

IMUA 2015 Scholarship Program Student Guidelines

Program Purposes: To promote and recognize scholastic achievement and to demonstrate the advantages of, and the issues faced by, municipally-owned and operated utilities.

Eligibility and Guidelines: High school seniors whose parents or legal guardians are residential consumers of an IMUA member utility may submit written essays to win a $500 scholarship.

(Note: IMUA scholarships **are not available** to the employees, staff or immediate family members of the IMUA, IMEA and IPEA, or to the immediate family members of the Board of Directors of these organizations, nor to immediate family members of those individuals who serve on the IMUA Scholarship Judging Panel and Committee.)

1. Students must complete the enclosed application and submit, along with a copy of their transcripts, an essay of 500 words or less, typewritten and double-spaced, with the following information included on the cover:

    - Student's first and last name, home address, phone number and e-mail address.

2. Essay should **NOT** mention the student's hometown or hometown utility by name.

3. Sources of information regarding municipal utilities and utility-related issues can be found in the reference section of your library, periodicals, the Internet or individuals employed by your local municipal utility. Search phrases might include: *municipal utility; local ownership; municipalization; public power; public gas system; utility deregulation; Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA); public interest; and, municipal utility rates.* There are many other sources as well. The following websites may also contain information helpful in writing your essay:
    - American Public Power Association (www.publicpower.org)
    - American Public Gas Association (www.apga.org)
    - Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (www.imea.org)
    - Illinois Municipal Utilities Association (www.imea.org, then click on the "IMUA link)
    - Illinois Public Energy Agency (www.imea.org, then click on the "IPEA link)
    - Energy Information Administration (www.eia.gov)

4. Essays **MUST** address your choice of any one of the following five (5) issues/questions:

   Q. Water – Water shortages continue to plague many areas and communities throughout the country and across the globe, caused in part by growing populations, increasing demand, declining fresh water supplies and other factors. What can be done to help alleviate these shortages? What steps can providers and consumers take to mitigate the impact of rising water costs?

   Q. Electric – If approved, proposed new environmental regulations by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) concerning the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions pose a serious threat to the reliability of electricity supply and could significantly increase the cost of electric service to consumers. Given that, what can Illinois and other states do to protect the interests of both energy providers and consumers?

   Q. Natural Gas - Balancing the development of alternative forms of energy with the need to protect the environment is a constant challenge for those in the energy industry. One of those challenges involves a practice for developing oil and natural gas reserves known as hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking." What can be done to help alleviate such concerns so that these challenges are met in an economical, cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner?

   Q. Renewable Energy - Renewable forms of energy – such as solar, wind and hydropower – while carbon free, can cost millions of dollars and take years to develop. Which of these three sources of renewable energy do you feel is the most viable, and why?

   Q. Electric (Workforce) - In light of an aging workforce, the public power industry faces a constant challenge to attract and retain qualified employees in a number of energy-related positions and occupations, including electric linemen, engineers and other such operations personnel. What can be done to help public power utilities attract and retain qualified employees to replace those employees who retire?

5. The deadline for submitting written essays is **Friday, March 6, 2015**. Please send your essay, transcripts and completed application to the address listed on the bottom of the application.

6. A total of **four (4) finalists** will be chosen by the IMUA Scholarship Committee. Each finalist will receive a finalist certificate and a $500 award from IMUA. **Winners will be announced sometime in April.**

GOOD LUCK!

Illinois Municipal Utilities Association & the City/Village of _____ 2015 Scholarship Program Application



Your Name: _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Village: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail Address:** _____

Utility Account Number: _____

Utility Billing Address: _____

High School: _____

Educational Institution you plan to attend: _____

Please list any extracurricular activities or awards (use separate sheet of paper if needed):

_____

_____

Please attach a copy of transcripts and completed essay of 500 words or less and mail to:

Illinois Municipal Utilities Association
Attention: Scholarship Committee
3400 Conifer Drive
Springfield, IL 62711
Postmark by Friday, March 6, 2015

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