

Illinois APCO Otto Rhoades Scholarship Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 20, 2004

2004 Committee Members:

Chairman: Rich Bauer, Du-Comm (Temporarily Inactive)
Acting Chairman: Chuck Wrede, Tri-Com Central Dispatch (Tiebreaker Voting)
IL APCO Secretary: Ed Milam, Pleasantview Fire Protection District (Non-Voting)
Chapter Officer: Gina Schneider, Lake County Sheriff's Communications (Voting)
Active Member Representative: Jerry Chapman, Du-Comm (Voting)
Telecommunicator Representative: Jim Jones, Tri-Com Central Dispatch (Voting)
Technician Representative: None (Substitute: Wendy Mann, Gurnee 9-1-1) (Voting)
Commercial Representative: Jerry Stillwagon, Positron, Inc. (Voting)

Call to Order:

Acting Chairman Chuck Wrede called the meeting to order at 1:47 p.m. at the Lake County Sheriff's Communications Center, 1303 N. Milwaukee Avenue, in Libertyville. The primary purpose of the meeting was to select this year's scholarship recipient and runners-up.

Roll Call:

Members Present:

Jerry Chapman
Wendy Mann
Ed Milam
Gina Schneider
Chuck Wrede

Members Absent:

Jim Jones (Voted in absentia)
Jerry Stillwagon

Welcome & Opening Remarks:

Acting Chairman Chuck Wrede said he was asked to temporarily chair the committee by Chairman Rich Bauer, who is on a long vacation. Chuck thanked the committee members for their time and efforts in studying the seven (7) applications that were received. He said Telecommunicator Jim Jones could not attend the meeting because of his midnight shift schedule, but Jim did study the applications and has submitted his votes.

The applications were initially received by Ed Milam, Secretary of Illinois APCO. In accordance

with the scholarship rules and procedures, Ed blacked out the names and other identifying information before distributing the applications. An ID number (1-7) was then assigned to each submission. Exact copies (PDF files) of the applications were then e-mailed to the committee members.

Ed announced that he had to reject two (2) applications because they weren't received or postmarked by the August 1st deadline.

The amount of this year's Otto Rhoades Scholarship is \$2,000. It may be used for tuition, books and lab fees.

Chuck said he was uncertain as to whether he is eligible to vote in his capacity as acting chairman. He is not filling any of the committee positions as listed in the scholarship rules and procedures. All of those positions are filled by others. The committee agreed that Chuck would not vote unless he was needed to break a tie. Chuck said he studied all seven (7) applications in preparation for the meeting discussion and his possible vote, so he is familiar with the information.

Review of Award Criteria:

In preparation for the discussion, Chuck briefly reviewed the award criteria.

Discussion & Ranking of Applications:

The committee discussed the seven (7) scholarship applications that were submitted. Chuck began by questioning the qualifications of applicant #2, who is still in high school and will not graduate until May of 2005. The scholarship rules state that an applicant must be a high school graduate or GED equivalent, and *"be enrolled in an accredited university, college, junior college or trade school as a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student."*

The committee briefly discussed this matter and agreed that applicant #2 must be eliminated from consideration. Ed will notify the applicant of the committee's decision and the reason for the disqualification. Chuck suggested that Ed encourage the applicant to reapply next year after he/she graduates from high school and has enrolled in an accredited university, college, junior college or trade school.

The committee then resumed discussion of the remaining six (6) applications. Chuck questioned whether applicant #5 met the residency requirement. This applicant apparently lives in Wisconsin. The scholarship requirements state that applicants *"must reside in or have their principal place of business in Illinois."*

The committee briefly discussed this matter and decided that applicant #5 qualifies for the scholarship because he/she works in Illinois.

A lengthy discussion and evaluation of the six (6) applications ensued. The strengths and weaknesses of each application were carefully considered. An informal, tentative ranking of each candidate was made as the applications were reviewed. After all applications were discussed, the committee members expressed their final ranking of each. The votes of telecommunicator representative Jim Jones, who was not present at the meeting, were added. Chuck then tallied the votes, and the top three vote-getters were as follows:

1st Place: Applicant #7 – Mallorie F. Wamsley, Sherman, IL (Scholarship Winner)

2nd Place: Applicant #4 – Jenna Clausen, Arlington Heights, IL (First Runner-Up)

3rd Place: Applicant #6 – Jeremy P. Fisher, Mendota, IL (Second Runner-Up)

Formal Approval of Scholarship Winner & Runners-Up:

Chuck asked for a motion to approve the above results of the committee selection process. Jerry made a motion to approve the awarding of the 2004 Otto Rhoades Scholarship to Mallorie Wamsley, with second place going to Jenna Clausen and third place going to Jeremy P. Fisher.

Wendy seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously by the voting members present, i.e. Gina, Jerry and Wendy.

Chuck said that in the unlikely event Ms. Wamsley is unable to fulfill the scholarship requirements, the award would instead be given to Ms. Clausen. In the event that Ms. Wamsley and Ms. Clausen were both unable to fulfill the requirements, the scholarship would go to Mr. Fisher.

Discuss Remaining Steps of 2004 Scholarship Program:

Chuck said he will complete the minutes of today's meeting and e-mail a copy to each committee member. Gina and Ed will report on the meeting results at the next meeting of the Illinois APCO Executive Board. Ed will send notification letters to all applicants informing them of the meeting outcome. He will take care of all paperwork and follow-up necessary to the processing and oversight of the scholarship award.

In response to the discussion regarding applicant #5's residency situation, Wendy suggested that the residency requirement in the scholarship rules/procedures be reviewed for possible clarification or modification. Ed suggested eliminating the procedure of deleting the applicants' names and ID information from the application documents before they are sent to the committee. He questioned the need for keeping the applicants anonymous during the review process. He noted that the names are not deleted from the Illinois APCO communications award nominations before they are sent to the Operating Procedures Committee.

Chuck said these two suggestions need to be considered and approved by the Illinois APCO Executive Board. He asked Ed and Gina to address these items with the Board.

Ed said the scholarship winner will probably attend the APCO-NENA-ICC conference in Springfield in October. He suggested that Acting Chairman Wrede formally recognize the winner by presenting the scholarship to her at the awards banquet. Chuck is already scheduled to present the APCO communications awards at the banquet. The committee liked this idea and agreed that it would also help to publicize the scholarship.

Chuck said he would be happy to present the scholarship to Ms. Wamsley at the banquet. Ed and Gina will discuss this idea with the Illinois APCO Executive Board.

Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, Gina made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jerry seconded the motion, which then passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Wrede

Charles H. Wrede, Acting Chairman
Illinois APCO Otto Rhoades Scholarship Committee