

Candidate Statement:

This is the first time in my 20+ years with NAHJ that I am running for office. Throughout those years, like many other journalists--I have had successes and challenges. I've gone to NAHJ conferences to network and have been fortunate to find employment because of the organization.

Though I have been an active member by volunteering my time at the majority of the conventions in putting together panels for reporters; now I want to *give back more*.

First, let me tell you a little about my journalism background:

- Reporter for 28 years
- Worked in small, medium and large television markets as TV reporter
- Converted into a freelance multimedia reporter more than 2 years ago.
- 47 awards and nominations under my belt.
- Member of NAHJ for more than 20 years
- Annual organizer and coordinator of panels for NAHJ National Conferences (Live shots, Finding sources and stories, Poynter Power Reporting, Multimedia on a Budget).
- Organizer and coordinator of reporting panels for Unity
- 2007 NAHJ Broadcast Journalist of the Year
- I've been mentoring dozens of NAHJ members for more than 15 years.

I love being a journalist, and have the same passion today as I did when I started in 1981. As At-Large Director, I want to be *your voice* around the table where decisions are being made for NAHJ.

Some of the ideas I have for NAHJ are the following:

1. Conduct a survey of all members in good standing to find out what they feel NAHJ could do for them. In order to find out our strengths and weaknesses let's take the issue directly to those we serve.
2. Conduct a survey of members who have left NAHJ in the past three years and ask them why they left, and is there anything that can persuade them to return.
3. Offer half price membership to freelance and/or laid off journalists.
4. Give support to NAHJ members who have been laid off or terminated by providing regional job training, career advice, and job fairs.
5. Review our current sources of funding and explore where else we can get financial support.
6. Work closely with members who are educators and see if they can help us in the area of training. Also put a journalism educator on the board with voting power. They are teaching OUR future.
7. Increase membership by finding NAHJ members with leadership qualities in the regional areas, who can help the regional director encourage Latino journalists who are not members yet---to give NAHJ a chance.
8. Find out from Spanish Language media members how NAHJ can improve serving them.

9. Give members the hope and tools they need to stay in our business and more importantly, NAHJ.

I want to make NAHJ the kind of organization that enriches the lives of our members and in the end they will never want to leave.