

Rotary Club of La Crosse Service Above Self Awards

Proposal submitted by Youth Committee in May 2018 and adopted by the Board of Directors

1) Continue having the Rotary Club of La Crosse (downtown club) provide \$3,000 for scholarships at the city high schools (\$1,000 for each school), but have responsibility for those scholarships rest with the club's Youth Committee, rather than delegating the task and money to the Rotary Works Foundation.

2) Selection would continue to be done by the school counselors, but we would provide updated criteria to the three high schools as follows:

Rotary Club of La Crosse Service Above Self Award:

- One award of \$1,000 per La Crosse high school (strong preference for a single award, but the money may be split into 2 awards of \$500 each).
- Award goes to a graduating senior who has been accepted into a post-secondary college or university.
- Student must have good academic standing, financial need **and** good character.
- Selection based on the student's volunteer work in school and/or community. Service may include: active participation in the school's Rotary Interact Club; helping other students; volunteer work in school organizations or with community agencies; projects with faith groups, community youth groups and/or the elderly.

3) After the student is selected, the Rotary Club of La Crosse will be notified and will have the option to attend an award ceremony to present a certificate in recognition of the student.

4) The \$1,000 award itself would be presented as a check written out to the selected student -- but only when the student submits a copy of a transcript or similar official report showing completion of the first semester of post-secondary education.

(RATIONALE: This will allow the student to use the money toward any college expenses, not just toward the tuition bill. Currently, checks are written out jointly to the student and the college. This sometimes means that the college just reduces its own grant commitment to the student, so the Rotary award effectively makes no difference to the student's overall expenses.)

5) The student would be strongly encouraged to accept an invitation to attend a meeting of the club following the completion of the first semester of school, allowing the club to recognize the student and present the check at that time.