



15 January 2016

Educational Fund Announces New Procedures for Squadron Honor Roll Status

The Trustees of the USPS Educational Fund are announcing new procedures that will be used to identify Squadrons that have achieved Honor Roll status through their voluntary contributions to the Educational Fund.

Background

Many years ago the Trustees of the Educational Fund established a program through which USPS squadrons could make voluntary contributions in the amount of one dollar (or more) per active squadron member, and thus qualify for inclusion in the EdFund Honor Roll for that year. With the advent of the HQAB billing process in the last decade, that process was modified so that squadrons could bill each of the squadron members a dollar, with the dollar assessments going directly to the EdFund. This process is optional and is not used by all squadrons.

It was thought at the time to be a great idea -- easier for the squadrons, easier for the EdFund. Really a win-win.

Actual experience has proven to be otherwise:

- Some squadron treasurers are confused by the process.
- Many life members are annoyed when they receive a bill for an EdFund contribution of a dollar.
- Other members don't make the one dollar payment listed on their dues bill.
- The EdFund doesn't receive the full amount of the contributions that it should.
- The process has become an administrative headache for squadron treasurers and for the EdFund.

The HQAB process simply hasn't worked as was desired for EdFund contributions.

Perhaps worse from the perspective of the EdFund Trustees, what were always intended to be voluntary contributions from squadrons to support the Educational Fund are now viewed by some squadron members as pernicious mandatory assessments. The EdFund Trustees had never intended that, and it is simply the wrong karma for this program.

Accordingly, the EdFund Trustees are taking steps to simplify the squadron Honor Roll process. Squadrons will be asked to provide a single payment from the squadron treasurer (or a designated squadron member) by check or credit card in order to participate in the Honor Roll program.

How It Will Work

The Honor Roll year will be from 1 December of the year preceding the award to 30 November of the year of the award. The goal is for a squadron to make a voluntary contribution to the EdFund Honor Roll program in the amount of one dollar (or more) per active member. There is no requirement that each and every squadron member shall have contributed a dollar; just that the total from the squadron equals the necessary amount.

The active member count used throughout the Honor Roll year will be the active member count at the beginning of the EdFund fiscal year; that is, 1 December. A table that lists this number for all squadrons is [available here](#) (117KB, PDF) on the EdFund web site.

The contributions will be payable by check, or on-line with a credit card.

Squadrons may raise the funds for the Honor Roll contribution any way they might wish, be it cookie sales, raffle tickets, regular squadron dues, passing the hat at meetings, or whatever works for each squadron.

For the convenience of those squadrons which want to continue using the HQAB collection process, the system will be modified to deposit EdFund donations in the squadron account rather than sending them to the EdFund. It will then be up to the squadron treasurer to make the lump-sum squadron donation to the EdFund. Use of this mechanism is a squadron decision just as squadron dues are a squadron decision. If the squadron votes to collect EdFund donations this way, that fact should be publicized so that members know that it is a squadron activity and not an EdFund activity. To alleviate the annoyance of Life Members receiving a bill for \$1, squadrons may wish to set that field on the dues update form to zero.

Other Contributions

Other contributions to the Ed Fund continue to be encouraged as before and are not affected by the changes in the process for Honor Roll contributions noted above. Members, squadrons, districts and friends of USPS are encouraged to make donations and bequests that memorialize others, or are outright philanthropy in recognition of an opportunity to change the future of USPS. These contributions may be made by check mailed to the EdFund or by credit card on-line.

Questions?

If you have questions after reading this announcement, please send them to Fred Mangelsdorf, Chairman of the Trustees of the Educational Fund, at femangelsd@aol.com. Every effort will be made to answer any and all questions. If you would rather talk on the phone, call Fred at 845-542-3180.