Candidate statement:

It was NAHJ members who taught me the value of service and creating spaces for others to thrive. It's a simple lesson that is not simply applied. It requires time and sacrifice -- and I've still got a little juice left in me.

I am running to be the next Secretary because I believe NAHJ is evolving. As a member of the board from 2020 to 2024, I watched how dedication transformed this organization to make the repairs needed to get it future-ready. We delivered a bylaw rehaul, a new strategic plan and the fiscal stewardship to implement it. They were part of many efforts to firm up the foundation needed to continue building NAHJ for decades to come.

My plan is about boosting membership engagement through transparency and strengthening the infrastructure we've all built. That includes completing a board operational manual and creating a leadership program for future board service at the chapter, task force, and national level. Our organization must think outside traditional revenue streams for nonprofits of our kind and be more creative about strategic partnerships that will sustain it. Our culture must continue to become more inclusive of journalists and communicators of various backgrounds. Everyone, regardless of cost or career status, should have a chance to participate in the programming and opportunities we offer. We need to draw closer, not further apart, from our affiliate organizations as press freedom is attacked from all sides and develop human-centered frameworks for the use of artificial intelligence in our newsrooms.

Our organization must meet the challenges of a changing business to ensure that the NAHJ that cradled my career can continue doing so for generations of journalists to come.