



THE MANAGER

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MANY AWARDS, MANY DIFFERENT PATHS: THE MEA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

By Vanessa DeSantis



Deena Bader



Chloe Alexander Cooper



Crystal Curcio



Dr. Lousie L. Hodge

Every year, the Career Development Program of the New York City Managerial Employee Association offers its members and their children an opportunity to qualify for Joel Fishelson Academic Scholarship Program.

Total awards amounted to \$6,800 this year, ranging from \$300 to \$1,000. The winners were selected by reviewing their grade point averages, SAT and ACT test scores and application essays.

Five managers were awarded scholarships:

Top prize winner Dr. Louise I. Hodge is an Associate Director of Outpatient Behavioral Health Services at NYC Health + Hospitals in Harlem. Her \$1000 award will go to her studies at Brandman University, where she attends an online graduate certificate program in Applied Behavior Analysis.

"I would like to thank the MEA for their unwavering support over the years and for receipt of this scholarship, which will allow me to positively impact the lives of individuals who need it most," said Dr. Hodge.

Another manager, Jenny Uguru, also at H+H, is an Assistant Director of Nursing in Ambulatory Care and will use her \$750 award to offset costs at the Chamberlain School of Nursing, where she's earning a doctoral degree in Healthcare Systems Leadership.

Michele Adams is a manager at H+H, studying to be a Credentialed Alcoholism

and Substance Abuse Counselor at the Outreach Training Institute. Her \$500 award will go toward helping her work with clients and create goals and treatment plans. "I will be a positive change agent in the lives of others," said Ms. Adams.

Other managers awarded were Paul Byrne, NYC Department of Education; and Mellonie Grant, NYC H+H.

Seven dependents were offered awards ranging from \$500 to \$300.

Louis Pasquale, the son of Leonard Pasquale, a manager at the NYC Department of Education, attends Adelphi University and will apply his \$500 award there. "I am currently working towards my Masters of Education, with a focus on K-12 physical education," he said.

Chloe Alexander Cooper, the daughter of Adrienne Ewing, who worked as an Administrative Supervisor of Building Maintenance, in New York City's Department of Finance for many years, was awarded \$500. It will go towards her studies at the University of Tampa, where she's an Entrepreneurship major.

Ms. Alexander Cooper, who is also a classically trained flutist, has a non-profit called "Generation Music," that educates underrepresented youth. "Our vision is to give students access to music no matter what their background is," she said.

Another \$500 award winner was Deena Bader, whose father is MEA member

Andrew Bader, Chief of Watershed Water Quality Operations in the Department of Environmental Protection. Ms. Bader attends Eastern Virginia Medical School and is earning her Masters in Health Sciences, working in the Pathologists Assistant program.

A freshman at SUNY Oneonta and the daughter of MEA member Peter Curcio, Crystal Curcio will apply her \$500 award to her studies in Secondary Education, with a focus in history. "Eventually I hope to become a school administrator," she said.

Other awardees were Andrew Roach, dependent of Michael Roach, Ahuva-Shevlin Osnat, dependent of Yafa Shevlin and Jaden Haynes, dependent of Kibaki Depass.

The Pandemic affected all of the students: causing delays in studies and personal tragedies. In the case of Ms. Uguru, she had to start from scratch after having to scrap a project she'd begun a year ago. Most all are studying remotely. Nonetheless, the Awardees all expressed gratitude for their opportunities and are continuing to do the work.

That positivity shows in how they describe their hobbies, "I love music and happy endings," exclaimed Jenny Uguru. Ms. Alexander Cooper loves soaking up the sunshine during walks across the bridge from campus to Tampa's downtown.

All winners extended a gracious thanks to the MEA.

Bits & Pieces



LEAVING, BUT NOT ON THE MIDNIGHT TRAIN TO GEORGIA: THE NEXT CHAPTER IN MY LIFE

Bv Linda A. Barnes. NYC MEA Executive Director

On October 1, 2020, I submitted my notice of resignation from the Managerial Employees Association (MEA), as well as my retirement from the employment sector. I have spent many hours reflecting upon my time spent at the MEA. I pay special tribute to President Emeritus William (Bill) Dworkin and MEA's former Executive Vice President, Mr. Willie May, Jr. When I was first appointed to the MEA, Bill Dworkin traveled from North Carolina to New York to provide the guidance required for me to fulfill the needs of the Association. Mr. Dworkin's task was not easy, because I bombarded him with questions. Patiently, he provided clear guidance and answers to each inquiry.

In addition to all the important information Mr. Dworkin shared with me, Willie May, Jr. contributed valuable insight regarding the importance of interacting with our members on a face-to-face basis and developing relationships to enhancing MEA's growth and visibility. Mr. May effectively communicated to me and

stated, "Our members need to know who you are, to know more about the MEA and its benefit to them."

Working with MEA President Stu Eber, I immediately developed a recruitment plan that would become MEA's template. This plan was used for what became known as our Lunch and Learn sessions with our members and helped us to forge and strengthen our collaborative relationship with City officials and agency executives. Though we're not yet a household name, we're certainly more widely recognized by managerial employees than ever before. We are now "on the map" as an advocacy organization for managers.

There has not been one day when I regretted reporting to my responsibilities within the MEA. I looked forward to providing our members with professional guidance and resolving work-related concerns. I always enjoyed working with a great team of Officers and Board representatives and helping to maintain the Association's 52-year history of

representing managers. I am proud to have successfully maintained as well as exceeded some of MEA's records in member recruitment and administrative management issues. I have held the pleasure of managing an AWESOME staff over the years. Without this amazing team, I'd be severely limited in my ability to successfully contribute to MEA goals.

In sharing my farewell with you, my plea is for every city manager who is not a member of the MEA to unite with your colleagues and become a member.

On December 31, 2020, I will take my final look at my office, my staff, and the organization in general. I will head home to focus and plan for the next chapter in my life. I extend my sincere appreciation to my devoted staff, all MEA members, MEA Officers and the Executive Board for making this MEA journey wonderful and unforgettable. Thank you for being a part of my life and allowing me to be a part of yours.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LINDA BARNES RETIRING

By Vanessa DeSantis

MEA members met to discuss unionization, the fight against layoffs and its own budget outlook for 2021, among many other pressing issues, during a General Membership meeting that took place on Zoom on Thursday, October 15th.

The meeting drew the highest attendance ever at a General Membership meeting — surpassing the access limit of 100 persons and leaving fifty members struggling to join the jam-packed virtual conference. President Shelly Shulman said he will expand the access number of attendees in the future.

"We're considering making Zoom a permanent way of meeting," he said.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LINDA BARNES ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

MEA Executive Director Linda Barnes announced her retirement at the October 15th Zoom General Membership Meeting. "It was not an immediate decision," she said.

Ms. Barnes has served the membership since 2009. President Shulman thanked her for her dedication to members and her successes at recruiting hundreds of new members throughout her tenure.

"We will sorely miss her," said President Emeritus Stu Eber, "But she's

earned every single minute of her retirement." In turn, Ms. Barnes expressed appreciation for Mr. Eber and his help over the years at the Association.

BUYOUTS AND LAYOFFS

President Emeritus Stu Eber reported on the current status of buyouts and layoffs. He explained that the 22,000 prospective layoffs were submitted last month and are being reviewed by OMB and DCAS for compliance with the 135-page procedure DCAS issued earlier this year. Civil Service law protects permanent employees with seniority regardless of union status.

"Managers do fairly well since they have fallback titles and more seniority," said Mr. Eber. The MEA also has some back up from other powerful groups, such as the Municipal Labor Committee, that wants buyouts instead of layoffs.

ERI BILLS

There are two early retirement incentive (ERI) bills in committee in the state legislature, A11089 and S0904. Mr. Eber urged the attendees to contact their state Senators and Assembly members to pass an ERI to avoid layoffs.

"MEA has been in touch with the Administration in hopes of clarifying which positions are most at risk of being eliminated," said Mr. Eber. "It's murky, it's disturbing."

MEA'S BUDGET AND UNIONIZATION

MEA's 2020 budget will end in a strong financial position," said MEA Treasurer Bernard Orlan adding, "2021 is a different animal."

MEA's current 2020 budget is for an income of \$741,900 and an expenditure of \$732,036, an estimated surplus of \$9,864. Maintaining revenues in 2021 will be tougher because of the challenges posed by possible layoffs, early retirement incentives and continued unionization.

Hundreds of managers are having their functions converted to union titles. "The problem with unionization is that we are losing membership," said Mr. Shulman. "We're going to lose about 400 Health and Hospitals members and 100 formerly managerial computer titles and that's a quarter of our membership."

President Shulman stressed the importance of recruitment. "There's 9000 managers and we only have 2000 members. That's at least 7000 members we could recruit."

The complete Zoom meeting is available on the NYC MEA Website:

nycmea.org/news-events

2020 NYC MEA CDP JOEL FISELSON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RECIPIENTS: DEPENDENTS

RECIPIENTS	MEMBER	MEMBER'S AGENCY	COLLEGE	AMOUNT
Chloe Alexander Cooper	Adrienne Ewing	Department of Finance	The University of Tampa	\$500
Andrew Roach	Michael Roach	Department of Environmental Protection	SUNY Maritime College	\$300
Louis Pasquale	Leonard Pasquale	Department of Education	Adelphi University	\$500
Osnat Ahuva-Shevlín	Yafa Shevlín	Health and Hospitals	Hunter College	\$500
Crystal Curcio	Peter Curcio	Retirees Chapter	Sacred Heart University	\$500
Deena Bader	Andrew Bader	Department of Environmental Protection	SUNY Plattsburgh	\$500
Jaden Haynes	Kibaki Depass	Administration for Children's Services	Clinton Community College	\$500

2020 NYC MEA CDP JOEL FISELSON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RECIPIENTS: MEMBERS

RECIPIENTS	AGENCY	COLLEGE	AMOUNT
Paul Byrne	Department of Education	City College of New York	\$750
Jenny Uguru	Health and Hospitals	Chamberlain School of Nursing	\$750
Michelle Adams	Health and Hospitals	Outreach Training Institute	\$500
Mellonie Grant	Health and Hospitals	Yeshiva University	\$500
Louise Ingrid-Hodge	Health and Hospitals	Brandman University	\$1,000



New York City Managerial Employees Association
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2021 MEA CHAPTER ELECTION SCHEDULE

CHAPTER	2019 CHAPTER DIRECTOR	2019 ASS'T CHAPTER DIRECTOR	PROPOSED MEETING DATES 2020	NEW 2020 CHAPTER DIRECTOR	NEW 2020 ASS'T CHAPTER DIRECTOR	RECORDING SECRETARY
ACS	Vacant	Vacant	March 10, 2020	Sandra Bryce	Yelena Gladkova	Shanaz Mohammed
Buildings	Sanjoy Nath	Amitha Khatri	September 22, 2020	Graham Rabinowitsch	Yegal Shamash	Vacant
Community Boards	Beryl Nyack	Vacant	October 9, 2020	Beryl Nyack	Celestine Leon	Jermey Warneke
Comptroller	Ernestine Rivers-Merritt	Wasyi Kinach	September 23, 2020	Ernestine Rivers-Merritt	Wasyi Kinach	Vacant
Corrections	Rabiah Gaynor	Vacant	September 30, 2020	Rabiah Gaynor	Vacant	Vacant
DCAS	Tina Ramsey	Maria Frasca	October 6, 2020	Tina Ramsey	Maria Frasca	Vacant
DDC	Vacant	Vacant	October 7, 2020	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
DEP	Peter Kontogiannis	James Caggiano	October 14, 2020	Peter Kontogiannis	James Caggiano	David Lipsky
DHS	Sheila Corbin-Drackett	Jane Etienne	October 21, 2020	Cindy Teta	John Hammond	Patricia Britton
DOE	Hazel Wellington	John Hession	February 26, 2020	Dennis Tomkins	Vacant	Umrn Malik
DOHMH	Cynthia Mont-Burbon	Ann-Marie Ashmeade	November 24, 2020	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
DOI	Vacant	Vacant	October 22, 2020	Alaina Infantino	Margaret Reveira	Katy Diaz-Espinal
DOITT	John May	Sherri Porcu	March 12, 2020	John May	Vacant	Vacant
DOT	Raynard Edwards	Valerie Coleman	January 21, 2020	Raynard Edwards	Vacant	Eric Brown
DSNY	Chudi E. Chiejina	Eugene Adia	October 28, 2020	Chundi E. Chiejina	Eugene Adia	Vacant
DYCD	Peta-Gay Campbell	Shakina Shaw	October 29 2020	Peta-Gay Campbell	Eulin Inverary-Dejonge	Kathleen Almanzar
FDNY	Sophie Worrel	Shahadat Patwary	January 14, 2020	Charles Jackson	Sophie Worrell	Moshe Satt
Finance	Zena Spence	Vacant	March 5, 2020	Zena Spence	Cheslyn Lorde	Pamela Parker-Cortijo
FISA/OPA	Eric Reitzel	Herbert Hirsch	November 4, 2020	Eric Reitzel	Loydy Linares	Raoul Toussaint
H + H	Elithea Maysonet	Vacant	January 28, 2020	Elithea Maysonet	Michelle Adams	Vacant
HPD	Mario Guerrero, Jr	Vacant	November 5, 2020	Mario Guerrero, Jr	Vacant	Vacant
HRA	Pamela Ross	Sandy Bryant	November 12, 2020	Pamela Ross	Sandy Bryant	Stephen Dickerson
Municipal Chapter	Barbara DiFiore	Vacant	November 19, 2020	Sabrina Middleton	Barbara Di Fiore	Arna Lipkind
NYCHA	Carl Walton III	Tajhma Carroll	December 2, 2020	Carl Walton III	Tajhma Carroll	Gerald Middleton
NYPD	Ramon Garcia	Andrew Krinsky	December 3, 2020	Andrew Krinsky	Kenneth Clark	Matthew Johnson
Parks	Laurence Major, Jr	Iris Rodriguez-Rosa	December 9, 2020	Lawrence Major, Jr.	Iris Rodriguez-Rosa	Elieen Dalton
Pension Systems	Vacant	Vacant	January 7, 2020	Sheillann Walters	Felita DiLorenzo	Suzanne Alleyne
Probation	Nora Santos	Darrell Williams	December 10, 2020	Nora Santos	Rodney Levy	Vacant
Retirees	Adrienne Leaf	Sam Borkow, Candida Carcana	October 13 2020	Adrienne Leaf	Sam Borkow	Lisa Yee
SCA	Annelle Grayon	Ricardo Forde	December 17, 2020	Annelle Grayon	Audrey Dunlap	Ricardo Forde