



NPMHU Arthur S. Vallone SCHOLARSHIP

NPMHU REINVESTING IN TODAY'S YOUNG LEADERS

The NPMHU Scholarship Committee completed its task of evaluating many applications from well qualified NPMHU members and members of their immediate families. After careful review and consideration, a new group of Vallone Scholars have been awarded a scholarship for the next 4 years. Fifteen applications were selected out of a total of forty-one received by the March 15th, 2026, deadline.

The NPMHU National Scholarship was dedicated and renamed after Arthur S. Vallone after his untimely passing in 2005. Arthur S. Vallone served as the elected President of Local 309 headquartered in Buffalo, New York and represented approximately 1,500 Mail Handlers throughout upstate New York. Arthur S. Vallone also served 3 terms on the National Executive Board as the Northeastern Region Vice President. Vallone's deep understanding of education and learning are just a handful of reasons why the National Postal Mail Handlers Union dedicated this legacy to Brother Arthur Vallone.

The Arthur S. Vallone Scholarship is now in its 26th year of existence. This award was designed to offer deserving Mail Handlers and members of their immediate families some relief from the financial burden of paying for higher education. With fewer resources becoming available, it can be quite the challenge for families to absorb the cost of higher education. While some individuals and families develop savings plans for higher education, there are many that do not nor

have the ability to do so, and that is why the NPMHU has dedicated such an award.

The National Executive Board (NEB) recently made an important change to the Vallone Scholarship. The NEB voted to raise the scholarship award amount from \$1,000 to \$2,000. The NEB's decision to reinvest in the Vallone Scholarship was to respond to the weakening numbers of applications but also to raise our competitiveness amongst other scholarship offers. As a result, each NPMHU Region has been granted up to three scholarship awards in the amount of \$2,000 each, renewable by the recipient for up to four years or until the completion of the students' undergraduate or trade school degree, whichever occurs first for a maximum of \$8,000 per recipient over four years.

While reading over the applications of this year's winners there was a common theme that seemed to guide many of the new Vallone Scholars. These new scholarship recipients wanted to become leaders. What makes a good leader means something different to all of us, but let us agree that there are traits that set a leader above the non-leaders. A few ways to distinguish and set these students apart from the others are traits such as an open mind, the ability to communicate clearly, they lead by example and they never stop learning.

Several applications included some very profound personal essays. One that recently caught my eye was Marquita Yancey from Richmond, VA. Marquita wrote that "My goal is to build generational wealth and to bring financial literacy to my

community to break cycles of financial instability and generate prosperity”.

Another application from Manafshay Shahzad from Manchester, NH stood out showing signs of a budding future leader. Shahzad wrote “I plan to study political science in college and become an education lawyer to try and mend the issues in the education system from a policy standpoint. My goal is to advocate for fairness and opportunity, principals that unions fight for every day”.

Lastly here’s also an example of a young leader in Janay Jones of Miramar, FL. Janay wrote “As a member of a

family connected to the National Postal Mail Handlers Union, I have learned the value of solidarity, education and advocacy. This scholarship would support my education and reflect the values of service, perseverance and responsibility that have shaped my life. I hope to use my education to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.”

The number of scholarship applications we received this year was slightly greater than last year, but the superior level of excellent applicants remained the same. All our applicants shined in very different ways. It’s a tough job to

sift through each application and pick out the 3 applications per region that outshine the others. Nonetheless we’ve reached the completion of another year, and we present to you the newest Vallone Scholars.

Prior to going to print, National President Paul Hogrogian was notified by Union Plus President Mitch Stevens that The National Postal Mail Handlers Union were among 42 unions with an award of The Union Plus Scholarship. The Union Plus Scholarship will be available at the end of June, and can be found at <https://www.unionplus.org>.



Local 297
**CAYSEN
BRESHEARS**



Local 300
**ISABELLA
MA**



Local 301
**EVANS
KAILOLA**



Local 301
**MANAFSHAY
SHAHZAD**



Local 305
**ANDRÉS
ALVAREZ**



Local 305
**SHAYLA
HARRISON**



Local 305
**MARQUITA
YANCEY**



Local 311
**AUTUMN
CHATMON**



Local 315
**DEMETREUS
WONGSOMADI**



Local 318
**JANAY
JONES**



Local 320
**MIRENA
MENDEZ**



Local 320
**CHANTRA
NOP**



Local 321
**OMNIA
MAHMOUD**



Local 329
**TAYLOR
GRANDBERRY**



Local 333
**LAILA
COLLIER**