

Doherty & Donelon Scholarships awarded

Six children of NALC members to receive funding for college

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 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: Britt A. Wren

**Parent: Derek D. Wren
Pueblo, CO Branch 229**

Quote: "I would want to excel in the biology or conservation science field, and to establish a family and settle down in a nice mountain state like Colorado or Montana. I would also love to assist in a scouting troop somewhere to help youth have the experience I have had in scouting. Mostly I would just want to be in a position where I could give back to the world what it has allowed me to experience."

EASTERN: Rashi S. Bhatt

**Parent: Rimple Bhatt
New Jersey Merged Branch 38**

Quote: "During the school year, junior year, I created my own union organization. I created the 'Student Unions Federation' as an amalgamation of different student unions representing all student interest groups and backgrounds, in order to protect their rights and freedoms on school grounds and school-affiliated programs."

NORTHEAST: Abigail R. McCarthy

**Parent: Stephen McCarthy
Boston Branch 34**

Quote: "My parents have been an incredible, loving presence in my life. My mom and dad always read to me when I was a kid and inspired my love for books. My dad is an intelligent, giving person who works very hard at the post office to support my family, which has five children and two hungry cats. My mom is an artist who encourages me to be creative and clean my room. I appreciate that my parents have raised me to be an independent and driven adult."

SOUTHERN: Steven C. Nolan

**Parent: Steven D. Nolan
Baton Rouge, LA Branch 129**

Quote: "A majority of my work at Sonia's Enterprises (construction cleaning) was done in response to the Louisiana flooding, which was a truly humbling experience. Citizens of Louisiana, including my family, lost much of what we own, which allowed me to be more grateful of my possessions."

WESTERN: Britney Ka-Yun Yip

**Parent: Steve Yip
Pasadena, CA Branch 2200**

Quote: "My father emigrated from Vietnam to America when he was only 11 years old. Despite his young age, he assumed the responsibility of caring for his four younger siblings while his parents worked menial jobs to make ends meet.... When he was old enough, he worked part-time shifts at restaurants to help his parents make enough money to support the family.... All my father wanted to do was get a permanent job to relieve his parents of hard work, and fortunately, he found his place in the Postal Service.... I know how much toil he goes through, and I know how

much hard work he has committed so that I can be where I am today. Many of my achievements would not have happened without the support of my father and his motto in life: to work hard but to also enjoy life.... Thank you, Dad."

JOHN T. DONELON SCHOLARSHIP:

Rachel M. Hirota

Parent: David S. Hirota

Greater East Bay, CA Branch 1111

Hirota 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 longtime assistant to three national NALC presidents.

Quote: "Both of my grandmothers, paternal and maternal, were adolescents when Executive Order No. 9066 notified all Japanese-Americans that they would be placed in internment camps in swamps and deserts around the country. From their experiences, they encountered hardship, but maintained neither spite nor vengeance. Instead, they cultivated empathy, patience and forgiveness. From hearing their stories while I scribbled on paper and played with dolls, I learned these virtues. I hope to carry their histories with me in my heart and mind for the rest of my life."

The NALC Scholarship Committee met April 26-28 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. The committee reviewed and evaluated the applications for the scholarships and

At right are (standing, from l) are Lawrence Kania, Jackie White, NALC President Fredric Rolando and Sandy Laemmel. Seated are the judges (from l): Karen S. Felton, Dale E. Bittinger and Dr. Georgia Booker.



discussed problems and potential problems with the program, along with possible solutions. In making the final selection of this year’s winners, the committee was assisted by three respected educators: Dr. Georgia Booker, retired director, Office of Guidance Counseling Services, District of Columbia Public Schools; Karen S. Felton, director of college counseling, Georgetown Day School; and Dale E. Bittinger, assistant vice provost for undergraduate admissions, orientation and school partnerships at the University of Maryland.

The committee issued the following report:

“On this, the 55th anniversary of the founding of the William C. Doherty Scholarship program and the 14th anniversary of the John T. Donelon Scholarship, we processed 763 applications, in contrast to 939 applications in 2016.

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

“Including this year’s winners, our program has aided 605 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

2017 issues of *The Postal Record* for 2018 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 excellence. 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 test 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**