

BAM Individual Scholarship Ballot

As has been discussed at BAM meetings over the last few months, the membership is concerned over the effectiveness of the current individual scholarship program. Bam has been awarding individual scholarships up to the amount of \$1000.00 to approved applicants to attend a class at one of the various blacksmith schools or to work one on one with a recognized smith.

Currently, the total amount of the scholarship was awarded to the recipient prior to him or her attending the class with the understanding that within one year of the class the recipient would repay in part the scholarship by demonstrating some of the techniques learned in the class and writing an article describing some of the techniques covered in the class. Providing a video for the BAM library of the individual demonstrating is acceptable in lieu of the live demonstration at a meeting.

While some of the recipients have promptly fulfilled all the requirements of the payback, many others have used the funds to attend a class and subsequently failed to follow up with the payback requirements. As a result of this, the membership decided at our March 2017 meeting to put a one year moratorium on the issuance of individual scholarships and appoint a committee to come up with an alternative plan that would address the problems of the current plan and present several options in a ballot form to the membership. At the September 2017 meeting, President Steve McCarthy appointed Bernie Tappel, Bob Alexander, and Mike McLaughlin to this committee and tasked them to research the issue and to provide several alternatives to be published in the newsletter in ballot form prior to the March 2018 meeting.

The committee met and discussed the following two options to be presented on a ballot:

Option A: The applicant would have to be a member of BAM in good standing for the two years immediately prior to the application. **One third** of the scholarship award would be paid in advance of the class, **one third** would be paid on completion of the live meeting demonstration (or the video submitted to the BAM library), and **one third** would be paid on the submission of an article for the newsletter detailing specifics of the class. (Demo and article may be completed in any order.)

Option B: The applicant would have to be a member of BAM in good standing for the two years immediately prior to the application. **None** of the scholarship award would be paid in advance of the class, **one half** would be paid on completion of the live meeting demonstration (or the video submitted to the BAM library), and **one half** would be paid on the submission of an article for the newsletter detailing specifics of the class. (Demo and article may be completed in any order.)

Please circle the option of your choice, sign and print your name on the lines indicated below, and mail this sheet to:

**Steve McCarthy
6691 Foster Road
Houston, MO 65483**

Your vote is important. As a member of BAM, the scholarship funds being distributed are part of the collective membership's funds and it is important that each member have a say in how these funds are distributed. **Ballots must be received by February 15, 2018 to be counted.**

Print Name: _____

Member signature: _____