

Ned C. Wheeler Scholarship Foundation for the Deaf

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A well-respected Utah Deaf leader, Dr. Robert G. Sanderson reports in the Utah Eagle magazine that the Ned C. Wheeler Scholarship Foundation for the Deaf had its origin in 1946 when the Arthur Wenger Athletic Association was established at the Utah School for the Deaf in 1919. Under the Arthur Wenger Athletic Association (AWAA), the students raised funds entirely by selling candy on school campus (Sanderson, *The Utah Eagle*, October 1956).



Arthur W. Wenger

The AWAA continued to operate until September 5, 1956 when representatives of the Utah Association of the Deaf and the Utah School for the Deaf gathered for a meeting and decided to cancel two student organizations, the Park Literary Society and the Arthur Wenger Athletic Association (Sanderson, *The Utah Eagle*, October 1956).

UAD representatives, Ned C. Wheeler and Robert G. Sanderson, suggested that the AWAA's entire sum of \$1,000.00 be set aside and established as a scholarship fund encouraging students at the

Utah School for the Deaf to strive for a college education, and helping the deserving students who need financial support for college. School representatives and student representatives agreed to this idea. The UAD and former students who helped accumulate the fund felt that this action was in the best interests of all students (Sanderson, *The Utah Eagle*, October 1956).

UAD representatives also suggested that the scholarship fund be named the Arthur Wenger Scholarship Fund in honor of the founder of the former athletic association, and as a mark of respect to his



Ned C. Wheeler

outstanding contribution to the welfare of the deaf in Utah. The suggestion was accepted

(Sanderson *The Utah Eagle*, October 1956). Later,

Arthur Wenger Scholarship Fund was renamed Utah

Scholarship Foundation for the Deaf. The fund,

slightly over \$1,000, was turned over to the Utah

Association for the Deaf and administered thereafter

until 1975. At that time the Utah Scholarship

Foundation for the Deaf was officially established

with an IRS tax exemption number and separated

from the Utah Association for the Deaf to become a

standalone non-profit corporation under the laws of

the state of Utah. The corporation received an official

IRS tax exemption status which provides that all

contributions to the foundation are tax deductible.

One of its objectives is promoting higher education

for students who are Deaf and hard of hearing

students of Utah. The organization was renamed Ned



Robert G. Sanderson

C. Wheeler Scholarship Foundation for the Deaf

after the death of its founder, Ned. C. Wheeler

(Valerie G. Kinney, personal communication,

October 3, 2012).

Scholarships are made available each year to students pursuing academic studies in any of the nation's colleges and universities. The only criteria are that they be Deaf or hard of hearing, meet a minimum academic standard, and indicate that a scholarship would benefit their educational goals (Valerie G. Kinney, personal communication, October 3, 2012).



Valerie G. Kinney

It is governed by a board of directors made up of a cross section of Deaf and hard of hearing individuals, parents of Deaf or hard of hearing students and teachers of the deaf who have indicated their interest in educational programs for the deaf. It was so organized as to make it fully self-perpetuating and not dependent on any other organization (Valerie G. Kinney, personal communication, October 3, 2012).

Donations and contributions are placed in the principal of the scholarship fund, which is invested to earn interest. Awarding of scholarships is therefore limited to the earnings from the principal in any given year. During the past years, they have received many contributions in the form of memorials (Valerie G. Kinney, personal communication, October 3, 2012).



Kenneth L. Kinner

Nowadays, the Ned C. Wheeler Scholarship Foundation for the Deaf continues to award scholarships to qualified college students who apply. The longest serving members of this foundation are Valerie G. Kinney (1976) and Kenneth L. Kinner (1978).

Note

Valerie G. Kinney, e-mail message to Jodi B. Kinner, October 3, 2012.

Bibliography

Sanderson, Robert G. "Arthur Wenger Scholarship Fund." *Utah Eagle*. 68. no. 1 (October 1956): 4-5.