

The Wally Beets-John Marino Scholarship Fund

A scholarship envisioned for students of all interests.



In March of 2005 the Board of Directors of the Salina Country Club voted to establish the Wally Beets-John Marino Scholarship Fund. The scholarship fund was implemented to honor these two individuals who displayed great devotion to the Salina Country Club, its members and the employees. Wally's and John's dedication to their jobs was beyond that of what was normally expected of individuals holding positions such as theirs at other country clubs. Through their efforts the Salina Country Club came to enjoy great success as a Club and is, to this day, recognized as being one of the truly great Clubs of Kansas. This was accomplished with considerably less financial resources than other high profile Clubs in Kansas and could have only occurred because of their incredible commitment.

In keeping with both Wally's and John's spirit, the fund was established to benefit selected current or former employees in their pursuit of further education beyond their high school education. Wally and John appreciated young hardworking teenagers who gave great service and worked to improve themselves through their own efforts. Wally and John both encouraged these types of individuals and would love nothing more than to help young men and women reach their goals.

Wally Beets

Wally Beets was an accomplished golfer and professional. John Marino knew of Wally's abilities while he was serving at another Club and decided to recommend him to the Board for the Golf Professional position at the Salina Country Club.

Wally Beets began his career at the Club in 1955. He gave lessons; stocked the golf shop; ran the caddy program and added a fleet of golf carts for rental to his operation as a service to the members. Wally was well respected by the PGA as a club professional who ran a high-quality operation during his tenure at the Salina Country Club. Wally as a PGA member for 54 years and was inducted into the Kansas Golf Hall of Fame in 2002.

Wally was a renowned teacher. He instructed and trained many golfers young and old. His biggest influence, however, was his effect on those young people who worked for him. Many successful individuals have taken the time to relay the long lasting affect Wally's guidance has had on their lives. Wally modeled for all to see just what a gentleman should be.

John Marino

The Salina Country Club was established in 1911, but it wasn't until 1959 that John Marino was hired as the first General Manager of the Club. The Board of Directors decided that a General Manager form of management was needed at the Club, and John was asked to manage all aspects of the Club's operation. Before accepting the position of General Manager at the Club, John managed the club's Mixed Grill Room from 1954 till 1959. John held the position of General Manager at the Salina Country Club from 1959 until 1984 when he retired. Upon his retirement, John was made an Honorary Member in the Club.

John Marino contributed tremendously to the Club's success and eminence. John managed the Club's assets in a very fiscally responsible manner and under his guidance the Salina Country Club became well known in Kansas as a high-quality facility made available to its members for an incredibly reasonable price. In the club management field John Marino was a standout amongst his peers, he was well respected for what he accomplished as the general manager at the Salina Country Club and also for his amateur golf playing ability.

John influenced many young people who worked under his direction and marveled at his dedication to his work. John served as a role model for many young men and women as they moved on to other careers.

Criteria for Recipients (male or female)

- 1) Applicants currently are or have been employed by the Salina Country Club within the 24 previous months.
- 2) Applicants must be eligible to attend or are currently attending any accredited post-secondary school.
- 3) Applicants must have a 2.0 minimum GPA.
- 4) Applicants must provide a letter of recommendation from a current or former teacher, or another adult for whom the applicant has studied or worked- outside of the Salina Country Club.
- 5) Applicant should display strong characteristics in one or more areas including: leadership, community service, extra-curricular school activities or employment.
- 6) All merit criteria being the same, the primary basis for awarding scholarships will be student financial need.
- 7) All applicants shall be judged on the merit of the application with regard to the criteria outlined above, and no special preference shall be given to applicants because they may be members of the Salina Country Club.

Determination of Recipients: Applications will be reviewed and a selection committee shall determine scholarship recipients. The selection committee is comprised of the 7 members.

The successful applicant(s) will be notified between April 15-May 15 by the Greater Salina Community Foundation

Application available online at:

<https://www.grantinterface.com/gscfscholarship/Common/LogOn.aspx>

Deadline for application: March 1, 2017

Applications received after the deadline date will not be considered.

The successful applicant(s) will be notified after the Board of Directors of the Salina Country Club has approved the award(s).