

**From the Executive Director**  
David MacDonald

## **Candidates for AHNA Director**

The AHNA Annual Meeting will occur on Monday November 1st starting at 6:15pm. We will elect Directors to the AHNA Board at that meeting. The Nominations and Governance Committee has interviewed several candidates and recommends the following individuals for election to the AHNA Board of Directors. There are 4 incumbents seeking re-election and 5 new candidates. If all the candidates are elected, the Board will have a total of 10 Residents and 9 Non-Residents maintaining the requirement that a majority of the Board be residents of Asylum Hill.

### **Incumbents seeking re-election**

**Jackie McKinney** is a Hartford native. She is a long-term resident of Asylum Hill and currently lives in ArtSpace, Hartford, an apartment complex where artists live and have their studios all in one place. She is retired and works part time for the city in 311 Constituency Services. Jackie has served as Chairperson of AHNA since 2019.

**Nancy Rion**, long-time volunteer with AHNA, Nancy represents Immanuel Congregational Church. She has served as AHNA's Secretary for the past 3 years. She has been the driving force on organizing the South Marshall Street Block Party and Pop-up events to outreach to our residents. She has also organized a sharing network for service providers in Asylum Hill.

**Marian Leist**, representing HARC, Marian is Vice President of Innovative Services at HARC. Marian has recently become the Vice Chairperson of AHNA. She has been an active member of the Board, joining the Fund Development Committee and chairing the Nominations and the Governance Committee. Marian Leist is a dedicated professional who has been supporting people with intellectual disabilities for over 23 years. During her 22 years with HARC, Inc., she has worked in Asylum Hill. Marian oversees individual and family services to help each person live their best life, one of quality, inclusion and dignity. She is responsible for HARC's advocacy efforts and empowers individuals with intellectual disabilities to advocate on their own behalf for their wants, needs and desires.

**Michelle McFarland**, represents the Hartford Public Library. Michelle R. McFarland was born and raised in Hartford and chooses to live here. Serving the community is her passion. Most days you may see her on the Library On Wheels, farmers markets and special events in the city. As Outreach and Program Coordinator of HPL, her commitment to serve the residents and connect them to the free resources and services offered by HPL and has done so for 25 years and counting.

My purpose for remaining on the AHNA Board of Directors is to create a platform for youth. There is a great need to cultivate leaders and I believe in my ability to put some action behind this goal. We are the leaders and Hartford Youth need ALL of US more than ever, even if they act like they don't. My re-election is AHNA's opportunity to support our Youth to consider becoming advocates and future leaders of Hartford.

## New Candidates for AHNA Director

**Natalia Crispin** was born in Hartford in 1989. She moved to the Dominican Republic at the age of 7 years old. She studied Classical Ballet and attended some collage. She is a mother of 3, currently living on Collins Street in Asylum Hill since November 2019. She has worked Customer Service all my life and currently work from home as a customer Service Agent and applying for a scholarship. She is very concerned about public safety especially regarding Sigourney Square Park.

**Barbara Robbins**, resident of Sigourney Street. Having lived in Asylum Hill since 1994, I see first-hand how much AHNA has done for the neighborhood throughout the years. AHNA is the organization where neighbors can learn about issues, make suggestions, and provide insights into making the neighborhood even more attractive as a place to live, work, and worship. With a diverse range of constituents, AHNA makes our collective lives better. I am proud to be part of this group of devoted individuals, who come together to improve living conditions for all of us.

**Domenic Chiavarro**, is the Regional Director, Planning, Design and Construction for Trinity Health of New England, and with his office at Saint Francis Hospital – one of the larger employers in the Asylum Hill area. Domenic believes that this will be a mutually beneficial connection between our organizations. The ability to share information and collaborate on many of the AHNA Strategic Initiatives, while the Saint Francis Hospital Campus transforms over the next 5-6 years, will benefit the Asylum Hill neighborhood.

Domenic is a registered professional engineer with a degree from Northeastern University. Prior to his work in facilities and capital project management for healthcare organizations, he was a consulting engineer responsible for design, permitting and building institutional, land development and transportation projects throughout New England. He's been in CT for three years, and prior to that focused much of his work in MA and NH. He's served on Boards for a variety of non-profit organizations including PlanNH (also served as president for two years), Concord 2020, Concord Transportation Advisory Board, and the Greater Concord Area Chamber of Commerce

**Sarah Adanti**, is the Senior Director of Development for The Village for Families and Children. She is a fundraising professional with over 30 years of experience serving non-profits throughout Greater Hartford and has helped them advance their missions while raising much needed funds for their organizations. Sarah currently serves as the Senior Director of Development for The Village for Families and Children in Hartford and oversees all their fundraising initiatives including grants, planned-giving, special events and annual fundraising.

Sarah started her career in the Asylum Hill area of Hartford as a Disc Jockey and Assistant Program Director for WHCN which used to have a location on Asylum Avenue. It was there that she fell in love with helping various non-profits raise money and learned about the rich history that Asylum Hill offers. When Sarah joined The Village in 2018, she knew she would be coming home to the neighborhood and area that she cherished and welcomed an opportunity to come back to where it all began for her. She has served on AHNA's Development Committee since late

2019 early 2020. She looks forward to helping AHNA advance its mission and incorporate the strategic plan that will help AHNA remain viable for years to come. Sarah resides in Simsbury with her husband Mark and their 2 dogs Buddy & Billie. She is an avid equestrian and enjoys time with her horse Peter Parker.

**Maxine Nugent**, as a mother of 4 and a grandmother of 9, Maxine Nugent, has a loving and nurturing personality. Her passion for community work developed after volunteering for several local organizations. For several years, she has volunteered her time to Catholic Charities – Asylum Hill Family Center. Her desire to do more for her community is what has inspired her to pursue a position on the Board of Directors for Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association; it aligns with her mission and her values to make a difference in the community.

Maxine's biggest goal has always been to elevate and create spaces for families, advocating for safe and healthy communities. She is a dedicated Parent Ambassador and Co-Chair of the Asylum Hill Family Center's – Center-Based Advisory Council, where she served two consecutive terms. She continued her leadership journey graduating from the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) and Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI) during the most unprecedented times of the Covid19 pandemic. In addition to her Co-Chair duties, Maxine is a member of the Connecticut Family School Partnership Advisory Council (CFSP), powered by CREC and the Parent Leadership Network (PLN) which is powered by the Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP).