

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 school work and community involvement.

One student from each of the five geographic regions was awarded \$4,000 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.

NALC created the Doherty scholarship in 1962 in honor of NALC's president from 1941 to 1962. The winners this year, along with their letter carrier parent, are:

Eastern Region: Michelle Wunder

Parent: Ronald Wunder

Northern Virginia Branch 3520

Quote: "If I could do what I most want to do in life 15-25 years from now, I would be a certified physician. I would be the type of physician that gives back to the community by volunteering, helping those in shelters, helping those who have gone through a natural disaster, and also a person who is on a team helping to find a cure to terminal diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's, and cystic fibrosis. I would also imagine that in 15-25 years from now I would be a veteran, as I plan and hope to be a medic for the military later in my professional career. I'm not very sure what type of physician I would like to be, but I know that I would want to be helping people in some way. I believe that as long as I am using my profession to help those in need then I have done what I have always set out to do in life."

Central Region: Melanie Nielsen

Parent: Michael Nielsen

Oak Brook, IL Branch 825

Quote: "If I could do what I most wanted to do 15 years from now, I would be a prominent pediatric neurologist specializing in the treatment of kids

with special needs in an underprivileged area. When I was 10, my friend passed away in a car accident. His twin brother's life was saved by first responders and a neurosurgeon. His care was continued by neurologists once he began to stabilize. That incident launched my interest in the medical field. In middle school I would spend most of my free time researching the path to becoming a neurologist so that I could save kids just like my friend."

Northeast Region: James B. Prince

Parent: James A. Prince

Long Island Merged, NY Branch 6000

Quote: "I first discovered my desire to become a teacher from taking a Child Psychology course in high school. I had the opportunity to mentor a 4-year-old boy through preschool and kindergarten-level lessons as well as to develop a set of lessons for the entire class. Although I am currently undecided as to whether I would like to teach math or science, I feel that teaching is a very rewarding job which I would like to see myself doing in the next 15 to 25 years. In addition to teaching, I would also like to coach bowling and tennis. These two activities have played such an important part in my development and I would like to pass on not only the skills, but the sportsmanship and camaraderie I learned while on those teams."

Southern Region: Austin Euler

Parent: Jamesa Rainey-Euler

Atlanta, GA Branch 73

Quote: "In 15 or more years I would hope to be an entrepreneur. But in my journey to that goal, I plan to get my degree in computer science/cybersecurity. I desire to use my talents with the federal government or the private sector. If I were to get a job with a company like Google or Apple, I would definitely work to gain knowledge and make a differ-

ence, especially if the environment was non-union. I know the benefits of having a union and would be an advocate if given the opportunity to implement change. I'm certain that I am ready for my future. One of my favorite mottoes is, 'Intelligence without ambition is a bird without wings.' —Salvador Dali."

Western Region: Eda Chi

Parent: Paung Chi

Santa Rosa, CA Branch 183

Quote: "In 25 years from now, I hope to have graduated from medical school and completed my residency. I want to wake up each morning and be excited to go to work and feel as though my efforts are contributing to improving the welfare of my community. I believe that my career goal as an emergency department doctor will ensure that I make a lasting and beneficial impact. I am passionate about geology and will continue to be captivated with this concept because of its dichotomy: the power to both create and destroy. For example, in our bodies, cells are multiplying and growing at the same time they are degrading. The beauty and destruction of life is a concept that will captivate me for years to come. Furthermore, as a physician, I will always be learning. With research and interesting breakthroughs in the field of medicine, I will be constantly introduced to new material, new concepts, ensuring that I will never be bored with my work, and this career continually promotes the expansion of my knowledge. Lastly, as a doctor, I will be able to interact with my patients and make connections in my community."

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.

At right are (standing, from l) Lawrence Kania, Kimetra Lewis, Sandy Laemmel and NALC President Fredric Rolando. Seated are the judges (from l): Dale E. Bittinger, Dr. Georgia Booker and James B. Massey Jr.



The winner is: Ariana Boland Parent: Terrence Boland South Florida Branch 1071

Quote: “In the future, I would like to join the efforts to save the planet from climate change by focusing on mankind’s impact on the oceans. The oceans cover over 70% of the globe and are crucial to the health of our planet. If my work in marine science and journalism can help keep the world healthy, then the contributions of other young people of my generation will not be in vain.

As someone who has grown up close to the ocean, I am deeply concerned about the impact of microplastics. My visits to the beach shaped my childhood and awakened my curiosity for the natural world. I remember eagerly picking through clumps of sargasso to find crabs and fish; I loved counting the number of pelicans traveling in flocks....As a society, we must embrace accountability by refusing single-use plastics when possible and contacting our political representatives to warn them about the dangers of pollution. I can’t say that I have definite solutions due to the immense complexity of the issue, but I can gain a thorough understanding through my education and help solve the problem.”

The NALC Scholarship Committee met from May 15-17 at NALC Headquarters in Washington, DC. The Scholarship Committee is composed of Sandy Laemmel, Detroit, MI Branch 1; Kimetra Lewis, Dallas, TX Branch 132; and Lawrence Kania, Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3. The committee reviewed and evaluated the applications for the scholarships and discussed potential problems with the program along with possible solutions.

The committee issued the following report:

“On this, the 57th anniversary of the

founding of the William C. Doherty Scholarship program and the 15th anniversary of the John T. Donelon Scholarship, we processed 620 applications, in contrast to 822 applications in 2018.

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 616 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 2019 issues of *The Postal Record* for 2020 scholarship applications, which will be printed only in those issues. They are 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 gener-

ously 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—Dr. Georgia Booker, Retired Director, Office of Guidance Counseling Services, District of Columbia Public Schools; James B. Massey, Jr., Director, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, University of Maryland; and Dale E. Bittinger, Assistant Vice Provost for Undergraduate Admissions, Orientation and School Partnerships at University of Maryland, Baltimore County—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**