

Pandemic forces cancellation of NALC's 2020 national convention

As it has for so many events, from the Tokyo Olympics to the opening of the Major League Baseball season, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the cancellation of NALC's 72nd National Convention. At the direction of the NALC Executive Council, the union has notified the convention center, convention hotels and various convention vendors of our decision to cancel the convention, which was to be held Aug. 17-21 in Honolulu, HI.

The Council made the unprecedented decision after it became clear that the state government of Hawaii could not give us any assurance that gatherings with the number of delegates attending would be allowed in August. Nor could we be assured that travel to

Honolulu would be permitted under the state's strict quarantine law, which currently requires all travelers to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival in the islands.

President Rolando thanked the leadership of Honolulu Branch 860 for all of its hard work in preparing for the convention, and he expressed NALC's hope that it would be possible to convene in Hawaii in the future.

Branches need not cancel their hotel reservations made through NALC's official housing provider Experient, Inc.—they will be automatically canceled with no further action required. Any credit card on file used as a guarantee to hold hotel rooms through the official housing company has not and will not

be charged. If a room deposit was sent by check, instructions will be sent by email from Experient regarding how to receive the deposit money back.

Branches should, however, cancel any flight reservations and contact airlines about their refund policies and/or rules for using credits for future flights.

Additionally, any branch or delegate that made hotel reservations or other housing arrangements outside of NALC's official housing company is responsible for canceling those reservations.

The Executive Council will continue to monitor the effects of the pandemic and available options for scheduling the convention in the future. **PR**

Doherty & Donelon Scholarships selection postponed

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, NALC's Doherty & Donelon Scholarships program is currently on hold. Selections originally were scheduled to be made at NALC Headquarters in Washington, DC, on May 8.

The Scholarship Committee, composed of Sandy Laemmel, Detroit, MI Branch 1; Kimetra Lewis, Dallas, TX Branch 132; and Lawrence Kania, Buffalo-Western New York Branch 3, has not yet been able to review the applications. In addition, the three academic judges who assist in performing the assessment of applicants and making the final selections have been informed that the judging session has been postponed.

A new date will be announced once known, and the winners of the scholarship will be announced in a future *Postal Record*.

Each year, six children of NALC members receive NALC memorial scholarships in recognition of their schoolwork and community involvement. One student from each of the five geographic regions is awarded \$4,000 from the William C. Doherty Scholarship Fund, and a sixth student receives \$1,000 from the John T. Donelon Scholarship Fund. 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 Donelon scholarship, named for the longtime assistant to three NALC national presidents, was announced in 2003.

For more information about NALC scholarships, visit nalc.org/member-benefits/benefits-for-members/scholarships. **PR**