FOI Award 6/18/43 The Register Citizen

Shafeek Nader Trust awards presented to Gilbert students

WINSTED – The Shafeek Nader Trust for the Community Interest sponsored the second annual civic award based on knowledge of Freedom of Information laws.

The event was organized by the community lawyer's office.

Community lawyer Charlene LaVoie presented information on the federal and state freedom of information acts to seniors, juniors and sophomores from The Gilbert School history and political science classes.

Kathy St. Onge, a summer intern with the community lawyer's office, a graduate of The Gilbert School and a third-year law student at the University of Connecticut, also addressed the students on the importance of access to information.

Fifty-six high school students competed for the awards by participating in a quiz. It included an essay question that asked the students to pretend Connecticut did not have an FoI law, and persuade Gov. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. of the need for such a law.

Rose Nader, mother of the late Shafeek Nader, spoke briefly about the importance of information in a democracy before making the presentation of the awards to the students.

Three students received the Freedom of Information Civic Award at the awards day ceremony yesterday at The Gilbert School. The winners were: Brian Turgeon, first place award of $50; Jason Boutin, second place award of $35; and Jon Gaylord, third place award of $25.

In addition, each winner received a copy of the book, "Reel Power – The Struggle For Influence and Success in the New Hollywood."