



Ushering in a New Era of Leadership

By Villareal VJ Johnson

We entered 2023 celebrating the life of our longtime president, neighbor and friend Karen L Williams. On January 20, dozens of neighbors, friends and family came together to honor Karen with a celebratory memorial. Karen returned to the Most High on Christmas Day. The memorial was nothing short of great stories, fond memories and wonderful sentiments from family and friends. Karen was about developing leaders, especially new and young ones. She was transparent and open; civically engaged; she loved her community; she loved working on the school board; she loved her neighbors and friends; and she loved Earl Williams, her devoted spouse of 26 years.

Indeed she had a life that was well lived. If you missed any of the memorial, you can catch it on the Facebook page of the [Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church](#). We are going to miss her and her several years of leadership of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association (HCCA).

The association has been without a president since 2021. The current team, despite all the challenges, has served the HCCA well, leading it in and out of the pandemic, expanding its capacity and extending its influence. We are excited about this post-COVID environment and finally being able to fully engage members, stakeholders and neighbors. As we look forward to a new era of leadership, please participate in selecting the next generation of servants and volunteers.

We have begun the election process for the executive officers. The election was postponed from November 5 to March 2023, per the Nominating Committee. That committee sent out an email to the community between Friday, January 20 and Tuesday, January 24, explaining its process for the upcoming elections, which is now a Special Election, per the bylaws. (A General Election is defined as one beginning in August and ending in November of the election year.) Following the January 7 general meeting, the HCCA leadership considered points of concerns raised by the membership. It was determined that the HCCA could improve its communications and process execution of the election.

The HCCA team followed the September 10, 2021, bylaws as closely as possible, despite a few delays that prevented the elections from occurring in November 2022. It should be noted that the HCCA and the Nominating Committee are run by volunteers and many of the challenges are a result of balancing one's life demands.

Election Process

The Nominating Committee, as the HCCA leadership team, remains committed to a fully inclusive election process that will give every eligible member the ability to vote.

The election will take place on Saturday, March 4 at 11 :a.m. at the Hillcrest Recreation Center. Members will have until 12:59 pm to cast their ballots. We will try to work on doing the election

virtually. However, we hope members will opt for any of the voting methods below. Members who are qualified can nominate themselves from the floor.

There will be three ways to participate in this election

1. Mail-in ballot
2. Electronic voting by email
3. Day of voting

Each eligible member, who is qualified to vote, can choose only one method. Ballots will be addressed and mailed to members. If an eligible member uses more than one method to vote, that ballot will be considered spoiled and disqualified.

Between January 20 and January 24, eligible members received communications from the Nominations Chair, Carmela Edmunds. The communication laid out what we can expect in terms of procedure prior to, and on the day of the election, which is expected to conclude on Saturday, March 4 at 11:59 p.m.

Villareal "VJ" Johnson is the HCCA vice president, acting president, and former Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner.