

SEEK FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO TAKE A MODELING WORKSHOP, FROM A LOCAL SERVICE ORGANIZATION

by Jane Jackson, Co-Director, Modeling Instruction Program, ASU
with Colleen Megowan, founding AMTA Executive Officer (orig. 2013; updated 2024)

Here are ways that you might get local help with your expenses to take a Modeling Workshop.

Ask for financial support (e.g., registration, housing, classroom technology) from a community service organization -- and, at the same time, educate your community and strengthen high-quality STEM education locally. Read Colleen's note below.

- * Contact an officer of a local service organization and offer to give a luncheon PPT talk.
- * First seek your principal's advice; tell him/her that you offer to be an ambassador for your school – to showcase your excellence in STEM to your local business & professional community. Ask him/her if he knows any officers.

Why: People in local service organizations NEED to hear about Modeling Instruction. Otherwise they hear bad press about K-12 education. Often they do not know a science teacher who uses best practices. It's a win-win.

[Colleen Megowan posted this to the AMTA listserv in 2012.]

Dear all,

Do you know someone (maybe you?) who wants to attend a Modeling Workshop this summer but can't afford it? Suggest that they contact their local chapter of Rotary, Lions, Elks, or Soroptimist International (or other community service organizations) and ask to speak at an upcoming weekly lunch meeting. They need a speaker every week. You might be surprised at how glad they are to have a competent speaker volunteer to be on the program.

On the AMTA website (<https://www.modelinginstruction.org>) and the ASU Modeling Instruction website (<https://modeling.asu.edu>) are resources and sample grant proposals that you can adapt to request funds.

These organizations budget annually to support education. Sometimes they get to the end of their fiscal year and they have must look for things to fund. Supporting a teacher they've met would be much more meaningful to them than sponsoring another essay contest.

Maybe you're a department chair and you want others in your department to have the opportunity to have Modeling Workshops this summer. Pitch it to Rotary; you might find yourself walking out with a \$3000 check in your pocket. What have you got to lose ... at the very least it'll be a free lunch; and a few more (potentially influential) people in your community will hear about Modeling Instruction.

A list of service organizations and practical suggestions, by Jane Jackson

These organizations in cities nationwide have given (outside awards) tuition scholarships to the ASU Foundation: Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, Rotary, Elks, Fraternal Order of Eagles, Masons, Odd Fellows, Jaycees, Key Club, Knights of Columbus, Royal Order of Moose, American Legion, Sertoma, VFW. Also, PTAs & many churches. (Women: Soroptimists, AAUW, PEO Sisterhood, Business & Professional Women, Job's Daughters, Lioness, Order of Eastern Star, Rebekah Lodge, VFW Ladies Auxiliary, sororities).

To find a community service organization, google them and follow links to the local branch and name of officer. Contact him/her. Or ask school administrators for names of local leaders.

- 1) Tell the officer of your desire to be of service to your students and science colleagues (e.g., by taking a Modeling Workshop and then sharing what you learn.)
- 2) Offer to give a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation on science & math education reform (adapt a PowerPoint; email jane.jackson@asu.edu for one).
- 3) Tell the officer that you seek their financial support to improve your teaching. Ask for his advice.
- 4) If the organization funds you, ask them to reimburse you or give you a monetary gift. That simplifies it, for you pay your expenses directly, with no middle man.

SUCSESSES:

1st example: David Hestenes gave a PowerPoint talk to the Soroptimists in Phoenix. That motivated them to give \$3000 in tuition scholarships to our ASU Foundation tuition scholarship account for Arizona teachers who take a Modeling Workshop.

2nd example: a physics teacher organized a Modeling Workshop in another state, but his school had to charge \$600. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus. A local nun wanted to take his workshop. He wrote me, "my fellow local Knights of Columbus have donated the fees for Sister ---". He asked a leader in that group, who brought it up at the next meeting, and the membership voted to approve it.

3rd example: a non-Arizona rural physics & chemistry teacher in the ASU MNS degree program wrote that in 2013 he spoke to his hometown "Rotary Club at one of their meetings and they agreed to cover 1/2 my housing cost. The school board member who represents my school also generously contributed to my travel expenses."