

# A HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION LOAN FUND

When asked to write a history of our National Education Loan Fund my first question was "Where to begin?" The simplest answer was "begin at the beginning," and that is what I will try to do.

At the National Convention in New Orleans in 1930, National Auxiliary Commander Cora Lambertson appointed an interim committee to study the formation of a fund to help the children of our DAV and Auxiliary members to further their education. She appointed Past National Commander Violet Thomson to head this committee with four additional members; one of those members was me, Eunice Bluestein. The committee was to gather information on loans and scholarships throughout the country and report back at the next convention.

The committee met the next year and drew up the Rules and Regulations governing our Loan Fund. It was to be named the National Education Loan Fund and Past National Commander Genevieve Brown was appointed Chairman. She was to serve for five (5) years, and the rest of the committee was appointed to serve four (4) years.

In order to finance the Fund, each unit was mandated to pay \$12.00 annually. As the funds increased, the mandate was reduced to \$10.00 in 1940, to \$6.00 in 1943, and to \$3.00 in 1952.

The amount of the loan, starting at \$150.00 annually was increased in 1950 to \$200.00. We hope this convention will approve an increase.

The women who served on the original Committee planned well and with foresight. This is evidenced by the fact that very few changes have been made in its Rules and Regulations since its inception. Only those changes found necessary in order to keep current with the changing times.

In 1941, I was appointed Chairman of this Committee by Past National Commander Barbara Spargur. There was much to be learned in the management of this Fund and the business of impressing upon our students the necessity of prompt repayment of their loan, so that others may have the opportunity of using the Fund. As our funds increased, U.S. Bonds were purchased so that we would have a reserve fund. We found that collecting money was not nearly as popular as giving it out. Persistent effort in locating those students, with whom we had lost contact, was followed, with the result that many contacts have been renewed, while others have completely ignored our letters.

In 1965 the Carrie Lawson Memorial Fund was established by the many friends of our beloved Past National Commander Carrie Lawson. This fund was for students studying some form of medicine. Two students have been the recipients of this fund and both have fully repaid their loans. The original amount of \$1,073.00 contributed is intact.

In 1965 National Headquarters moved to Cincinnati, with no funds to carry on the business of our Auxiliary. At the request of our National Commander Margaret Burke, I was instructed to turn over the monies in our Loan Fund to them. There was a total of \$17,846.46 in the fund. The full amount was repaid to the fund this year. Also this year, we received a contribution of \$5,000.00 from the Department of Florida, Disabled American Veterans. We are most grateful for their generosity.

Since the inception of our Loan Fund we have assisted over two hundred (200) students, and to our knowledge only two of them are deceased.

For the past thirty years, it was my honored privilege to serve as the Chairman and then

the Director of our Loan Fund Committee. The contacts made and the opportunity of working with our young people and returning veterans by listening to their problems, advising and helping them to plan for their life's work has been an unforgettable experience. Although, through the years, I have met, in person, only ten of them, one gets to know them quite well through their letters. I have received invitations to their graduations, their wedding and even pictures of their new babies. I will miss these contacts.

I feel certain that after this is on its way to National Headquarters, I will remember many things that should have been in this history, but thirty years is a long time to look back.

My very best wishes to the new Director and my hope that this Fund will continue for many years, to serve our DAV youth. They are our hope for the future of a peaceful America.

Respectfully submitted  
Eunice Bluestein, 1971

*(Eunice Bluestein was originally from Cincinnati, but moved to Florida, where she remained active until her death, serving as unit commander and also as the unit adjutant and treasurer of Florida Unit #9. She also served as State Parliamentarian.)*

The letter above gives a brief history of the National Education Loan Fund and there have been many changes since that time. And the generosity of the units, states and individuals have donated to the growth of this fund so that it can continue. (For information concerning eligibility please refer to the form on the following page.)

**DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS AUXILIARY  
NATIONAL EDUCATION LOAN FUND  
INFORMATION AND RULES**



The National Education Loan Fund is supported by the auxiliaries of the Disabled American Veterans. The purpose of the fund is to provide ***interest free loans*** for students. **It is neither a scholarship nor is it a fellowship.** Loans are granted for college, university or vocational schools. Academic achievement and financial need are considerations in granting these loans. Loans are based on the moneys available, current grades and need.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT:**

**The Applicant MUST BE A FULL-PAID LIFE MEMBER OF THE AUXILIARY IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A LOAN. A LIFE MEMBERSHIP, HOWEVER, IS NOT A GUARANTEE THAT A LOAN WILL BE GRANTED.**

**RULES:**

- Amount of loan can be up to, but not more than \$3000 per year. (Effective 2010-11 school year)
- Loans shall not be granted for more than five (5) consecutive years for any applicant, based on date original loan is granted.
- Must be a full-time student with a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester and maintain a 2.0 GPA per semester to be considered to receive full amount of \$3000.
- A part-time student with a minimum of 6 credit hours may receive \$1500 effective 01/01/10.
- Only one new applicant, per family, per year will be considered. However, multiple births will be considered providing that proof is submitted to support these births and that money is available.
- Renewals are not considered as *NEW*. Therefore a family could have one new and one or more renewals.
- No money may be sent to schools outside the United States.
- Loans are *NOT* guaranteed and must be applied for each year.

*The amount of loans granted each year is to be determined by the National Education Loan Fund Committee based on the money that is available in the EDUCATION LOAN FUND. If the loan is granted, a check will be sent directly to the school and NOT to the student.*

**GRADUATION OR WITHDRAWAL:**

Billing for repayment will begin ninety (90) days after graduation or immediately upon withdrawal from school. Repayment amounts will be structured so the loans can be paid in full within seven (7) years or less.

**FOR APPLICATIONS WRITE TO ADDRESS BELOW NO LATER THAN MARCH 1.**

National Education Loan Fund Chairman  
DAVA National Headquarters  
3725 Alexandria Pike  
Cold Spring, KY 41076