

Union Plus awards scholarships to NALC kids

Union Plus has awarded scholarships to six children of NALC members.

A program founded by the AFL-CIO to provide benefits to union members and their families, Union Plus has awarded scholarships each year to union members or members of their families since 1992. This year, Union Plus awarded \$200,000 in scholarships to 205 students representing 41 unions.

Claudia Elliott of Jasper, AL, was awarded a \$525 scholarship. Her father, **Bryan Elliott**, is a member of Jasper Branch 3099. Elliott plans to study sociology and psychology in college.

“Growing up under the influence of the NALC and the labor movement taught me the importance of hard work, communication, appreciation, and preservation of the past,” Elliott wrote in her application. “My father has worked for the Post Office since before I was born, and I have always seen how important hard work is to him through this.”

“Another thing that growing up under the influence of the NALC and the labor movement has done for me is shown me the importance of appreciating and preserving the past in the process of working to improve the future,” she wrote.

Union Plus awarded Ciara Hartema of Clear Lake, IA, a \$750 scholarship. Hartema’s mother is **Heather Hartema** of Garner, IA Branch 4375. Hartema plans to major in health professions at North Iowa Area Community College and then transfer to a four-year university.

Hartema’s high school color guard coach said she was the hardest worker she has coached in 20 years. “Ciara became an invaluable leader and team member,” coach Jen Osterkamp said.



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“She is always trying new things and pushing herself outside of her comfort zone. Her leadership and commitment made a positive impact on our team, our school, and me. I have no doubt that this will continue into her college and adult life.”

Jacob Langille of Rumford, RI, son of **Jason Langille** of Providence, RI Branch 15, was awarded a \$500 scholarship. (Jacob Langille also won a Doherty Scholarship from NALC; see page 6.) Langille plans to study engineering in college.

“For as long as I can remember I have been interested in the development of technology and engineering,” he wrote. “In both middle school and high school, I have taken part in every STEM and engineering class that is offered, and I wish to pursue engineering as a career in my future.”

“I have had the benefit of growing up in a union family for my whole life,” he added. “Both my mom and dad are long time union members and because of this they have developed extremely stable and resilient jobs, they are guaranteed certain privileges at work and away from work, and they have developed into helpful and productive members of society.”

Ciara Quinn of Millbury, MA, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Her father, **Kevin Quinn**, is a member of Worcester, MA Branch 12. Quinn plans to study international relations, business and law, with an eye toward a career addressing issues such as immigration policy, water and food sustainability, human trafficking, and

the rights of women and marginalized populations.

Quinn tutored struggling students in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. “I have learned so much about commitment and the work ethic and how to motivate others to do their best,” she wrote about the experience.

Quinn’s high school guidance counselor Ann E. Meserve described her as an intellectual, poised, committed and versatile young woman. “Ciara thoroughly impressed me with her quiet yet purposeful leadership and scholarship,” Meserve wrote. “As a student, she is highly responsible, extremely dedicated, and capable of immense drive.”

Abriella Stommel of Lincoln, NE, earned a \$500 scholarship. Her mother, **Stephanie Stommel**, is a member of Lincoln Branch 8. Stommel is a biology major at Nebraska Wesleyan University (NWU). Her career goal is to become a pediatric physician’s assistant.

Her father is a member of the Transportation Communications Union (TCU/IAM). “My parents taught me a lot about each union over the years,” she wrote. “Unions assist members in various ways, including protecting fair wages and health benefits through contract negotiations.”

“Abriella is an outstanding student,” NWU Professor of Spanish Dr. Manuela Borzone wrote, “and I am confident that she will make the Union Plus Scholarship Program proud.”

Madison Wells of Katy, TX, was awarded a \$500 scholarship. Her father, **Joshua Wells**, is a member of Houston Branch 283. Madison plans to study nursing.

In her application, Wells wrote about her diagnosis of dyslexia and how she made it into a positive factor in her life.

“In the past, writing an essay like this would have caused me so much stress and anxiety because of my dyslexia. But I decided a long time ago that I would not let this define me, that I would never use it as a crutch, and that I would never let it hold me back,” she wrote. Her high school activities included the Best Buddies International program, which pairs volunteers with students with intellectual or developmental disabilities as friends and mentors. She described mentoring students with disabilities

though the program as “one of the best decisions I have made in my life.”

The Union Plus Scholarship Program awards scholarships based on outstanding academic achievement, personal character, financial need and commitment to the values of organized labor. Since starting the program in 1991, Union Plus has awarded more than \$5.4 million in educational funding to more than 3,800 union members, spouses and dependent children. Union Plus Scholarship awards are

granted to students attending or planning to attend a two-year college, four-year college, graduate school, or recognized technical or trade school.

For information about scholarship eligibility and applications, go to unionplus.org/scholarship.

In addition to the scholarship program, Union Plus provides a range of money-saving programs and services for union members and families. Go to nalc.org/member-benefits/benefits-for-members/union-plus for details. **PR**

Letter carriers assist in regional offices as ROAs

Last year, NALC created the regional office assistant (ROA) position in response to the vacancies of several regional field secretary positions nationwide. The vacancies gave the union an opportunity to hire experienced union representatives to fill those positions. These representatives not only possess the skillset necessary to provide clerical, organizational and operational support for their regional offices, they also provide additional contractual and representational support to the regions and the members. And since they are letter carriers themselves, they have the unique ability to relate to the everyday issues of the NALC members who call the regional offices on a daily basis.

So far, eight regional office assistants (ROAs) have been appointed to provide administrative support to regional offices:

- **Christa Abraham** of Minneapolis, MN Branch 9—Region 7 (Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin)
- **Anthony Bossi** of Massachusetts Northeast Merged Branch 25—Region 14 (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont)
- **Richard Byrne** of Greeley, CO Branch 324—Region 4 (Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and Wyoming)
- **Rachel Janecek** of DeKalb, IL Branch 706—Region 3 (Illinois)
- **Mary Beth Lloyd** of Southeast Pennsylvania Merged Branch 725—Region 12 (Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey)
- **Jen Self** of Portland, OR Branch 82—Region 2 (Alaska, Utah, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington)
- **Felicie Strong** of Marietta, GA Branch 1119—Region 9 (Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina)
- **Kyle Turner** of Hazelwood, MO Branch 5847—Region 5 (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas) **PR**

Step AA pay adjustments delayed

The Postal Service has informed NALC that the pay adjustments for some part-time flexible letter carriers whose pay was incorrectly calculated while they were at Step AA are being delayed due to “unanticipated problems.” These adjustments are in accordance with national-level settlement M-01980. Affected letter carriers were recently notified by a letter from the Postal Service.

NALC reported on April 7 that these adjustments were tentatively scheduled for the July 21 paycheck. USPS states the anticipated date for these adjustments will now be the Sept. 1 paycheck. **PR**