History of scholarship funds:

Katherine Glendinning/Hildegard Sweet Scholarship—originally set up for those women who are pursuing a doctorate or master’s degree. There was some discussion that only the interest on the funds would be made available.

In 2009, scholarship funds were consolidated into one account at the direction of the finance committee making it easier to manage and access funds. Previously, monies were invested in at least half a dozen separate accounts.

At the same time, the finance committee established policy to use only the interest from the fund so that the initial investment would remain and funds could continue to be awarded.

Lifelong learning scholarships were established soon afterwards and replaced the Road Scholarships that were previously awarded. These scholarships had seldom been used and members decided that attendance at professional conferences should be included in addition to original scholarships for educational travel programs. Later these scholarships were expanded to include help for attending DKG state and international conferences/convention.

Around 2016 the membership voted to use this money to help with attendance at state conferences and conventions. It was to be an incentive for chapters to pay dues on time and send representatives to state board meetings. Chapters who paid dues on time and had a representative present and fully paid for all meals were placed into a drawing at the spring board meeting to have the registration of their president or her representative paid at the following conference/board meeting.

This was eventually expanded in 2017or 1018 to include the registration for any member who sent in registration, paid for all meals, and attended the entire conference/convention.

In 2018 or 2020 changes were made in our international documents impacting state scholarship funds collected from chapters. As a result, scholarship revenue gained from chapters decreased at a time when we were awarding more scholarships.

All of these changes resulted in awarding more money than was collected from the interest on the scholarship fund and collected from chapters. This led us to the discussion at the fall board meeting.

Lilly shared a document showing interest earned on the account since 2009 and the total of scholarship fees collected with chapter dues. Lilly has been leaving the fees collected from scholarship fees in the general account and using that and general funds to pay scholarships. Once or twice a year as needed, she transferred monies from the scholarship fund to reimburse the general fund for scholarships awarded beyond the scholarship fees. This is done because the state pays a transaction fee every time money is transferred in or out of those accounts.

Both teams feel it is necessary to share this history and the document from Lilly at the Spring Board Meeting so that members can make an informed decision about how to proceed.

Scholarship Team:

The Colorado Scholarship Team worked very diligently to award scholarships to those who applied. We want to recognize their hard work. The Finance Team did not communicate well with new leaders about the history of scholarships and policies that had been implemented in the past.

Questions from Discussion:

Both teams want scholarships awarded in a responsible manner so that scholarships can continue to be available on a long term bases. The following questions came up during our discussion.

The Katherine Glendinning/Hildegard Sweet Scholarship is no longer meeting the needs of our current educators. Times have changed and the original purpose has become outdated. Can the requirements for these scholarships be updated so that they are more available to current members? We need to determine the balance of the funds that were consolidated in 2009 and look back at legal documents to see if this can be done. Do members want this change?

The Scholarship Team asked the Finance Team to communicate the amount of interest available for scholarships to them by July 1—the beginning of our fiscal year. The Bylaws and Standing Rules Team suggested that this be made part of the appendix in the State Standing Rules. What do members think?

Do members want to set a minimum balance for the principal of the scholarship fund? Scholarships can be awarded using interest, scholarship fees from chapters, and any excess principal funds. If the principal dips below this recommendation, scholarship fees from chapters should be used to bring the balance up. How much should this minimum balance be? Lilly is getting a recommendation from our financial adviser.

Do members want to look at changes in the state documents to increase scholarship fees from chapters to better support our members?

How do our members feel scholarship funds should best be awarded? If we keep reimbursing members for registration at conferences/conventions, fewer scholarships will be available for other purposes. If available scholarship funds decrease, what guidelines do members want to give the Scholarship Team for awarding scholarships? The Bylaws and Standing Rules Team suggested that this be made part of the appendix in the State Standing Rules.

Cela and Lilly are creating a combined document for presentation at the board meeting. It will include the information Lilly presented at the meeting and separate dollar amounts awarded for registration fees at state conferences/conventions and those awarded formally through the Scholarship Team.

Final Recommendation from Meeting:

The Finance and Scholarships Teams did not feel it was their place to make the final decision.

Along with the Bylaws and Standing Rules Teams we strongly recommend that these questions be discussed with members at the Spring Board Meeting and that any changes to the state documents be determined by members present and voted upon at the State Convention in June. This gives leaders an opportunity to take revisions of state documents and recommendations to chapter members so that we can have a broader understanding of what our members are thinking.