

Fairfax NAACP Candidate Questionnaire Summary

Candidates for office submitted responses to a series of questions. Here is a snapshot of their responses to the following questions:

1. Why are you interested in serving as an officer or as an at-large member of the Executive Committee?
2. Briefly describe your community service activity/activities that have provided you with experience and knowledge to contribute to Fairfax NAACP.

President: Karen Campblin

I am interested in serving as the next President for the Fairfax County NAACP branch because I would like to be a part of a team of dedicated and progressive civil rights and social justice champions. As a member of the branch since 2015 and a Fairfax County resident, I am committed to working to make Fairfax County just and equitable for all. The Fairfax County NAACP has a stellar reputation for fairness and transparency, and I will do my best to make sure its legacy is carried forward with the grace, grit and determination they poured into this branch. We are at an inception point in Virginia's history and now, more than ever, is the time for us to band together to protect our communities, remove systemic barriers and disparities, combat economic inequality, remove opportunity gaps, and face climate change head-on, and to build back a better place for future generations to live. I would like to be a part of the energy that does that!

I have over many years of experience working with communities and agencies to create innovative and sustainable solutions to address transportation, community (re)development, and equity/environmental justice/Title VI issues. I am currently an active member in: Fairfax County Tree Commission, Sully District; Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, Co-Chair Legislative Advisory Council; Co-Director of the Green New Deal Virginia Coalition, and Co-Chair, Transportation and Smart Growth of Sierra Club Virginia, member of the Joint Environmental Task Force (JET), member of the Community-Wide Energy & Climate Action Plan, CECAP.

1st Vice President - Michelle Leete

I am interested in serving as 1st Vice President of Fairfax NAACP. I come from a 'community leader' family. From the time I was 4 years old, I understood from my parents and grandparents that "service to your community is the rent one pays to live in it". Serving the Fairfax County community and lending my talents, skills, and abilities to serve the greater good is one small way I can give back and bring others along in support of our county and its residents.

For the past six years, I've served Fairfax NAACP as Treasurer, Freedom Fund Chair, 2nd Vice President and 1st Vice President. In these roles I've worked diligently alongside our other officers, at-large members and committee chairs to develop and improve Fairfax County NAACP operations, community awareness and impact through programs that involve, engage, and educate our community. We are at a pivotal time in our organization and in our country. The challenges are great. It is my belief that all

organizations committed to service and uplifting the communities they serve should be strategically partnered and aligned in order to lead, advocate and serve efficiently and effectively. Currently, I also serve on the executive boards of Virginia PTA, Fairfax County Council PTA, Burke-Fairfax Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., the Washington DC Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Washington DC Chapter of the Project Management Institute; and will therefore use my experience and knowledge gained from these non-profits boards to leverage Fairfax County NAACP partnerships, advocacy efforts, community engagement, and operations.

2nd Vice President - Niki Zimmerman

I have proudly served in the Fairfax County NAACP for 4.5 years as the 2nd Vice President, Chairman of both the Economic Development Committee and the Armed Services and Veterans Committee. Since that time, I have made tremendous strides within the branch and the community. I have used my interpersonal skills and professionalism to garner support for the branch and establish fruitful relations with other local grassroots organizations and local leaders. There is still work left to be done!!!

I have strong ties to the Fairfax County Community and the Commonwealth of Virginia. I served on the County Economic Advisory Commission, the Fairfax County Public Schools Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities and I am also a Governor appointed board member of the Commonwealth of Virginia Board for People with Disabilities. I can and have leveraged my positions in these organizations to help the minority community, thus strengthening the NAACP's presence in spaces we would typically not be

3rd Vice President – Sujatha Hampton

I am happy to serve in any capacity I am able to further the mission of the NAACP. As the Education Committee Chair, I feel I have been able to progress our goals, and as 3rd VP, I hope to continue to support the Executive Committee in any way I can.

I am currently serving as the Education Committee Chair. Under my tenure, we have grown our committee membership from 11 members to 82 members all of whom are working toward our Education priorities. So, my community service applicable to the 3rd VP position comes from this work, as well as a lifetime as an educational advocate for marginalized communities of children and families.

Secretary – Teresa Little

I am interested in serving as an officer of the Executive Committee because I care deeply about our communities and the issues that continue to plague our underserved neighbors. Being an officer connects me to the community and is both professionally and personally fulfilling. Any effective body requires organized recordkeeping and efficient administrative processes. As secretary, I help to provide much of this structure.

My community service includes annual fundraising for the past many years for Cornerstones, Reston, VA to assist low income families with housing and other needs. I also participate annually with assembling care packages for our troops. In addition, I work with the various community sports leagues in the role

of team secretary for my husband who has volunteered as a coach for more than 20 years. Also, I am currently the secretary to the NAACP Fairfax branch and have supported the branch in this role for almost two years.

Assistant Secretary - Arona Kessler

I am interested in giving back to my local community in a way that moves racial justice forward. I have secretarial skills I can use to advance racial justice in Fairfax County. I support NAACP's mission: to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

I am a case manager with the DC Abortion Fund, which provides financial assistance to pregnant people in all of Virginia (plus Maryland and DC) if they want an abortion but cannot afford the cost.

Treasurer - Amy Marlow

I have a heart for the mission of the NAACP, and am excited for the opportunity to combine my professional abilities with my dedication to racial justice work. I support our public policy positions and feel a responsibility to take action on these critical issues in my community. Through the Freedom Fund Committee, I have been growing my involvement in the work of our branch. Helping with our recent fundraising initiatives has given me a solid foundation in understanding our organizational finances. The role of Treasurer requires organization, integrity and transparency. I believe that I have the leadership qualities, skill set and commitment to be effective in this role. I will bring a strong background in fundraising and financial management to the team, as well as an open-minded and respectful attitude. I am a strategic thinker and have proven experience in nonprofit leadership and management. I have been inspired and motivated by the leaders within our branch and look forward to the possibility of working alongside them more closely.

While I was working in a professional capacity, my nonprofit work was just as much about community service as it was about my career. I played a role in many community outreach initiatives including supply drives for people in need; organizing walks to end homelessness; developing advocacy campaigns; and assisting with community outreach at local resource centers. Personally, I have served on the boards of several organizations, including Let's Help Kids and Leadership Fairfax. As a board member I was responsible for financial oversight and strategic planning. I have volunteered with the National Alliance on Mental Illness as a trained public speaker and group facilitator. I have also served as a volunteer ESL teacher for Arlington County. Both opportunities provided me with hands-on experience in supporting and learning from people facing personal challenges. I currently serve as the Director of Operations for the Yorktown High School varsity wrestling team. In this role I manage the team's finances, coordinate logistics, monitor grades of the wrestlers and handle the team's social media and website. Through these activities I have developed knowledge about community outreach and nonprofit management that will enable me to contribute to Fairfax NAACP.

Assistant Treasurer - Abby Fox

I would like to contribute to the branch and be helpful to you.
I have served as Assistant Secretary of Fairfax NAACP.

Member at Large - Andrew Twigg

I am an active member of the branch (and current At-Large member on the Executive Committee) and I think I have a lot to bring the organization. In particular, I have been the branch's appointee to the MSAOC, where I also think I contribute mightily, and I think that my perspective, judgement, and commitment to racial justice have served the branch well and will continue to do so.

More of a community activity/advocacy than service – I am active in Democratic politics and I think the relationships I have with people and elected officials in Fairfax serves the mission and goals of the branch.