



ASSOCIATION  
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# May 2025 - AOC Foundation Scholarships Committee Report

- Mick Riley, Chair

## Committee Members:

- Jeremy Stettin
- Jarrett Holcomb
- Nino Amorosa
- Guy Albanese
- Larry Rzepka

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## Topics:

- Launch of the new “From Service to Scholar” program funded by Rhode & Schwarz.
- Future Five – identification of potential candidates and how to incorporate our international members into the mix.
- Discussion on how to develop a new scholarship structure to incorporate our chapters world-wide as feeders into a regional then finals competition.

# From Service to Scholar

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Launched our first efforts for the new “From Service to Scholars” program targeting individuals (or a qualified member of their family) attending higher education classes under the current GI Bill. Our hopes are to give out five \$2,000 scholarships to help with the expenses not covered by the GI Bill. Rhode & Schwarz have pledged \$50,000 over the next five years to support the program.

We have discussed using this scholarship as a template for other major corporations to create their own scholarship program with us. An additional \$10,000 a year is more than doable for many of our partners without touching their current levels of support and sponsorships. We will need our Board Members to “lean on their friends in the corporate community to participate. Could be a great feeder for the Foundation’s new “Corporate Advisory Council” concept.

Hope to recruit at least three additional scholarships by the end of the year.



# Future 5

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Applications are currently slow for the program; believe a new marketing strategy might need to be developed to increase interest in the program. Challenge has become how to incorporate our chapters that are not in the United States.

A potential idea we are looking at is to expand the Future 5 program; Keep the name but have regional or geographically-designated areas have their own Future 5. Example: Future 5 Europe; Future 5 Asia, etc. Might increase interest as well as participation in the program. Would also encourage a younger global audience to become members of the AOC.

However we decide to move forward, we need participation from our overseas members and a way to let them know there is a place here at the AOC Foundation and Association for them and an opportunity to be mentored by some of the finest EW minds in the world.

# Global Scholarship Competition

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Our strategic plan calls for us to develop a scholarship program that would include our chapters in the design of such a program. The challenges are obvious – our chapters operate at different financial levels as well as membership size and local commitment.

An idea we are exploring is to invite our chapters who currently have a competitive scholarship program at the local level is to then consider nominating their winner to compete for even more dollars at either a regional level or at the national level. This way they maintain control of their local competition and funding. We don't get involved except to ask if they will be nominating their winner to go to the next level.

As the competitors progress through the process, finalists will then be declared with the winner announced at our annual International Symposium & Conference. It would also encourage our local chapters to advocate and promote their winning representative at the next level.