

Doherty & Donelon Scholarships awarded

Six children of NALC members to receive funding for college

Six children of NALC members will receive NALC memorial scholarships in recognition of their academic achievements and community involvement.

One student from each of the five geographical regions was awarded \$4,000 apiece from the William C. Doherty Scholarship Fund, and a sixth student will receive \$1,000 from the John T. Donelon Scholarship. All six scholarships are renewable for three additional years.

The Doherty Scholarship was founded in 1962 to honor William Doherty, NALC's president from 1941 to 1962. The winners for 2023 are:

Central Region: Ella Martin

Parent: Jeremy Martin, Royal Oak, MI Branch 3126

Quote: "My grandfather has been the most influential person in my life. ... He always told me that the measurement of a good leader is someone who uses their talents to help others become better. This has helped mold me into a strong student and athlete. It has also made me into a person who enjoys helping others become better students and athletes. I know why I enjoy tutoring and babysitting so much. Each time I help a student struggling with math, I am so happy to see them light up when they understand what I have taught them."

Eastern Region: Lauren Soto

Parent: Steve Soto, Bethlehem, PA Branch 254

Quote: "The idea of having a platform and using it for good is what I feel passionate about most of all. In whatever form that may come, I'll take it. I don't doubt that not everything I hope will come true or even be easy, but as long as I have helped others, even just one person, that means more than anything else."

Northeast Region: Jacob Langille

Parent: Jason Langille, Providence, RI Branch 15

Quote: "Without a doubt, being a member of the Boy Scouts of America has contributed most to my development. Scouting has enabled me to experience so much, develop my love for nature and camping, and acted as a doorway for me to learn new things."

Southern Region: Katie Chen

Parent: Wei Chung Chen, South Florida Branch 1071

Quote: "The first person who has been influential in my life is my grandma. She immigrated to the United States with little knowledge of English, three young children and the bags in her hands. Even with this little, she was able to work three jobs at a time to provide support for her family. When I was born, she retired early to take care of me while my parents worked. Because of her, I am able to be the person I am today. She has taken me to school, picked me up from volunteering and cooked meals to fill my stomach. She is a constant reminder to me of strength and endurance."

Western Region: Alta Crane

Parent: Michael Hayes, Salt Lake City, UT Branch 111

Quote: "If I had not gone through the heartbreak of losing a good friend recently to a murder-suicide event, I don't think I would have felt as strong of an urge to do something to help others in a time of despair. The experience pushed me to get creative and use my resources to support others and initiate things that can help others, like setting up assemblies with mental support speakers and post-crisis resources around the school. It has motivated me to be a more compassionate person and motivated me to make a real change."

A scholarship honoring the late John T. Donelon, longtime assistant to three NALC national presidents, was announced in 2003. Donelon's wife, Louise, established the Donelon Scholarship as a bequest in her will.

The winner is: Ira Woodfaulk II

Parent: Ira Woodfaulk, Pensacola, FL Branch 321

Quote: "I found children to be the best part of my job [at Winterfest Pensacola]. I played the role of the mayor of Whoville from the Grinch. I always tried to find out something about the kids on the trolley and then use that information to make the kids feel they were special. Their eyes would light up and they would leave smiling from ear to ear."

The NALC Scholarship Committee met in mid-May at NALC Headquarters in Washington, DC. The committee is composed of **Lawrence Kania** of Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3 (chair), **Kimetra Lewis** of Dallas, TX Branch 132 and **Carly A. Hook** of Santa Clara, CA Branch 1427. The committee reviewed and evaluated each application.

The committee released the following report:

"This year marks 59 years of the William C. Doherty Scholarship Program and 19 years of the John T. Donelon Scholarship. From the original grant of six scholarships in the amount of \$500 per year in 1964, the Doherty program grew to 15 scholarships at \$800 per year, each for a total of \$3,200 per scholarship. The Doherty Scholarship has changed to provide for five scholarships, with an increase in the amount to \$4,000 per year for a total of \$16,000 per scholarship. The Donelon Scholarship provides for one scholarship in the

amount of \$1,000 per year for a total of \$4,000 per scholarship.

The Doherty Scholarship Program of the National Association of Letter Carriers was authorized by the 43rd Biennial Convention meeting in 1962 in Denver, CO. The program was named after President William C. Doherty, who retired at the 1962 convention after serving 21 years as the national president. Past President Doherty died on Aug. 9, 1987.

The John T. Donelon Scholarship program was established in 2003. Donelon was assistant to three NALC presidents and died in 1985. His widow ensured that his wishes to donate to the NALC scholarship program were carried out upon her passing.

While state associations, branches, auxiliaries, and individual members contributed to the Doherty fund in its early days, its first important financing resulted from a dinner the union sponsored on Oct. 23, 1963, commemorating the centennial of free delivery service in the United States. Over the years since its establishment, every segment of our membership has been generous in supporting the program.

Our committee commends President Renfro and the NALC Executive Council, as well as preceding presidents and councils, for their progressive thinking that has resulted in educational opportunities for the children of our membership.

With this report, we are pleased to announce that since its inception, more than 600 children of letter carriers have been scholarship recipients. To be in a position as NALC is, to make it possible to assist these bright young students in their academic career, is in itself a source of satisfaction. Every letter carrier should know



Seated (from l): James B. Massey Jr., Dr. Georgia Booker and Dale E. Bittinger

Standing (from l): Carly A. Hook, Lawrence Kania and Kimetra Lewis

that many past winners have graduated early with high honors, that most of our winners have completed their undergraduate work and, in many cases, have gone on to pursue post-graduate work.

No person connected with NALC—neither among the Executive Council nor the Committee—has a voice in a final determination of the ultimate winners. These are done by college administrators from the Washington, DC, area.

We are grateful for the continued service of Dr. Georgia Booker, retired director for Guidance Counseling Services, District of Columbia Public Schools; James B. Massey Jr., director, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, University of Maryland; and Mr. Dale E. Bittinger, assistant vice provost for Undergraduate Admissions, Orientation & School Partnerships at University of Maryland, Baltimore County. These distinguished members of the

academic profession have contributed in a great measure to the success of the program.

The financial condition of the program is better than it was in 1964, when the initial awards were made. Its continuation is bolstered by the financial support of our members and friends of NALC. Contributions should be made payable to the William C. Doherty Scholarship Fund, or the John T. Donelon Scholarship Fund, and addressed to NALC Headquarters, 100 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20001.

Details of the fund's financial position were included in the audit report of the national secretary-treasurer for the biennial term ending at the Chicago convention last year.

Your Scholarship Committee concludes by thanking President Renfro, resident officers and, most expressly, the staff that assists for their unselfish cooperation and interest in our work." **PR**