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Platform Statement. When You are
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**2023 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,

Emilio, Tavaréz, MSW
President of the Board of Directors

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

Sincerely,

Carolyn Blair, LMSW
Co-Chair
NASW-NYC Committee on Nominations
and Leadership Identification (CNLI)

Schanica Pickens, MSW
Co-Chair
NASW-NYC Committee on Nominations
and Leadership Identification (CNLI)

CANDIDATE PLATFORM STATEMENTS

President-Elect

(1 position open)



German Sanchez, MA, P-RDT, LMSW, *Forensic Staff Therapist, NY Forensic*

Lifting spirits, and touching lives, is the magic of the social work profession. Our profession is at a crossroads here in NYC; low salaries are contributing to social workers leaving the field. Now more than ever, we need strong leadership to advocate for the social work profession. As a social worker, I have worked in numerous settings in direct practice. Social workers in NYC are talented, amazing, and creative mental health professionals that deserve to be recognized for the life-changing work they do. As President-elect, I would work hard to advocate for our profession and show the city the amazing work that social workers can do. In addition, I will continue to strengthen our social work community by working to increase our membership and diversifying our chapter, welcoming all voices from all backgrounds and skill sets to the table.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

(5 positions open)



Lisa Cole, LCSW, *Associate Director, Alkermes*

I am interested in this position because I care about the standards of our profession and the power of advocacy we have as a group. My diverse work experience makes me a strong candidate for Member-at-Large. For the past 30 years, I've been a strong advocate for those living with Serious Mental Illness. I have many years of work experience as an LCSW and psychotherapist, working in both a hospital setting and private practice. For the past six years, I've served as an Associate Director for the entire state of NY with a Biotechnology company, which has a focus on CNS disorders and partners with different hospital systems and community mental health centers where Social Workers are viewed as key stakeholders. During this time, I also received my MHA from NYU. If elected, I will apply both my direct work experience and advocacy experience to working on needed changes for Social Workers as a profession and as individuals who deserve equitable pay and equitable professional recognition.



Andres Goris, LCSW-R, *Retired Social Work Supervisor, Manhattan Psych Center and Private Practice*

I have been a NASW member and a clinician for many years. I have been fortunate to have a diverse work experience ranging from forensic to outpatient clinics, and from a classroom instructor to many years of supervising social work students and staff. These experiences have enriched my personal and professional life. This is what I will bring to the NASW-NYC chapter in addition to my dedication and commitment to the profession. I have always represented the profession with pride, which I must give credit to NASW for instilling in me. It will truly be an honor to serve in the position of Member-At-Large for this wonderful organization if the opportunity is given to me. I will commit to enhancing the mission of NASW and the needs of its members

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE Cont'd

(5 positions open)



Dr. Hanni Flaherty PhD LCSW-R, *Assistant Director & Chair of Advanced Clinical Practice, Yeshiva University Wurzweiler School of SW; Founder & President of SW, Collaborative Therapy*

Hanni Flaherty, PhD, LCSW is a Clinical Assistant Professor and Chair of Advance Clinical Practice at Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University. She has completed her PhD and MSW at New York University Silver School of Social Work. Prior to returning to NYU for her PhD, Dr. Flaherty practiced clinical social work for over 15 years specializing in adolescent high-risk behaviors and continues to work clinically in private practice at Collaborative Therapy, a multidisciplinary, evidence-based mental health and wellness multi-group practice of which she is a founder and President of Social Work. Dr. Flaherty's career

has focused on reducing the stigma of mental health issues and improving mental health services through education, research, and clinical practice.



Veronica Gonzalez, LMSW, *Social Work Manager, Her Justice*

As a native New Yorker, I have worked in social services for over 20 years and have been a Social Worker for over 11 years. Throughout my career, my roles have been as a crisis worker, an advocate, a leader, and an educator. My work has shaped not only who I am but also how I see, interact, and understand the world. My vision is to energize the social work profession by helping to fight for equitable pay, increasing mentoring and field engagement opportunities for Social Workers and Social Work students, and create deeper connections and safe havens for those most vulnerable in our communities. If elected, I will work hard to increase opportunities for Social Workers who

become active partners in strengthening not only NASW NYC but also our profession.



Lawanna Mackie, LCSW, *Clinical Psychotherapist, Private Practice*

For almost two decades, my focus has been to support, advocate and promote personal and professional development. I have acted as an advocate, case worker, trainer, administrator in nonprofit organizations, psychotherapist, intern supervisor and applied behavior analysis provider for toddlers on the autism spectrum. My engagement with people with disabilities, adolescents, seniors, community-based programs, healthcare, toddlers, and parents has afforded me a vast repertoire to assist clients with ending generational trauma, grief resolution and transitional life events. Being raised in Brooklyn, New York, I have benefited from working with a diversity of cultures. I have experience working with immigrant, disabled and other

marginalized communities which has equipped me with the sensitivity and awareness needed to help address personal, cultural, and societal conflicts. My work experience and innate empathy has allowed me to be a relatable, supportive, and objectively honest clinician and resource specialist.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE Cont'd

(5 positions open)



Dana Newton, LCSW, Associate Program Director, Institute for Family Health

I was born in Jamaica and came to the US when I was 18 years old to further my education. I obtained my Bachelor's in Criminology with a minor in Computer Information Science and Master's in Social Work at Barry University. I have worked in the social services field for almost 10 years. During that time, I have been able to advocate for and empower clients and patients in the shelter, school, and health care settings. As social workers, we strive to serve our communities in all aspects. I am fortunate to be able to do just that not only in my professional life but also my personal life as a volunteer at Community Solidarity, where I also assist with coordinating volunteers. With my plethora of both professional and personal experiences, I would be honored to represent this illustrious NASW-NYC chapter to continue to foster change and advocacy.



Shanae Osborn, MA, LMSW, Psychotherapist, Comprehensive Counseling; UN Representative, International Federation of Workers (IFSW)

Being a social worker goes deeper for me than just a career. Experiencing difficult personal circumstances gave me an understanding of homelessness, food insecurity, mental health needs (especially for children), and so much more. These experiences have given me a deeper understanding of what certain clients may be feeling through their own traumatic ordeals. With a focus on empowerment, my drive to use my social work education and experience goes beyond micro-level work. As a UN representative to the UN for the International Federation of Social Workers, I have the honor of being a part of yet another organization that strives to promote justice through partnerships and advocacy on a macro level. Being a part of the NASW NYC Chapter as a Member-at-Large will allow me the opportunity to use my micro and macro knowledge to collaborate with like-minded team members to create important and necessary changes for our community.



Alizay Sajjad, MSW, Crisis Intervention Specialist, 988 – National Suicide Hotline

Hello! I have worked extensively in crisis intervention from working with survivors of sexual and domestic violence, to folks with suicidal ideations, to folks who have no acuity. I have worked as a case manager for folks as well. I have tapped into a variety of aspects of social work giving me a unique perspective!. I feel as if I am a good candidate for the NASW-NYC Chapter Member-at-Large position because I am not afraid to speak out and voice the concerns of myself and of others. I am passionate about the work I do, and although I am young, I have done many research projects involving sexual violence related policy, and advocacy. My passion is supporting survivors of violence as their voices are often the most silenced, and I know that with this position I can make a major impact on the NASW community and also learn from the community as well.

MSW STUDENT MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

(1 position open)



Samantha S. Headley, *MSW Student, Columbia School of Social Work; Program Coordinator, BronxCare Health System*

I am an Afro-Caribbean Bronx native. I am deeply passionate about the human condition. Social worker is a title, but social work is an action. Fostering a community is profoundly important. I have many ideas, and hope to work collaboratively with fellow colleagues. We all have a wealth of knowledge to weave together to utilize for the betterment of society. I am a program manager in youth HIV preventative services. Prior to that, I served as a peer specialist for a decade, providing care coordination, advocacy, family therapy, peer counseling, and community organizing. I will be attending Columbia School of Social Work in Fall 2023 for the MSW advanced standing; plans of a law degree to follow. All levels of social work, from direct care work, program implementation, and management, to policy practice are paramount. I look to support my and other communities that have been marginalized, minoritized, and underrepresented.

BSW STUDENT MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

(1 position open)



Nayab Qureshi, *BSW Student, Hunter Silberman School of Social Work; Intern, Medgar Evers College Transition Academy; Presenter, Elevate Education*

My interest in social work stemmed from the lack of knowledge and treatment for mental health diagnoses within the Muslim community. Witnessing firsthand how mental health worsened when left untreated, I decided to begin working towards a plausible solution. I began organizing and creating information sessions on how to properly deal with mental health and reach out to professionals. This same passion laid the foundation for my love for advocacy and outreach that I do today with the student population at Medgar Evers College. With my colleagues I assist students in danger of homelessness to ensure they have a safe space called home and provide options for fresh produce by collaborating with NYC foodbank. With my experience at the MEC Social Work Conference, I intend to use the position of BSW Member-at-Large to continue to learn and ensure that all individuals obtain the basic rights they deserve and are born with.

NASW-NYC Committee on Nominations & Leadership Identification (CNLI) (2 positions open)



Shavon Cantave, MSW, *Assistant Director, Liberty Partnership Program (NYSED)*

My career as a social worker has fostered my leadership abilities. I have provided crisis intervention, advocacy, conflict resolution, resource identification for stability, and client-centered services. I have assisted young adults and their families in finding meaning amidst adversity. My objective is to support and motivate young individuals in my locality through mentorship or exemplifying positive behavior. I have served as a supervisor for seven years, overseeing preventive programs to provide services to prepare high school students for their future endeavors, including college or post-secondary education. Serving on the CNLI Committee for the New York City Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers would

be an honor.



Sarah Goldstein, LMSW, *Social Work Supervisor, JCCA*

I started my career in the field of child welfare in New York, working with children and families in foster care. I quickly saw the need for more support and programming in the world of child welfare. After graduate school, I transitioned from working in foster care to working in preventive services, focusing on working with at-risk families and addressing complex issues presented to them. Within preventive services, I became trained in the evidenced based model, Child Parent Psychotherapy, which is geared towards young children who have experienced trauma. By using dyadic play therapy with the child and caregiver, we aim to restore the child's sense of safety and attachment, while also enhancing their cognitive,

behavioral, and social functioning. I have seen the significant impact that this prevention model can have on families and the lasting effects. My hope is to better the world of child welfare and promote the safety of children and families.