

WAYNE WIEGAND COMMENTARY

Even before we learned of the \$55,000 that unexpectedly came in this month from two QCDs (WHOOPEE!!!), it very much looked like we were going to be able to fund at least 100 scholarships in 2025—that's more than ever. (And by the way, we do not yet know how much we will be getting from Subaru, which reports a sales increase of 8% over last year.)

At the same time, however, we do not know what impact the incoming administration's immigration policies will have on applications. This morning's *Washington Post* carried an article on what plans the Dreamers were making for 2025, and it was pretty obvious from those Dreamers willing to be quoted that they were very concerned.

Although I don't think we should make any decisions that take into consideration these two concerns until we know how many applicants we will be getting (we'll know the first week in February), I do think it would be in our best interests to think of some alternatives before we have to make that decision.

And here's one alternative that popped into my head I'd like to ask all of you to consider. Fund as many \$3,500 scholarships as we can from the money collected--minus the December \$55,000--but take that \$55,000 and use it to add an additional \$500 to each one. I see a lot of benefits to this possibility:

- 1) Students benefit directly, and donors of named scholarships should have no objection to the supplement;
- 2) It would encourage these two donors to annually repeat their contributions;
- 3) It creates an attractive precedent for others. Potential donors of QCDs over \$20,000 (we would have to set a minimum level for this category of giving) would be told that their very generous gifts will be spread to all RSF scholarship winners;
- 4) It would make for one helluva story in the *Rossmoor News*, and the story hopefully would encourage others to replicate the example of these two generous souls;
- 5) It would do nothing to change our commitment to fund the base \$3,500 scholarship;
- 6) It would give us a flexibility we currently do not have, and would not affect how we solicit donations;
- 7) Imagine those 100+ students turning to the two QCD donors at our Awards Ceremony in May and applauding them for the supplement;
- 8) It makes no more work for us.