

March 20, 2009

PRESIDENT  
Barbara Ciara  
WTKR-TV (Norfolk, Va.)

VICE PRESIDENT - BROADCAST  
Kathy Times  
WDBD-TV (Jackson, Miss.)

VICE PRESIDENT - PRINT  
Ernie Suggs  
The Atlanta Journal-  
Constitution

SECRETARY  
Deirdre Childress  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

TREASURER  
Gregory Lee  
The Boston Globe

PARLIAMENTARIAN  
Tonju Francois  
CNN en Espanol

REGION I DIRECTOR  
Caleb Wilkerson  
Comcast

REGION II DIRECTOR  
Charles Robinson  
Maryland Public Television

REGION III DIRECTOR  
Ken Knight  
The Tampa Tribune

REGION IV DIRECTOR  
Leisa Richardson  
The Indianapolis Star

REGION V DIRECTOR  
Cindy George  
Houston Chronicle

REGION VI DIRECTOR  
Bob Butler  
KCBS Radio (San Francisco)

ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATIVE  
Aprill O. Turner  
Children's Dental  
Health Project

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE  
Christopher Nelson  
WJZ-TV (Baltimore)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/COO  
Karen Wynn Freeman, CAE IOM

John C. Mellott, Publisher  
Atlanta Journal-Constitution  
72 Marietta Street, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Mellott:

The leadership of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) is concerned about the impact of potential lay offs on African-American journalists at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

The Journal-Constitution has been a model for minority representation in the newsroom, and NABJ is eager to help ensure that the *Journal-Constitution* does not lose ground in the progress it has made toward a diverse newsroom that reflects the make-up of the community.

According to the 2008 ASNE census, the *Journal-Constitution* editorial staff was 20.5 percent black in a metro area which is roughly 55 percent black. With at least 14 black editors – with at least 10 of them senior editors-- and three bureau chiefs, the *Journal-Constitution* has demonstrated that having African Americans supervising daily coverage is integral to ensuring fair coverage of the community.

As you fight to preserve your company, know that NABJ is committed to helping our members survive and thrive in this evolving multimedia landscape. We are offering unprecedented training and would like to know how we can work with you to keep our members competitive and more valuable than ever to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and its readers.

Sincerely,



Barbara Ciara  
President