



NOAH GIEBEL

## NPMHU Arthur S. Vallone SCHOLARSHIP

## VALLONE SCHOLARS: OVERACHIEVERS IN AND OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

he NPMHU Scholarship Committee completed its task of evaluating many applications from well qualified NPMHU members and members of their immediate families. Fifteen applications were selected out of a total of eighty-eight received by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. After careful review and consideration, a new group of Vallone Scholars has been awarded a scholarship for the next 4 years.

The NPMHU National Scholarship was dedicated and named 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 Northeast 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 24th 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.

Each NPMHU Region has been granted up to three 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 or trade school degree, whichever occurs first for a maximum of \$4,000 per recipient over four years.

Whether you or your children are heading to Community College, a traditional 4-year institution or trade school, the National Postal Mail Handlers Union want you to know that we are here for you and can assist financially in helping you and your immediate family to achieve their goals. This was Brother Vallone's legacy and why the National Executive Board dedicated and renamed the NPMHU National Scholarship Program as the Arthur S. Vallone National Scholarship.

It's important to celebrate these young minds and give them credit for being extraordinary inside and outside of the classroom. Vallone Scholar Domanic Abeja is not only a member of the National Honor Society but also excelled at community service. "One of the most fulfilling aspects of my high school experience was my involvement in community service, particularly working with individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities. This commitment allowed me to connect with students, fostering empathy, understanding, and a genuine desire to make a positive impact. It was a humbling experience that fueled my passion for service and instilled in me a sense of responsibility to contribute to the well-being of others."

One other statement that really stood out was one from Lucas Petros

of Sacramento, CA. Lucas wrote "The union's dedication to education aligns seamlessly with my values of community and collaboration, reinforcing the belief that collective efforts yield greater outcomes ".

There is a reoccurring theme that stood out when I read throughout the various scholarship applications. Well over 60% of applicants performed some type of community service. It seems that these young people are ready to branch out into the community after learning at home in front of a computer for 2 years. It shows that students have a need to interact with others, by assisting and helping others. They are learning valuable lessons by getting out in the field and taking what they have learned to assist the underprivileged and those that need help. These young minds are spreading their wings and branching out outside the classroom while also excelling inside the classroom.

These 15 Vallone Scholars are truly remarkable, to be able to achieve such a high level of success at a young age. As the new Vallone Scholars embark on a new path and prepare to further their studies in fields such as Politics, Pharmacological Science, Environmental Science, and Social Work we wish them congratulations, God speed and good luck on your next adventure. Don't stop reaching for the top!

The next opportunity to be a Vallone Scholar will present itself in November 2024 if you are a Mail Handler or MHA and have a rising senior in High School, please encourage them to apply for the Arthur S. Vallone Scholarship.

