



# Vallone Scholars:

## Vallone Scholars Balancing the Load

By: Noah L. Giebel – *Scholarship Program Coordinator*



Midway through this year, the NPMHU Arthur S. Vallone Scholarship Committee completed its work of selecting fifteen new Vallone Scholars. The Arthur S. Vallone scholarship program was established fourteen years ago, and was designed to offer deserving mail handlers and members of their immediate families some financial assistance to defray the rapid rising cost of higher education. Each NPMHU Region has been granted a total of 3 scholarship awards in the amount of \$1,000 each, renewable by the recipient for up to four years or until the completion of the students undergraduate degree, whichever occurs first, for a maximum of \$4,000 per recipient over four years.

The NPMHU National Scholarship was dedicated and named after Arthur S. Vallone after his passing in January 2005. Arthur S. Vallone served as the elected president of NPMHU Local 309, which was headquartered in Buffalo, NY and represented approximately 1,000 mail handlers throughout Upstate New York. Vallone also served on the National Executive Board for 3 years as the Vice President for the Northeast Region. Since his untimely passing, the NPMHU has continued Vallone's legacy by his firm belief in the importance of education. As noted, through the Arthur S. Vallone scholarship program, the NPMHU again recognizes fifteen students for their hard work and accomplishments.

The National Office received well over 200 applications this year, so the pool of candidates was extremely competitive. Susan Carle, a Professor of Law at American University in Washington, DC and one of the Scholarship Judges, notes that, "[e]ach year my job gets tougher due to the competitiveness of each application" she reviews. Carle noted that "some excellent candidates make it through the evaluation process, yet other excellent candidates cannot be rewarded." Professor Carle is now in her eighth year on the Schol-

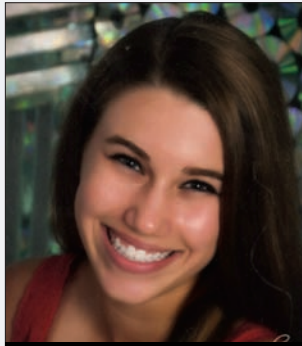
arship Committee. The other member of the Committee is Evelyn Temple, who prior to her retirement served as Assistant Executive Director at The National Education Association (NEA).

Periodically the National Office hears from past and present Vallone Scholars on how they are doing in school or how the award has helped them pursue their education. This year we heard from a present Vallone Scholar, Jonathan Solomba, the son of NPMHU member Joseph Solomba of Local 309 in Buffalo. Jonathan is currently in pursuit of his RN Nursing degree at Genesee Community College in Batavia, New York. Jonathan currently holds a 4.0 GPA and was awarded with placement on the President's List for his academic achievements. On top of carrying an academic load, Jonathan also cares for his disabled brother who has cerebral palsy. Jonathan writes: "I still live at home, and my family has always worked as a team. I think it is in part due to my disabled brother—we have always worked together to take care of him." Jonathan also writes that he "plan[s]... to further my education after I graduate and pursue a career either in the Intensive Care Unit or the Emergency Department. The scholarship is a huge help, as it helps offset the cost of my tuition." At the end of his letter to the NPMHU, Jonathan explains that "[t]he most common question I get asked as a nursing student is 'What kind of nurse do you want to be?' My answer to that is '*A great one.*'" On that issue, we wish Jonathan the best of luck, and thank him for being a stand out Vallone Scholar!

Applications and details about the NPMHU Arthur S. Vallone Scholarship for the 2015-2016 school year will be available in late November 2014. For details, you may contact your Local Union or the NPMHU National Union Headquarters, or you can download the scholarship application from the National Union website at [www.npmhu.org](http://www.npmhu.org).



Local 321 | ANTHONY RUIZ



Local 318 | EMILY SWIDOCK



Local 315 | OLIVIA PHAM



Local 311 | BRITTANIE JACKSON-GARCIA



Local 310 | KEOJAH MCBRYDE



Local 309 | JONATHAN SLOMBA



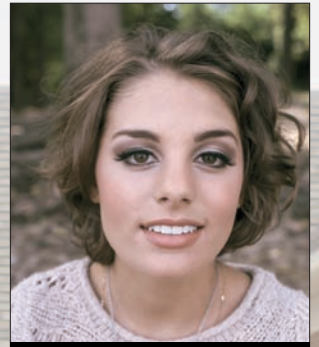
Local 307 | DEWIGHT BRAXTON



Local 306 | KRUPA KADIWALA



Local 305 | SANA SULIMAN



Local 304 | PERRI KOSTECKI



Local 303 | JEFF BORRETA



Local 302 | SACHIRA ARACHCHI



Local 301 | CHRISTINE GEORGE



Local 300 | CHRISTIAN CONYERS



Local 308 | LESLIE ADEOYE

Applications for the NPMHU Arthur S. Vallone Scholarship Program for the 2015-2016 school year will be available in November of 2014. Monitor [www.npmhu.org](http://www.npmhu.org) and upcoming publications for additional details.