

Rodger Vannatter Grant

The Kentucky Florists Association through its Education Committee may bestow one grant annually. The grant may cover but not exceed \$750.00 of the cost of registration for the recipient to attend a floral educational class or convention. The Grant has been established to remember and honor Rodger Vannatter, in keeping with his desire to aid and assist anyone who wishes to achieve higher educational goals.

The goal of the grant program is to expose and encourage people who have chosen the floral industry as a profession to achieve higher levels of knowledge within the industry. The Grant is also a way for KFA to increase awareness and encourage non-members of the advantages of KFA membership.

In order to be eligible for the Rodger Vannatter Grant, individuals must:

- A. Be involved or seeking a career in the floral industry and be a member of the Kentucky Florists Association.
- B. Have not previously received monies from the Rodger Vannatter Grant
- C. Attend a KFA educational committee approved program

Grant Fund

A special fund shall be established and set aside for the Rodger Vannatter Grant use. If no awards are made within a particular year, the fund shall continue to accrue so that a maximum of two grants may be given during a particular year. It is recommended that the monies be budgeted each year by the KFA Board in a Rodger Vannatter Grant treasury fund. This fund cannot be redirected to other purposes. Monies may be raised to support this fund through fundraisers, auctions or donations in memory of Rodger Vannatter. The KFA board may seek other avenues under financial emergency as deemed by a majority vote of the board.

Educational Committee Responsibilities

The educational committee with the approval of the KFA board is responsible to advertise and promote the grant program opportunities through numerous means including:

- KFA District shows
- Wholesale Florist Shows
- Wire Service Florist Shows
- KFA Newsletters
- KFA Web Site Publications
- KFA Convention Publications
- District Chairmen

Deadlines

Grant applications deadlines are due on October 1st of each year. The Educational Committee may or may not award the Rodger Vannatter Grant annually. An award for an individual person is at the discretion of the board. A two thirds majority vote of the board members present is required to award a grant. Should a grant not be awarded in a particular year, the Board, under notification by the education chair, may request more than one grant the following year.

Selection

By the October meeting the education committee shall rank the grant applications in descending order from highest to lowest priority. The Educational committee chair must provide the members of the board with a copy of the grant applications during the October board meeting by rank. The Education chair will notify all applicants of the Board's decisions as to whether their application were or were not accepted by a mailed letter. Any application not accepted will not be retained and is the responsibility of the applicant to resubmit the following year. This letter to grant applicants shall express thanks for their submission no matter the outcome. The Board may designate a recipient for the for the grant and notify the winner of such designation and its requirements during the annual convention. It is the responsibility of the educational chairperson to formally introduce the grant recipient to the KFA membership at the annual convention. The chair shall invite the grant recipient to volunteer at the convention the following year. The idea behind this is to provide many positive opportunities to meet other KFA members and gain behind-the-scenes experience necessary to produce such an event.

Persons offered the grant are responsible for the collection of registration forms or contracts to secure registration. These forms must be submitted to the educational chairperson within 30 days of the event to confirm attendance or relinquish the grant. Grants will not be sent directly to awardees but shall be mailed to the appropriate registry prior to registration deadlines. KFA shall require documentation of attendance and completion of the educational program. If the recipient does not fulfill these obligations then he or she is required to reimburse in full all grant monies within 60 days of the event.