

In 1999, Steve Seltzer was the incoming President of the Rotary Club of Altoona. Steve was well prepared for the challenge as he grew up in a Rotary family (his father Irv Seltzer served as District Governor of Rotary some years previous).

Steve felt that a Scholarship program for the senior students of the three area high schools served by the Rotary Club of Altoona would be a great addition to our agenda of community service projects.

Reaching out to several Rotarians (John Wolf, Bill Ward, Herk Betar, Steve Sheetz, Al Holtzinger, Lee Hite and others who agreed to develop a program that would service the needs of area students and be funded solely by the members of the Rotary Club of Altoona.

The first few years of the program were especially challenging, but as the word got out in the local schools that Altoona Rotary had a special format, the interest from educators, parents and students began to build.

The special features of our program include an eleven point matrix to cover four critiques.

- 1) broad based criteria for eligibility to qualify . . . Academic Achievement, Student Activities, Need, and Community Service);
- 2) A hand written letter by the student applicant outlining their goals and interests;
- 3) Award winners are invited to attend Tuesday noon meeting of our Rotary Club with their parents or guardian in order to receive their check and learn about the role of Rotary in our community.

Questions that are frequently asked include following...
How do students apply? Students who are attending high school in the area served by the Rotary Club of Altoona, i.e Altoona Area High School, Bishop Guilfoyle High School, or Greater Altoona Career & Technology Center may contact their Guidance for the guidelines and timelines of our program. The program typically has guidelines available in early February. Students and Counselors are given key dates to complete the academic and financial information to be turned into the Rotary Scholarship Committee by mid March. "Winning" Students are then notified by mail in early April or the good news and the dates of the Rotary Club luncheon.

At this meeting students, parents and educators are welcomed by the Rotarians and presented their award check.