Six children of NALC members have been awarded NALC memorial scholarships for excellence in both school work and community involvement.

Five students will receive $4,000 from the William C. Doherty Scholarship Fund. The award, renewable for three more years, was created in 1962 in honor of NALC’s president from 1941 to 1962.

The sixth student will receive the $1,000 John T. Donelon Scholarship, also renewable. The Donelon award, established in 2004 by a separate trust, was created to recognize the longtime assistant to three national NALC presidents.

The William C. Doherty Scholarship Committee, which also administers the Donelon award, met May 9-11 at NALC Headquarters. The committee is comprised of Sandy Laemmel of Detroit Branch 1, Jackie White of Los Angeles Branch 24, and Art Muoio of Rochester, NY Branch 210. The committee was assisted by three respected educators in making the final selection of this year’s winners: W. H. Sherrill, retired dean of admissions and records at Howard University; Michael O’Leary, vice president–enrollment at Goucher College; and Dr. Georgia Booker, retired director of the Office of Guidance Counseling Services for the District of Columbia’s public schools.

The committee issued the following report:

“On this, the 49th anniversary of the founding of the William C. Doherty Scholarship program and the sixth anniversary of the John T. Donelon Scholarship, we processed 1,268 applications, in contrast to processing 1,547 applications in 2010.

For purposes of this scholarship program, the country is divided into five geographic regions. Under the procedure, eliminations were made to reach the allowed figure of five scholarships—one to each of the five regions. At present, each Doherty scholarship is valued at $16,000, which represents $4,000 annually, renewable for three consecutive years. The John T. Donelon scholarship provides for one scholarship of $1,000 annually, also renewable for three consecutive years.

Including this year’s winners, our program has aided 569 children of letter carriers in their pursuit of higher education. We strongly urge the parents of high school seniors to pay particular attention to the July through December 2011 issues of The Postal Record for the 2011 scholarship application form, which will be printed only in those issues. It is also available on nalc.org.

NALC helps members’ children attend college
“It is essential that applications be complete and all submissions made timely. The Committee emphasizes the necessity of answering all questions on the required forms and providing all the information requested. We would like to stress the importance of applicants’ demonstrating diversity in extracurricular activities, sports, leadership, elected office and work experience, as well as scholastic excellence. Applicants are rated on all the above areas.

“The Committee appreciates the cooperation of the various branches and state associations and encourages them to continue to publicize the scholarship program. We appreciate the contributions from our members who generously support the scholarship program. The value of college education to our young men and women is incalculable. With the continuing increase in the cost of college, we urge every member to make a contribution to the Doherty scholarship fund. Any contribution will help to sustain this worthy program.

“The participation of President Fredric Rolando, Secretary-Treasurer Jane Broendel and other resident officers and staff was an invaluable contribution to this committee. We sincerely express our appreciation for this opportunity to serve the NALC membership in administering this program.”

Quintin C. Kreth
Son of Mylrea Estell
Eugene, OR
Branch 916

Rolando appoints Pam Donato to staff

Having been named an assistant to the president for special projects beginning May 2, former Branch 9 President Pam Donato is working at NALC Headquarters to help build broader partnerships with other organizations in support of the Postal Service and to work with the USPS to develop new ideas for services and for new sources of revenue.

Donato hails from Minnesota, where she became a letter carrier in 1986 after a career in the Army. She has held office in Minneapolis Branch 9 as a steward, vice president and president.

Branch 9’s proximity to Canada set her on a path that brought her to Headquarters in Washington. Her work with Canadian postal workers to exchange information about postal reform in both countries led to her involvement in creating new coalitions. Now she will be working to help letter carriers push the carrier craft and the Postal Service further into the 21st century by collecting and shaping new ideas.

“A lot of these ideas are already in the hopper,” Donato said. “It’s really a matter of trying to implement them.

“Letter carriers know their jobs better than anyone else,” she said. “They are the unique last-mile network in this country—nobody is in a better position to know what can make the Postal Service work better and grow. But they need to be heard.”

“I’m so pleased to have Pam at work for letter carriers nationwide,” President Fredric V. Rolando said. “She has the combination of boots-on-the-ground experience and big-thinking skills we need. I look forward to her work to strengthen our ties with new and current allies and lending the wisdom and experience of letter carriers to the development of the Postal Service.”

Donato’s mission is to help NALC convince the Postal Service to take advantage of its existing strengths. “Letter carriers are the largest sales force in the world, out walking house-to-house and business-to-business six days a week,” she said. “With the right tools and products to sell, the potential is nearly limitless.”