



# The Education Foundations

**Charles M. Fornaci, SR/WA**  
**Executive Vice-President**

One of the more far-reaching and significant forward steps taken by our Association in the last 10 years has been to formalize the concept of International Foundations. First, the Board of Directors in 1976 established the Right of Way International Education Foundation, and in 1979, set up a similar Foundation for Canada.

Both have, as the purpose stated in their Articles of Incorporation, "... to receive gifts ... and to hold, use ... and disburse the same ... for the furtherance of educational, literary, charitable and scientific purposes." Both qualify for income tax purposes as exempt Foundations, and contributions count as legitimate tax deductions.

In layman's terms, the Foundations give our Association a separate funding source solely dedicated to the advancement of our education program. We look to the day when our Foundation will be able to provide all of the seed money for new course development, for course revisions, for Chapter programming aids, and for other projects in our general education area.

Through the years, the board of directors set up awards and scholarships to honor certain people in our Association. Today we have separate accounts for the \$600 scholarship awarded annually to the University of Santa Clara in memory of Frank C. Balfour, a \$500 scholarship in the name of Mark Green, awarded to a university chosen by the winner of the best article appearing in Right of Way magazine; a \$250 award made to an outstanding contributor to the right-of-way pro-

fession in honor of Y.T. and Louise Lum; and \$400 awarded annually in the name of Gene L. Land to the Chapters showing the most membership growth.

It has been a long, slow process, but today just about all of these special awards are totally funded by the interest earned in the designated accounts. In 1980, a special task force chaired by Past President R. Tom Benson undertook a campaign to increase contributions to the undesignated portion of the Foundations, thereby giving us actual working capital specifically geared to course development, revisions, etc. A further decision by the Trustees was to use interest only, and not the principal, to fund these projects. The feeling was to keep the bulk of our funds untouched to provide a continuing source of available funds.

To increase revenue for the undesignated fund, we have, for the past three years, gone to the membership and asked that they contribute five extra dollars with their dues payment. In addition, we have made a special plea to our Chapters to return a portion of the monies they earn on their education courses. Finally, membership of the Executive Committee have committed to contribute a significant donation each year to the Foundations.

All of these efforts to increase funding for the Foundation have paid off. At the end of 1983, the amount in our Foundation stood at \$63,000, including interest accrued over the year. True to their commitment, the Trustees in 1982 authorized funds to

pay for the development of two new courses, "The Income Approach to Valuation" and "Creatively Solving Problems." Both are now "on board" and a part of our regular course offerings. In 1983, the Trustees voted to loan (at market interest) half of the monies needed to publish a new revised edition of our Principles text book. In 1984, the Trustees will again meet to consider funding for worthwhile educational endeavors, strengthened by increasing interest earned in our accounts.

Over and above the very tangible financial help the Foundation provides, it also constitutes a commitment to and by our membership for continued excellence for our profession by making positive contributions to those in the right-of-way field. The Foundation is our ultimate mark of professionalism and represents a tangible symbol of pride we all share in being part of a growing, dynamic profession.

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