

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

ATTACHMENT 3 –TGCC Donation Committee Programs

(As revised and updated through the General Business Meeting held September 4, 2008)

HISTORIC INFORMATION – In 1994 Frank Burek proposed that TGCC establish a program of supporting the dive community with the creation of several awards program 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.

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 2008.

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.

Attachment 3A to this document– Current TGCC Scholarship form

Approved and ratified on September 4, 2008 by:

TGCC 2008 Officers:

Frank Burek President

Todd Hasken First Vice President

George Clark Second Vice President

John Ringrose Treasurer

Todd Rushing Secretary

TGCC 2008 Full Member Representatives:

Todd Hasken - City of Houston Underwater Mariners

Mark Leiserowitz – Houston Underwater Club

John Ringrose – H. Underwater Photographic Society

George Clark – Lunarfins