

IAC Scholarship Program Chair's Report (as of 13-Nov-2011):

After steadily growing, on an *ad hoc*-basis, the **Board** of the **Icelandic Association of Chicago [IAC]**, at the 13-Nov-2011 combined Annual General and Board Meeting, approved a formal statement of **Objectives** and **Guidelines** for the **IAC Scholarship Program**, the full text of which follows at the end of this report, and the amount and schedule for our first scholarship award in calendar year, 2012.

As of 31-Oct-2011, the **IAC Scholarship Fund** had a balance of **USD \$ 3,109.57**

These funds represent the accumulated net proceeds of sales of **IcelandicGlacial** bottled water, very generously donated by IcelandicGlacialWater, and soda at **Vasa Park** [South Elgin] events hosted by the not-for-profit **Scandinavian Park Foundation**, as well as individual contributions by members and friends of the Icelandic Association of Chicago [IAC] and the Scandinavian Community in and around Chicago. The volunteer assistance of many IAC members is most appreciated and everyone is strongly encouraged to patronize our principal corporate donor, IcelandicGlacialWater. Their website, www.IcelandicGlacial.com, has a utility to locate the nearest IcelandicGlacialWater retail outlets by entering the zip code.

There are sufficient funds available to support additional scholarship award(s), later this year, but, as of 13-Nov-2011, the Board has approved the following **initial single award of USD \$ 750.00** [Seven-Hundred-Fifty-Dollars], as partial support for one individual to participate in either of the two Snorri Foundation [www.Snorri.is] programs listed below during the summer of 2012 or 2013 or to pursue non-Snorri-related course(s), an interim/summer study program, or an independent-study project during calendar years: 2012 or 2013.

The two Snorri programs are open to any North American resident with a bona fide interest in Iceland. Snorri participants of Icelandic descent receive considerable assistance in locating relatives and family friends in Iceland.

The three activities eligible for the current scholarship aid include:

- A. The “traditional” **Snorri six-week Icelandic Immersion Program** for young adults (beginning at age 18 through approximately 30 years of age), including:
1. Two weeks of concentrated orientation to Icelandic language, history, culture, and current events, supplemented by excursions and recreation in the Reykjavík area;
 2. Three weeks living with an Icelandic family, part-time employment for a “Daily Allowance” in lieu of any wages or stipend, and ample opportunity to learn Icelandic, meet Icelandic relatives, and participate in community activities;
 3. A one-week adventure tour of Iceland, culminating in a formal graduation reception hosted by the President of Iceland.
- B. The more recent two-week **Snorri-Plus Program** for mature adults and retirees (beginning at approximately 30 years of age), including:
1. A welcoming reception and orientation in Reykjavík;
 2. A few days of concentrated orientation to Icelandic language, history, culture, and current events, supplemented by excursions and recreation in the Reykjavík area;
 3. A week touring Iceland, visiting prominent historic, cultural, and geologically significant venues, with ample opportunities to meet community residents and Icelandic relatives and friends;
 4. Networking with Icelanders regarding the participant’s professional employment, public policy, or volunteer interests;
 5. A few final days of escorted tours in and around Reykjavík and a graduation ceremony hosted by a Snorri Foundation officer.

- C. Any bona fide adult education, college, or graduate level **course(s), interim/summer study program, or independent-study project** in the United States, Canada, or Iceland relevant to Iceland and matters Icelandic. Any such course(s), interim/summer study program, or independent-study project need not be part of a degree program nor need it be eligible for college or university credit.

Deadlines for Applications, Approvals, and Preferred Award Venue:

- A. Applications must be received by the Committee by 29-January-2012;
- B. The single approved scholarship award will be announced at Þorrablót 2012;
- C. In the case of the Snorri Foundation program scholarship aid, the Committee and the Board will submit letter(s) of recommendation to the Snorri Foundation supporting the awardee's application to Snorri;
- D. Every reasonable effort will be made to notify the successful awardee in time to offer him or her a complimentary ticket to attend Þorrablót 2012.

An **application form**, available as a **.pdf file**, is posted on and downloadable from our website: www.IcelandChicago.org

All comments regarding our Scholarship Program are most welcome. All suggestions for scholarship aid, whether modest or ambitious, are very welcome. Please email same to the undersigned via: Scholarships@IcelandChicago.org

Apropos are being the Icelandic Association of Chicago, the quote attributed to Daniel Burnham, the architect of the world famous 1909 Burnham Plan, is apt:

“Make no small plans: They have no magic to stir man's blood to action and probably will not themselves be realized....”

Let us proceed with true Viking confidence! John H. Hofteig, Ph.D., Chair, the IAC Scholarship Program and Academic Liaison.

The full text of the **IAC Scholarship Program Objectives and Guidelines** follows:

The Icelandic Association of Chicago Scholarship Program

OBJECTIVES:

The Icelandic Association of Chicago [hereinafter referred to as the IAC] Scholarship Program [i.e., the Program] shall have a broad mandate to: encourage, facilitate, and fund formal and informal educational opportunities to promote knowledge of Iceland, its language, culture, history, and current affairs. It shall also recognize exceptional contributions to same by members of the Icelandic-American Community which the IAC represents and serves.

GUIDELINES:

- A. The elected **Chairperson** [i.e., the **Chair**] and the **Scholarship Program Committee** [i.e., the **Committee**] shall:
 1. **Recommend** the scope of its current activities consistent with available and anticipated resources, opportunities, and the needs of the Icelandic-American Community which the IAC represents and serves;
 2. **Solicit** and **review** applications for approved scholarship aid;
 3. **Recommend** granting of scholarship aid and/or special recognition(s);
 4. Only the **IAC Board of Directors** [i.e., the **Board**] shall have authority to approve the recommendations of the Chair and Committee regarding actual awarding of scholarship aid and special recognition(s);
- B. Funding sources for the Program shall include individual and corporate contributions and fund-raising activities approved by the Board;
- C. The Chair shall recruit a Committee, by the first of January following the Chair's election/re-election to the Board, to include at least two IAC members, with relevant input welcome from all interested parties;
- D. Preference in the awarding of scholarship aid shall be given to IAC members and family members of same;

- E. Recipients of scholarship financial aid shall be required to present a suitable report following their supported activity, preferably at the next **Annual General Meeting** [i.e., the **AGM**], and will be encouraged to become and/or remain active in the IAC and to assist the Program. Such report(s) will be disseminated via the IAC Newsletter and/or on its website;
- F. Committee or Board members and their immediate family members are eligible to receive scholarship aid, the only restriction being recusal from voting on one's own application or that of an immediate family member;
- G. Absent compelling reasons to the contrary, scholarship financial aid on behalf of the awardee shall be paid directly to the relevant, bona fide academic, cultural, or scientific institution with which the supported activity will be undertaken. Scholarship aid may be used for tuition, travel, living expenses, books, supplies, etc., relevant to the scholarship aid approved;
- H. Scholarship financial aid not accepted or not used within two years of the award shall revert to the Scholarship Fund;
- I. The Program shall be reviewed annually;
- J. If the Program is ever rescinded or the IAC ceases to operate as a not-for-profit organization, all Scholarship Program funds not already committed or disbursed shall be transferred to bona fide, not-for-profit institution(s) whose activities are consistent with the Program's above-stated objectives.

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT TO THE AGM & BOARD:

The Chair shall give a report to the combined AGM and Board Meeting (more often to the Board if exceptional financial resources and opportunities or challenges warrant). This report shall be disseminated via the IAC Newsletter and/or its website:

- A. Scholarship award(s) and special recognition(s) granted in the past year;
- B. Scholarship funds available, significant sponsors and donors, anticipated funds, and recommendations regarding new fund-raising opportunities;
- C. Recommendations for current scholarship funding priorities and relevant deadlines for applications, award announcements, and preferred venue for final award(s) or special recognition(s), e.g., at the next **Þorrablót** *;
- D. Recommendations for special recognition(s).

The foregoing statement of the Icelandic Association of Chicago Scholarship Program Objectives and Guidelines was approved at the combined AGM and Board Meeting in Hyde Park, Chicago, on 13-Nov-2011.

Þorrablót * 2012 will be observed by the IAC on 25-February-2012, complete details for which are posted on our homepage: www.IcelandChicago.org

Þorrablót * refers to the annual celebration which has become immensely popular in Iceland and amongst the Icelandic diaspora in Canada and the United States since the latter half of the twentieth century. It is a modern-day reiteration of the original **Þorrablót**, observed by the earliest Viking settlers in Iceland, who survived long difficult winters, to observe their own Thanksgiving, traditionally, during the old Icelandic calendar month of **Þorri**, corresponding to most of February, just as the days were becoming noticeably longer. It features some of the same sorts of foods which sustained the earliest Vikings, long before modern methods of food preservation, including: dried cod filets, smoked lamb, meat pickled in soured milk, various sausages and head cheeses, and fermented shark blubber. Modern-day Þorrablót’s are supplemented with typical American foods, as well.