

John E Robinson Scholarship Fund

August 2016 Update



The past year has been one of celebration and change for the **John Robinson Scholarship Fund**. At the end of 2015, the fund had met and exceeded long term goals of \$200,000 in invested funds and an annual scholarship level of \$10,000. The scholarship is distributed as \$2,500 annual awards renewable over four years. Administration of the fund, including scholarship applications, screening, payment and renewals had been transferred to the West Kentucky Community Foundation (WKCF). At their last meeting in October of 2015, the John Robinson Scholarship Committee dissolved after transferring oversight responsibilities to the Lone Oak High School Alumni Association. It was noted in the final minutes of the committee:

The first official meeting of the John E. Robinson Scholarship Committee (JERS) was July 15, 2002 with committee members Frank Harris, Gwen Helfer, Rick Leeper, Diana Record, and Buddy Rushing. Support from the Lone Oak community for the first fund raiser showed us we had set our sights way too small. A big thanks to former LOHS students and local businesses for helping make this endeavor was a huge success.

And a Big Thanks to the members of the John Robinson Scholarship Committee for driving the vision and making it a reality.

Three members of the committee; Ned Buchanan, James Hollowell and Buddy Rushing accepted the role of scholarship screening advisors for the WKCF to ensure the continuation of the Robinson Ideals of **Making a Difference**.

At their November meeting, the LOHS Alumni Association picked up the mantle for the fund oversight - which is largely focused on the John Robinson Memorial Golf Tournament and Lone

Oak Community Breakfast fund raising events. Many of the former JERS Committee members are also active participants in the alumni, so the history and expertise remain. Dave Osborne assumed the role of liaison for the scholarship fund to WKCF.

Lone Oak Community Breakfast...

Several years ago, the JERS Committee had sought to refocus the breakfast from a purely John Robinson event to more of a community and alumni event. Many LOHS classes from the Robinson years use the "Robinson" weekend as a reunion focus and



Congratulations Baily Caudle

Recipient of the 2016 John Robinson Scholarship. Baily plans on attending Campbellsville University to pursue a double major in criminal justice and psychology. We wish her success in her career.



Do you want a 2017 Golf Tournament? Let us know...

the breakfast as added bonus event to meet friends from other classes. Except for the cost involved, continuing the Lone Oak Community Breakfast seemed an obvious decision. Unfortunately, in most years, the breakfast was at best a financial break even, with the real benefit to JERS coming from the significant number of donations received. Could the alumni fund the breakfast and still focus donations to JERS? After consideration, those involved dedicated themselves to making it happen. Thus, in 2016, the breakfast would be hosted by the LOHS Alumni with proceeds, win or lose, going to the Alumni and donations continuing to benefit the scholarship fund. It was indeed an incentive to grow the breakfast. So, join us Saturday September 24th from 7:00am to 10:30am along with 100s of other alumni and Lone Oak friends and keep the tradition alive.

John Robinson Memorial Golf Tournament...

The golf tournament was another issue. It was a big endeavor, but with big returns. If funding goals had been reached, did the fund actually need an annual infusion? Would we still get the participation needed to make the event worthwhile? Well, that last question was answered quickly when people started asking about the tournament. Seems like bragging rights are important! While the need was researched, the dates were reserved and plans were put in place: Friday September 23rd at 11:00am.



Dollars and Sense...

While the goals of the JERS Committee were to build a perpetual Scholarship Fund with a \$10,000 annual award, present day economics just don't provide that. With the desired award, the annual investment return needs to be at least 4.71% to be perpetual. As of this report the endowment is earning under 2% annually in moderately conservative (a.k.a. safe) investments. We can only hope that someday the economy will once again grow to provide the desired returns.

But, in the meantime, we have the ability to maintain the award level even though the fund is not earning that much. Annually WKCF provides 4% of the average fund balance, about \$7500, to be awarded as scholarships. Kept in a separate account, those "Available to Grant" funds may be directly increased by donations or fund raising. Presently, we need approximately \$2500 added each year to make the desired award. Using the Available to Grant account as a buffer, we presently have about 5 years built up to keep the awards going. At any time, any excess in the Available to Grant account may be moved to grow the endowment fund. 2016 fund raising events will provide added buffering to ensure we maintain the scholarship level and the flexibility to manage the fund for a number of years.

Future...

Will this be the last John Robinson Weekend? Should we take a break and skip a few years? We have asked that question for two years running and the answer from alumni and participants was NO! Too much fun! So we will ask that question again this year. Will you support a 2017 John Robinson Golf Tournament?

The LOHS Alumni Association is dedicated to continuing the legacy of John Robinson and the scholarship endowment that bears his name. Tax deductible donations to the fund are always accepted and appreciated.

John E Robinson Scholarship Fund
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To learn of the John Robinson Memorial, go to:

jers.loneoakalumni.org

You can also follow the alumni at:

www.lohsalumni.com

Or on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/LOHSAlumni

Or check out the Archival Project at:

www.loneoakalumni.org