



HELL'S KITCHEN DEMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE 2019

Nick Franklin
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What position are you running for?

CLUB PRESIDENT

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?

I lead from the front, working with people from all backgrounds, making them feel welcome and valued. I am motivated by a personal moral imperative to fight the Republican agenda at all levels and protect the most vulnerable in society. And I bring organizational and practical skills to help make the club effective, as I've demonstrated through my work leading the Politics Committee, as Secretary, and as VP for Communications before that.

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?

From the very first Club meeting on Jan 14, 2017.

What is your vision for the club?

I think HK Dems can do three really great things this year. First, it can grow way beyond its current numbers, all over the neighborhood, and expand its impact. Second, it can build on its great successes in the Midterm Elections and aid the passage of progressive legislation (voting reform, fighting Climate Change, passing the Reproductive Health Act, modernizing Rent Regulations, and more) which will have a real impact on the lives of people all over New York State. And third, I want to lead an effective and empowered Exec Committee where everyone is treated with respect.

Why is activism and volunteering with an organization like HK Dems important to you?

The 2016 election shocked me: the nation seemed to take a sharp turn away from equality, justice, and fairness towards racism, propaganda, and fear. The Muslim Ban, crying children in cages, gerrymandering and African American voter suppression, even the petty corruption and betrayal of the IDC: I just felt (and still feel) that we - as good people with a little spare time - have to stand up and say this is wrong. And, I should say, the work we've done together in the last two years have proved it's absolutely possible to do this effectively. We played a big role in electing real Democrats to the State Senate, making it possible for progressive legislation to pass. We contributed thousands of volunteer-hours to congressional campaigns to take back the House. And we built a fantastic neighborhood organization, ready to fight for our values. I feel really lucky to have an opportunity to work with a team like that.



HELL'S KITCHEN DEMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE 2019

Paulette Osborne
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What position are you running for?

VICE PRESIDENT

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?

I have been a very active member at large. I think I can oversee the committees and inspire people to become more active members of our club. I don't have an agenda. I am not using this position as a stepping stone. I am committed to the club and Hell's Kitchen. I am not a member of any other democratic club nor am I on an executive board of any other club. I get along well with our District Leaders and I think that is important for our work in the neighborhood.

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?

Two years

What is your vision for the club?

My vision is to increase membership and inspire people to be active members and not just attend meetings once in awhile. I would also like to have the club become more active in climate change issues. I have a lot of connections with 350.org, Food and Water Watch, Sane Energy and United For Action. I have already approached the president of UFA, Ling Tsou and she is willing to take an active role and work with us. I also worked with Aleta and Debo on a membership card and approached Phil and Ruth at W42ndSt magazine to borrow their laminator so we can laminate the membership cards. I want people to feel they are a part of something that is critical to the political climate. It seems like a small gesture but people like to feel they are important.

Why is activism and volunteering with an organization like HK Dems important to you?

I was politically active before but not on the local level. After Trump was elected, I heard Eric Schneiderman speak and he said something that stuck with me. "When they go low, we go local." I was active with United Thru Action at the time and then I found HK Dems. I was always active with Jerry Nadler and Corey Johnson so it was a natural fit.

I was not happy with the in-fighting in the last year and I was ready to leave and get back to my climate activities but a few people approached me and thought I should run for office. They gave me the confidence to run. Another person that inspires me is Michael Moore and he said, before you die, everyone should run for some political office. At the time, I was still thinking on a broader scale and didn't think I ever would but as I said before, my local activism has been very rewarding.

Last year when I asked for people's votes as a member at large, I said I was a foot soldier and was trusted enough to get elected. Since then, I realize that I do love being a political activist and with the help and support of some people that I admire and respect, I came to realize that I can do more. I have always held managerial positions in my past work experience and I think it's time that I take on a little more responsibility.

As you all know, I have petitioned for District Leader and in the primary and mid-terms, phone and text banked in the primary and mid-terms, went to postcard writing parties, and canvassed upstate NY, PA and Long Island. I was an active member of the political committee and our activists Tuesdays were very successful!

I want this club to be everything that Marti envisioned when he started the club. We are a part of history. So respectfully, I hope I can have your support to continue growing this club and improving Hell's Kitchen and beyond.



HELL'S KITCHEN DEMS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE 2019

Chris LeBron
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What position are you running for?

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?

With 10 years of experience as a Marketing/Communications Strategist in NYC I bring a wide variety of hard communication skills to the position.

The Director of Communications needs to be learned not only in the traditional methods of club communications: email, web, social media (which I am) but in team building and that means finding volunteers with the mastery of supporting skills I may not have and members who want to volunteer and learn brand new skills. This is not a one person job especially with the myriad of events soon to come over the horizon for example: protests, volunteer efforts, advocacy forums, petitioning, and elections, being an inclusive leader and building a diverse communications committee will benefit our club for years to come.

Additionally each one of the aforementioned things our club has been so passionate in supporting and actively participating in may necessitate a different touch...possibly even a different communications medium. As a digital native I understand that our traditional club methods of communication will not be 100% effective. Our email list continues to grow as does our club's Facebook following but neither platform reaches the whole of our community and so we must strive to test different methods of outreach. At the end of the day I will embrace the best method of communication our community needs from its namesake club.

Lastly I will end the answer to this question by saying that I love what I do for a living and when you have someone who is passionate about what they do and willing to teach and continue to learn everyone wins.

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?

I have been a member since the Spring of 2018 and a Member at Large Since June of 2018.

What is your vision for the club?

I would like to grow our membership and have our club be a tool for community empowerment. Our executive members should be leaders, organizers, and advocates and they should be tapped into the zeitgeist. We should strive to have more of our members apply for public and full membership of community boards, join their block associations, and gain the skills for proper organizing. If you do not know how to write a letter to city agency commissioner or elected officer HK Dems should be your go to place for civics 101.

Why is activism and volunteering with an organization like HK Dems important to you?

This club is the namesake of my childhood neighborhood. The neighborhood that formed me. Giving back through my housing advocacy volunteer work, block association, community board and now through HK Dems is my way of saying thank you to the leaders and volunteers who cleaned up this neighborhood when I was growing up here in the 80s. Hell's Kitchen means the world to me.



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Aleta LaFargue
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What position are you running for?

DIRECTOR OF EVENTS

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?
I have a lot of experience creating successful events. I also Have access to many venues and connections with business owners in our neighborhood.

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?

I am a founding member

What is your vision for the club?

That we continue to campaign for progressive candidates and laws and continue building and support our neighborhood and community.

Why is activism and volunteering with an organization like HK Dems important to you?

Having a strong foundation for our community to come together is the best way to support our future here in Hell's Kitchen.



HELL'S KITCHEN DEMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE 2019

Steve Nowicki
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What position are you running for?

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?

I am currently the principal technical architect of the membership system for the American Bar Association, a group with 400,000 dues paying members and 1.3 MM customers. I have run membership systems on this scale for many other groups in the past. I know how to work well with communications and events to drive an expansion of the club's membership while systematizing our approach to managing the membership.

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?

Almost, but not quite a year. I'm not exactly sure of the dates.

What is your vision for the club?

We can be a real force in the neighborhood, the city, and the party. We have had an extraordinary organizational childhood and now as we move into our adolescence, we need to take everything we've learned, everything we're great at, combined with the extraordinary energy and enthusiasm of our members, and expand our influence, efficacy, and reach. We can do this through all the normal things we've been doing, but we can accelerate the pace of growth with good systems, good data, and a clever application of both. Technology doesn't solve problems on its own, but it makes it easier to find solutions and opportunities and I intend to work with other members of the club's leadership to do both.

Why is activism and volunteering with an organization like HK Dems important to you?

We face unprecedented civic challenges today. Trust in government is at a multi-generational low and for good reasons. At national, state, and municipal levels we have real problems that need great candidates and energized activists to fix them. I want to do everything I can to be part of creating solutions, and that starts at the grass-roots level.



HELL'S KITCHEN DEMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE 2019

Louis Cholden-Brown
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What position are you running for?

POLITICAL DIRECTOR

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?

I have spent over a decade working at varying levels of community and government and have had the privilege of serving in comparable positions in a number of prior Democratic and issue-based organizations. I am excited to bring my experience, knowledge and community to this endeavor.

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?

I am proud to have been at the very first meeting in early 2017 and to have been a board member since this past summer.

What is your vision for the club?

2019 to many was not anticipated to be a particularly exciting year in NYC politics- though that all changed with the election of Tish James as Attorney General. Besides the important opportunity presented by the race to succeed her, this upcoming year is also integral as a chance to engage in significant club-building ahead of an exciting 2020. On the agenda for 2019 must be reelecting our district leaders, qualifying and expanding our county committee and educating and involving the club in other important facets of the reform democratic movement including judicial elections- both to the Civil Court, including a vacancy here in the 3rd Municipal Court District, and of delegates to the Supreme Court convention. I look forward to working closely with the incoming Membership Director to strengthen our base and engage our community on these. In addition, Democratic control of the State Senate represents a sea-change in Albany that presents a priceless opportunity to finally achieve so many progressive victories left hanging by the GOP. From passing the RHA, NYHA, Climate & Community Protection Act, rent, elections and ethics reform, to so many others, the club must be forefront in pushing for the agenda we fought so hard to elect supporters to achieve and, if necessary, holding our public officials accountable if they fall short.

Why is activism and volunteering with an organization like HK Dems important to you?

Too often we hear that people feel their elected representatives are not accessible or accountable. Reform Democratic clubs are integral to not only ensuring the election of representatives who represent community values but maintaining lines of communication throughout their tenure and ensuring a local voice in policy-making and the selection of successors. Clubs also are essential to ensuring community education about other party and elected institutions that are often opaque to the uninitiated. Clubs like HKDems should function as community institutions that extend beyond the electoral arena but provide support to membership, broadcast local concerns and live our values.



HELL'S KITCHEN DEMS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE 2019

John Pepen
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What position are you running for?

RECORDING SECRETARY

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?

My participation in the Politics Committee during the midterm election has shown me to be a conscientious and hardworking individual. As a member of the Executive Committee, I would be honored to participate in the continued growth of this young club and shaping it to its full political potential. Developing a written record of our club meetings underscores our commitment to transparency and is something I would be proud to create.

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?

I have been a member of HK Dems for 1 year.

What is your vision for club?

I would like the club to focus on first and foremost local politics. My hope is that we can use the political goodwill we've accumulated to promote and effect progressive policies at home. In addition, I would like the club to fulfill its role as a form of active citizen participation. It should serve as a sounding board for the needs of the Hell's Kitchen community, provide education on salient policy issues, and advocate for solutions on the community's behalf both on the local and state level.

Why is activism and volunteering with an organization like HK Dems important to you?

Activism and volunteering are important because they are the main way that I, as a citizen, can participate in democracy and can shape my community into an ideal version of itself; one that is fairer, more inclusive, and more just. An organization like HK Dems gives me the ability and the political capital to advocate for specific policies to my elected officials. More importantly, it surrounds me with empathetic and passionate people who are fighting for many of the things I care about.

Bio

My name is John Pepen and I am a new member of the community, having lived in the neighborhood for the past 3 years. I have spent my entire life living in the metro area, growing up in Jersey City and then living in different areas of Manhattan for the past 10 years. I am a physician and have a Master in Public Policy. Aside from medicine, I am passionate about racial, social and economic justice.



HELL'S KITCHEN DEMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE 2019

Natalie Sheridan
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Natalie Sheridan has served as a special educator for eleven years, and is currently working in Manhattan as an elementary school Reading Specialist, teaching children with language-based learning disabilities. She holds a Bachelor's of Science from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and a Master of Arts from Teachers College, Columbia University. She was an Arthur Zankel Urban Fellowship recipient at Teachers College in 2011, and has taught there as an adjunct professor in the Reading Specialist program since the spring of 2018.

Since her time working as a young college student in the AmeriCorps program in Illinois, Natalie has been driven by a desire to serve her community. A Hell's Kitchen resident for four years, she has brought that desire with her to her new neighborhood. Natalie was diagnosed with breast cancer in November, 2016. The shock of this diagnosis, compounded with the election of Donald Trump and the almost certain destruction of the Affordable Care Act was the catalyst for Natalie's activism. She started an Indivisible group, organizing against the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, and joined the Hell's Kitchen Democrats. Two years later, cancer free, and with the ACA still the law of the land, she continues this vital work in her community.

What position are you running for?

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?

I am best suited for this position because I've developed strong communication skills through my eleven-year teaching career. For the past three years, I have served in a leadership role at my school; this has provided me the opportunity to further develop the ability to communicate with fellow staff members and students' families. More recently, my work as an activist, including organizing meetings, phone banking, and canvassing, has allowed me to use these skills for a different purpose. I'm eager to put these skills to good use as the HK Dems correspondence secretary.

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?

One year.

What is your vision for the club?

My vision is for HK Dems to grow into a club that reflects the diversity of our neighborhood and continues to uphold progressive values. Since the 2016 election, we have been living through a rebirth of our democracy; everyday people everywhere are standing up to say "enough is enough". HK Dems has become an integral part of that grassroots effort. Our members worked so incredibly hard to make the blue wave a reality. We now have a blue trifecta in New York State, and our club helped make that happen! I can't wait to see what we can achieve in 2020 and beyond.

Why is activism and volunteering with an organization like HK Dems important to you?

I was devastated after the 2016 election. I knew what the election of Donald Trump meant for women, children, people of color, members of the LGBTQ community, and other vulnerable members of our society. I also knew that I couldn't let myself give into despair. It was time to get more involved than I had ever been before. By December 2016 I had started the group To Do List: An Indivisible Chapter. Once I found my way to HK Dems, I never looked back. Like thousands of my fellow Americans, activism is now a part of my life. I look forward to continuing this important work with HK Dems.



HELL'S KITCHEN DEMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE 2019

Mike Scarna
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What position are you running for?
TREASURER

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?

Treasurer.

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?

1 year

What is your vision for the club?

HK Dems is a place where the community can educate themselves on local politics and goings on of the neighborhood.

Why is activism and volunteering with an organization like HK Dems important to you?

Volunteering with HK Dems gives you a place to feel like you're a part of something bigger; contributing to the community.



HELL'S KITCHEN DEMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE 2019

Jeffrey LeFrancois
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What position are you running for?

MEMBER AT LARGE

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?

As a founding executive officer of HKD, having served as secretary, VP for communications, and as chair of the constitution committee, I am interested in exploring other ways to support club officers and members outside of a specified title role.

With my past experience working for elected officials, serving on the local community board, and having long relationships with community and block associations, I believe I can offer more as a member at large while working with officers, executive committee members, and club members to fulfill the club's goals.

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?

Formally, April 2017 from the time the club first took dues! Informally, February 2017.

What is your vision for the club?

To be a organization where progressives can organize locally in support of the neighborhood, city, state, and country on behalf of causes in which the club seeks to have an effect.

I believe the Club should also work to be a provider of community information outside of progressive political information and organizing. Right now, there's no central place for an HK resident to find out when their block association meets or to know there are community meetings like the Community Precinct Council or the community board. Having a place where someone trusts the information they're getting will help to establish the club inside and outside of politics and government. It will also help to weave government and politics into the fabric of the neighborhood, which has long played role in New York politics.

Be it about bock association meetings, other events or neighborhood programming, HKD could become a go-to spot to find out what is happening when it comes to civics and civic engagement in Hell's Kitchen.

Why is activism and volunteering with an organization like HK Dems important to you?

Big changes come from the ground up and as a geographic political club, it's exciting to be able to organize within a neighborhood to help bring about larger change in the community and city. The newness of our organization also provides a greater latitude of what folks might want to do and let's be honest - it's hip to be new. Ensuring the club remains a part of the civic dialogue is important and recognizing needs of the neighborhood and city will be important to making sure that happens.

While we are living in a tumultuous time, my involvement with organizing and campaigning began before I could vote. HKDems allows me to channel my lifelong civic engagement energy to help improve the place I have worked in and called home for nearly a decade.



HELL'S KITCHEN DEMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE 2019

Carl Wilson
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What position are you running for?

MEMBER AT LARGE

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?

I feel that my experience as a former Vice-President and my past term as a member at large have given me a strong sense of how the club operates and a good sense of the work that is required to be an effective member of the executive committee. I also think that my experience working for a local elected official helps provide political insight that can be useful for the club.

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?

Since the very beginning. So, I guess that would be about two years.

What is your vision for the club?

I want to see the club continue to grow to become a neighborhood institution. I would like to see us continue to participate in local elections, create more fun and engaging events to grow membership and be a source of information to help voters make informed decisions at the ballot box.

Why is activism and volunteering with an organization like HK Dems important to you?

I think it is important to contribute to the community in which you live. I also want to do my part to help make sure the legislative policies we are governed by and the elected official who enact them reflect the progressive values I believe in. Being part of an organization like HK Dems allows for me to do that.



HELL'S KITCHEN DEMS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE 2019

Sean Coughlin
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Brief Bio:

I'm a 10 year resident of Hell's Kitchen and, after attending the now famous first meeting of the HKDems at Chateau Robinson, I was honored to participate in the first, unofficial iteration of the Executive Committee (Marti, Carl and I figuring out whose living room to use next). Since that time, I've served the club as treasurer, member of the constitution committee, and part-time photographer.

I was unable to serve on the executive committee this past year as, since his election a year ago, I've worked as special assistant to City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, attending all meetings and events with him. That unique privilege has afforded me more knowledge of our city and its government than I ever thought possible. That role, and the one previously held working in the district office, has enabled me to work closely with other city officials, community leaders and constituents alike. I look forward to using the knowledge gained from these interactions on behalf of our community and neighbors.

What position are you running for?

Member At Large

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?

I hope that my experience through the club and the City Council, as well as my flexibility and willingness to do whatever work is needed from me, will be a benefit to the club and its members.

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?

Since it's initiation, January 14, 2017

What is your vision for the club?

I hope this club can take the history of achievement that groups like the Manhattan Plaza Tenant's Association have accomplished for their members and replicate that success to improve the lives of all residents of Hell's Kitchen. Whether it's electing progressive Democrats to all levels of office or advocating for quality of life issues like sanitation, we can continue to accomplish more together than as individuals.



HELL'S KITCHEN DEMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE 2019

Jeffrey Allan Ellis-Lee
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What position are you running for?

Member At Large

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?

My commitment to the community as a CB4 member and teacher in the community provides me with a desire to expand progressive ideas as well as push Albany and DC in the right direction.

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?

6 months

What is your vision for the club?

To be a gathering place for ideas from all members of the community. To expand membership in underrepresented communities.

Why is activism and volunteering with an organization like HK Dems important to you?

Activism and pushing progressive ideas has been my life since college.

Director AP American Studies
Maxine Greene High School



HELL'S KITCHEN DEMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE 2019

John Blankson
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What position are you running for?

Member at Large

One of the reasons I halted running for a second term is my disappointment in trying to work with local nonprofits (which failed) happen-It also became my reason to run. I had various members of the board reach out offering support when I couldn't push my agenda through-It's also why I'm running again. The experience has taught me that as an active member of the resistance, I'm not alone and my work isn't done yet. Between campaigning to get District Leader, Marisa Redanty elected, petitioning for DL, Paul Devlin, in addition to helping elect various local leaders (via campaigning and phone banking), it's proves our resistance is alive and kicking-and I want the opportunity to continue working with my fellow activists.

I'm currently a freelance writer and a former volunteer of the Hillary Clinton campaign. I got involved in local politics to help elect more women and minorities in power. With HK Dems, I am part of a movement that makes ambitious, yet attainable achievements happen. Thank you!

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?

My interest in working hard to push minorities into local leadership

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?

2 years

What is your vision for the club?

More people (especially woman) of color in leadership.

Why is activism and volunteering with an organization like HK Dems important to you?

Who is was started by and why it was started. The founder(s) has/have proven to be an active voice(s) of the resistance. Representation matters and having Marti front and center of leadership and also as the face of our club makes it an organization for ALL progressives.



HELL'S KITCHEN DEMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE 2019

Seth Levy
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Seth is an immigration attorney practicing in New York City and New Jersey, who prepares asylum cases for people fleeing their home countries due to gang violence, domestic abuse and political violence. Additionally, he files petitions for legal immigrants trying to bring over their families and loved ones to the United States. Seth also conducts community outreach workshops and seminars in immigrant neighborhoods across the state. He is passionate about neighborhood issues and local politics. One of his main goals is to start a pro bono legal clinic for members of the Hell's Kitchen community.

I was unable to serve on the executive committee this past year as, since his election a year ago, I've worked as special assistant to City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, attending all meetings and events with him. That unique privilege has afforded me more knowledge of our city and its government than I ever thought possible. That role, and the one previously held working in the district office, has enabled me to work closely with other city officials, community leaders and constituents alike. I look forward to using the knowledge gained from these interactions on behalf of our community and neighbors.

What position are you running for?
Member at large

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?

I am organizing a pro bono legal clinic for the community and am the only member on the board with legal experience. I plan to help screen judges along with the District Leaders to see who is best suited for civil court and supreme ct.

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?
Ever since I met Marti at an Ansonia meeting a few years back! I've been on the board for 2 years now.

What is your vision for the club?
A progressive, neighborhood club that people can rely on for activism, putting good democratic candidates on the ballot and providing leadership to the westside of Manhattan. Ideally the club will put on informative panels on a variety of topics and also promote neighborhood events.

Its an important way of staying connected to the neighborhood and the city. NYC sometimes can feel very disconnected and isolated. This is a good way to get involved and work from the ground up in order to better people's lives and foster a sense of community.



HELL'S KITCHEN DEMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE 2019

Jim McNickle
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What position are you running for?
Member-at-large

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?
I have no idea why I am the best candidate for this position. I am entering this with eyes wide open hoping to learn as I go.

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?
STwo years

What is your vision for the club?
My vision of the club is somewhat limited at this point, but as my understanding of it grows, I hope I can be one of the voices that add value to our platform. Activism as it relates to HK Dems is a very real way to be a part of the political process, of change and of holding our elected officials accountable. Also, as a group we have the power to present new ideas and new approaches to longstanding issues.



HELL'S KITCHEN DEMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE 2019

Diane Zuchnik
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What position are you running for?

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

I have been a college professor for the past 15 years, teaching Composition to first-year students. I also taught middle school in Piscataway, NJ, for many years. I moved to New York City five years ago from The Jersey Shore because I always wanted to be a City mouse! I love to travel, and enjoy meeting new and fascinating people. I'm thinking I should write that memoir, but, first, savor living here and try to be wise and irreverent.

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?

I feel that I am the best candidate suited for this position because of my "get the job done" attitude. An important part of the responsibilities of this position is that of bringing energy, cooperation and the ability to sense the temperature of not only a room but also a situation in order to accomplish the goals of an agenda.

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?

I became a member in June, 2018, having moved into the neighborhood in late February of the same year.

What is your vision for the club?

To me this is key: I see us as an active, vibrant, as well as evolving force that listens to our Hell's Kitchen neighbors, seeks ways to resolve issues, initiates programs, communicates with our elected officials, and stays informed about emerging and progressive candidates for office.

Why is activism and volunteering with an organization like HK Dems important to you?

As a long-time door knocker, among myriad other political activities (including running for a Council seat in Long Branch, NJ, in 2010 as a Progressive), I pride myself in never being satisfied with the status quo. We all have one life on this planet; I intend to always do my part toward making that life better for as many as I can, especially those who think they have little or no voice.



HELL'S KITCHEN DEMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE 2019

Louis Cholden-Brown
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What position are you running for?

POLITICAL DIRECTOR

Why do you feel you are the best candidate suited for this position?

I have spent over a decade working at varying levels of community and government and have had the privilege of serving in comparable positions in a number of prior Democratic and issue-based organizations. I am excited to bring my experience, knowledge and community to this endeavor.

How long have you been a member of HK Dems?

I am proud to have been at the very first meeting in early 2017 and to have been a board member since this past summer.

What is your vision for the club?

2019 to many was not anticipated to be a particularly exciting year in NYC politics- though that all changed with the election of Tish James as Attorney General. Besides the important opportunity presented by the race to succeed her, this upcoming year is also integral as a chance to engage in significant club-building ahead of an exciting 2020. On the agenda for 2019 must be reelecting our district leaders, qualifying and expanding our county committee and educating and involving the club in other important facets of the reform democratic movement including judicial elections- both to the Civil Court, including a vacancy here in the 3rd Municipal Court District, and of delegates to the Supreme Court convention. I look forward to working closely with the incoming Membership Director to strengthen our base and engage our community on these. In addition, Democratic control of the State Senate represents a sea-change in Albany that presents a priceless opportunity to finally achieve so many progressive victories left hanging by the GOP. From passing the RHA, NYHA, Climate & Community Protection Act, rent, elections and ethics reform, to so many others, the club must be forefront in pushing for the agenda we fought so hard to elect supporters to achieve and, if necessary, holding our public officials accountable if they fall short.

Why is activism and volunteering with an organization like HK Dems important to you?

Too often we hear that people feel their elected representatives are not accessible or accountable. Reform Democratic clubs are integral to not only ensuring the election of representatives who represent community values but maintaining lines of communication throughout their tenure and ensuring a local voice in policy-making and the selection of successors. Clubs also are essential to ensuring community education about other party and elected institutions that are often opaque to the uninitiated. Clubs like HKDems should function as community institutions that extend beyond the electoral arena but provide support to membership, broadcast local concerns and live our values.