

Education

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

How often have we read this quote and wondered how we can light a fire? Education opens doors to a new life of opportunities for our youth as well as those returning to school, whether it is in a degree program or a self-improvement course. Aren't we learning and expanding our knowledge our whole life? Each time we pick up a book to read, we are acquiring some insight into the world of knowledge and learning. This is one huge way we may eventually make a difference in our lives, communities, and the world.

SCHOLARSHIP

Linda B.

Committee members: Rena, Connie , Gayle, Kathy , Diana, **Barb**

Scholarships – Each year \$6,000 in scholarships are given in Yellowstone County. Four – Four-Year Scholarships, One – Two-Year Scholarship to area high schools, One – Non-Traditional Scholarship to MSU or Rocky Mountain College

Scholarship

The Scholarship committee sent out scholarship applications, personal letters to the counselors and posters advertising the BJWC scholarships to the three public high schools in Billings, several county schools, and the two Billings colleges in January. The scholarships were also advertised on our website. BJWC gives out one scholarship for each high school in Billings, one county school scholarship, one License/certificate scholarship, and one Non-traditional scholarship. When the applications were returned in March, the scholarship committee met and checked the applications for completeness. The applications were then divided into schools or types of scholarships, and distributed to team leaders.

The team leaders contacted club members and had them read and evaluate the applications in their packets using a point system. The point system included volunteer hours, school activities, work, and a student narrative. In April, the committee met again and calculated the evaluations and chose the winners for each school from those evaluations.

After the winners were chosen, and before the students were contacted, the members were read a narrative about our winners at a club meeting. Club members then attended the individual award assemblies and read a narrative about the student's accomplishments and presented the scholarship certificates to our winners.

The BJWC gave out six \$1,000 scholarships. The winners were sent a congratulatory letter that included an invitation to our last meeting, which included a dinner.

The winners' pictures and a brief narrative were reported in the Billings Gazette.

In June, the \$1,000 scholarship money and a letter, was sent to the individual college or university financial aid offices. The checks were made out to both the University and the student. The student then needed to check in with the financial aid office at the individual schools to sign for their money.

The scholarship winners and families joined BJWC in celebrating their successes. It was a wonderful, dinner event held at the Dan-Walt Gardens. The evening started with a tour of the beautiful gardens. Each of the winners and families were seated at different tables with the members of the club so club members could enjoy meeting the young people and their families. After a scrumptious dinner, the scholarship winners were introduced to the club and they each told something about themselves and their plans for the future. Pictures were then taken with our winners.

It was a wonderful evening filled with the promises of a bright future for our young generation and knowing that our club, in a small way, helped them accomplish that goal.