

In 2014, financial aid of \$8,374 was provided to all who applied. The aid provided by the All Star 1 Financial Aid Fund was and usually is given mostly to returning old shoalers. It enabled these returning shoalers, representing 16 families, to fill 25 beds for the week. The amount is consistent with the downward trend in requests for aid which can probably be attributed to the increase in available jobs and somewhat improving economic conditions in our country.

It is important to point out the difference that exists between members of our educational children's staff, who receive room and board for the considerable devoted work and planning that they do, and the financial aid that this committee provides for applicants who state—on the honor system—that they would be unable to attend our conference without receiving up to a 50% percentage in aid for their families.

Note also that anyone who applies to the Star Island Corporation's fund and is granted aid cannot apply for and receive further aid from AS1's FAC. The SIC distributes its aid to all conferences and does not permit its recipients to receive further aid from AS1 or any other conference. An applicant has to choose to receive all his or her aid from the corporation or the conference.

We are pleased to say that although applicants did not always receive the exact amount requested, no applicant has ever been turned down for aid--which might have prevented them from attending AS1 that year. Some applicants have received aid more than three times in a row, but we consider each case carefully and based on our conference's policy to support an economically diverse community and on the applicant's contributions of time, effort and the family's continued history of attendance, their attendance was determined to have benefitted the beloved community, of which they are a part.

Many need just a few hundred dollars to be able to attend, even though the cost of a room has risen over 250% (adjusted for inflation) since 1980. We continue to operate under the Guideline permitting the FAC's flexibility and further consideration of an applicant's needs, adopted at the 2011 Chairs meeting.

The AS1 FAC did not exceed the amount budgeted for it this year, and has continued to raise money on its own from the sale of AS1 Tee shirts designed and supplied by Suzanne and David Cook, and marketed by Gabrielle Prochaska. No funds that were raised by the Art Auction were used for aid in 2014. We have made it a practice to not solicit funds during the Island vacation, nor were any additional funds solicited during the year, other than a suggestion in the Blue Book containing the AS1 applications for attendance and aid.

Our committee of Shelley Powsner, Holly Hunnicutt, (replaced by Caroline Quijada this year), Joy Close and me, Elizabeth Yermack, are voting members who have come to our decisions through discussion and consensus. Over the years we have been helped enormously by our Registrars: Annie & Scott Stewart, Bill Tibbs and Ali Walton, as well as by the AS 1 Treasurer, Bill Gimpel, all of whom are ex-officio members of the FAC. In addition we have also benefited by our interaction with our helpful and understanding liaison with AS1 governance, Tricia Coleman. In the interest of confidentiality, we decided early on to leave the sole copies of applications for aid with the convener, who has placed them, along with our organizational notes and correspondence in a large notebook. We are quite proud of the ease with which we've worked together and the strict importance we've placed on adherence to confidentiality.

The history for financial aid is:

2009	\$13,500	55 beds filled weekly	In 2009, the SIC also gave a 15% discount to those requesting it in order to encourage conferees to return after the Island's shutdown in 2008.
2010	\$11,740	49	
2011	\$8,182	31	
2012	\$7,949	24	
2013	\$8,960	21	
2014	\$8,374	25	

I am stepping down as Convener, and feel confident that the FAC is working so well that it can run itself. I have enjoyed working with this fine group very much and know that they will continue to do a good job in the future. Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Yermack  
Convener, AS1 Financial Aid Committee