



## Election at May 13, 2019 Annual Meeting

### Roster of Candidates for Board of Directors Term 2019-2021

#### **Candidate for President – MAUDLYNE IHEJIRIKA**

**Platform:** “Two years ago, I set 3 goals: To grow our partnerships/expand NABJCC’S impact; increase scholarship donations; and Tackle black community issues via mentoring. All were met. Today, a vibrant website covers our events/ journalism news/jobs. Robust monthly forums/activities have set the standard, w/such partnerships as an Immigration Debate w/Northwestern U., All Chicago Media Mixer uniting 9 journalism organizations, NABJCC Nights w/Goodman Theatre, an Organ Donor campaign w/Gift of Hope after a beloved member’s passing, and Chicago Mayoral Forum w/Sun-Times. Scholarship funding grew by \$8K, including an NABJ chapter grant, and a venue & marketing overhaul led to our most successful holiday fundraiser. Finally, a new NABJ Road Show mentoring inner-city youth was created via successful grant proposal. And last year, we won Chapter of the Year.”

#### **Candidate for Vice President/Broadcast – BRANDON POPE**

**Platform:** “I am excited and encouraged at the work NABJ Chicago has done this past cycle, and continues to do now. We perfectly exemplify the mission of NABJ, and won chapter of the year because of it. I wish to continue to be a part of this essential work and continue to help push the organization forward. With the majority of the national membership comprised of millennials, I feel I can be a voice to the new age while connecting to more seasoned professionals. I feel my outreach on the board has brought in more young members into the organization and look forward, if given the opportunity, to continue that outreach.”

#### **Candidate for Vice President/Print – PHIL THOMPSON**

**Platform:** “As vice president of print, I would like to continue to build on the grant-awarded NABJ Chicago Road Show, a journalism outreach program to mentor young people in schools and foster better communication and understanding between community groups and media. In my time on the board I've also helped create forums to discuss issues affecting journalist and communities of color.”

#### **Candidate for Vice President/Digital – LEE EDWARDS**

**Platform:** “As VP of Digital for the National Association of Black Journalists - Chicago Chapter I will endeavor to build lasting relationships with current, former and aspiring members of the chapter to encourage greater involvement moving forward; increase membership and overall awareness of the organization; produce content that highlights the organization’s latest accomplishments; and work within the chapter and like-minded organizations to assist tomorrow’s journalists. I’ve seen firsthand the impact NABJ Chicago can have on aspiring journalists’ careers. It is because of these experiences I want to leverage the considerable resources the chapter has at its disposal to welcome Black journalists to join, volunteer, and move the chapter forward so they too can experience all the benefits and service opportunities NABJ can offer them and others.”

#### **Candidate for Vice President of Archives (No Candidate)**

#### **Candidate for Treasurer – VALARIE WEST**

**Platform:** “I humbly ask for your vote and pledge to work hard every day. I will bring my experience to get the job done with full accountability and transparency. Thank you for your consideration.”

#### **Candidate for Secretary – TONY SMITH**

**Platform:** “My first-time working with the NABJ-Chicago Chapter inspired me to be all I can be as a journalist. The inspiration I derived from NABJ-Chicago Chapter back then now compels me to serve the organization as board member at large. I want to advocate for black journalists on both sides of the camera, as well as those working online and in print. Let’s work together for a stronger and more relevant NABJ-Chicago Chapter. It is time our voices are really heard and people say what they mean and do what they say.”



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#### Candidates for Board Member *At-Large* — Nine (9) Vacancies — *(Listed Alphabetically)*

##### **GLORIA BROWN**

**Platform:** "I would like to continue working in my position as a board member at-large for NABJ-CC also. As always, I will use my position as board member to focus on diversity in our newsrooms. I will continue to urge our general managers, news directors, editors and administrators to become more transparent by joining our organization, supporting our efforts and participating in our monthly forums. I have mentored many students and interns, some of which are now top journalists in Chicago and around the country. I would like the opportunity to continue doing this rewarding and much needed work for NABJ-CC."

##### **BRENDA BUTLER**

**Platform:** "Why am I running? I have served three terms as NABJ Chicago president. I want to continue leveraging my experience and expertise to make this journalism organization (Chapter of the Year in 2009) even stronger. I have served in many capacities, including program committee co-chair, and helped restore the organization to its solid affiliate status. Let's keep NABJ Chicago adaptable and focused on its mission and introduce new voices who will carry the vision forward. What can NABJ Chicago do for you? Together, we will answer that question and change the narrative. Plus, the need for reliable, credible news sources delivered to a discerning consumer is more important than ever. NABJ Chicago can help those consumers and communities become smarter and better critical thinkers."

##### **CHERYL CORLEY**

**Platform:** "I am a broadcast journalist and have been a Correspondent for National Public Radio's National Desk for several years. I've also served as the News Director at Chicago's local public radio station, WBEZ and as a television director at an NBC-TV affiliate. I have been a long time member/and committee member of NABJ-Chicago and am now seeking to serve as a board member at large. I'd work to expand our membership and cooperative engagements with other Chicago journalism groups. I have served as the President of the Association for Women Journalists- Chicago and served on other boards. I'd utilize my board knowledge to help facilitate the work of NABJ-Chicago."

##### **WILL JONES**

**Platform:** "I didn't know quite what to expect last time I ran to be on the NABJ Chicago Board but I'm grateful that I did. I'm running for reelection because I want to continue to advance the conversation of how we as black journalists can grow and adapt to make sure we are present and listened to in rooms where our voices and perspectives are needed."

##### **DOROTHY TUCKER**

**Platform:** "We are in the middle of a journalism storm. We need young journalists to take the helm and guide us through the turbulent waters but veteran reporters must remain to help steady the ship. I am committed to mentoring young journalists who can become leaders in our industry and our organization."

##### **CARRIE WALKER**

**Platform:** "Diversity in the newsroom is very important, especially in today's society. We not only need a physical presence in the newsroom but an even stronger voice in decision-making roles. Organizations like NABJ Chicago Chapter are still needed to ensure that people of color are well represented in today's newsroom. I've proudly held the position of assignment editor in two newsrooms in Chicago over the last 22 years and used my voice to help people of color be represented in the media in positive ways. I plan to continue my work in my newsrooms and others through leadership on the board of NABJ-Chicago Chapter."



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#### **MONIQUE WINGARD**

**Platform:** “My platform as a candidate for general body member of NABJCC is to empower current and prospective members. By advocating for discussions on collaboration best practices, methods, and tools, I will work with other members to not only strengthen the organization but allow members to display their absolute best journalistic abilities and storytelling skills in the field. My platform will allow NABJCC to scale its mission to unite journalists by embracing new and emerging leaders, technology, and non-traditional media. Ultimately, I want to contribute to the sustainability of NABJCC and its goal to encourage and educate young African-American journalists to confidently approach their careers with a knowledgeable and supportive community behind them.”

### **Proposed amendments to the NABJ-CC Constitution and Bylaws**

**Article XI, Sec. 3** – To require that the official ballot must bear the NABJ-CC logo

**Article IX, Sec. 3a** – To place the Nominating Committee and its subcommittees for Bylaws and Rules under the independent chairmanship of the Parliamentarian