

AOH Charitable Works Plan (4/09)

Following is the plan for charitable donations and work, including the targeted amount and allocations for 2009, and the process for making decisions about individual donations. These guidelines were reviewed and approved by the Executive Board (EB) in the March 2009 meeting.

Charitable Work Committee Members: Dan Cullen, Jason Gorton, Pat Gavin, Joe Burns, Tom O'Connell

The Charitable Works Committee (CWC) will work with a budget of \$6,000, approved at the March, 2009 E.B. Mtg.

The goal of the sub team is to develop a plan that increases:

- 1) The scope of charitable works
- 2) The visibility of our efforts
- 3) The breadth of charities and segments of the community we support
- 4) Consistency with the priorities agreed upon with AOH members.

In 2009, we will focus our support in the following areas:

- 1) Irish/Hibernian based
- 2) Internationally based
- 3) Local community based
- 4) Patriotism based

The budget will be broken down in six equal segments, \$1,000 each for the focuses mentioned above. \$1,000 for the discretionary use of the (EB) and \$1,000 for the discretionary use of Charitable Works Committee.

The Charitable Works Committee will follow the following guidelines as approved by the Executive Committee.

- 1) The Discretionary Funds are meant to be used for needs that cannot be foreseen, but historically develop over our calendar year.
- 2) Charitable efforts are often better served with hands on support. We recommend that at least one of our focus areas be served in this manner.
- 3) We will endeavor to organize at least one large-scale charitable work effort each year.
- 4) We will refrain from "Passing the Hat" collections at meetings because it puts disproportional financial demand on members attending meetings. Further, while all causes are worthy, passing the hat can result in using our limited funds for less than our highest priority causes.
- 5) We will not have a membership vote on donation proposals made at meetings. Proposals made at meetings will be reviewed by the Charitable Works Committee as described below.

Selection of the Recipients and Reporting

- 1) Nominations can to be submitted via the AOH website (preferred method), in writing to any member of the Charitable Works Committee or Executive Board, and/or verbally at meetings (preferably followed by a simple written reminder so that it doesn't get 'lost in the shuffle').
- 2) Nominee review and follow-up evaluation will be done by the CWC, who will then make recommendations to the EB.
- 3) Criteria for selection will be based on:
 - a) How well it matches our mission of Unity, Friendship and Christian Charity
 - b) The benefit that will be provided
 - c) The reliability/track record of the recipient.
 - d) Clarity and quality of information made available for the review of the CWC.

e) Nominations will be ranked comparatively within each segment.

Note: the AOH is a Catholic organization and this will be considered as a factor in the selection process.

- 4) The CWC will provide monthly reports at the general membership meeting.
- 5) Selections will be proposed to the E.B. for approval
- 6) Once selections are approved they will be carried out by the CWC or other AOH volunteers...
- 7) Selections will not be made via a vote of the general membership for the following reasons:
 - a. It is the responsibility of the EB to manage AOH business, expenditures and budgets.
 - b. Voting without prior notice at meetings does not allow for full representation of the desires of the organization.
 - c. Open voting for expenditures at general meetings can put members in an awkward position as some proposals can have personal connections.

The procedures outlined here are intended to both assure that we are prioritizing our charitable donations and efforts based on well defined criteria, and also striking a balance in involving members in how we spend our money, but without the endless meetings that would be required for full membership review and debate on the relative merits of various proposals. Members are encouraged to both make nominations for charitable donations, and also to make suggestions on our priorities.