

## Announcing the MARY LOUISE SYMON MEMORIAL AWARD

1. **Purpose:** Advance an agenda of social change consistent with Mary Louise Symon's Life-Long Vision. Ms. Symon blazed a path for women in politics. She was the first woman chair of the Dane County Board. Throughout her life she remained deeply committed to creating an enlightened citizenry and advancing a broad social agenda including protecting the environment, preserving farmland and rural regions, making courts more humane, ensuring fair housing, and defending social services, among others. She was one of the founders of the Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin.
2. **Sponsor:** Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin.
3. **Eligibility:** One award granted annually to a graduating senior from one of these area high schools: River Valley, Dodgeville, Mineral Point, Highland, Iowa-Grant, Barneveld, and Pecatonica. (As additional funds become available, more than one award may be made in future years.)
4. **Monetary Award:** \$500 will be awarded in 2011 to further the recipient's leadership experience. The applicant should indicate his or her planned use of the award, for example, to attend college, to perform a public service internship involving political or political action activities, to participate in a leadership conference.
5. **Criteria:** Awards will be based on the following criteria;
  - a. A grade point average in the top 30 percent of the class.
  - b. Participation in documented community engagement—school, church, the arts, or other volunteer efforts--that demonstrates applicant's devotion to community service.
  - c. Character ratings.
  - d. Student-written essay on topic demonstrating applicant's knowledge of social issues and commitment to community service. [*Application form and essay criteria are attached.*]
6. **Timing:** Applications for recommended applicants are to be forwarded by **May 1<sup>st</sup>** to Grassroots Citizens, in care of Mary Ann McKenna, #2716 Porter Road, Lone Rock, Wisconsin 53556, or to [mawmckenna@aol.com](mailto:mawmckenna@aol.com). The award recipient will be announced in **May**.
7. **Promotion:** Grassroots Citizens will assist in promoting the award in your community, including brochures, press releases, and flyers in public places. The objective is to ensure a pool of applicants with diverse backgrounds. A representative of Grassroots Citizens will be available to present the Award at the school's Awards Assembly.

February 3, 2011

## Mary Louise Symon Memorial Award

Award Amount: \$500

Eligibility: This Award to be granted to a graduating senior from one of these area high schools: River Valley, Dodgeville, Iowa-Grant, Highland, Barneveld, Pecatonica, Mineral Point. Applicants should rank in the top 30% of their graduating class as determined by cumulative GPA

Criteria for selection: A selection committee will receive nominations from the high schools and evaluate the applicants on the following criteria (not in particular order):

- a) Class rank.
- b) Essay.
- c) Character.
- d) Complete application.

Each high school can submit up to three (3) nominations.

Nominations from high schools must be **received by May 1** of the graduation year. Send complete applications of the school's nominees to: Grassroots Citizens of Wisconsin  
Mary Ann McKenna  
E2716 Porter Road  
Lone Rock, Wisconsin 53556  
[macmckenna@aol.com](mailto:macmckenna@aol.com)  
608-583-3921

Each high school shall determine the date for completion of applications at the local level such that each school's selection committee will have sufficient time to make a selection and forward the complete applications by May 1. Late applications will not be considered.

Application must include:

1. Completed Award application (attached).
2. Verification of class percentile rank
3. Essay (typed)



Section C Family Information.

1. Name of parent(s)/guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Father \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
Mother \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation \_\_\_\_\_
2. Names and ages of brothers and sisters living at home or in college.
3. Are you holding a part-time job now? \_\_\_\_\_ (This includes work on a family farm)  
Where? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many hours do you work each week? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Will you have a job this summer? \_\_\_\_\_  
Where? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Have you been awarded any scholarships, grants or educational loans?  
If so, please identify which ones and the amount of each.

# COUNSELOR PAGE ACADEMIC RECORD

Note to Applicant: **You are responsible for printing your name on this page giving it to your counselor.** Your school counselor will provide the remainder of the information.

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation: 2011

To be completed by guidance counselor:

This applicant ranked in the	Top 10%
(circle one)	Top 20%
	Top 30%
	Top 40%

Number of students in graduating class \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

(to be filled out by a counselor/teacher of applicant's choice)

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Using the core values defined below; please give a score to the student for each core value. Scores should range from 1 (low) to 7 (high). If you believe you can't judge the student on a particular value, leave it blank, but do not use "0" unless you want the student to receive that value. You may use decimals.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Honesty:** This person carries out his or her responsibilities carefully and with integrity, never claiming credit for someone else's work and being willing to acknowledge wrongdoing. Confidences are maintained when promised or expected. An honest person conveys a moral soundness, shown in several ways—trustworthiness, integrity, loyalty.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Respect:** This person responds sensitively to the ideas and needs of others without dismissing or degrading them. Differences among people are celebrated, and this person can accept both praise and constructive suggestions from others. While affirming individual freedoms, this person understands and honors the rights of groups of people.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Compassion:** This person is considerate and caring, recognizing that everyone, from time to time, feels hurt, confused, angry or sad. Instead of ignoring such conditions, this person reaches out to comfort and support others at such a time and can accept compassion from others during a difficult time. In times of conflict, such a person will seek reconciliation and try to bring about understanding and resolution, including forgiveness.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Self-discipline:** This person agrees to live within limits, not only the ones mutually agreed upon, but, above all, those established personally. Self-discipline is exercised in relationships with others, especially in the way people speak to one another. Self-discipline also applies to the use of time. At the simplest level, self-discipline reflects habits of good living.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Perseverance:** This person is diligent, with the inner strength and determination to pursue well-defined goals. It *does* matter that a task be completed once begun, and to persevere not only teaches discipline, but brings rewards as well.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Responsibility:** This person has a sense of duty to fulfill willingly the tasks he or she has accepted or has been assigned. All work is conscientiously performed. Others feel comfortable asking such a person for help, knowing that this person will perform the duty or assignment.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Dependability:** This person not only demonstrates the characteristics of a responsible person, but also can be counted on to perform such duties and assignments when no one will necessarily be checking. A dependable person must first be responsible.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Accountability:** This person accepts personal responsibility for their actions, behaviors, and decisions. She or he does not try to blame others or make excuses for poor choices and accepts the consequences of such choices and decisions.

Again, if you don't feel you can adequately make a determination, leave it blank or put a " – " mark in the space. Only use "0" if you want to give the person the lowest mark.

Please return to:

Scholarship Committee  
High School Address

Name: (Print)

In what capacity have you known the applicant?

## ESSAY

**Purpose.** The purpose of the required essay is to provide applicants for the Mary Louise Symon Memorial Award with an opportunity to explore values and strategies for promoting good citizenship, civic engagement and positive social change, both within the local community and in society-at-large. The applicant is also expected to demonstrate language and composition skills essential for bringing about such desired civic engagement and social change.

**Weighting.** The essay is weighted one-third of the total portfolio assessment.

**Format.** A conventional typed essay of 500 – 700 words is expected.

**Scope/Content.** The importance of furthering Mary Louise Symon’s legacy cannot be overstressed. Therefore, the essay should identify a pressing public issue--whether of local, regional, or national consequence--and explore how an individual can contribute to effectively addressing the issue through appropriate leadership

### **Evaluation Criteria.**

- \*\* Topical relevance.
- \*\* Practical application.
- \*\* Imagination.
- \*\* Authentic voice.
- \*\* Logical organization.
- \*\* Grammar and syntax.

**Review Process.** Designated readers will conduct a standardized, blind, and collaborative review of the submitted essays. Based on a comprehensive review of the applicant portfolios, including the essays, three (3) finalists will be selected. Those three individuals will be interviewed by the designated readers prior to selection of the winner of the Award.