

Candidate Statement:

NAHJ friends --

When I joined the National Association of Hispanic Journalists in 2001, I was a journalism student at Northwestern University looking to build the professional network that would help me get the real-world experience necessary to land a job outside of college. After nine years as an NAHJ member, I've reaped the benefits our organization offers -- from job-training at conventions to an ever-growing list of mentors and friends. NAHJ contacts have helped me get into most of the newsrooms I've worked in, first at the Los Angeles Times, then the Orlando Sentinel, and now at the Boston Globe.

My campaign for secretary is about supporting NAHJ as it has supported me, and ensuring that the opportunities and resources it offers evolve in the best way possible to help our members, while also protecting diversity within our media outlets. Our industry, as everyone realizes, is changing rapidly, and our newsroom are learning to work with smaller budgets, shrinking staffs, and larger workloads. Now is when we need NAHJ the most. And we need the right people at its helm, working to make it a better resource for all of us.

If elected secretary, I know I can help guide the organization in that direction. The group already does much, through its work with the Parity Project, and our annual and regional conferences. But we can always do better.

As secretary, I would be your liaison to the executive board, not just taking notes at meetings, but keeping you informed about NAHJ's dealings and listening to your feedback. My immediate goals would be to improve online access to NAHJ records, including meeting minutes and budgets, and to start a dialogue with members so that you can tell the executive board what you think of the job it is doing. In the long run, I hope to help NAHJ streamline its finances so that more money can be used for scholarships and fellowships, monetary aid for members wanting to attend job-training sessions, and the like; expand the skills workshops the group offers so that they are more frequent and accessible to our members in all regions; and to get more members involved in sharing their expertise with fellow journalists.

I don't have all the answers, but I know -- with your help -- we can figure them out together.

As you consider who to vote for in this election, I hope you'll throw your support my way. In the coming days, I hope you'll take the time to learn more about me, and I'll start posting to a blog soon to make that a bit easier for you. In the meantime, feel free to contact me at erailworth@globe.com. I'm here to answer any questions, and to learn what you'd like to see out of your NAHJ secretary and the executive board.

-- Erin Ailworth