

RICHARD H. STEWART, JR AMERICAN LEGION POST 543

SCHOLARSHIP POLICY 014

The purpose of the Richard H. Stewart Jr. American Legion Post 543 Scholarship and Awards Policy is to formulate guidelines for a term of retaining scholarships and awards in the Post 543 restricted account.

The term shall be Four (4) years, equal to a Four (4) year college term. It will begin upon High School graduation and expire Four (4) years later. For example: 2023 graduate funds will expire upon the High School graduation in 2027.

This policy applies to all students from South Brunswick High School (SBHS) and Brunswick County Early College High School (BCECHS). This policy covers all scholarships awarded for the Richie Hat Trick, Oratorical, Rodney Johnson, Homer E. Wright Educational, STEM, JROTC, and Civil Air Patrol (CAP). It policy also applies to any future scholarships developed and instituted by Post 543.

Funds for every scholarship winner, regardless of the scholarship type, shall be placed into the Post 543 Scholarship account (a fenced account) and will be distributed to the recipient's college financial account upon graduation from High School and upon providing a valid student ID # and school address. Scholarship funds may not be distributed directly to the student. Scholarship funds for the JROTC Cadet of the year, NC DEPT JROTC Cadet of the Year, CAP Cadet of the Year and NC DEPT Cadet of the Year will be distributed with Student ID # to the educational institution of their choice.

The exception to this policy focuses on JROTC and CAP scholarship distribution, if the recipient enters military service. In these cases, the funds may be distributed for continuing education, Online Education or for technical equipment needed to support continuing education. A student may request an extension to the four-year timeline by requesting, in writing, the rationale for the extension.

Post 543 currently receives a donation of \$3000 earmarked to cover the Post, District, and Division oratorical contest 1st place winners. Post 543 provides scholarship funds for Post 543's Oratorical \$1000 for 1st, \$750 for 2nd, and \$500 3rd place contest winners. In the event Post 543 contestants finish in 2nd or 3rd place at the District or Division contests, Post 543 will provide a scholarship in the amount designated above to the Post sponsored student. All participants at the Department contest receive a minimum of \$1000; therefore the post will not provide any further scholarships.

The Post 543 Finance Officer may transfer those designated scholarship funds back to the specific Budget Line Item from which it was awarded upon the expiration of the four (4) year time period. Transfer will happen when all attempts to process the distribution have been unsuccessful or extenuating circumstances have not been satisfactorily provided for extending the time period. This action should be approved by the EXCOM for the ensuing Budget year

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APPROVAL AND REVIEW DETAILS

Approval and Amendment History	Details
Original Approval Authority	Post Membership
Original Approval Date	2-25-26
Policy Administrator	Deputy Commander Americanism/Finance Officer
Amendment Cycle	Bi-Annual
Amendment Date	
Amendment Date	