

Norma Showley Scholarship Fund

For many years, FAPPO's annual budget has included money for scholarships and tuition reimbursement. These funds are available to any member who meets the requirements established by the Professional Development Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. The requests for assistance are always greater than the amount of money available.

In 2007, the Board approved the creation of the Norma Showley Scholarship Fund. This was done so that individual members of FAPPO would have the opportunity to make a donation to assist other members in the pursuit of their education. None of us has gotten where we are without the help of others and it is in this spirit that the fund was created so that we may assist as many members as possible.

Who was Norma Showley? She was a long time member of FAPPO and twice served as its President. She passed away on July 3, 2003. At that time, a close friend of hers and Past President named Bernadette Hitchins wrote the following message for the FAPPO newsletter. This will explain better than anything who Norma was.

MESSAGE OF LOVE AND REMEMBRANCE

When asked to write a brief message about Norma Showley I wondered how I could do her justice and keep it short. For those who had the pleasure of knowing her, there are no short descriptions of Norma. For those who did not have the opportunity to spend time with her, my lack of an author's ability to bring her to you by mere words is difficult at best. Allow me to try to give Norma to you with words from my heart.

I met Norma in 1978 when we both attended a one-day seminar offered by FAPPO. Our agencies were not inclined to provide travel money for mere purchasing people so we made deals with our respective agencies: We would share the cost of the room, meals and gas if they would pay our registration. Thus began the involvement of the most respected member of FAPPO.

She was working in Lake County under someone who encouraged her education in the purchasing field. Within a few years she was hired as Purchasing Agent for the City of Eustis, a small city in Lake County. It didn't take long for the city officials to recognize the true professional qualities in Norma and she was soon promoted to General Services Manager.

During all this time she kept her involvement in FAPPO and in 1983 was elected Treasurer of the association. In 1988 she became our 21st President. Norma has the dubious distinction of holding the Presidency twice. She was elected President again in 1995 when the then current President left office. The Board unanimously voted her in for this second term because of her competency and the professional manner in which she solved problems. That year was a real challenge, even for Norma, but she pulled the association out of what could have been a disastrous situation.

Norma went on to serve as FAPPO's Historian and as a Presidential Advisor up until her illness forced her to be less active. Still, up until her death, her love for the Association remained on her mind and in her heart.

On a personal note, Norma, was *my* rock. If ever you needed words of wisdom about a personal or professional problem, Norma could give you volumes in a few short sentences. When someone became agitated, Norma had a calming resolve about her that would dissolve situations that could potentially become uncomfortable. She gave of herself unselfishly and without hesitation. Friends like her are hard to come by. I'm sure those of you who knew her would agree. Those who did not know her can only guess at how lucky we are to have been called "friend" by her. Norma, I will always respect and love you and miss you beyond words.