

# **BY-LAWS TO THE CONSTITUTION of Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs**

## **ATTACHMENT 3A – TGCC Donation Committee Programs**

(As revised and updated through the General Business Meeting held September 4, 2008. Effective November 12, 2015 additional historic information was added and voting procedures included. Updated by Council agreement for attachment numbers and word corrections on December 31, 2017.)

**HISTORIC INFORMATION** – In 1994 Frank Burek proposed that TGCC establish a program of supporting the dive community with the creation of several awards programs that supported education. Beginning from 1995 to present, applications for the TGCC College Scholarship Program have been accepted and scholarship awarded to support college education for qualified applicants. Beginning as an undergraduate program for sons and daughters of member of member clubs, the program has developed to support members and grandchildren of members as well as providing support for graduate work. Although the program has been run each year, after review of that year’s applications, the decision has not always been to award a scholarship. In one year there were no applications submitted.

The current TGCC College Scholarship Award is named after Michael Szewczyk. “Born January 1, 1952 in New York, he died October 4, 2002 in New Braunfels, Texas. On the day before Trashfest, Mike was tubing, suffered a heart attack and could not be revived. Mike was a long time TGCC supporter and Trashfest supporter from the Beaumont Wet Set Club. He was laid to rest in his Trashfest SuperScooper shirt and his black and white DAN cap. Mike grew up in the Orange/Port Arthur Area, where he was a fireman for the City of Port Arthur, a US Army Vet, past president of the Wet Set Dive Club and NAUI Instructor.” Effective with the 2003 TGCC College Scholarship competition TGCC renamed this award program in his honor.

Due to TGCC’s limited cash flow, the TGCC Scholarship program is currently the only active portion of the TGCC Donations Committee’s scope. Its early program had several aspects – College Scholarships, Sea Camp Scholarships, support for graduate student research at the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary and donations to support 501(C)3 organizations whose goals and objectives were consistent with TGCC’s educational and environmental ideals.

Changes in the funding for this program began to occur in 2012. First, HUC, a founding member of TGCC stopped function as an active club and donated some money to TGCC. TGCC agreed to match their donation and make the scholarship program open to HUC members of record in 2012 during the scholarship period of 2013 through and including 2016.

The TGCC scholarship program has been financed mostly by its Trashfest event. Run from 1976 through 2012, this event ended as a result of the city of New Braunfels’ decision to pay for monthly river trash clean-ups by a commercial firm.

In 2014 donations to the TGCC Scholarship program were made by Alicia Grimes (in memory of her husband Greg Grimes), by the Houston Underwater Photographic Society (in memory of its departed members – Greg Grimes,

Anne Millioud and John Petty), and by Linda Petty (in memory of her husband John Petty). Based upon this support TGCC did several things. (1) It budgeted its scholarship program at \$4,000 a year for 2015 through and including 2019. (2) It changed the name of its program to the TGCC Memorial College Scholarship Program. (3) It changed its application form to include recognition of those individuals whom the awards are being given in memory of. (4) It changed its application to recognize those individuals and clubs who had contributed to this award program. (5) It agreed that for the period 2015 through 2019 Alicia Grimes could determine the \$1,000 award winner. This was done because Alicia identified while making her donation that it should be targeted to individuals with specific academic, career and personal interests.

#### **GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FLOW:**

- Program is budgeted in January
- If approved with TGCC Budget in March, applications are provided to the clubs and published in club newsletter and web sites. TGCC Club Representative makes announcements at their respective clubs meetings.
- Applications are accepted through a target date in June.
- Applications are reviewed by the TGCC Club Representatives and winners determined by their vote at the next meeting (normally the July meeting).
- Applicants are notified, both those awarded the scholarships and those who were not.
- TGCC Treasurer coordinates with the scholarship winner(s) and their college(s), forwards the awards directly to the school for the award winner(s) current semester.

Attached (as a sample) is application form for 2015.

#### **The TGCC Donations Committee Chairperson is responsible for:**

- Providing scholarship and other award program recommendations for the TGCC Budget.
- Providing applications as required for the Council's review.
- Coordinating the application process.
- Presenting the applicants applications and transcripts to the Council for their vote to determine the scholarships to be awarded that year.
- Notifying applicants as to who was awarded, or not awarded, scholarships during that year.
- Staffing as required to execute this responsibility.
- Applicant and award tracking.

#### **Voting Procedures:**

- The individual applications are passed from the Donations Chairperson to the Club Representatives for their review.
- Votes are cast by the Club Representatives of the full membership clubs.
- Those Club Representatives must not be related to any of the individual competing for the scholarships.
- The individual Club Representative votes are collected and tabulated by the TGCC President, or his designated alternate.
- A second individual will confirm the results.
- For the period 2015 – 2019 Alicia Grimes will review the results and if necessary select the \$1,000 scholarship winner. In the case of selection situation, Alicia's pick will be designated the \$1,000

winner and the TGCC selection will fall to the next, lower award. Likewise, the domino effect may continue to prevail.

- Results will be released by the TGCC President to the Council.

Attachment: 3B to this document– Current TGCC Scholarship form  
3C to this document – Donations Committee Historic Information

Approved and ratified on December 31, 2017 by:

**TGCC 2017 Officers:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
President (Frank Burek)

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First Vice President (Rodney Dwire)

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Secretary (JaVan Pruett)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer (Mark Leiserowitz)

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Second Vice President (Randy Widaman)

**TGCC 2017 Full Member Representatives:**

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City of Houston Underwater Mariners (Mark Leiserowitz)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Houston Underwater Photographic Society (Alicia Grimes)

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JSC Lunarfins Scuba Club (Polly Swerdlin)