

## Local Scholarships

Various local businesses, civic organizations, school organizations and individuals make scholarships available to graduating seniors. Each of these scholarships has specific criteria. For example, to qualify for the Local 75 scholarships, one of the student's parents must be a member of that union. Some scholarships have long term requirements. For example, a substantial hospital scholarship requires the recipient to work at AVH for a specified time upon graduation from college.

Each scholarship application requires some work on the part of the student. In addition to filling in the personal information on the application, many of the scholarships require the student to write an essay, sometimes on a specific subject. Those scholarships that are based on need require some financial information. In the past, some scholarships have gone unclaimed because no student fit the criteria or because students chose not to write the essay.

## The Selection Process

Each scholarship specifies who chooses the recipient from among the applicants. Many organizations have their own selection committees. Some prefer that select committees from the school choose from the applicants. Some committees are standing committees; others are ad hoc committees. Each of these is given specific criteria for choosing the recipient. The committees have little latitude, especially for those scholarships that specify certain careers or professions.

Because there are so many varied committees from different organizations, it is difficult to arrange coordination among them. Therefore during Berlin High School's annual award night, it sometimes seems that a few seniors are awarded many scholarships. This, in fact, does happen. Two different businesses may choose the same individual to receive their scholarships. They do not communicate among each other to discuss who their choices are. Individuals and businesses are providing the funds for these scholarships and they control how these funds are disbursed.

## The Application Process

In the past, the guidance office has made scholarship applications available to seniors during the late winter and early spring. The notices were posted on the bulletin board outside of the guidance office and were read during the daily announcements. Students stopped by when they could to pick up the applications. This worked well when there were only a few local scholarships available. With the increase in the number of scholarships over the past few years, this system has become cumbersome.

During the first week of March, the guidance office will provide each senior with a scholarship packet. The packets will list the name, a short description, the criteria and the deadline date of each available scholarship. The listing is for those local scholarships for which a formal application is available.

Every year, some scholarships are offered on a one-time basis or new ones are made available. We will continue to post notices for these. We will not post notices for those listed here. If any of those listed here are withdrawn by their sponsors, we will inform the student.

We will ask each student to read carefully the description of each scholarship or program. Then complete the checklist on the last page and return it to Mrs. Tremaine in the guidance office who will then assemble a packet of applications. It is the student's responsibility to observe deadline dates. Deadline dates are based on past years' applications. Once applications are sent to businesses or organizations, the process is closed.