

CREATIVE USES OF 2011 PACIF SCHOLARSHIPS

Throughout 2011, PACIF has made funds available for members to use for employee training: up to \$500 for each of two individuals or up to \$2,500 for a group of trainees, per member. The training must support public entity risk management and/or safety. The use of these funds is catching on in ways that are both varied and resourceful. Below are some highlights of scholarships granted so far this year.

- As in many Vermont communities, the water system of the Town of Essex includes some Asbestos Cement (AC) pipe. The Town of Essex Public Works department wanted to make sure its employees are safe when the need for repairs arises. To this end, Essex Town applied for and received not just one but two types of PACIF funding: an **equipment grant** to help pay for a gas-powered wet saw which cuts AC pipe in accordance with OSHA requirements, and a **group scholarship** for custom training which taught 20 employees the safe handling and proper repair procedures required for using the saw and repairing AC pipe.
- The Town of Benson teamed with the Town of Fair Haven to provide three days of Game of Logging (GOL) chain saw safety training to ten of their Public Works employees. PACIF runs certain GOL classes which are open to all PACIF members, but attendance at these is capped at one employee per member per year. By hosting the training and paying for it with their two scholarships, Benson and Fair Haven were able to have several of their employees trained in a single year.
- The Fire Chiefs of Stowe and Waterbury had discussed the value of trainings offered by Richard Gasaway of St. Paul, Minnesota. Gasaway has 30 years of experience as a firefighter, paramedic, and fire chief, and he now tours internationally giving powerful presentations on emergency services leadership — but his speaking fee is high. The solution? These two fire departments are combining their PACIF scholarships to bring Gasaway to Stowe in November to speak to area fire, rescue, and police personnel on the topic “Fifty Ways to Kill a First Responder: Situational Awareness and Decision Making.”

The committee that evaluates scholarship requests is pleased that applicants are considering various possibilities in putting these PACIF funds to good use. Better yet, there are still some funds set aside for 2011. To learn more about the program and for a link to an application, go to www.vlct.org/rms/pacif/ and click on **PACIF Scholarships**.

Joe Damiata, Manager, Underwriting, Safety and Health Promotion
Risk Management Services

Editor's note: One bullet item that appeared in the original article has been deleted from this reprint because it describes reimbursement for meals during travel, which is not an eligible expense for 2012 PACIF Scholarships.