

## **RICHARD LOCKE SCHOLARSHIP FUND (Consensus 5-15-2016)**

The Richard Locke Scholarship Fund (RLSF) was created to help reduce financial barriers that make it difficult for some Billys and Billykin to attend our gatherings. RLSF consists of money donated from the Billy community through donations and proceeds from targeted fundraising activities.

It is acknowledged that money is a charged issue for many. It can be embarrassing or depressing to ask for help. Our overall goal in the stewardship of this fund is to help people feel supported, welcomed, and loved. We strive to let each Billy and Billy Kin know that the very reason for the creation of this fund is so that everyone can be fully integrated community members; to invite individual spirit into the room, knowing we are richer as a community through each person's participation. We welcome feedback, seek to resolve barriers, and strive to express Billy Values through our actions.

The following are bullets from the Billy Values Statement that relate to this policy:

- compassion, generosity, honesty, and respect for ourselves and for others.
- responsibility for ourselves, to each other, and to our community, including those in need
- diversity that embraces differences including race and ethnicity, class, age, body type, HIV status, physical ability, education, and financial circumstances; we welcome gay- identified transmen.

**Scholarships awarded from the RLSF are solely based on need as expressed by the applicant.** Anyone who submits a scholarship request with his or her gathering registration by the scholarship deadline becomes eligible for a scholarship to attend a gathering. Scholarships are not granted after the deadline. A goal of this policy is to support gathering participation.

We trust that those applying for scholarships model our mutually held values; it is up to each applicant to determine the level of support they need in order to attend a gathering. Billys and Billykin are encouraged to consider the needs of others in assessing whether they should request a scholarship.

Scholarships are determined through the following process:

1. An annual funding base is set by the Billy Foundation BOD as part of the budget. This establishes the Base Funding for the RLSF
2. The Base Funding is distributed between the gatherings scheduled for the year based upon the percentage of bed-nights estimated for each gathering as part of the budget process.
3. Base Funding does not include any restricted funding from any other source.
4. In distributing the Base Funding for each gathering;
  - The first goal is to assure that everyone has the opportunity to attend at least through one night of the gathering
  - The next goal is to assure equal distribution (same percentage) to each applicant
  - The next goal is to fund the smallest requests in full, as we are able
5. The treasurer is authorized to allocate up to 130% of the base funding for any single gathering recognizing that likely not all of the allocated funds will be utilized. Our goal is to use the entire base funding for each gathering.
6. If the entire Base Funding is not used for scholarships, the treasurer is authorized to add those small amounts to the Base Funding for the next gathering.
7. When there is a restricted donation for a particular gathering the donated funds are utilized for needs above the base funding level unless different terms are made.
8. It is acknowledged that restricted donations may periodically be offered for RLSF by individuals or grantors It will be our responsibility to assure and document that restricted funds are spent as agreed upon with the donor.