. per semester which would amount to \$500. per year. I am opposed to the Association spending \$2,000. per year on scholarships. Virtually all scholarships are endowed and the amount of scholarships given annually never exceeds the annual endowment earnings. To do otherwise is not responsible financially. By staying within endowment earnings it ensures that the scholarships will continue. In our case this would make Seawolf scholarships available, eventually, to the grandchildren of Seawolves. Not a bad idea for our rocking chair years! It has taken us nine long years of careful spending, and all donated, freebee operations and superb management to acquire our little nest-egg. If the money is now beginning to burn our pockets than the financially responsible thing to do is put whatever we can afford, up to \$10,000. in a scholarship endowment fund and pay out the earnings each year in scholarships. It might be in our best interest to recall that that each of our past three reunions has put a dent in our treasury so we may not be as "Flush" after the reunion this coming May. The money in our account paid in by Life Members really does not belong in our regular account and, when it reaches \$10,000. it should be segregated into a separate "Life Membership" account as this money will have to be transferred to the regular account at something like \$8.00 per year per life member. This will insure that ahey will still be getting their newsletter 30 years from now.

Our nest egg could also be used to radically improve member services. We need desperately a roster that includes they Detachment location and in-country years and rank of our members. Why don't we spend something to make this need possible. We might also do well to hang on to a substantial portion

of our savings so as to be able to take advantage of various opportunities that may very well present themselves to the Association during the next three or four years. Examples of such projects might be our publishing our own book on the Seawolves, erecting a major monument at N.A.S. Pensacola to our KIA's, or putting another helicopter in another museum. I would like to make a formal suggestion here that we acquire a F L Y I N G U H I E to fly to the major air shows around the country to be known as the "Seawolf Gunship". What better way to spread the Seawolf message to thousands of our countrymen each year. I'm quite sure that our members would be willing to even pay for their flight time to take the bird to the airshows. But all of these most worthwhile projects will make our little nest egg look like a drop in the bucket.

My final suggestion is that we submit a list of possible projects for the association and let the membership discuss them and vote on them at our reunion in Pensacola in May.

If I seem like a curmudgeon I would remind you that all of the best businesses and organizations have someone keeping an eye on expenses and seeing that they don't get out of hand and ensuring that the born spenders don't begin to salivate each time they see the balance in the savings account! So having said all of the forgoing Tom just factor it into your considerations, talk it over with the other officers and I'm sure that we will end up with a scholarship program of First Class Seawolf Quality!

Don't forget to start rounding up commitments to attend the reunion from the Solid Anchor gang so that Det 1 can recapture the "most members present award" back from Det 3 at the upcoming reunion. We've had it two out of three years, let's make it three out of four years!

CC: Con Jaburg
Matt Gache
Dan Calvert
Dan Smiley

Best Regards,

Don C. Thomson

Historian/Curator
(Seawolf 19/39)