

Chicago Joe Memorial Scholarship Fund

A Little History: Many years ago, Jack Hemlinger, a school teacher that lived on Royer Lake, suggested creating a fund that could be used to support a lake member or a member of their family who wished to further their education. The Association established the Fish/Royer Lake Scholarship fund, allowing members could donate into a competitive scholarship fund. When the fund was created, “Chicago Joe” Albergo was the Association President. Joe was originally from Chicago. He was a free spirited, generous man who loved his family, friends and living on Royer Lake. He was the kind of guy who didn’t know a stranger. He would do just about anything to make people happy. He started a restaurant in LaGrange featuring his favorite foods from Chicago; this is how he got the nickname “Chicago Joe”. Joe became the President of the Fish and Royer Lake Association because he wanted to better our Lake community. While President he helped, organize the annual hog roast, (and actually brought his personal karaoke system for entertainment), opened his restaurant on his day off to host board meetings and gave generously to the various local charities. After losing his battle with cancer, the Association changed the name of the scholarship fund in 2016 to the Chicago Joe Scholarship Fund in his honor, so that Joe could continue to better our lake community through his memory.

The intent of the scholarship fund: To have the means to award aid to one or two individuals attending college or trade school in the Fall semester through an annual competitive scholarship. The 2020-2021 Board Association motioned and approved that any individual being awarded a Chicago Joe Memorial Scholarship will be in the amount of \$500. If the scholarship fund lacks the monies from member contributions (amount vary annually), the difference will be met using monies from the general fund. Those eligible to receive the scholarship must be or be related to a current lake association member. Each year, the association will choose an essay topic and a deadline date. The essay must be a minimum of 300 words on the chosen topic for that year; it must include an introduction, a body and a conclusion; and it must cite any sources used for specifics, statistics, quotations or arguable information. The essay must include a cover letter indicating their name, address and phone number, the name of the current Lake Association member to whom they are related and the name of the college or school attending; and a copy of their fall semester schedule. If a recipient is chosen, the scholarship will be awarded in check form, written to the attending college/school. Essay decisions will be publicly announced at the first annual meeting following the deadline date, as well as posted on the association’s media pages. ** The Lake Association reserves the right to withhold any scholarship award if no eligible entries are received.*

