

Scholarship Committee

Members: Barbara Arlow (past president of the League of Women Voters Beach Cities), Frankie Gelbwachs, Susan Grebe, Jeanne Hamilton, and Mary Dillon

About six years ago, the league started awarding scholarships. At first, we gave out just one scholarship to a student who worked with Barbara Arlow on voter registration at a local school. The program was so successful that we decided to make the application process more formal. In our desire to give scholarships specifically to students who have a high financial need, we selected Leuzinger High School, a campus within the Centinela Valley High School District that serves a very diverse population and has many students who come from low-income households. Donna McCoy, who is a counselor at the school, has been the scholarship coordinator on their campus and has been a tremendous help for us. Barbara Arlow is a former teacher and has a passion for education. It was Barbara's idea to form this committee, and she has been a driving force behind its success. Two years ago, we decided to name the scholarships after her.

For the last four years, we have awarded three \$1000 scholarships annually. Thanks to generous contributions from our members during the non-event in 2024, we added one scholarship. This year, we reviewed eleven senior applications and were able to fund all of them due to generous donations from two of our members. What a fun phone call it was to be able to give Donna McCoy that news!

I have been attending the Scholarship Awards Night at Leuzinger High School each year. Two years ago, we decided to invite the award winners to our Annual Meeting and give them their checks at that time. This was the third year and the biggest group we have invited! This is one of the meetings we all look forward to!!

Mary Dillon, Scholarship Committee Chair