



NPMHU Arthur S. Vallone SCHOLARSHIP

COMING IN HOT: MEET THE NEW VALLONE SCHOLARS

The 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 seventy-eight received by March 15th, 2023. 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 commitment to 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 23rd 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 a challenge for families to absorb the cost of higher education. As developing an education savings plan is often difficult

for families, the NPMHU has dedicated such an award to deserving individuals.

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.

One core piece of the Scholarship application is the students' essay. It's always fascinating to read over the various applications to get a barometer reading on where the collective heads of our Vallone Scholars are at. Whether hot or cold, each of these individuals has a unique opinion on their futures and the road ahead.

Sanduni Abeyratna touched on diversity after arriving in a new town. In her essay, Abeyratna wrote "I finally began to understand diversity doesn't only refer to the color of skin, but it also represents personality, ambition, strengths, and beliefs. Everyone I met in my new high school was comprised of a different set of emotions, values, and memories that couldn't be duplicated in another person. Everybody had a unique personality and identity that created diversity".

Alexa Knapik touched on equality in her essay. "I have challenged myself throughout high school to make differences in my community, specifically focusing on inclusivity. However, principles of equality, equity, and social justice sadly do not

come easy in a world of people plagued with assumptions and stereotypes.”

Girbie Orenza wrote “I’ve also taken up a part-time job at a small restaurant where I experience a small sliver of the workforce; working has made me appreciate my parents even more, helping me build the trait of dependability as I was really flexible with my bosses and was a diligent worker. At the end of the day, all of my hard work is for my family, who left their home to be able to provide a better future for myself. I am who I am because of my family”.

This year’s group of Vallone Scholars seems to have a positive way of looking

at their futures. These individuals rose out of the pandemic, studying at home in front of a PC screen was how they spent part of their high school careers. Now they are back out in the world, back in the classroom re-discovering the importance of furthering their education. This group of students seem eager to make a difference in the next stage of their lives, they also give me the feeling that they want to make a positive difference in society. Arthur Vallone would be very proud, he too committed himself to these ideals. Best of luck to our new 15 Vallone Scholars, God speed...

The next opportunity to be a Vallone Scholar will present itself in November 2023. 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. The application will be available at www.npmhu.org.

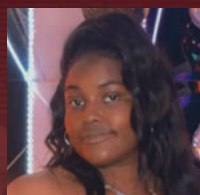
Union Plus has awarded a scholarship to a family member of a Mail Handler for the 3rd consecutive year in a row. The Union Plus Scholarship is currently accepting applications. Applications can be found at <https://www.unionplus.org/>.



Local 297
**ALLISON
DENNEY**



Local 297
**CHRISTOPHER
SIMMONS**



Local 300
**ANIYA
MAYO**



Local 301
**KAYLIE
SMITH**



Local 303
**GERBIE
ORENZA**



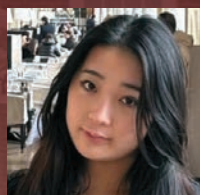
Local 303
**CONNOR
DUONG**



Local 304
**ZION
MOSS**



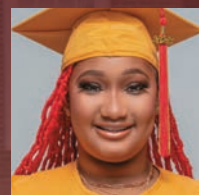
Local 304
**SANDUNI
ABEYRATNA**



Local 305
**TARA
KIM**



Local 309
**ALEXA
KNAPIK**



Local 311
**FAYTH
FLOWERS**



Local 318
**SNEHI
PATEL**



Local 318
**SHONA
JACOB**



Local 320
**ZACHARY
ORTIZ**



Local 323
**AMARACHI
ABRAHAM**