

THE FLORIMOND VOLCKAERT FUND



Florimond Volckaert

Born on 23 February 1898 and died on 17 January 1968, was the acknowledged founder of Skål the first World President of Skål International.

PURPOSE OF THE FUND

Discussions commenced on the setting up of a benevolent fund in 1949 and in recognition of the tireless work that Florimond Volckaert put into Skål, the fund, approved by the General Assembly of Clubs during the Congress held in Mallorca, Spain in October 1953, was named in his honour. As a result the Florimond Volckaert Fund was set up in 1954 to provide assistance to Skålleagues and their immediate families who are encountering serious problems which cannot be resolved through other means.

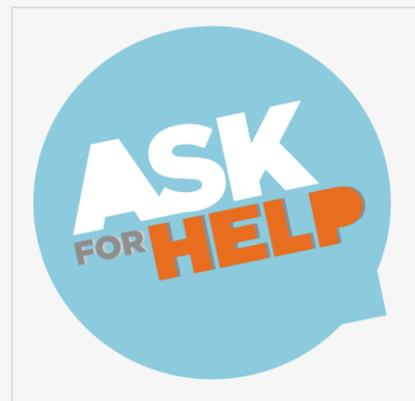
The purpose of the fund is to extend the amicale of Skål to fellow Skålleagues who, due to circumstance, find themselves in need of financial help. The assistance can be in the form of a gift or a loan but usually it is provided as a gift because the members in need of help can be expected to have difficulties paying back a loan.

REASONS TO REQUEST HELP

There are innumerable reasons why help can be requested such as, for example:

- Death of a Skålleague whose spouse then needs assistance to pay schools fees for their children.
- Cost of surgical/hospital services which cannot be obtained elsewhere.
- Equipment for a physically disabled Skålleague so that the quality of life can be improved.
- Help for members and their immediate families affected by natural disasters.
- Financial assistance in special circumstances because of reduced income or as a result of prolonged illness.
- Criminal damage (not covered by insurance or other means).

or such similar or justifiable circumstances as may be approved by the Trustees as defined in the Skål International By Laws. **Loans for business purposes cannot be authorised.**



It is very important to note that the Fund should not be regarded as an insurance policy but rather as a crisis fund. It exists to help Skålleagues who have nowhere else to turn to.

The Fund is administered by three Trustees, who are appointed by the Executive Committee for a period of four years with a possible reappointment of a further four year term. The Trustees are charged with the primary responsibility of maintaining the assets of the Fund and approval of all payments from it. Decisions by the Trustees shall be majority decisions. One of the Trustees, as decided between them, is responsible for coordinating their activities and for preparing accounts and reports in accordance with the By Laws. It is not a primary duty of the Trustees to promote the contributions to the Fund. The Trustees are solely responsible for the administration of the Fund and they stand outside of the control of the Executive Committee and Secretariat. The decision on the allocation of the Funds is solely that of the three Trustees and as with all decisions on the disbursement of funds the Trustees maintain total confidentiality.

The monies in the fund come from donations from individual Skålleagues, Clubs, National and Area Committees.

Any paid-up Skålleague can appeal for assistance and the Trustees have seen many instances where members who were leading comfortable lives have suddenly encountered a crisis through no fault of their own and have fallen back on the Fund to help them get through. As one recipient of help said: *"In all the years that I was soliciting donations for the FVF, I never dreamed that I would, one day, be asking for help from it."*

DONATE NOW

To assist Skålleagues considering applying to the fund the Trustees recommend that all Skålleagues be aware of the following:

- The By-Laws are very specific as to how the Fund is to be used and administered. Councillors and others making applications for a grant should read through the By-Laws which are available in our site. (www.skål.org)
- Briefly, the By-Laws specify that the Fund is for use in certain old age situations, death, illness, medical expenses, accidents and criminal damage. It cannot be used by a Skålleague just because he has fallen on hard times, sad though his situation may be. It cannot be used for providing business loans.
- The more information the person who is making the application can give the better and all questions on the application form which is available on the Skål Website should be answered if possible. Support from a Councillor also helps. The Trustees try to clear the appeals as fast as they can and are sympathetic to such appeals but they also have a duty to the Association and its Members to ensure the Fund is used wisely so must be satisfied that the appeal is genuine and deserved.
- When grants are given they always make a difference, usually a substantial difference, to the well-being of the recipient, sometimes to the point of being the difference between life and death.

In today's world where we see a dramatic increase in natural disasters that impact heavily on the tourism industry it is rather sad to see that less than 10% of Skål members contribute to the Fund. Some clubs have made it easy for their members to contribute by including a small donation as part of their annual fees.

So why do we neglect one of the most important founding pillars of our organisation - amicale and helping our fellow Skålleagues in time of trouble? Yes, Skål members do contribute fantastically to natural disaster situations such as the recent cyclone and flooding in Australia and the devastating super cyclone that hit the Philippines. Yet sometimes a small donation to the Florimond Volckaert Fund can also do wonders for a Skålleague in trouble. There is a regular flow of requests for assistance and so donations are constantly needed to keep us in funds. And donating has never been easier. Simply log onto the skal.org website, enter the members only area, click on the Florimond Volckaert Fund link on the left hand side and then choose donate. You can do so securely by credit card.

Some may say the fund is strong enough and doesn't need any help. This is incorrect. With the worldwide deposit rates being at record lows the interest income received is not covering the annual call on the Fund - we do need your help, and we need it NOW!

This is your Fund. Remember, you never know when you might need help from it. Any assistance given is completely confidential. Unless the recipients want to tell anyone about the help they have received, only the recipients, the sponsors and the Trustees will know. So why not log onto the website and donate today?

YOUR TRUSTEES ARE



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