

Pictured below (standing, from l) are Jackie White, NALC President Fredric Rolando and Sandy Laemmel. Seated are the judges (from l): Karen S. Felton and Dr. Georgia Booker.

Doherty & Donelon Scholarships awarded

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

One student from each of five geographic regions will each 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 five students are:

CENTRAL: Tyler Hruby

**Parent: Allan Hruby
Mankato, MN Branch 90**

Quote: "By volunteering at an assisted-living facility, I have learned invaluable lessons from people who seemed much different than me. Hearing residents' stories of their youth and the sacrifices that many of them made during wars, I realized that when they were young, they had many of the same concerns that I have today. By forming bonds with residents, I saw firsthand the positive effect that volunteering could have

on them. I felt proud knowing that my simple actions were able to make a difference in the lives of others."

EASTERN: Rahul Patel

**Parent: Amit Patel
Princeton, NJ Br. 268**

Quote: "My parents are the most influential people in my life. Beyond providing me with basic necessities, they motivate me and provide me with ample opportunities to better myself. No matter what the situation, my parents are always behind me, guiding me in the correct direction and teaching me life lessons."

NORTHEAST: Neal Gaeta

**Parent: Richard Gaeta
New Jersey Merged Branch 38**

Quote: "I once had a conversation with my grandfather and he told me about my great-grandfather, who came to the U.S. from Italy in the 1890s. He worked in an iron factory and his pay was 15 cents a week and during his career he lost his right eye because metal shavings penetrated his eyeball. At the time,

there was no union, no health insurance or workman's compensation. Having a responsibility to his wife and children, he could not stay out of work. And now, after seeing my father's experience as a shop steward, I am cognizant that unions save the working class."

SOUTHERN: Joseph Bermudes III

**Parent: George Bermudes
Central Florida Branch 1091**

Quote: "The person who has been most influential has been and continues to be my father, George Bermudes, who was born in Ecuador with no father and a single mother who worked very long hours, so my dad didn't really grow up in a parentally strong family. He only spoke Spanish before he moved to New York when he was a teenager and had to learn English in order to finish high school and be successful in this country. He had trouble with the language for a few years and couldn't go to college because he had to go to work to help support his mom and his younger brother financially. My dad went on to work for the Postal Service and worked as a letter carrier for over 28 years, was a member of the NALC union and a shop steward for 21 years.... I can remember since I was very young, how my father would bring me to union meetings and state conventions, always telling me about how important the union was in representing its members in order to receive fair treatment with dignity and respect."

WESTERN: Kelly Huang

**Parent: Sam Huang
San Francisco, CA Br. 214**

Quote: "My dad has been the most influential person in my life. Growing up, I would watch my dad try to fix everything on his own. Early one Saturday morning when I was 12 years old, I remember being awakened by a clanking noise on the roof. I climbed up to see my father mending some cracks on the roof. I asked if there was anything I could do, and he asked me to get a trowel. Happy to take advantage of an opportunity to help him, I began applying roof mastic to the cracks. As we mended the cracks, I finally asked him why he





Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Jim Souza

James "Jim" Souza Jr., 80, died on April 23. Souza, a member of Clearwater, FL Branch 2008, served as president of the branch for 21 years. In 1977, he was unjustly fired and returned to work in 1978. Also in 1978, he was elected as an NALC national trustee, eventually becoming chairman of the board of trustees. In 1995, NALC President Vincent Sombrotto appointed him as assistant secretary-treasurer to fill a vacancy. Souza retired in 1998. He served with distinction with the

military police during a three-year stint in the U.S. Army. He was a 19-year cancer survivor and died after extensive surgery. Souza is survived by his wife of 52 years, Mary; daughter, Shannon Crown; sons, James III, Thomas and Randy; 10 grandchildren, and his sister, Theresa Pappas. The Souza family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, all donations be made to Branch 2008 for The James G. Souza Jr. Scholarship Fund, 230 N. Pinellas Ave., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689.

had not called a roofer. He replied, 'Our greatest gift is having our own hands and feet to rely on. We should solve our own problems instead of depending on others to do it for us.' ... My dad has inspired me to become an engineer. I want to continue to use my hands to assemble and fix. With my hands and my father's words in my ear, I am certain to overcome the obstacles I will face and confident that I will be able to find solutions."

The sixth student, **Adam Hruby** (twin brother of Central winner Tyler Hruby), will receive the \$1,000 John T. Donelon Scholarship, also renewable for three years. The Donelon award, established in 2004 by a separate trust, was created to recognize the long-time assistant to three national NALC presidents.

Quote: "In 15 to 25 years, I hope to have received a Ph.D. in biochemistry from an Ivy League school. With my degree, I would like to be a researcher working at a university studying the aging process. Devising and testing strategies to retard the aging process so that people can live longer lives would be rewarding."

The NALC Scholarship Committee met May 9-11 at NALC Headquarters in Washington, DC. The Scholarship Committee is composed of Sandy Laemmel, Detroit Branch 1; Jackie White, Los Angeles Branch 24; and Lawrence Kania, Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3. In making the final selection of this year's winners, the committee was assisted by two respected educators: Dr. Georgia Booker, retired director, Office of Guidance Counseling Services, District of Columbia Public Schools and Karen S. Felton, director of admissions, The George Washington University.

The committee issued the following report:

"On this, the 54th anniversary of the founding of the William C. Doherty Scholarship program and the 13th anniversary of the John T. Donelon Scholarship, we processed 939 applications, in contrast to 903 applications in 2015.

"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 four consecutive years. The John T. Donelon scholarship provides for one scholarship of \$1,000 annually, also renewable for four consecutive years.

"Including this year's winners, our program has aided 599 children of letter carriers in their pursuit of higher education. We strongly urge the parents of high school seniors to watch the July through December 2016 issues of *The Postal Record* for 2017 scholarship applications, which will be printed only in those issues. It is also available on the website, nalc.org.

"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 prior to the deadline date.** We would like to stress the importance of applicants' demonstrating diversity in extracurricular activities, sports, leadership, elective office and work experience, as well as scholastic excel-

lence. Applicants are rated on all of 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 a college education to our upcoming young men and women is incalculable. With the continuing increase in the cost of college, we urge each of our members to make a contribution to the Doherty Scholarship fund. Any contribution will help to keep this worthy program as strong and effective as we can make it. (The Donelon Scholarship is funded by a separate trust fund.)

"The participation of President Fredric Rolando, Secretary-Treasurer Nicole Rhine and other resident officers and staff was an invaluable contribution to this committee's work.

"Our thanks to this year's judges, who assisted in performing the assessment of applicants and making the final selections. We wish to express our deepest appreciation to these very outstanding educators for their assistance to the NALC Scholarship Committee and the NALC.

"As it has for the past decade, the Committee accepted ACT scores along with SAT scores. The scholarship committee used information provided by Dr. Jeff Schiel of the Statistical Research Department, Research Division, ACT Regional Office, to correlate the ACT and SAT scores to provide a fair evaluation for the scholarship selections.

"We sincerely express our appreciation for this opportunity to serve the NALC membership in administering this program." **PR**