



Scholarship Committee

Proposal to Transition
NWSA Scholarship Program to the
American Meteorological Society



Issue

- In the event that the NWSA can no longer exist due to dwindling active membership what will happen to the Scholarship Fund
- Donations made specifically for use with the NWSA Scholarship program
- Conflicts with current by-laws regarding disposition of NWSA funds.
 - ❑ Would send money to Navy Relief



Options

➤ Do nothing

Operate the program until it dies

- Award Scholarships until funds are spent or NWSA folds
- Nothing suggests NWSA will fold or we will deplete funds for another 10 years or more

Comply with bylaws in deference to intent of donations

- Low risk but not principled

➤ Must sustain an effective working committee to implement



Options

- Investigate other alternatives to administer the program
 - Find a university to accept funds and award scholarships to it's students
 - Unfair to a competitive process, eliminates other schools
 - Overhead fees are likely



Options

- Investigate other alternatives to administer the program
 - Find a similar organization to administer our program
 - American Meteorological Society
 - Operates an established program
 - Competitive and open
 - Superior selection committee
 - Degrees consistent with NWSA program



Inquires

- Scholarship committee followed up on initial liaison by a member of Finance Committee
 - ☐ Jun-Sept 2010

 - ☐ Summary of discussions resulted in AMS submitting a draft agreement for NWSA consideration



Details of AMS Proposal

- AMS agrees to award 2 scholarships per year in the name of "Naval Weather Service Association".
 - One undergraduate \$5,000
 - Junior or Senior
 - One High School Senior \$5,000
 - Paid over 2 years @ 2,500 per year
 - Award levels are fixed



Details of AMS Proposal

- NWSA makes a gift of funds to AMS for the purpose outlined in the binding agreement
 - AMS manages all funds
 - No NWSA involvement
 - AMS reserves the right to spend principal if needed to maintain fixed awards
 - AMS will not charge anything to administer the funds or scholarships
 - NWSA donations may still be directed to the fund



Details of AMS Proposal

- AMS scholarship committee will make selection of awardees
 - ☐ No NWSA involvement



Potential issues with AMS Proposal

- Concerns from those who only wish to support the program from earned interest
 - ❑ AMS has lessons learned with other awards they are managing. Won't agree to base awards only on available annual earnings

- Loss of control and oversight of funds and selection process
 - ❑ Mute if done when NWSA is folding up
 - ❑ NWSA must extend trust to the AMS
 - Solid agreement insures intentions met



Timing

- This research began under the premise that NWSA would find a safe landing spot for the program if we became unable to run it due to a decline in the association
- After consideration there is a real benefit to making this transition sooner rather than await our demise.



Efficiency Opportunities

- Running the Scholarship program is very time consuming
 - ❑ Is our committee/NWSA best qualified to evaluate applications based on the complexity of the degree paths today?
 - ❑ Costs to process and impact on SECTREAS
 - ❑ Approval process can be contentious



Benefits with a transition in the next 18 months

- Selection process would be driven by a group of AMS meteorologists (operational, research and academic)
- Selection will be made from a large pool of the very best students
 - ❑ AMS tracks process of students
 - ❑ Increased probability of degree completion
- Naval Weather Service Association gains immediate national visibility



Benefits- continued

- NWSA is relieved of the burden of running the scholarship program
 - ❑ Scholarship Committee can concentrate on fund raising, ensuring the longevity of the program

- Funds are disbursed legitimately keeping all funds for scholarships

- Fiscal management of the fund is performed by AMS
 - ❑ Simplifies NWSA Fiscal Management



Challenges to overcome with a Transition in the next 18 months

- We should solicit input from a wider base of our membership (not just those who attend reunions)
 - ❑ This should help inform the executive committee
- Perceptions of risk or loss of status if AMS becomes our "contractor".
 - ❑ If AMS is suitable to run the program when we are gone, they are suitable to run it while we can observe.



Challenges to overcome with a Transition in the next 18 months

- Determining what level of membership consensus is required
 - ❑ Big decision
 - Simple vote at general membership meeting?
 - Vote by Executive Committee?
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- Developing a transition plan for the transfer of funds
 - ❑ Avoid penalties and fees
- Completion of signed agreement with AMS



NWSA Tax Status

- If our 501c status is based on scholarship program we can maintain the status with ongoing fund raising and periodic transfers to AMS.
- ☐ In essence we still have a program we have just contracted the administration to AMS



Process

- October - November 2010
 - ❑ Share AMS Proposal with Scholarship and Finance Committee for comment and recommendation
 - ❑ Courtesy copy President/VP/SEC TREAS
- Nov 2010-Jan 2011
 - ❑ President/Scholarship committee presents to Executive council for comment
 - ❑ Publish in Aerograph and Website
 - Solicit feedback



Process- Continued

➤ March-May

- Summarize recommendations, membership comments and present at reunion in VA Beach
- Final discussions and vote from membership

Jun -Sept 2011

- Implement NWSA decision

