

**E-UPDATES** is an electronic newsletter sponsored and operated by the Student Loan Guarantee Foundation of Arkansas (SLGFA) to provide program information to schools and lenders participating in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP).

## IN THIS ISSUE:

**1. Welcome to SLGFA's Fantasy Island...where Educational Dreams Become a Reality!** The 2003 SLGFA Annual Conference is slated for February 27-28, 2003 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas. SLGFA's conference web page details information on the conference, including: the agenda, special interest sessions, the on-line registration form, information for corporate sponsors, a presenter's form and a suggestion box. In keeping with the conference theme, attire for the conference will be casual wear. Hawaiian shirts and other tropical apparel are encouraged.

Reservations at the DoubleTree Hotel may be made by calling (501) 372-4371 at \$80.00 per night for single or double occupancy. If you are unable to secure the conference rate at the hotel, please call the SLGFA School and Lender Services Department.

Register on-line for the conference at:

<http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/conference/2003/index.asp>

**2.** SLGFA is pleased to provide the *Revisions to the Common Manual* that were approved in December 2002 (Batch 97 and 99) and January 2003 (Batch 100) by the *Common Manual* Governing Board. These revisions have also been included in the integrated version of the *Common Manual*. Questions regarding the *Common Manual* should be directed to the SLGFA Policy & Compliance Division at 800-622-3446. For more information, click on the provided link:

<http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/cm-revisions/Dec2002/rev.asp>

**3.** Rep. Buck McKeon (R-CA) recently introduced a bill intended "to improve access to higher education for disadvantaged students by reducing red tape in federal student aid programs". The FED UP Higher Education Technical Amendments of 2003 (HR 12) is a new version of Rep. McKeon's bill that failed to pass on the House floor last year. HR 12 maintains the principle changes to federal regulations set forth in the first bill, but clarifies and provides further guidance on several key issues. In order for this bill to pass, schools, lenders, servicers and other interested parties are encouraged to contact their elected officials. For more information, including a summary of HR 12, a copy of HR 12 and a list of the Arkansas Congressional delegation, click on the provided link:

[http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/FED\\_UP/TechAmend.asp](http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/FED_UP/TechAmend.asp)

**4.** The *Common Manual* Restructuring Subcommittee has reformatted Appendix H, which details the history of the FFELP and its predecessor programs and the *Common Manual*. The subcommittee initiated this project to make the history appendix a more accessible and efficient tool. For more information on the changes made to Appendix H and updates on other projects of the subcommittee, click on the provided link:

<http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/CommonManual/AppendixH.asp>

5. SLGFA has reached a significant milestone by going live as a Meteor Data Provider in the Meteor network. SLGFA now provides to Meteor real-time information regarding loans in various stages of the guarantee process. For more information, click on the provided link:

<http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/meteor/dataprovider2.asp>

6. A recent Dear Colleague Letter, GEN-03-03, announced a Master Promissory Note for use in the Federal Family Education Loan PLUS Program. The letter provides details on the PLUS MPN implementation. The new FFEL PLUS MPN is now available for the 2003-2004 academic year. After a one-year transition period, it will replace the current approved promissory note for Federal PLUS loans made under the FFEL Program beginning with the 2004-2005 academic year. The PLUS MPN is designed for a parent borrower to use as a multi-year note for one dependent student. Copies of the PLUS MPN and related forms are included in the enclosure to the DCL. The PLUS MPN may first be used for Federal PLUS Loans for loan periods beginning on or after July 1, 2003 and **must** be used for all Federal PLUS Loans for loan periods beginning on or after July 1, 2004, or for any loan certified on or after July 1, 2004, regardless of the loan period. The form will be available soon on the SLGFA website.

The 2003 SLGFA Annual Conference will contain a session regarding the new PLUS MPN, as well as other recent regulatory changes and updates. Please contact the SLGFA Training and Technical Assistance Department for questions regarding the PLUS MPN. For more information, click on the provided link:

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN0303.html>

7. On January 17, 2003, the *Common Manual* Governing Board approved the 100<sup>th</sup> batch of proposed policy changes. These policy changes, along with the policies approved in the years since the manual's inception, were developed by the guarantors who participate in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) in close consultation with the schools, lenders, and servicers that comprise the FFELP community. The Board believes that this milestone, and the collaborative work it represents, is a great example of what can be accomplished when representatives of the entire FFELP community work together. For more information, click on the provided link:

<http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/pubs/CommonManual/100thbatch.asp>

8. Recently, many student borrowers have been called to active duty. For guidance regarding borrowers in this category, financial aid officers should refer to Dear Colleague Letters published following September 11, 2001. It is SLGFA's understanding that currently there is a pending DCL going through clearance at the U.S. Department of Education regarding military call-up. It is further SLGFA's understanding that the pending DCL basically follows the guidance from GEN-01-13. For more information, click on the provided links:

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN0113.html>

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/gen0112.html>

<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/gen0111.html>

Disclaimers: <http://www.slgfa.org/slgfa/e-updates/f-print.asp>.



**E-UPDATES** is a service mark of SLGFA, Inc.