

## **Candidate Statement:**

Thanks to the members of NAHJ who made my nomination for President possible. I am inspired by your “call to action” and humbled by your faith in me.

Thank you and congratulations to the candidates who are running for various Board positions. It’s never easy to lead. Your willingness to serve renews my faith.

The elections are the most contested in recent memory. And it should be no surprise as to why....members want change.

CHANGE, CHANGE, CHANGE!!! – is the common theme I hear over and over again from members who courageously face change in their careers and in their lives due to the storm in the industry and economy.

I know the fear and frustration, the anger and doubt of being laid off – having been laid off myself.

Like so many of our members, I looked to NAHJ for guidance in this unprecedented time of need and found that the leadership necessary to light the way while valiant, fell short.

I too want change. I want to lead NAHJ through the necessary changes that will help the Association and its members evolve, grow and succeed.

NAHJ is a beacon for the rights of Hispanic journalists, a champion for diversity in newsrooms, fairness in reporting, education and training. NAHJ is an organization that we should all feel proud of and I will not tear it down in order to win an election, but I cannot ignore the constructive criticisms of our members.

Effective immediately – as President, I will direct the necessary resources to help our members get through the unemployment crisis by increasing existing programs and add new measures throughout the year:

- multi media training
- develop relationships with potential employers
- increase the number of networking events
- use the NAHJ website to profile the talent of our members and improve the process for posting and searching for jobs

I will push for NAHJ to be more inclusive in decision making, improve communication and the processes for members to express their concerns and ideas (as well as get a response in a timely manner).

I will accept nothing short of crystal clear communication in regards to the financial health of NAHJ and support fundraising projects that are sensible, strategic and realistic. The budget ills will be mended.

I will continue to lead the principles of which NAHJ was founded --- celebrate, educate and defend the voices of Hispanic journalists.

I will expand the reach and influence of NAHJ beyond existing borders and build bridges with journalists in Latin America.

Para los periodistas de los medios en Español...NAHJ es su hogar también y sus necesidades especiales son de mayor importancia. Sus opiniones serán tenidas en cuenta para tomar decisiones en el futuro de NAHJ

I invite you to join my FB page “Hugo Balta For President” where we can exchange ideas. I will host “chats with the candidate” at the convention in order to continue to learn from you, earn your trust and vote.

Thank You.

Hugo Balta