

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF MEDIA ASSISTANTS SCHOLARSHIP

History of the Scholarship Fund

When the Georgia Association of Library Assistants (GALA) was organized in March 1957, a plan began that would eventually provide a scholarship fund. In addition to the state dues designated per member, an additional twenty-five cents per member was assessed and set aside for a scholarship fund. When the principal reached $10,000, money could be made available from earnings for scholarships. Through wise investment, and by adding the earned interest back to the principal, the fund reached the sought-for goal of $10,000 in late 1981.

In action by the Executive Board of GAMA meeting September 10, 1982, a motion was passed to form a scholarship committee. The committee is composed of the President and advisor, the Treasurer and advisor, the chairman of the Standards and Qualifications Committee and advisor, and the state advisor. The committee was commissioned to formulate guidelines for the scholarship.

Guidelines for and duties of the committee, criteria for the scholarship, and a scholarship application form were drawn up. These were refined and presented to the GAMA Executive Board meeting at Mercer University, Macon, Georgia, on January 27, 1983. The proposal was passed unanimously. Scholarship information was made available to member schools and added officially to The Lamppost, GAMA’s handbook. The mechanism was then in order for receiving the first application and awarding the first of the GAMA scholarships at the 1983 annual convention.

The scholarship is named the Georgia Association of Media Assistants Scholarship. It is to be awarded annually to an eligible member (or graduated member) of GAMA as funds from the corpus of $10,000 are available. By provision of the farsighted GALA members and advisors who began the initial investment for the fund, the base of $10,000 is to be an endowment to insure funding of the scholarship in perpetuity.

In 2020 a decision was made by the Governing Board of the Georgia Library Association to move the Georgia Association of Media Assistants to inactive status due to lack of participation and willing sponsorship at the State Level. A decision was made to form a committee of former Local/State GAMA Advisers, members of GLA and GAMA to solicit applications for the balance of the funds in the GAMA Scholarship account. A maximum of 16 scholarships will be awarded. Approximate value of these scholarships will be a minimum of $1,000.00.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MAY 1, 2021.**

Please complete the attached application.