

## PWFL Scholarship Policy

Purpose: Scholarships are intended to support and empower women in our community by providing financial assistance to women who are pursuing higher education.

Structure: There shall be two categories of scholarships; a category for women under 25 years old who are pursuing an education beyond high school, and a category for women 25 years old or older pursuing an education beyond high school. The scholarship for the women under 25 years old shall be known as the “PWFL Scholarship”. The scholarship for women 25 and older shall be known as the “Athena Scholarship”. Final determination of the amount of each scholarship and the number of recipients shall be made annually by the scholarship committee in consultation with the Executive Board. Scholarship funds will be issued upon proof of completion of first semester or other satisfactory proof of completion of course work or at least eight weeks' attendance.

Criteria: Applicants must meet the following minimum criteria:

1. Be a female residing in Ontario County pursuing further education after high school; with further education defined as either college coursework or other accredited educational work toward a degree or certification.
2. Submit a complete application that is delivered or postmarked by the required deadline, which shall be determined annually by the Scholarship Committee in consultation with the Executive Board.
3. To avoid a conflict of interest, active PWFL members are prohibited from applying.

Scoring: All complete applications received or postmarked by the required deadline shall be considered by the Scholarship Committee. The Committee shall first determine whether the applicant meets the criteria detailed above. For each applicant meeting the criteria, the Scholarship Committee shall consider the cumulative result of a rubric of the following:

1. the applicant's explanation of how receiving the scholarship would improve their future and/or assist in achieving their goals as set forth in the applicant's personal statement and/or letters of recommendation.

2. The applicant's personal attributes and goals, as set forth in the applicant's personal statement and/or letters of recommendation.

3. The applicant's work experience and/or community service, and career goals.

4. The applicant's financial need.

5. Any other factor the committee finds relevant.

The Scholarship Committee shall determine which applicants shall receive scholarships after full consideration of the above criteria. The Scholarship Committee shall notify the Executive Board of the names of all chosen scholarship recipients as well as the names of all applicants who were not chosen to receive a scholarship. Such notification to the Executive Board shall be made at least one week prior to notification of applicants. The Scholarship Committee shall then notify each applicant of its decision regarding that applicant.