Louisiana AFL-CIO

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2026 Scholarship Opportunities

In March of 2026 the Louisiana AFL-CIO will be awarding three $1000 scholarships!

All contestants must have their application materials postmarked by January 16, 2026, and mailed directly to Mrs. Sharon Reine at Louisiana AFL-CIO Scholarships, P. O. Box 3477, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. ***Please note: The postmark deadline cannot be extended.***

To be eligible to enter this essay contest, all contestants must be high school **seniors** residing in the State of Louisiana whose parent/stepparent is a member of an *affiliated local union in good standing with the Louisiana AFL-CIO.*

An essay is required for consideration in this competition and must be on the announced topic. The topic of the essay is "**Unions Then and Now: Union benefits offered now vs 30 years ago**" and the rules are as follows:

(1) Contestants are expected to use encyclopedias, textbooks, the Internet, biographies, bulletins, newspaper articles, the AIL Labor Letter, reports of private organizations or governmental agencies, personal interviews with union personnel (other than their parents), and other research materials deemed appropriate as sources of information. Research materials should be properly cited and documented.

(2) The contestant's application must include the following:

a. A one-page cover sheet showing the student's name, address, phone number, name of school, name of parent who is a union member, and the complete name, local union number and telephone number of the local union of which the parent is a member.

b. All applicants must submit an essay of 1,500 - 2,000 words on the topic. **DO NOT put your name on the essay!**

c. A current copy of the applicant's high school transcript.

The scholarships will be awarded primarily on the basis of the essay's worthiness, but the required information will be considered as well. Essays will be judged on the basis of the ideas presented and developed, the quality and pertinence of the reference information employed, and the overall clarity and originality of the essay. Applicants are encouraged to develop and construct an essay after performing research and not relying on the use of AI. The scholarships are offered by:

AMERICAN INCOME LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
*Sponsoring the **Emile J. Bourg, Sr. Scholarship Award***

THE LOUISIANA AFL-CIO
*Sponsoring the **Victor Bussie Scholarship Award***
*Sponsoring the **Gordon Flory Scholarship Award***