ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 4.8: SUNSHINE FUND

[Changes are subject to approval by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the whole Board of Directors.]

PURPOSE

To establish a mechanism for providing a measure of financial assistance for those Association members who meet with a qualifying event of a nature that affects their personal lives or that of their immediate family members.

AUTHORITY

In accordance with the budget authority of Article VII of the Association Bylaws, the Board of Directors may create special funds.

POLICY

1. The Association shall establish a benevolent fund called the Sunshine Fund.

2. The Sunshine Fund shall be used to provide financial support to public safety communications professionals or their immediate family members who face an event that places a significant financial burden upon them.

3. Based on the event and the availability of monies in the Sunshine Fund these individuals may qualify for a financial grant to assist them in this situation.

4. The Board of Directors, Executive Council Members, Past Presidents, or members at large, may recommend (nominate) a professional as a recipient for assistance.

   4.1 The nomination is made by requesting a Sunshine Fund form from the Director of Human Resources at the Association headquarters.

   4.2 Upon receipt, the form must be completed, returned to the Director, and screened by the appointed review panel.

   4.3 A decision will be made, and the recommender notified of the results.

   4.4 If the circumstances of the nominee fail to meet the criteria, the reasons will be communicated.

5. To qualify for consideration, the nominee must meet these minimum requirements.

   5.1 Be an individual who meets the eligibility criteria for any level of membership of the Association regardless of actual membership status at the time of the qualifying event.

5.2   Recently experienced a life-changing or life-interference event.

5.3   Paid staff members or paid contract staff are also eligible for assistance from this fund.

6.   A Review Panel will be established to coordinate and administer the activities associated with this fund.

    6.1   The Review Panel will be named by the Executive Director and ratified by the President of APCO-International.

    6.2   The Director of Human Resources will preside over the Review Panel.

    6.3   Preference shall be given to current members of the Association, especially if available funds are limited, but the Review Panel has discretion to weigh other factors consistent with the intent of the Sunshine Fund in determining eligibility and the appropriate award tier.

7.   The following controls shall be put in place for the Sunshine Fund.

    7.1   The Sunshine Fund will be funded primarily by the voluntary contributions of the membership.

    7.2   The Sunshine Fund will be maintained as a separate dedicated account.

    7.3   All releases from the Sunshine Fund must be made at the request of the Director of Human Resources and released by the signature authority of the CFO.

8.   A two-tiered system is established for types of assistance that shall include, but not be limited to, the types of incidents listed below.

    8.1   Tier One responds to life-changing incidents in the amount of one thousand dollars ($1,000).

        8.1.1   A nominee or their spouse or dependent child loses their life.

        8.1.2   A nominee's spouse or dependent child experiences a critical illness or injury.

        8.1.3   A nominee's primary residence is lost as a result of a fire, storm, or similar disaster.

        8.1.4   A nominee experiences a critical illness or injury resulting in a disability.

    8.2   Tier Two responds to life-interference incidents in the amount of five hundred dollars ($500).

        8.2.1   A nominee experiences an accident with recoverable injuries.

        8.2.2   A nominee's primary residence is damaged as a result of a fire, storm, or similar disaster.