

**MONTANA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
MARILYN HUESTIS-MEL WOJCIK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**



History of the MPEA Scholarship

In 1992, Marian Anderson, Region 1 Director, brought up the idea of a scholarship and at the Annual Meeting in May 1993 a resolution was passed that MPEA would sponsor a scholarship “for young people that would not only want to further their education but then work in Montana”. A committee was formed with one person from each region and a board member to create eligibility criteria requirements. In June 1995 after the diligent work of Marian Anderson and Nancy Harris the scholarship was presented to the membership at the annual meeting for consideration. The resolution passed.

The first selection committee made up of Nancy Harris (MSU-Billings, Region 1 Director), Robin Miotke (University of Montana), Larry Mackin (Labor-Kalispell) and Gil Walker (Labor-Billings) met in August 1996, reviewed applications and presented the first scholarship with monies allocated from Nationwide Insurance.

Later, MPEA and Nationwide Insurance each offered a \$500 scholarship.

Today, both \$1500.00 scholarships are offered by MPEA and have been named in memory of Marilyn Huestis, a staff member in Billings who was killed in an automobile accident while campaigning for legislature in 2000 and Mel Wojcik a staff member in Helena that lost his battle with cancer in July of 2000.

History of MPEA

The Montana Public Employees Association was started in 1945 by a group of state, city and county employees to lobby for a retirement system for all public employees. Their successful efforts led to the establishment of PERS (Public Employee’s Retirement System) in 1945.

The Association continued to increase membership by working to improve the retirement system, establish benefits such as vacation, sick leave, and holiday leave by representing the members at the legislature and lobbying for their best interest. MPEA played an active role in the vote by public employees for Social Security coverage in 1955. This was followed by a successful campaign to provide unemployment benefits and employer health insurance coverage by the end of the 60’s.

The Board of Directors, in 1970, determined that the Association needed a full time office and staff to actively represent public employees with their every day work issues. The first staff was hired March 1, 1971 and the office established shortly thereafter.

The Montana Collective Bargaining Act passed in 1973 and the rest is history. MPEA currently has a membership of 7000 state, university, city, county, school district and special district employees who have their rights and benefits covered in over 65 agreements.

MPEA
MARILYN HUESTIS-MEL WOJCIK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

ELIGIBILITY

The Montana Public Employees Association Scholarship is awarded at the annual meeting to a student who has met at least one requirement in either Category 1 or Category 2 and who has demonstrated academic achievement, financial need, community involvement and/or extracurricular activity.

CATEGORY 1 - Public Employee (student)

1. Be an active member of MPEA.
2. Currently enrolled or accepted for study during the upcoming Academic Year at an accredited 2 or 4 year college or university.
3. Intend to register/have registered for at least half-time undergraduate or graduate study in a higher education program leading to a degree/certificate.
4. Achieved a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

CATEGORY 2 – Student with required sponsor*

1. Sponsor is an active member of MPEA (parent or legal guardian)
2. Currently enrolled or accepted for study during the upcoming Academic Year at an accredited 2 or 4 year technical school, college or university.
3. Registered in a higher education program leading to a degree/certificate.
4. Achieved a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. *A dependent child/legal ward must be unmarried and age 25 or younger.

APPLICANTS

All applicants are considered for a one time only award. Once an award is received applicants are no longer eligible for future consideration. Applications will be separated into two (2) areas for consideration with one scholarship being awarded from each category. Should there be an insufficient number of applications in either category; applications from the other category may be considered.

Freshman (\$1,500 scholarship)

This student has not previously enrolled/attended any college. They must have graduated with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

Continuing Student (\$1,500 scholarship)

Currently enrolled students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0.

APPLICATION PACKET REQUIREMENTS (To be completed by the student)

1. **Scholarship Application:** Complete the application form in its entirety.
2. **Personal Statement:** Summarize why Collective Bargaining is important and what MPEA means to you and/or your family and how this scholarship will affect you personally. Limit statement to 1-2 pages only.
3. **Letter of Recommendation:** Submit one letter from an instructor, employer, supervisor, church official, etc.
4. **Current Transcripts:** New freshmen must submit a current high school transcript. Continuing student must submit the most recent college transcript.

DEADLINE: The application and all required documents must be received at MPEA headquarters by **March 15, 2017**. Please mail or submit to:

MPEA
Attn: Scholarship Committee
PO Box 5600
Helena, MT 59604

The Selection Committee has the right to reject any late, unsigned or otherwise incomplete applications.
Application materials will not be returned.

MPEA MARILYN HUESTIS-MEL WOJCIK SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

STEP 1: For Academic Year 2017-2018, I will be a: ___ New Freshman ___ Continuing Student

STEP 2:

Name _____

Social Security Number _____ Birth Date _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Work Location _____

University/College/Technical School you will attend. (Please include Address). _____

STEP 3: Sponsor Profile (Complete if you claim eligibility under Category II)

Sponsor's Name _____ Social Security Number _____

Relationship to Applicant _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Work Location _____

STEP 4: Candidate Profile

Other scholarship/financial aid for which applicant has applied, been awarded and amount	Applied	Awarded	Amount
FAFSA-Pell Grant			
FAFSA – Stafford Loan, Direct Loans			
Scholarships			
Fee Waiver			

Candidate Work Experience

Candidate Works Full-time	
Candidate Works Part-time	
Candidate Does Not Work	

STEP 5:

All of the confidential information provided above is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If asked by an authorized official, I agree to give proof of this information. If I don't provide the information when/if it is requested, I may negate my eligibility for this scholarship.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____