



The Official Magazine of the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees

Volume 76 No. 1

# **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** ONE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE



Samuel Wesley Henderson February 1, 1921 – January 6, 2016

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### **A Note From The President**



Wilbur L. Duncan, National President: WDuncan@napfe.org



The appy New Year to all Alliance members, families and friends. We wish you a very healthy and happy 2016.

As the New Year dawns, new hope and expectations come on the scene. NAPFE is thankful that the past year is gone, as it was quite a struggle for our organization. But with each of your dedication, joining hands and heart, we pulled through the difficult moments together. Congratulations! We also salute our staff for their steadfastness and loyalty towards this Union.

We are beginning the New Year with a slight increase in membership because you have been doing what our National Treasurer- Comptroller, Warren E. Powell has been saying every Thursday evening on the NAPFE Internet Radio Show – Each One, Reach One. You have been listening, to him and to our two Vice Presidents, Janice Robinson (1st) and Gale Thames (2nd) who have been talking to everyone within their hearing about the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees.

As postal and federal employees, you may need someone to champion your cause at some time during your federal career. We are the Union that you want in your corner. Getting a raise is great, but to take advantage of that raise, you must be able to work at your assigned job. The National Alliance cares about all its members. If you haven't joined us yet, do so as soon as possible.

In another 30 days, our all new web site will be unveiled and you will be able to see what all we offer and sign up at that time - or if you want to talk to a live person, call us and we will be happy to talk to you.

The Alliance is about settled into their new headquarters and if you are in the vicinity, (Washington, DC) stop by and say hello. The NAPFE Credit Union is on the ground floor and is wheel-chair accessible.

As I said, 2016 is starting out as a great year in both membership and the effectiveness we are having in representing those members who have come to us for relief. We are doing it. Why not join us – Each one – Reach one. It's worth \$100 to you.

This New Year may start off with some uncertainty as we do not have the crystal ball on the economy; but we are sure that if we stay united and determined to make it work, our organization will surely succeed.

Hence, the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees looks forward to your full cooperation to weather any storm that we may face in 2016. We look forward to a successful year together, no matter what comes our way.

Together, with one mind and heart, hands at the plow, the National Alliance will succeed in 2016!

### **Founder's Day Award Banquet**



Ernestine Watts-Taylor, National Editor etaylor@napfe.org

# National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees Local 510, Pittsburgh, PA Founder's Day Award Banquet

## "Ain't No Stopping Us Now"

ver 100 NAPFE members, family and friends were in attendance for the 102nd Founder's Day Award Banquet Local 510 for NAPFE. The theme was; "Ain't No Stopping Us Now."

District 5 President George C, Spencer served as Master of Ceremony and kept the audience "fired up" with his remarks. Local 510 President Rev. Earl Lawson gave a hearty welcome to attendees along with National  $2^{nd}$  Vice President Gale Thames.

Prior to the banquet 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Thames and Attorney Lacy gave an in-depth Labor Relations Workshop to local members.

George Lacy, NAPFE's General Counsel gave a stimulating talk and shared compelling stories from his tenure with the "Union that Cares." Founders' Day Weekend gave members an opportunity to reconnect with one another, meet new members and get acquainted with Local, District and National officers.

Scholarship winner Billie Hill, accompanied by her parents and sponsored by her mom, Jenifer Lynn Hill, a member of Local 510. Billie's father William Hill thanked the Local and gave touching remarks. Harriet Wilson was the Scholarship Chairperson.

Member James Hall received a standing ovation for his rendition of "My Soul is Anchored in the Lord."

Top membership recruiter Jesse Guinn was surprised when he was called to stage to receive the Edward L. Welch Award. Ed Welch was the former General Counsel for NAPFE and a "Warrior for Justice" in his own right.

Attendees dined on a delicious buffet dinner and an assortment of desserts.

The "Lighting the Way" video brought tears to many as they viewed the history of the Alliance. Chairpersons Annie Rainey and Carol Thomas performed an "outstanding" task in organizing the program. District Five Management division Chair Lorraine Cook-Cross, as always showed her support to the local. National Editor Ernestine Watts Taylor was honored to give closing remarks.

Member Brian Palonis rendered a stirring Benediction.

Members are waiting in anticipation for the 2016 Founder's Day program.

# Founder's Day Award Banquet



## From the Desk of the National 1st Vice President



Janice Robinson, 1st Vice President jrobinson@napfe.org

#### We Celebrate & Appreciate Your... Life Membership (40 Years of Continuous Service) Year 2015 Listing

Claude Norflett Local 206 John H. Edwards Local 208 Hattie L. McNeil Local 209 Charlaine D. Cuthbert Local 209 Frankie M. Haskins Local 209 Ernest J. Richardson Local 209 John F. Hampton Local 302 Gentry L. Delaney Local 407 James K. Manning Local 701 Rose A. Duncan Local 807 Sheila Burton Local 813 Robert G. Hedgepeth Local 813 Ezekiel E. Logan Local 813 Delmore W. Spence Local 815 Eric T. Sprouse Local 907 Ronald J. Jenkins Local 907 Rov W. Tavlor Local 907 Milton Perkins Local 1003 Ruby A. Baxter Local 1003

## We Celebrate & Appreciate Your 20 Years of Service (20 Years of Continuous Service) July – December 2015

Tilliman F. Williams	Local 104	Alice L. Hughes	Local 334
Charles C. Scott	Local 105	James Isidore	Local 334
Ralph S. King	Local 202	Anna DeHill	Local 510
Linda I. Randolph	Local 202	Todd G. Marshall	Local 603
Michael R. Guthrie	Local 202	Lawrence E. Colvard	Local 603
Deborah Gentry	Local 202	Wanda A. Harris	Local 604
Marsha M. Sutton	Local 202	William H. Trusty	Local 802
Alfreda Hinton	Local 209	Lisa D. Williams	Local 802
Kimberly D. Harris	Local 209	Amanda L. Harris	Local 802
Sheldon H. Wilson	Local 304	Verlyn D. DeBerry	Local 802
Cheryl D. Bull	Local 304	Rodrigo Acosta	Local 807
Henry T. McFadden	Local 304	David Campbell	Local 813
Lanekia R. Mason	Local 305	Raymond Canty	Local 813
Jaspher L. Mark	Local 314	Eric Croswell	Local 815
Candice D. Brevard	Local 318	Anthony Williams	Local 907
Elise G. Jackson	Local 320	Mary A. Jones	Local 1003
Ronney D. James	Local 329	Nathaniel J. Kindred	Local 1014

# **Federal Labor Relations Authority Award**

Gale Thames, 2nd Vice President gthames@napfe.org



# Weingarten Error Cost The Agency

he Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) denied the agency's exceptions to an arbitration award that reduced the grievant's 10-day suspension for various alleged infractions to an informal letter of warning.

The agency contended that the award was contrary to law because the arbitrator found that the agency violated the grievant's Weingarten rights despite the fact that the grievant was told that the meeting was for "safety concerns" and non-disciplinary. The FLRA stated that there were several factors that could have made the grievant fear discipline, supporting the arbitrator's conclusion that "the grievant felt threatened that discipline might be assessed at the meeting.

The agency suspended the grievant for 10 days on four charges. The stipulated issue at arbitration was whether the suspension was for just cause. The arbitrator determined that the agency violated the grievant's due-process rights: 1) the agency "didn't fairly or objectively investigate" the charge that was based on the grievant's allegedly unethical conversation with a contractor; 2) it refused to postpone a meeting between the grievant and upper-level supervisor until the grievant could obtain union representation, and in so doing violated the grievant's Weingarten right. Based on these agency missteps, the arbitrator concluded that the suspension wasn't for just cause. Finding the 10-day suspension excessive, the arbitrator ordered it replaced with an informal letter of warning.

The agency contended that the award was contrary to law because the arbitrator erroneously found that the agency violated the grievant's right to representation. The agency argued that the grievant could not reasonably have believed that discipline might result from the meeting, "because he was told that the meeting was for "Safety Concerns" and was non-disciplinary.

The FLRA stated that even assuming the agency

## NAPFE Internet Radio show "Let's Get It On" Thursdays 6:00 PM

www.wclmradioonline.com

told the grievant that the meeting was non-disciplinary, there were several factors that could have made the grievant fear discipline. These factors included: 1) the grievant's awareness of the agency's concern with his EEO activities; 2) the upper-level supervisor's visit to the grievant's worksite that day to discuss EEO policy; 3) the supervisor's specific reminder to the grievant about their meeting; and 4) the presence of three supervisors at the meeting, which surprised the grievant. Based on these factors, the arbitrator concluded that "there was no doubt that the grievant felt threatened that discipline might be assessed at the meeting."

The above scenario points out the fact - that the grievant, not the agency, is the one who determines if a meeting may lead to discipline. For further information pertaining to Weingarten rights, contact me.

# **Celebration of Life and Legacy**

# black history MONTH

# Celebrating The Life and Legacy of Samuel Wesley Henderson



NAPFE Life Member, New York/Bronx Local 813 Alpha, February 1, 1921 – Omega, January 6, 2016



by Noel V. S. Murrain, National Secretary nmurrain@napfe.org amuel Wesley Henderson, the eighth of eleven children born to Samuel Alexander Henderson and Ruth Rebecca Waites Henderson, was born in New York City on February 1, 1921.

His mother sparked a love of music early in his life, patiently teaching him to play the piano and later, signing him up for violin lessons with the venerable but exacting Bertram Knight, under whose tutelage his musical talent flourished.

Wesley was equally attentive to his studies as a pupil in New York City's public school system, and in high school added athletics as yet another area in which he showed great promise. Five Black colleges had offered him basketball scholarships upon graduation from Stuyvesant High School, but Wesley decided instead to enroll in the Harlem Evening High School program for typing and stenography. It flabbergasted his parents, but his decision later would prove to be a prescient one.

After completing those courses, still another opportunity presented itself. Olympic high jump gold medalist Dave Albritton was offering a four year scholarship at State Teachers College (now Alabama State University) in Montgomery. Wesley accepted, but was not prepared for the intense racial hatred he would encounter. Twice escaping being lynched, he cut short his studies and returned to New York after only one semester.

Wesley was about to enroll at City College when World War II began. At that time, Blacks in the service were assigned to just three areas: as frontline foot soldiers (infantry units); delivering ammunition, food and supplies (quartermaster units); and building roads and bridges (engineering units). As fate would have it, one day he ran into a friend who said he was in a newly formed Black Air Force unit at Chanute Field in Rantoul, Illinois. When Wesley heard that, he knew he wanted to become a fighter pilot. He immediately went down to the recruiting center, where he was told that he could join the new unit if he volunteered. Wesley passed all tests, mental and physical, except the eye exam. He had a bruise on his eve from being hit by a snowball in his boyhood days. He couldn't be a pilot with the injury, he learned, but that didn't deter him: he joined the unit anyway.

Two weeks later, Wesley was in basic training at Camp Upton on Long Island. Thus began a period of his life that Wesley proudly recalled: "They put us on a train, which I thought was headed to Illinois. In those days, you never knew your destination. The saying was, "Loose lips sink ships." I fell asleep, and when I woke up I was in Alabama again—at Chehaw Railroad Station. Our final destination? Tuskegee Army Airfield. I consoled myself by thinking that at least on the airfield I would not have to face racial prejudice, but it prevailed even there, even with a unit that was 85% Black and 15% White."

"I did KP (kitchen) and guard duty—at one time, guard duty four days in a row. One day, the first sergeant said he needed someone who could type in the orderly room (headquarters) of the 99th Pursuit Squadron. I volunteered. My typing and steno classes had paid off!"

"After two months in the job, I told the first sergeant that I should be promoted from private to private first class—that's one stripe. He submitted the required paperwork and 2nd Lt. George Spencer Roberts, the temporary commanding officer, approved the recommendation.

At the end of the third month, I told the first sergeant that I should be promoted to corporal—two stripes. Approved! Fourth month, sergeant, three stripes. "

"The next month, there was an opening for staff sergeant—three stripes up, one stripe down. Approved!"

"In 1942, Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. became the commanding officer of the 99th Pursuit Squadron. The following year, we received combat orders and were sent to Camp Shanks in New York. Normally it took three squadrons to make a fighter group. My squadron, the 99th, was the only squadron that was prepared for combat duty. We became the 99th Fighter Squadron."

"We boarded the SS Mariposa, an Italian steamship, for a seven-day journey to Casablanca, North Africa. We were attached to the 33rd Fighter Group and later, the 324th. The commanding officers of both fighter groups were horribly racist; they gave the 99th fighter pilots the worst evaluations. Later we were detailed to the 79th Fighter Group in Sicily. Its commanding officer, Earl Bates, treated us like gold."

#### **Celebration of Life and Legacy**

"It was in Sicily that I got my final promotion—to first sergeant, the highest rank that could be achieved by an enlisted man."

"Colonel Davis went to Washington to protest the negative evaluations the 99th had received, though his pilots had performed outstandingly. There were rumors that our fighter squadron would be dismantled and the pilots assigned to coastal duty. But Colonel Davis prevailed. When he returned from Washington, he not only brought with him the all-Black 332nd Fighter Group, but brand-new P51s, the fastest and best fighter planes, for all the pilots."

"We painted the tails of the planes red, so they could be distinguished. We became known as the Red Tails, and the 99th Fighter Squadron became part of the 332nd Fighter Group, assigned to bomber escort duty. Soon bomber pilots began to request the Red Tails because of our loyalty and fierce protection of their planes. We never lost a single plane to enemy aircraft."

"The chaplain of the 332nd complained that the 99th soldiers did nothing to support Sunday morning services. I decided to form a choral group to sing during a service. Six singers attended my first rehearsal. Many were asked to join, but they retorted that they were there to fight a war, not sing. The music, "Stars of a Summer Night."

"Three days later, at the second rehearsal, there were 12 singers. The third rehearsal produced 16 men. A month later, I had a full group—five first tenors, seven second tenors, eight baritones, and seven basses. 90% of the time we had no piano. I typed out the words and sang each part to the group myself. The sound was gorgeous. Requests started coming in for us to sing off-post. We became quite famous as the 99th Fighter Squadron Chorale."

On his last day in Europe, Wesley was awarded the Bronze Star for administrative excellence. Colonel Davis was appointed commanding officer at Godman Airfield in Hardin County, Kentucky. He took about 50 people, including Wesley, with him.

The atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, by the United States brought WWII to a dramatic end. Wesley was honorably discharged at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and returned home. He had served his country for three and a half years.

Back on home turf, Wesley began studying voice with Prof. H. Lawrence Freeman. HE became the conductor of the Lyceum Choral Group at Salem United Methodist Church in Harlem for 13 years, after Luvenia White Porter left to become the minister of music at another church. Wesley sang baritone at St Philip's Episcopal Church in Harlem for many years and gained a well-deserved reputation as an excellent sight reader and fine musician.

In addition to pursuing his varied musical activities, Wesley was employed by the United States Postal Service for almost 33 years, retiring in 1979 at Grade 26. He continued his choral conducting, singing with various church choirs and recording sessions.

In 2005, Wesley and eight other Tuskegee Airmen were invited by filmmaker George Lucas to his Skywalker Ranch to talk about their exploits during WWII. Lucas produced the critically acclaimed Red Tails. Wesley is credited for his contribution to the making of the film.

Wesley was a member of St Michael's Church; life member of the NAACP; chaplain of the 369th Sergeants Association; parliamentarian of the Claude Govan Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen; parliamentarian and former president of the David I. Martin Music Guild Chapter of the National Association of Negro Musicians; former vice chairman of the Eastern Region of the National Association of Negro Musicians; life member of the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees, (former Retiree Chairman, Local 813 Scholarship Committee person and Auxiliary member); member of the National Association of Postal Supervisors; and member of the American Postal Workers Union.

Of his remarkable life Wesley humbly said, "Whatever success I have had is due to God's grace and loving family and friends."

Well Done Thy Good and Faithful Servant

# JOIN THE NAFPE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION TODAY!!!

## Application on the next page

Just cut and mail in to the NAPFE FCU

For more information Please call us at (202) 939-6325 ext. 230

#### NAPFE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION USA Patriot Act Notice IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PROCEDURES FOR OPENING A NEW ACCOUNT OR FOR A REQUEST FOR CREDIT

To help the government fight the funding of terrorism and money laundering activities, federal law requires all financial institutions to obtain, verify and record information that identifies each individual or business that opens an account or request credit.

What this means for individuals:

When an individual opens an account, or requests credit, we will ask for their name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and other information that allows us to identify them. We may also ask to see their driver's license or other identifying documents.

What it means for businesses:

When a business opens an account or requests credit, we will ask for the business name, business address, Employer identification Number, and other information that allows us to identify the business and signatories. We may also ask to see other identifying documents showing existence of the business.

USA PATRIOT ACT, SECTION 326

# **NAPFE Federal Credit Union Application**



#### NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF POSTAL AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES FEDERAL CREDIT UNION 1640 11TH St NW Washington, DC 20001 (202) 939-6325 EXT 230 MEMBER APPLICATION (Must be mailed back to the Credit Union-no faxed copies accepted)

#### **MEMBER INFORMATION (please print)**

I hereby make application for membership in the NAPFE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION and agree to conform to the By-Laws or any amendments thereof.

Signature				
Full Name (First/Middle/Last):	M F			
Residential Street Address (No	9 P.O. Box):			
City:	S	State:	Zip:	
Mailing Address (If different, P	O Box, etc.):			
City:	State:		_Zip:	
Home Phone:	Work No.		ext:	
Date of Birth: Mo Da	ny Year	SSN.		
Driv Lic./ Gov't Issued No		_ State Issued:_	Date Issued:	Expiration Date:
(please attach a copy of driver	s license, passpo	rt, or gov't issu	ed ID, this is MANDA	ATORY to open your account)
Department or Agency				
Address:		C/S/Z		
Local No				
Membership Eligibility: Check	one Union M	ſem; <u> </u> Auxilia	ary Mem;Union H	Employee;Spouse
Membership Shares: \$30.00 (P	lease send check	or money orde	r payable to NAPFE	FCU with application)
*Account Security: Create a pa	ssword for telepl	hone identificat	ion purposes	*
	DO NOT	WRITE BELOW	THIS LINE	
Application Approved By:				
Date:	_Title:			
OFAC Check <u>Yes</u> No	Acct. No			

# **NAPFE Federal Credit Union Application**



#### JOINT OWNER INFORMATION (please print)

Signature					
Print Full Name (First/Middle/	Last): M F				
Residential Street Address (No	P.O. Box):				
City:		State:	Zip:		
Mailing Address (If different, P	O Box, etc.):				
City:	State:		Zip:		
Home Phone:	Work No.		ext:		
Date of Birth: Mo Day _	Year	SSN.			
Dri Lic./ Gov't Issued No	S	tate Issued:_	Date Issued:	Expiration Date:	
(please attach a copy of driver	's license or gov'i	t issued ID, th	nis is MANDATORY	to open your account)	
*Account Security: Create a password for telephone identification purposes*					

#### **DESIGNATION OF BENEFICIARY (please print)**

This designation shall only be effective when delivered and filed with Credit Union duly executed by an insured member and during the lifetime of the beneficiary designated.

Date		_			
I,			, being a member of the NAPFE	FEDERAL CRED	T UNION
	(TYPE OR PRINT	YOUR NAME)			
do hereby des	signate		; relationship, if any		, of
		(BENEFICIARY)			
NUMBER	STREET		CITY	STATE	ZIP

as my beneficiary if living, to receive any and all sums of money paid under and by virtue of the terms and conditions of the Life Insurance Contract, Life Savings Plan of the CUNA Mutual Insurance Society to the said Credit Union. I hereby reserve the right to change the beneficiary herein designated. The execution of a subsequent Designation of Beneficiary form shall constitute a change of beneficiary. Payment of proceeds to a designated beneficiary determined by the Credit Union as entitled to such proceeds under said Contract shall discharge the Credit Union from any and all liability to the extent of such payment.

WITNESS

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER (DO NOT PRINT)

# Trinee D. Adams

James. W. Morris Scholarship Winner Essay New York/ Bronx Local 813

#### If James W. Morris were alive, why would he give you this scholarship?

he motto of the NAPFE is Faithful until Death and it is a motto that my family has upheld for all of my life and long before. James W. Morris also upheld this motto and similar to my family the words 'and beyond' could be added as his care (posthumously) and foresight is allowing college students an additional opportunity. Academic achievement is a key building block as it opens up homes to community to cities and to the world. One of the original forms of communication-the written word-is what NAPFE members have helped to professionally and diligently deliver-through all circumstancesfor over 100 years. Providing opportunities such as this scholarship and his other philanthropic endeavors demonstrates the commitment a Life Member of NAPFE has demonstrated—a commitment to helping others belong to a community of strivers-whether academic, professionally or familial.

I was raised in a family where excelling academically was the lay of the land. Excuses were and are not an option and seeing a task through to completion is key. I took many years off in between my degrees and am currently pursuing a 2nd Masters Degree en route to a Doctorate in Education (Ed.D). I have chosen to continue to pursue a career in academia to teach English Language Learners. Our United States of America was built by people who helped themselves by helping others along the way. I will continue this legacy with the completion of my next two degrees. While it may not be the type of doctor that my grandparents can turn to with an illness I will help teach English to the next medical doctor who has come here in pursuit of the American Dream.

Some of the initial members of the Alliance were dreamers who wanted to provide for their families and uplift the image of their culture and James W. Morris saw this as a valuable place to be a member of. And so much so, that he left as a part of his legacy, via this scholarship, for students to progress. This is completely aligned to the opportunity for inclusion, growth and information given to members in the Alliance (women and Blacks especially at its start and others). I have had four key family members work for the USPS in various capacities from front line delivery to supervisor and I have always admired the sense of camaraderie and family they had with their co-workers and colleagues. They all also belonged to the Alliance (my grandmother

holds a position in the Retirees Division). James W Morris would award me this

> scholarship as he would learn that I am an educator inherently by my blood and my history who looks to provide opportunities to others by teaching them the basics. Giving them the initial building block to grow from being a member of their household, to becoming a global citizen through all circumstances. So that they too, may be faithful until death and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration.

# Calling All Former ABC Scholarship Recipients

#### "Where Are They Now?"

e are often asked if we ever hear from our past scholarship winners. The National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees would love to hear from previous Ashby B. Carter Scholarship recipients. We would be pleased if they were to send us a note telling us how they used their scholarship and what they are doing now.

It would be extremely interesting to see where their talents have taken them, and gratifying to learn how the NAPFE was able to contribute to their career development in a small way. We would like to hear from you so that we can highlight your achievements in our National Alliance Magazine, and to let others know how well you are doing out in the big wide world.

Please spread the word to anyone you know who was either a recipient, the sponsor of a recipient, or a relative of a recipient. Please send your information to the Attn: of Loretta Wallace, NAPFE Past Scholarships, 1640 11th St. NW., Washington, DC 20001-5008. Or email Loretta Wallace at lwallace@napfe.org with information and pictures, or call (202) 939 -6325, ext. 239.



## 2016 Ashby B. Carter Memorial Scholarship Program

# **Eligibility**

All applicants must be dependents of members of the national alliance of postal and federal employees. Such sponsors must have been members in good standing for at least three (3) years prior to the submission of application for scholarship. All scholarship applications must be certified by the national secretary.

	FOUNDER'S AWARDS	
First Place	Second Place	Third Place
\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00

Student's Name	SSN
Address	City/State/Zip
Age Grade	School Name
School Address	City/State/Zip
Sponsor's Name	SSN
Address	City/State/Zip
TelephoneRelationship	Local

All applicants for these awards **must take** the *Aptitude Test of the College Board Entrance Examination* on or before April 20th of the filing year. Applicants **must** be High School Seniors.

Completed applications and all required materials must be returned to the Director on or before **May 30, 2016.** 



Ms. Melissa Jeffries-Stewart, Director Ashley B. Carter Memorial Scholarship Fund 1640 11th St. NW Washington, DC 20001-5008