

**Please Read Each Candidate's Platform Statement.  
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## **2019 ANNUAL ELECTION INFORMATION ABOUT THE CANDIDATES**

Dear Colleague:

This Chapter election provides you with an important opportunity to shape the direction of the National Association of Social Workers in New York City. By voting for the candidates who most closely represent your concerns, you will be participating in the democratic process of our membership organization.

Sincerely,

Benjamin R. Sher, MA, LMSW  
President of the Board of Directors

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The following statements and background data may have been edited, where necessary, to conform as nearly as possible to the stipulated length. The Chapter Committee on Nominations and Leadership Identification (CCNLI) takes responsibility for the editing of the material supplied by the candidates.

Sincerely,

Edith Chaparro, LCSW-R  
Co-Chair, Chapter Committee on Nominations and Leadership Identification (CCNLI)

Thomas E. Gonzalez, LCSW-R, SBL  
Co-Chair, Chapter Committee on Nominations and Leadership Identification (CCNLI)

# CANDIDATE PLATFORM STATEMENTS

## FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

(1 position open)



**Jeremy Andre Babb, LMSW, MPA, *Quality Assurance Manager, Administration for Children's Services (ACS); ED Social Worker, NYU Langone-Brooklyn Medical Center***

Social workers elevate the lives of others. The opportunity to be the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of NASW-NYC brings my professional life to a humbling point. After beginning my career as a child protective specialist (ACS) and a hospital social worker (NYU Langone), I transitioned into management developing policies that address the individual, familial and social causal factors that lead to disenfranchisement. From integrating child welfare programs, strengthening my leadership skills as a Strell fellow (Hunter) to currently sitting on the NASW-NYC board, my career has prepared me for this extraordinary role which can unite and elevate our communities.

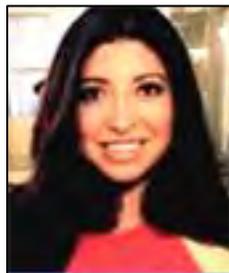


**Brian Romero, LMSW, CASAC-T, *Policy Fellow, GMHC; Therapist, Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy, Senior Consultant, The Village Enrichment, LLC, Adjunct Lecturer, Silberman School of Social Work***

During these tumultuous times, social workers are being called on to defend and promote social and racial justice in policies and practice. I have served NASW-NYC for almost 5 years as MSW Student Board member, an Executive Board Member-at-Large and as Chair to PACE and Co-Chair to CRDI. We have championed a legislative agenda that represents the most vulnerable among us and that has advanced our profession. I would like your vote to continue doing so. As a clinician, organizer, and policy advocate I believe in the power of social work and am committed to our collective organizing for equity.

## SECOND VICE PRESIDENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

(1 position open)



**Erica Sandoval, LMSW, *Director: Medical, Volunteer & Community Engagement, Make a Wish Foundation***

As a director, I manage relationships with medical facilities, community-based organizations, and strategic partnerships to support business development. I oversee a department that interacts with over 1000 external constituents and run three operational plans with care to reduce cost and expenses. Working with families throughout their many different stages and guiding them through the difficult times provide me with a sense of hope for the future. The most important part of our profession is providing access to resources for our communities while developing policies to serve and better our communities. At best, we must be leaders of positive change.



**Alicia F. White, LCSW, *Program Director, Brooklyn Defender Services***

With great enthusiasm, I announce my candidacy for the NASW/NYC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President position. As an accomplished manager with years of leadership experience in challenging environments, and as an active member of NASW/NYC's Board I am prepared to excel in this position. As an active member of NASW since graduate school, I understand the importance to reach the new generation of social workers as they begin their careers. I received the 2015 NASW/NYC Mid-Career Leadership award and shared the 2016 Image award with the Brooklyn Defender Services social work team. I am committed to continuing my contribution to NASW-NYC.

## MEMBER-AT-LARGE

(6 positions open)



**Dorothy Farley, LCSW-R**, *Vice President of Behavioral Health, Social Services & Care Coordination; Community Health Network*

My experience includes 25 years of professional social work with a diverse background on directive service and administrative level. It's a challenging, inspiring and motivating time to be a social worker, which makes me proud daily. In New York City and across the nation there are unprecedented challenges with how social services are delivered to the vulnerable — social workers are relied upon for caring, high quality, client-centered services. With my extensive experience, I have much to offer as a Member-at-Large and proudly continue to strive to speak out and advocate, for social justice, equal rights and high-quality, effective services.



**Monique A. Hyde, MSW**, *Eligibility Service Worker, Department of Social Services*

I am a post graduate from Springfield College School of Social Work and an active member of NASW. My educational and employment background has been sufficient in the previous line of work. My passion is to continue to empower and help people become self-sufficient in their everyday lifestyle. My current work experience includes advocating for client's needs that align with state policies. As I continue to grow in the human services field, I desire to work in a capacity of helping others with a strong interest to assist the gerontology and disabled populations.



**Sarah James, LMSW**, *LMSW Client Care Coordinator, Women in Need (WIN)*

The legendary Bill Withers sings, "We all need somebody to lean on." As Social Workers, we fill the role of an advocate, a social justice warrior, a change agent addressing social skills, and someone in need can lean on during hardships. Throughout my years of serving those seeking assistance, I've learned the importance of Servant Leadership. It is my mission to support and represent Social Workers through the principles of active listening, awareness, and empathy. The chance to run for Member-at-Large is an incredible opportunity and I am here to dedicate my work to an intersectional, anti-racist, and feminist movement.



**Elisheva Lock, MPA, LCSW**, *Connect2 Program/Director; Agency Educational Coordinator, JCC of Greater Coney Island; Adjunct Professor; Field Department Liaison, Touro School of Social Work*

As a proud NASW member, and a former nominations committee member, I feel strongly about the causes that NASW works to strengthen nationwide, and in the NYC chapter. At this point, I would love to use my energy and experience for this position that I have gained while working with vulnerable populations, both in the field of child welfare and presently in gerontology. Also, as an instructor in academia teaching and to learn from the future social workers of our world. With this valuable ammunition, I plan to advocate for all vulnerable groups with the rest of the NASW team.

## MEMBERS-AT-LARGE Cont'd



**Fatima Mabrouk, MSW**, *Mental Health Counselor, Social Work Counseling Services*

It is an honor to be nominated for the NASW-NYC Member-at-Large position because of the devotion towards educating, empowering, and supporting social workers, and I believe that is the defining purpose of social work. My enduring passion for social work is reaffirmed through my academic, and initiatives at York College, Columbia University School of Social Work, and NYU Silver School of Social Work. I hope to enhance my mental health clinical skills to develop intra-actions among the marginalized population. As a first-generation Egyptian-American, I want to dedicate myself to creating transformational integration of ethical and informed practices towards our communities.



**Shanequa Moore, LMSW**, *State Inspector/CEO, NY State Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS) / IRAISE*

I come with 10 years post graduate experience and expertise in clinical, administrative, managerial, and policy. As a board member, I plan to utilize these skills to serve and help advance the countless lives of individuals that Social Workers stand on the front line daily, serving, advocating and empowering. On a more personal level, my genuine passion for Social Work will drive me to put my best foot forward as board member. I am a team player and believe in unity and community. I vow to promote human rights, social and economic justice, and unimpeded access to services for everyone.



**Baptiste Nicolas, LCSW**, *Dialysis Social Worker at Mount Sinai Kidney Center, Mount Sinai Hospital*

I am extremely passionate about the social work profession and would like to further the field in any way that I can. I am interested in advocating for the field and believe I would be a strong addition to the NASW-NYC Board of Directors as a Member-at-Large. I am eager to participate in the responsibilities, expectations and bring enthusiasm and passion to the table. I am willing to do anything to help the profession with the ultimate goal to serve those in need. I look forward to the opportunity to represent the social work profession and NASW.



**Manoj Pardasani, PhD, LCSW**, *Associate Provost and Professor, Hunter College, CUNY*

Currently, I am an Associate Provost and Professor of Social Work at Hunter College in New York. I began my career in senior centers, and that sparked a lifelong passion in gerontology. Also, I served as a social worker, clinician and an administrator in a number of organizations serving the homeless, individuals living with HIV/AIDS and individuals diagnosed with serious and persistent mental illness. I was recipient of the 2015 NASW-NYC Mid-Career Exemplary Social Work Leader Award. As a Member-at-Large member, I hope to redouble our efforts as social workers to highlight injustices, address inequities and promote social justice.

## MEMBERS-AT-LARGE Cont'd



**Nanda Prabhakar, LCSW, MPA, Senior Vice President, Program Operations, NYC Mission Society**

As a social worker for nearly 20 years, and a recipient of the 2018 NASW-NYC Social Work Image Award, I am deeply committed to the values, ethics, and guiding principles of our profession. I have worked in school, substance-abuse treatment, child welfare, and criminal justice settings as a clinician, administrator, and organizational leader. As a Member-at-Large, I will advocate for the populations we serve, social work professionals, and the field of social work. Social workers are agents of change, elevating social justice, to best serve our communities. In these uncertain times, it is imperative that we make our voices heard.



**Mark E. Zink, LMSW, MSPE, New York City Public School Special Needs Teacher and Case Management Social Worker; Northwell's Staten Island University Hospital**

I am an activist social worker with a strong commitment to social work values and ethics. I believe fervently that social workers need to be actively engaged on the macro-level in order to truly advocate on behalf of all individuals. We cannot improve the quality of life for all without an ardent commitment to equity, and social justice for all! I have shown this commitment as a pro gun-control activist, and advocate on behalf of workers and unions. I have many years of experience as a teacher, social worker, and employee for progressive elected officials. I promise to work diligently for all of you if elected.

## MSW STUDENT MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

(1 position open)



**Judith Levy, MSW Student, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Work; Intern, United Federation of Teachers (UFT)**

It would be an honor to serve as an MSW NASW-NYC Member-at-Large. I am passionate about advocacy and education, particularly with respect to racism, ageism, gender equality and immigration. Along my journey, I worked with diverse populations in navigating the complex road to health and safety, including trauma victims, adolescents with eating disorders, recent immigrants and the elderly. Also, I spent several years as an attorney and my advocacy skills can be used to serve the larger social work arena. I hope to be a part of the collective energy of the NASW to address critical issues affecting society today.



**James Sampson Jr, M. Div., MSW Student, Columbia University School of Social Work**

My decision to complete a degree in Master of Divinity led to becoming ordained in the Baptist Church and provided pastoral care and counseling during seminary. Also, I was employed in the Syracuse City Public Schools and volunteered at the Mary Nelson Center. Currently, I am a full-time MSW graduate student at Columbia University and intern at the Urban Justice Center-Mental Health Project. Also, I am a member of the National Association of Social Workers and a member of Association Black Social Workers. Because of my community involvement and leadership experience I would be a great candidate for this position.

## BSW STUDENT MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

(1 position open)



**Goldie Junik**, *BSW Student, Silberman School of Social Work*

I'm a BSW student whose mission in life is to make a positive difference in marginalized, disadvantaged, and underserved communities through direct service, awareness, and advocacy. My passions include human rights and social justice issues as well as economic justice and equity. I look forward to the challenge this work will bring and am eager to expand my experience in leadership roles while bringing my unique skill set in creative problem solving and effective communications to this role. I'm thankful for the opportunity to be an integral part of the NASW-NYC Chapter in ensuring equality for all.



**Khai Nelson**, *BSW Student, NYU Silver School of Social Work; Research Assistant, Office of the Manhattan Borough President*

My name is Khai Nelson and I feel truly privileged to be running for the BSW Student at Large position. Through this position, I hope to not only develop my leadership skills within the field of social work, but to develop more as a person in general. Currently, I am a junior at the NYU Silver School of Social Work and my field placement is at the Office of the Manhattan Borough President. I hope to bring the organizational, analytical, and collaborative skills that I have acquired over the years into this space and demonstrate how hard I'm willing to work.

## CHAPTER COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP IDENTIFICATION (CCNLI)

(6 positions open)



**Amber Eden**, *MSW Candidate, NYU Silver School of Social Work; Specialized Intern, Kings County District Attorney*

My involvement with student government at New York University as a publicity chair and Senator-at-Large for Older Students for the University-wide NYU Student Government Association taught me the great value of volunteering and participating in organizations as part of my professional and person development. Also, my internships included Economic Opportunity Council, Kings County District Attorney's Office, Pilgrim State Psychiatric Hospital and Family Service League Homeless Shelter. These experiences taught me the extraordinary value of giving back. I would be thrilled to do the same as a member of the Nominations Committee for NASW-NYC and would be honored to be selected.



**Charles Edwards**, *MSW Candidate, Fordham University School of Social Work; Youth Development Specialist, Catholic Guardian Services*

My desire is to be a catalyst for change. I faced some challenges in my youth that led me to social work. I consider myself very fortunate to be able to serve the community that I was raised in. My sixteen years of experience in the field has created a knowledge base that is attuned to the challenges. I currently serve as Vice President of the honor society at Fordham University, promoting excellence in our profession. I graduate this spring, I am confident that the best work I can do is grounded in service leadership at the NASW.

## CHAPTER COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP IDENTIFICATION (CCNLI) Cont'd



**Marcie S. Gitlin, LMSW, CDP, Director; Center for Adults Living Well @ the Y, Washington Heights & Inwood YM & YWHA**

A thirteen-year NASW-NYC member, past committee Chair/Co-Chair, and current Member-at-Large on the Chapter's Board, I offer my candidacy for the Nominations Committee. In these increasingly unsettled times, social work must remain a strong advocate for the less advantaged and less-abled. Only by recruiting skilled, experienced leadership will the Chapter be able to realize its vision effectively to promote the profession's value, visibility, and influence, for both the communities that social workers serve and for future generations of social work professionals. I choose to be part of this important effort and welcome your support. Many thanks for your consideration.



**Madeline Maldonado, LCSW-R, Social Work Consultant, President/Owner**

Running for an NASW position aligns with my goal to contribute to the mental health field by training and developing professionals that are able to excel within the current behavioral health system. My greatest joy is to motivate and inspire others as an agent of hope and change. I have an extensive career in leadership, administration, and management of mental health/behavioral health and child welfare programs funded by OMH, DOHMH, ACS, and grants. I am proud to be a social worker; I love helping people and seek to improve systems and organizations. I confront problems with teamwork and solution-focused strategies.



**Enio Enrique Gutierrez Martinez, MSW, Bilingual Social Worker, NYC Department of Education**

I am a Bilingual School Social Worker interested in running for the Nominations Committee. As a School Based Support Team worker, I pursue social change on behalf of minority groups and students who are at risk of poor school performance. I work with a cluster of community schools that allows me to integrate knowledge, practice, and policy. I wish to contribute my experience to the NASW-NYC and advance my career, improve practice skills, and support the profession.



**Luis D. Montalvo, MSW, Case Planner, HANAC, Inc.**

My path to serve those in need began in 1999 through the S.M.I.L.E. Program at Archbishop Molloy. In 2005, I joined NASW during my first year in the MSW program at Fordham University Lincoln Center. I have had the pleasure of working with The Bridge and Mental Health Providers of Western Queens where I developed strong clinical and empathic skills while helping clients with mental health issues. As Case Planner for HANAC, I am able to be a family psychotherapist and compassionately assist families to make life a little easier. I seek your vote to serve our association with pride.

## CHAPTER COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP IDENTIFICATION (CCNLI) Cont'd



**Felix Pena, LCSW, *Clinical Supervisor, Interfaith Medical Center***

While meeting the needs of my clients, I adhere to the core values of social work. Also, while providing clinical supervision, my main goal is to educate and guide social workers to enhance mental health and social justice for clients, which is connected to NASW core values of social work. During my current and past leadership roles, throughout the NYC area, I have proven success in leadership amongst social workers, demonstrating ethical practice amongst colleagues and clients I serve. This is why I believe and feel that I am a great candidate for the NASW nominations member committee.



**Mavis Smith, LMSW, *Forensic Social Worker, The Children's Law Center***

I, Mavis Smith LMSW, work as a forensic social worker and a psychotherapist. I earned my MSW degree from New York University in 2018. As a recipient of the NASW's Verne LaMarr Lyons Scholarship, I am dedicated to the field of social work. My leadership experience is vast as I have served on many executive boards including NYU's Graduate Activities Board and the NABSW. As a Nominations Committee Member, I hope to become an integral part of the nominations process to ensure that selected candidates are qualified and equally committed to the mission of the NASW.