



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

2012

\$2,000 President's Scholarship Award Recipients

Megan Bowden

Kerry Bowden (SDF)

Attending college and establishing a career has been a life goal of mine. I get to start working towards this goal in Fall 2012, when I will enter a 4-year university as an undecided freshman. I have watched my father successfully achieve his career dreams. He has taken me to his workplace, and I have seen the pride on his face and in his words as we toured the facility. One of the reasons he has such pride and security in his job is because he has belonged to his union for 24 years. Labor unions protect employees, their professions, and their families from employers and other forces. I want one day to have what my father has, a job that he enjoys, and membership in a successful union that gives him and our family this enjoyment and security.

How do labor unions affect people on a physical and mental level? I have seen my father's job protected and he has lived a good and thankful life. My grandfather worked as an engineer for a union-less factory and lost his job one year before he was to retire with 25 years of service. They had no reason to let him go. A union would not have allowed it. He spent the next 10 years living a very anxious life until he was 65 and able to get some of his retirement.

Elizabeth Paplow

Michael Paplow (MSN)

I am currently attending the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, with a major in early childhood/middle childhood education. I plan to attend for four years and receive a bachelor's degree and then immediately begin applying for jobs after graduation. Eventually, I would love to get my master's degree. I realize I may need additional education throughout my life to remain competitive and current, so a scholarship would help me to pursue having a successful career path.

NATCA has been a specific labor union that has been very important and has had a large impact on my family. The air traffic controller's union has benefitted us in many ways throughout my dad's 20 years as a member. He was originally assigned to the La Crosse, Wisc., tower, but after only four years there he was told by the FAA that smaller towers were shutting down and the controllers would be reassigned. NATCA helped so that my dad could work there for a few more years until the government deemed it completely necessary to shut down that branch. The union also negotiated favorable terms with the government so that my dad could select where he would be reassigned and receive help financing a new home. Thanks to the union, I was able to grow up in a stable home with a dad who had a secure job and benefits.

I have witnessed my grandmother work as a general laborer at a factory with no union in Kentucky. The employees were often forced to work mandatory overtime and seven-day weeks – refusal resulted in job loss. My grandma, working like this until she retired at age 60, watched her physical body age much faster than it should have if a union was protecting her. She is not the grandma who used to be able to do things with her grandkids. Age 65 is still young, but her body is much older. My grandma never felt too sorry for herself though. She felt more sorry for the younger adults who hardly saw their kids or spouses, or the too-tired single moms whose kids were in daycare seven days a week.

Unions also protect the quality and safety of a profession or facility. My dad has come home worried about outside forces trying to make cuts at his facility that he fears would degrade the integrity of his profession and provide unsafe services to American citizens. Fortunately, he and his union always fight and uphold these important standards. However, both my grandparents complained about monetary cuts that jeopardized the safety of employees.

I may not have a specific career goal yet, but I do know that I want to live a life like my family has lived, under the protection of a labor union. I want to be able to do my job to my utmost ability and not have to worry about abuse or physical and mental security.

Now, as I begin to lead my own life and follow career dreams, the union becomes even more important to me personally. When I become a teacher, I want to have rights and freedom through labor unions. I've signed the petition to get Scott Walker out of office and I intend to continue to fight for the rights of the unions and for the laborers who count on them for job security and benefits, like my dad did.

I am deserving of a union scholarship because of the large impact unions have had and will continue to have on my life, and because of how I have fought on their behalf. During last year's events in Wisconsin with Scott Walker and his bill to bust unions, I took my place among other union members by attending rallies at the capitol and standing for hours in the rotunda, protesting the bill. Through that experience, I learned so much more about what unions do for everyone. They are loyal and know how to stick together, and I was able to really see that throughout those weeks. Standing in the rotunda and seeing how everyone came together for each other was incredible. There were people I met there from Michigan and Indiana, and it was all over the news about how many union members from other states were supporting us. It really touched my family that fellow union members would show up to Wisconsin for support. In the past year, I have grown to really appreciate the unions and what they stand for. So I'd like to thank you for your support of union families by offering this scholarship.

\$1,000 Scholarship Award Recipients

Andrea Aiken
John D. Aiken, ZBW

James Baldyga
John Baldyga, APA

Stephanie Black
Stephen A. Black, S56

Kevin Callinan
Paul Callinan, LAX

Sarah Brooke Coleman
Loyle L. Coleman, OKC

Christina Cook
David Cook, ZJX

Austin L. Dickinson
Ross L. Dickinson, MEM

Blain Miller Donnell
Steven Dion Donnell, ZHU

Mary-Kate Gallagher
Phil Gallagher, AVP

Darlee Hart
Debra Hart, SEA

Joshua E. Hulse
Ed Hulse, ZFW

Cori Iacopelli
Dean Iacopelli, N90

Haley Johnson
Cory Johnson, FAR

Brandon Knowles
Todd Knowles, GTF

John P. Lieser
Joseph Lieser, ZAU

Bryce McGlothlin
Bob & Lisa Brickley, EVV

Kinsey Miller
Kevin Miller, ZSE

Quincy Miller
Lowell Miller, ENM

Quinton Oliver
Lisa Renee Caldwell, ATL

Alexander P. Osiadacz
Michael P. Osiadacz, A80

Shae Pelkowski
Patrick Pelkowski, ICT

Paul Andrew Schwein
Paul D. Schwein, MIA

Caitlin Vaverek
Keven Vaverek, ZMA

Lauren Nicole Webb
Danny Ray Webb, NKT

Paul Steven Weidner
Steve Weidner, ZMP