

Pictured below (standing, from l) are Lawrence Kania, Jackie White and Sandy Laemmel. Seated are the judges (from l): Michael O'Leary, Karen S. Felton and Dr. Georgia Booker.

Doherty & Donelon Scholarship awards

Doherty Scholarship winners

Central

Rena D. Weis
Parent: Jane C. Hoffman-Weis
Minneapolis, MN Br. 9

Eastern

Christopher T. Garling
Parent: Heidi S. Garling
York, PA Br. 509

Northern

Matthew M. Siano
Parent: John M. Siano
Long Island City, NY Br. 357

Southern

Claire E. Lafferty
Parent: David Lafferty
Houston, TX Br. 283

Western

Giang Le Ha
Parent: Giap T. Ha
San Jose, CA Br. 193

Donelon Scholarship winner

Guadalupe E. Perez
Parent: Jose P. Perez
San Antonio, TX Br. 421

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

Five students 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 sixth student 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.

The NALC Scholarship Committee met April 29 to May 1 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 three respected educators: Michael O'Leary, vice president for enrollment, Goucher College; 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 51st anniversary of the founding of the William C. Doherty Scholarship program and the 10th anniversary of the John T. Donelon Scholarship, we processed 881 applications, in contrast to 1,173 applications in 2012.

"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 581 children of letter carriers in their pursuit of higher education. We strongly urge the parents of high school seniors to watch the July–December 2013 issues of *The Postal Record* for 2014 scholarship applications, which will be printed only in those issues. It is also available on 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 extra-curricular 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



Study shows unions lead to more good jobs

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 Jane Broendel 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 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**

Update: Jairus Johnson, son of Indianapolis Branch 39 member Dalton L. Johnson III and a 2011-2012 winner of the William C. Doherty Scholarship, completed his two-year degree from Indiana State University this past December. The remaining scholarship funds will be awarded to the alternate winner, Ruby M. Raju, daughter of Kottarathil E. Raju of South Suburban Merged, Illinois Branch 4016. She is attending St. Louis University.

Since the great recession of 2007, Americans have watched the media breathlessly report on each estimate the Labor Department releases about job gains and losses, with many pundits arguing that the 2012 presidential election was decided by a decline in the unemployment rate of a few tenths of a percentage point. But while the number of jobs and the jobless rate are well reported, the question of whether those jobs are “good jobs” gets significantly less attention.

A new report from the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR) examines that question, and finds that job quality has declined in the United States over the last 30 years—a decline related to the weakening of the labor movement. Despite increases in educational attainment and the age of the workforce, which are reflected in gains in worker productivity, wages and access to benefits have fallen sharply.

“We’ve seen for a long time that the loss of union jobs has steadily eroded the prosperity of middle-class workers,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said. “Too many American workers are falling into the trap of these bad jobs, unable to adequately provide for themselves or their families.”

The study defines a “good job” as one that pays at least \$19 per hour, has employer-provided health insurance and has some kind of retirement plan (either a traditional pension or a 401(k)-style plan). A “bad job” is one that meets none of these three criteria.

Although career letter carriers clearly enjoy good jobs, the creation of non-career jobs within the Postal Service by interest arbitrators shows that NALC’s bargaining unit has not been spared the negative effects of the decline in job quality.

“NALC did make some progress this year by replacing the transitional employee job category, which failed the ‘good job’ test, with the city carrier assistant category that provides

a pathway to good job status that TEs never had,” Rolando said. “But the price of progress has been heavy and should remind every NALC member of the need to rebuild the labor movement to protect our standard of living and to restore the middle class.”

In addition to the increase in bad jobs for all workers, the study found that women were more likely to have a bad job than comparably educated men.

The study’s authors suggest possible solutions through several quality-of-life policy changes, including universal health insurance, a universal retirement system (over and above Social Security), a large increase in people graduating from college, a rise in unionization and gender pay equality. For each of these policies, the authors simulated the impact on the total share of good and bad jobs.

The simulations offered some interesting conclusions:

■ Unionization offers stronger growth in good jobs (6.7 percentage points) than college graduation (2.8 percentage points). With the large cost and expense of college education, the study points to the importance of growing union membership in pushing employers to turn bad jobs into good ones.

■ While the creation of a universal retirement plan offered the largest increase in good jobs (adding almost 10 percentage points to the number of good versus bad jobs), universal health care would add almost 5 percentage points and the two combined would add almost 21 percentage points.

“It should be no surprise that unions offer a key path to good jobs,” Rolando said. “When workers stand together, they are more likely to win better pay and needed benefits like health care and retirement plans.

“No one claims it will be easy to turn the tide on declining union membership, but it is a fight we must engage in to help all American workers attain a good job.” **PR**