

## SCHOLARSHIP RULES FOR 2014 and BEYOND

Scholarships must be authorized annually at the December or January Chapter meeting to ensure adequate funding availability. The amount and the number of scholarships to be offered will also be established at that time. The number and value of the scholarships will be published no later than the February newsletter and will be posted on the Chapter web site.

The rules for the scholarships are as follows:

In order to qualify for a scholarship, applicants must have completed a minimum of 8 hours of volunteer service for the Chapter separate from the volunteer hours performed for year-end awards. At least 4 hours of the 8 hours must be performed at the Chapter's licensed show in the same year as the Scholarship awards. The remaining 4 hours can be performed at the licensed show, or at any other VADA-CH activity for which credit is given by the Chapter. Any of the hours of volunteer service performed in excess of the hours performed at the licensed show in order to reach the total of 8 hours can be performed at any time during the one year period beginning on August 26<sup>th</sup> of each year and ending August 25<sup>th</sup> of the following year. (Thus, for the scholarships awarded in September, 2015, the volunteer hours not performed at the 2015 licensed show can be performed at any VADA-CH volunteer activity beginning August 26, 2014 through August 25, 2015.)

***These volunteer hours are separate from and in addition to the 4 hours of Volunteer service that are required to qualify for end of year Chapter Awards.*** Volunteer hours must be reported using the volunteer hours report form. This form is available on the Chapter web site or from Chapter officers. A copy of the volunteer hours report form showing your hours assigned to the scholarship program should be sent in with the scholarship application.

The winners of the scholarships are required to write an article for the Chapter newsletter detailing the use to which the scholarship was put and the experiences of the winner in the use of the scholarship. The article must be submitted to the newsletter editor within 60 days of the completion of the use of the scholarship. If a scholarship recipient does not submit the required article, they will be barred from future scholarship awards.

The winners of the scholarship must use the scholarship within 1 calendar year of the date of the drawing for the scholarship or the scholarship shall be forfeited, unless an extension is granted by the Board of Directors by a majority vote.

If financially able, the Chapter will award 3 scholarships per year. One scholarship shall be available for award to Chapter members who have not shown above Third Level. The second scholarship shall be available for award to Chapter members who have shown at Fourth Level and above. Depending on the level of participation in the scholarship drawing, the third scholarship will be drawn for the level of riders with the most applicants that year. Thus, if there are 4 applicants for 4<sup>th</sup> and above and 10 for 3<sup>rd</sup> and below, the third scholarship drawing would come from the Third and below pool.)

All current Chapter members are eligible for the scholarships, whether they ride or not. If a non-rider who has met the volunteer requirements wins a scholarship, they may give the award to another current Chapter member if they so desire. The winner of the scholarship will remain liable for writing the newsletter article, but it can be written by the actual user of the scholarship on behalf of the non-rider winner.

The scholarship may be used by the winner to pay all or part of the cost of a clinic(s), lesson(s), the USDF convention, educational videos, or whatever other equestrian activity they elect to pursue to further their dressage education. The winner does not have to use the scholarship at the level for which they were awarded the scholarship. Thus, a rider that is at Third Level or below desires to take a clinic to help them to move up to Fourth Level or above, they may do so. Similarly, a rider at Fourth Level or above may use the scholarship to attend a clinic or lesson at a lower level, for example if they have a young horse they are trying to bring along.

To order to obtain a scholarship, current Chapter members must first submit their names to the Chapter President or other designee as stated on the application form, by August 25<sup>th</sup> of each year indicating which scholarship are applying for, i.e., Third Level and below or Fourth Level and above. The application form will be available on the Chapter web site and will be published periodically in the Chapter newsletter. To be considered a current chapter member, the submitting rider must have paid their dues for the membership year in which the scholarship is awarded by the date they apply for the scholarship. (I.e., for an award to be drawn at the 2015 Chapter meeting the rider must have paid their 2014 dues by August 25, 2015.)

Winners of scholarships in a given calendar year are not eligible for a scholarship for the next calendar year.

A random drawing will be conducted at the September chapter meeting. The winners of the Scholarships will be presented with a Certificate that they can submit to the Chapter Treasurer to obtain their scholarship award payment when they need to pay for their scholarship activity. The winner must state with their submission of the Certificate what activity for which they will use the scholarship money so that the Chapter can keep track of the types of activities for which the money is being used.

The applying members who have met the volunteer requirements will be segregated into the Third Level and below member group and the Fourth Level and above member group. The names of the applicants from a group will be put into a container for the drawing of the winner of a group.