

**American Municipal Power (AMP)**  
**Lyle B. Wright and Richard H. Gorsuch 2020 Scholarship Program**

**Purpose:** To establish an educational program encouraging high school students to further their education, and to create an awareness of careers in the municipal electric utility field.

**Awards:** There are up to five (5), one-time scholarship awards of \$3,000 each. Each municipality in the AMP member community (*Town of Front Royal is a member*) is to send AMP one nominee per scholarship.

**Rules and Eligibility:** The following provisions will govern the acceptance of an applicant:

1) Applicant must be a graduating high school senior who has met all of the basic requirements for college or technical school entrance and has a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.

2) Applicant must be a student who fits the criteria in one of the two descriptions below:

**Lyle B. Wright Scholarship (\$3,000)** – must be a student whose household receives electricity from the Town of Front Royal. Students who qualify for the Gorsuch Scholarship may not apply.

**Richard H. Gorsuch Scholarship (\$3,000)** – must be a student whose parent/guardian is employed by the Town's Energy Services Department, Finance Department, Town Manager's Office or elected to Town Council.

3) Applicant must send a completed application with a short essay on Electricity or Green Initiatives attached, to the Town of Front Royal by **Monday, December 9, 2019 at 5:00pm**. A committee will review all nominations and one nominee will be selected for each scholarship. The Town Manager will submit a letter to all nominees advising them of their status after December 13, 2019.

# RICHARD H. GORSUCH

Richard H. Gorsuch was president of American Municipal Power (AMP) from 1983 until his death in 1987, AMP is the non-profit wholesale power supplier and services provider for 135 member municipal electric systems in the states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Virginia, Kentucky, West Virginia, Indiana, Maryland and Delaware. Combined, these public utilities serve more than 650,000 customers. Gorsuch is remembered for the vital role he played in protecting public power interests promoting the advantages of municipally owned electric utilities and advancing public power on local, state and national levels.

When Gorsuch joined AMP in 1983, the organization had only recently expanded its trade association status to encompass power purchase and transmission services. Under his leadership, the organization went from 46 to 75 members, increased power sales from \$25 million to \$85 million annually, expanded its services to member communities and increased public power activity in the legislative process.

Perhaps the biggest contribution of Gorsuch's leadership was his dream that Ohio's municipal electric communities could one day be joint owners of an electric generating plant. This dream became a reality when the Richard H. Gorsuch Generating Station was dedicated in his memory on Nov. 16, 1988.

Gorsuch also served as chief operating officer of the Ohio Municipal Electric Association (OMEA). The OMEA which was AMP's predecessor, now serves as AMP's legislative liaison. One of Gorsuch's greatest accomplishments in this capacity was to organize and lead a team to introduce joint action legislation in the Ohio General Assembly. By spearheading this project, Gorsuch provided substantial guidance to AMP and its community officials in drumming up grassroots support for municipal power issues.

During his AMP tenure, Gorsuch introduced many member service programs, including the Public Power News, a quarterly consumer newspaper designed to educate municipal electric consumers about public power.

On the national front, Gorsuch was a member of the American Public Power Association Advisory Council.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in political science in 1961 from Otterbein College in Westerville, Gorsuch went on to study law at Franklin University in Columbus.

Gorsuch had a keen interest in his hometown of Westerville. He served on the Westerville City Council for approximately 11 years, four of those as chairman. From 1961 to 1969 Gorsuch was a Westerville auxiliary police sergeant, and from 1964 to 1969 he was a volunteer firefighter for the city. Gorsuch also served his community through membership in various community and professional organizations, including the Jaycee's, which named him Outstanding Man of the Year.

# LYLE B. WRIGHT

Lyle B. Wright was a strong public power advocate on both state and local levels.

Wright began his career in public power in 1955 as the business manager of Bowling Green Municipal Utilities, eventually becoming the city's director of utilities. His accomplishments in Bowling Green include directing development of a \$26 million wastewater treatment facility, working on a multimillion dollar sewer improvement plan and directing construction of two 1.5-million-gallon water towers.

Wright also was active in Ohio's statewide public power organizations. He served on the boards of both American Municipal Power, Inc. (AMP) and the Ohio Municipal Electric Association (OMEA). AMP is the non-profit wholesale power supplier and services provider for 135 member municipal electric systems in the states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Virginia, Kentucky, West Virginia, Indiana, Maryland and Delaware. Combined these public utilities serve more than 650,000 customers. The OMEA which was AMP's predecessor, now serves as AMP's legislative liaison.

Wright was a member of the OMEA and AMP boards from 1979 to 1986, serving as president of the OMEA board from 1981 to 1982. He became secretary of the AMP board in 1983 and served in that position until his death in 1986. Wright was chairman of AMP's policy committee and of the rate group representing public power communities in the Toledo Edison service area. In 1983, he received AMP's Distinguished Service Award.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Wright was devoted to his wife, six children, 11 grandchildren and his faith. He was a longtime member of Bowling Green's St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Wright also volunteered his time to the Boy Scouts, Masonic Order, Kiwanis, American Heart Association and numerous professional organizations.

Wright's death in December 1986 had a strong impact on his family, his community and other public power communities across the state. In 1987, the AMP board voted to pay him tribute by establishing the Lyle B. Wright Scholarship.

**AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER (AMP)  
2020 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM  
APPLICATION**

(please print)

Scholarship Applying For  
(select only one)

Lyle B. Wright

Richard H. Gorsuch

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

School Currently Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Post-Secondary School \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Field of Study \_\_\_\_\_

Extracurricular Activities \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please attach a short essay on Electricity or Green Initiatives**

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**Deadline: Monday, December 9, 2019 @ 5:00pm**

Once completed return application by E-mail, Mail, Fax or Delivery to:  
Tina L. Presley, Sr. Executive Assistant to Town Manager at [tpresley@frontroyalva.com](mailto:tpresley@frontroyalva.com)  
Town Hall, 102 E. Main Street, P.O. Box 1560, Front Royal, VA 22630  
Office (540)635-8007; Fax (540)636-7475, Monday-Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm