

## **F. SCHOLARSHIPS AND CONTINUING EDUCATION**

### **Policy:**

COMGA provides budgeted funds to the Horticulture program for a limited number of new Master Gardener Trainees to attend the OSU Master Gardener training program. COMGA budgets funds to provide assistance for the OMGA Gardening Conference to the current Master Gardener of the Year, and the "Search for Excellence" representative. Other Master Gardeners meeting established criteria may be awarded full or partial assistance. Board members may also receive budgeted funds for education that enhance the organization.

A Scholarship Committee will be appointed each year by the COMGA President to review and determine the status of applications submitted per the procedures specified below. The committee will determine the amount and timing of funds awarded or reimbursements authorized and will inform the COMGA Treasurer of those decisions so disbursements can be made timely. If budgeted funds are inadequate to make the awards the committee would approve, a motion may be made at the next Board meeting to increase the budgeted amount following Board discussion.

### **Procedure:**

1. Trainees
  - a. The local OSU Master Gardener Program Coordinator provides trainee scholarship applications
  - b. The Scholarship Committee selects trainee scholarship recipients along with input from OSU Extension Service personnel who have interviewed the MG Trainees. Funds for Trainee scholarships will be included in each year's approved COMGA budget. Funds will be divided among approved recipients at the discretion of the committee.
2. OMGA Gardening Conference
3. Application form is completed and submitted to the Scholarship Committee before registration deadline (OMGA Gardening Conference Assistance Application Form). Funds for the OMGA Gardening Conference
  - a. assistance will be included in each year's approved COMGA budget.
  - b. Criteria for assistance and limits on the amount of assistance are included on the application. Funds will be divided among approved recipients at the discretion of the committee.
4. The chapter President submits an application to the Send-A-Friend chairperson for funding assistance to the OMGA Gardening Conference. If OMGA approves funding, the Scholarship Committee will determine how those funds will be used.
5. Board Education
  - a. A Board member submits a request to attend a training session.
  - b. The Scholarship Committee presents the request to the Board who reviews the education offering and the amount of reimbursement requested. A vote follows.
  - c. After attending the approved event the Board member completes a short summary of the event and presents it to the Board.
  - d. Funding for this training will come out of the Discretionary Fund.