The Ladies Education Society was founded in 1833 in Jacksonville, Illinois, to “find promising girls who may be educated to become teachers and to collect funds for their tuition.” Now the oldest women’s society in the United States, having met continually for over 175 years, we still look for worthy girls and women living in Jacksonville, IL and the surrounding area who have a genuine financial need, and help them obtain college educations. Today, however, they may choose any field of study in an accredited four-year college or university.

While applicants must be solid students, honor grades are not required; need remains the primary criteria.

The application process includes the following steps:

1. The applicant must send a letter or email to the Society scholarship committee chair (see contact information below). This letter should contain the following information: personal and family background, academic record and work experience, the name of the school the applicant hopes to attend, estimated cost per year and the plan for meeting that cost. This letter should be received by March 30.

2. If the letter indicates an appropriate candidate, she will receive an application form in the mail. If not, the interested applicant will be notified.

3. Finally, after all the application forms from interested candidates have been evaluated in relation to available funds, personal interviews will be arranged. All those who apply will be notified at the end of May.

Addenda:

- Since the Ladies Education Society expects to continue support for the remaining years of a woman’s college career, only a few new scholarships are available in the average year.

- Counselors are urged to recommend no more than two students from one school in the same year.

- The only source of these scholarship funds is income from an endowment. Grants may, therefore, vary from year to year.

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