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Letter to Mary Polk Green regarding scholarship procedures, January 19, 1973

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At last I finished reviewing the folders on the Lucile Elliott scholarship. It seems to me that there are two specific problems with the applications: either there are not enough applicants or there are too many. In the first case, they did not award the scholarship to the lone applicant, in the second they had quite a time deciding. I dug out various suggestions from former committee members according to which (a) the notice concerning the scholarship should be repeated several times, and (b) more information should be sought concerning the applicants. There was also some problem with applicants who were awarded the scholarship, then returned it for various reasons.

My thoughts on these matters are as follows: I think one notice of the scholarship is sufficient. The membership knows well enough about the existence of the scholarship and if the individual applicant is not sufficiently motivated as to apply after he or she has read the announcement, I don’t think it is our duty to keep reminding him or her. Furthermore, there is not enough time nor money for repeated mailings. (I shall send a copy of the announcement to Mary Oliver and ask her to include it in her newsletter.)

As for the second problem: I think it would be indeed good to know more about the individual applicants so that we could make an objective decision. Accordingly I reworked the application form to include questions both on education and financial need. Please look it over and give me your thoughts. If you think the form is good as it stands, just return it with an O.K.
As to the question of applicants who may return the award, I think this is a calculated risk: anybody can get sick, married or whatever. If there is time, we can award the money to the next person on our list. It was partially with this in mind that I set April 1, 1973 as the deadline for returning the application. I should like to aim for May 1 for making the announcement. (Unfortunately there is no way we could include the April Georgia workshop on Class K.)

I don't want to rush you but would greatly appreciate if you could reply by February 1 so that I could send the final form to Pearl for inclusion with her February Newsletter. I shall be out of my office January 23 - 26 but call me before or after if I can give you further clarification.

Thanks for your cooperation. Best regards.

As ever,

(Mrs.) Susan D. Csaky
Assistant Law Librarian

Enclosure