

BIOGRAPHIES FOR STATEWIDE CANDIDATES

STEPHEN STERN, 6840 S. Euclid Avenue, Chicago.

I am seeking to be reelected as Chair of the State Board of Directors of IVI-IPO an organization that I have known and respected for many years. I grew up in Chicago, lived on the west and south sides for most of my life and graduated from Marshall High School and University of Illinois Chicago. I attended Washington University School of Law in St. Louis and was admitted to the Illinois bar and began practicing law in 1977.

For most of my legal career I have litigated various types of civil rights cases and also reviewed, drafted, supported or opposed legislation in this area of the law for more than half of my career. I gained familiarity with the legislative process as a result of my supervisory positions as director of the Race Relations Project of Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, Chief of the Civil Rights Division of the Illinois Attorney General's Office, and Litigation Director for the Leadership Council for Metropolitan Open Communities. I have served on numerous Boards in leadership positions including being President of the Cook County Bar Association, President of the Board of Trustees of the First Unitarian Church of Chicago and President of the CCBA Community Law Project. Other nonprofit Boards I have served on as a director and/or officer include the Center for Conflict Resolution, the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago and the Fifth City Reformulation Corporation. From the beginning of my law career I have volunteered for many candidates running for various political offices (too many to name) and I have represented candidates in election contest cases since 2009. My first election case was around three years into my career when I was the lead attorney representing Gus Savage in a Congressional Redistricting case.

I have been a member of the IVI-IPO since around 2008 and have participated as a member in many state and south-side chapter endorsement sessions as a member and twice as a candidate and have also attended many Independence Day Dinners. In the past year as the State Board Chair among the matters that I took primary responsibility for or played a major role in are: I successfully organized a board retreat; I organized and oversaw a successful fund drive; I worked with our legislative committee and other progressive organizations in advocating in support of actions or legislation consistent with our purpose and positions we have taken on various issues; and I chaired this year's Independents' Day Dinner.

C. BETTY MAGNESS, 400 E. Randolph, Chicago.

Administrative Vice Chair will be an important role as we go into a new era of Leadership. I wish to serve in the 2017-2018 fiscal year to continue the precedent of strong, aggressive, independent men and women who have kept IVI-IPO in the forefront of the independent movement.

It is imperative that our organization remain vigilant and intact to fight the efforts of the right wing conservatives to rescind all the accomplishments we have made over the years, i.e. abortion rights, affirmative action and voting rights for all. Currently, 8 states have Automatic Voter Registration including Illinois when signed. That puts an automatic 1.3 million new voters on the rolls in our state. It is incumbent upon us as an organization to do everything we can to teach as many of them as possible, the value of voting to help change the direction of this state and nation. I promise to work diligently with the Chair to keep IVI-IPO's image visible and viable in this and other efforts of concern for Illinois. Additionally, we must continue to give strong support to our State Legislators to stop the cancellation of funding of important programs and services and maintain a balanced budget for our state.

My activities and awards over the years include: State Chair, 2000 to 2002; Administrative Vice-Chair, 2002 to present; At-Large Delegate 1992 to 2002, Facilitator IVI-IPO A-Z Candidates Workshops, 1999 Edwin Astrin Special Service Award Winner.

Political Campaigns and Community Involvement include: Facilitator 1996 Democratic National Committee Training Academy. Midwest Director, Jesse Jackson 1988 presidential campaign. New East Side Area Residents Association (NEAR) member. Recipient, Cook County Bar Ida Platt Award, An Expo For Today's Black Woman Community Service Award; Rainbow/PUSH Community Service Award; Chicago Freedom Sister Award from DuSable Museum; Deputy Registrar for Rainbow/PUSH Coalition; and Co-chair Rainbow/PUSH Alice Tregay/Betty Magness Political Institute; currently, Illinois Political Director for Rainbow PUSH and member of Citizen Action Illinois Policy Council and the 2016 Rainbow PUSH Coalition Special Recognition Award for Service.

Recent campaigns include: Tommy Brewer, Jesse Reyes, Larry Rogers, Jr., Dorothy Brown, Lisa Madigan, President Barack Obama, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Commissioner Richard Boykin, Ald. David Moore, Mayoral Candidate Jesus "Chuy" Garcia and Hillary for President. Protests include the "Fight for \$15," The 2017 Tax March and the 2017 Women's March on Washington in D.C.

WILLIE MACK, 835 N. East Avenue, Oak Park.

I am running for IVI-IPO Program Vice Chair for 2017-2018. I have served as Treasurer, Legislative Action Chair, and Delegate. I have assisted several officers and committees during the past year.

I strive to achieve social justice for all. In my opinion, we should endorse only candidates who have a good record or if they are brand new, then show a potential to promote good government and policies.

IVI-IPO should not suffer the fate of becoming dependent on any one political party or faction.

With others, I helped form a West Cook DFA Chapter. I serve on the Oak Park School District #97's Financial Oversight and Review Committee, and the Oak Park Township's Youth Services Committee.

I am an officer with the Coalition of Veteran Organizations, the American Legion, and Illinois AMVETS.

Currently, I am a financial planner and an investment advisor representative, with a specialization in financial mediations. I hold several Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) designations.

DAVID K. IGASAKI, 3232 N. Halsted Street, Chicago.

Incumbent Secretary. Former State Chair. Former State Political Action Chair. Former Legislative Action Committee Chair. Co-Chair of the Independent Gay and Lesbian Caucus. Involved in progressive political campaigns since the 1968 Eugene McCarthy anti-war campaign as a teenager. Delegate to the 1992 Democratic National Convention.

RICH WHITEHEAD, 26 Bigelow Road, Park Forest.

The need for an organization like IVI-IPO is inherent in a nation with a President like Trump, in a state led by Rauner and Madigan, and Rahm on the 5th floor. I will work toward IVI-IPO being a force and voice in our state. I believe we need to maintain our commitment to ideals and principles of the organization's proud history, however, we must never continue practices only because "we have always done this or done it this way". We need to morph and adapt our program and methods to the shifting political situation of today.

The board can not manage our limited resources and make wise decisions without timely financial data. I pledge to provide that information and work in re-building the organization.

I have been a member of IVI-IPO since 1983 and served in various positions on the state board, Treasurer, PAC, suburban board delegate, and served as your staff person.

ALDOPHUS KINDLE, 312 W. 31st Street, Chicago.

A Chicago native and IVI-IPO Southside Chapter member for twenty years, Aldophus "Al" Kindle has decades of deep involvement in Chicago politics, community, and social life. The incumbent IVI-IPO Political Action Chair since 2015, he organized the 2016 primary candidate "Meet and Greet" event and raised \$5000 to support the group's ongoing activities. He is actively working to revise the PAC endorsement calendar and procedures for a very productive 2017-18 period for IVI-IPO. He also led the endorsement process that attracted over fifty candidate endorsement applications, convened four endorsement sessions, and recommended twenty nine IVI-IPO endorsements. He is enthused and committed to the mission and founding principles that make IVI-IPO an indispensable organization in Illinois.

Mr. Kindle has worked as a leading strategist and organizer for numerous independent political initiatives extending to the early organizing that led to the election of Mayors: Harold Washington, David Miller (Markham), David Johnson (Harvey), Vernard Alsberry (Hazel Crest); Aldermen: Bobby Rush, Toni Preckwinkle, Pat Dowell, Leslie Hairston, Ted Thomas, Michael Scott, Willie Cochran, Luis Gutierrez; State Senators Barack Obama and Kwame Raoul; Presidents: Toni Preckwinkle and Barack Obama; and many other progressive elected officials. In 1991, he began working for then 4th Ward Alderman Toni Preckwinkle, holding a number of senior roles including Chief of Staff. He currently serves as a Special Assistant with President Preckwinkle and a volunteer advisor to the Barack Obama Presidential Foundation. In 2015-16, he served a similar role in the Democratic Primary Election victory of Cook County Democratic State's Attorney candidate Kim Foxx.

He would be honored to serve as IVI-IPO Political Action Chair again and asks for your support. He believes our better years are still ahead of us.

MAMIE L. RODGERS, 220 Juniper Street, Park Forest.

In 2016, Mamie L. Rodgers was elected to the Independent Voters of Illinois Independent Precinct Organization State Board and serves as the Legislative Action Chair. During her tenure the legislative committee notified Governor Bruce Rauner to urge him to create an elected school board and sent a letter to legislators urging them to support the automatic voter bill. As well, three interns were secured to assist with the IVI-IPO's Best Legislative Voting Record Award. In terms of her career, for over 20 years, Mamie L. Rodgers has been involved in efforts to educate and uplift the community. As she continued to strive to increase her knowledge and expertise she completed her Master's degree. Her career continued to evolve through her executive management positions in journalism; community relations; project management; marketing communications; college student recruitment and retention; educational promotions; sales and fundraising in nonprofit, private and corporate sectors. In 2009, she established the National Congress of Black Women, Metro Chicago Chapter, a nonprofit civic organization designed to empower women and their families, and led by a diverse group of women from many walks of life ranging from administrative assistants to politicians and judges. Additionally, Ms. Rodgers has served as an advocate for various causes and coordinated political forums and voter registration activities. This year she was appointed to the Village of Park Forest Fire & Police Commission. For three years, she served as Vice Chair of the Commission on Human Relations for the Village of Park Forest. Ms. Rodgers especially enjoys building and maintaining relationships, identifying empowerment resources, and connecting people and entities to desired services and sources of assistance. She has built relationships with White House personnel and affiliates, state and federal political officials, clergymen, entrepreneurs, business executives and various community leaders.

Ms. Rodgers looks forward to continued opportunities with IVI-IPO to expand her involvement in increasing voter registration and awareness, efforts that are critical for the creation of safer, healthier, thriving and more vibrant communities.

MARC LOVELESS, 3510 S. Rhodes Avenue, # 1702, Chicago.

CHARLES PAIDOCK, 3211 S. Union Avenue, Chicago.

Charles Paidock has 35+ years experience in lobbying members of the Illinois delegation to the U.S. Congress on a variety of issues, ranging from public transit and passenger trains, to labor relations and union issues, and assorted ecological issues such as climate change and clean energy. He is currently Secretary of the Chicago Greens, is active in the United Nations Association, is the Director of Citizens Taking Action for transit dependent riders, secretary of the War Resisters League, Chicago Chapter, belongs to several organizations seeking gun control legislation, and presently serves as a designated national representative of federal employees, AFL-CIO. He regularly travels to Washington, D.C. to meet with elected officials on sundry issues and pending legislation. He maintains a committee website at www.ivipona.org.

HILDA FRONTANY, 5341 W. Pensacola, Chicago.

I am running for Membership Chair because it is imperative that we continue strengthening IVI-IPO through the recruitment of new members. For over 72 years, our members have demonstrated that IVI-IPO has been an aggressive leader in independent politics and we need to grow in numbers to be more effective. Recently, I made the decision to become a Lifetime member of IVI-IPO and have been associated with the organization for over 40 years in many capacities. During my years of involvement with IVI-IPO, I served as finance chair, membership chair, and Political Action Chair. I have also worked on the Independents Day Dinner Committee to plan our annual fundraising event and received the Edwin Astrin Special Service Award. Also helped with the A-Z workshops that trained progressive candidates on how to win their elections.

Through IVI-IPO, I have been actively involved in countless campaigns such as Harold Washington, Carol Moseley Braun and Dick Durbin for U.S. Senate; President Barack Obama; Jesus "Chuy" Garcia for Alderman, State Senator and also for Mayor; Miguel Del Valle for Senator, Mayor, and also for City Clerk. I have worked on the campaign of Justice Jesse Reyes and other judicial candidates.

MARC LIPINSKI, 5104 S. Kimbark Avenue, # 1, Chicago.

Member of IVI-IPO since 1982. Delegate to State Board since 1984. State Administrative Vice Chair, 1995-1998 and 2000-2002. State Secretary, 1998-1999. State Finance Chair, 1987-1989. Near South Community Action Chair, 1987-1993 and 1994-1995. Near South Legislative Action Chair, 1993-1994. Near South Membership Chair, 1998-2012. IVI-IPO Volunteer of the Year, 2000. Area Chair and/ or ward coordinator for numerous endorsed candidates, including Barbara Flynn Currie, Carol Moseley Braun, Barack Obama, Paul Simon, and Harold Washington. Precinct coordinator for Toni Preckwinkle 1991, 1995, 1999, 2003, and 2007 campaigns.

WES WAGAR, 2175 W. Warner, Chicago.

Incumbent Member of Political Action Committee. Longstanding environmental activist. Campaigned for the preservation of historic Maxwell Street. Active witness and participant since Harold Washington's time in Chicago.

AVIVA MIRIAM PATT, 1165 N. Milwaukee, Chicago.

Member since 1972. Volunteer of the Year 1980. Volunteer of the Year Lifetime Achievement 2003. Executive Director 2005-2007. Since 1990, I have served on the Board as Administrative Vice Chair, Program Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Political Action Chair, Finance Chair, Membership Chair, Legislative Action Chair, Community Action Chair, Political Resources Chair, Newsletter Editor, Mid North Chapter Chair, Northwest Chapter Chair, At Large Board member, Unorganized Chicago Board member. I have also served on the Political Action and Judicial Review committees for 20+ years. I am greatly encouraged by the efforts this year to revitalize our organization and would like to help.

BIOGRAPHIES FOR SOUTH CHAPTER CANDIDATES

WENDY WALKER-WILLIAMS, 4633 S. Calumet, Chicago.

ALDOPHUS KINDLE, 312 W. 31ST Street, Chicago.

A Chicago native and IVI-IPO Southside Chapter member for twenty years, Aldophus “Al” Kindle has decades of deep involvement in Chicago politics, community, and social life. The incumbent IVI-IPO Political Action Chair since 2015, he organized the 2016 primary candidate “Meet and Greet” event and raised \$5000 to support the group’s ongoing activities. He is actively working to revise the PAC endorsement calendar and procedures for a very productive 2017-18 period for IVI-IPO. He also led the endorsement process that attracted over fifty candidate endorsement applications, convened four endorsement sessions, and recommended twenty nine IVI-IPO endorsements. He is enthused and committed to the mission and founding principles that make IVI-IPO an indispensable organization in Illinois.

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ROBERT CARROLL, 5480 S. Cornell Avenue, Chicago.

DURING THE PAST YEAR, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SOUTH CHAPTER CHAIRWOMAN, MARION BATEY, THE STATE BOARD CHAIRMAN, MR. STEPHEN STERN, ESQ., AND WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE IVI-IPO STATE BOARD POLITICAL ACTION CHAIR, MR. ADOLPHUS KINDLE, AND OF THE SOUTH CHAPTER POLITICAL ACTION REPRESENTATIVE, MR. MARK LIPINSKI, ESQ., I HAVE COORDINATED THE LOGISTICS OF THE ENDORSEMENT SESSION FOR THE 4TH WARD SPECIAL ALDERMANIC ELECTION, AND THE ENDORSEMENT SESSIONS FOR THE 2016 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL AND STATE OFFICEHOLDERS WITHIN THE POLITICAL JURISDICTION OF THE IVI-IPO SOUTH CHAPTER.

ALSO WITH THE SPAGHETTI DINNER, THE IDD DINNER, AND OTHER IVI-IPO SOCIAL EVENTS, I HAVE MADE MYSELF AVAILABLE TO ASSIST THE STATE CHAIR AND SOUTH CHAPTER CHAIR WITH ANY SUPPORT REQUESTS, SUCH AS SECURING THE VENUE WHEN THE EVENT

HAPPENS.

I CAN ONLY PROMISE THAT IF ELECTED AS A DELEGATE TO THE STATE BOARD, AND AS THE IVI-IPO SOUTH CHAPTERS POLITICAL ACTION CHAIR, I WILL WORK HARD TO ENSURE THAT THE SOUTH CHAPTER, AND THE WHOLE OF THE IVI-IPO, CONTINUES TO SHINE AS A BEACON OF PROGRESSIVE POLITICAL ADVOCACY.

FLYNN RUSH, 5345 S. Hyde Park Blvd., Chicago.

MARC LOVELESS, 3510 S. Rhodes Avenue, # 1702, Chicago.

RICHARD GALLION, 3978 S. Drexel Blvd., Chicago.

ROBERT CARROLL, 5480 S. Cornell Avenue, Chicago.

See above biographical statement.

MARC LIPINSKI, 5104 S. Kimbark Avenue, # 1, Chicago.

Member of IVI-IPO since 1982. Delegate to State Board since 1984. State Administrative Vice Chair, 1995-1998 and 2000-2002. State Secretary, 1998-1999. State Finance Chair, 1987-1989. Near South Community Action Chair, 1987-1993 and 1994-1995. Near South Legislative Action Chair, 1993-1994. Near South Membership Chair, 1998-2012. IVI-IPO Volunteer of the Year, 2000. Area Chair and/ or ward coordinator for numerous endorsed candidates, including Barbara Flynn Currie, Carol Moseley Braun, Barack Obama, Paul Simon, and Harold Washington. Precinct coordinator for Toni Preckwinkle 1991, 1995, 1999, 2003, and 2007 campaigns.

BIOGRAPHIES FOR CANDIDATES FROM UNORGANIZED CHICAGO

AVIVA MIRIAM PATT, 1165 N. Milwaukee, Chicago.

Member since 1972. Volunteer of the Year 1980. Volunteer of the Year Lifetime Achievement 2003. Executive Director 2005-2007. Since 1990, I have served on the Board as Administrative Vice Chair, Program Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Political Action Chair, Finance Chair, Membership Chair, Legislative Action Chair, Community Action Chair, Political Resources Chair, Newsletter Editor, Mid North Chapter Chair, Northwest Chapter Chair, At Large Board member, Unorganized Chicago Board member. I have also served on the Political Action and Judicial Review committees for 20+ years. I am greatly encouraged by the efforts this year to revitalize our organization and would like to help.

BIOGRAPHIES FOR NORTHWEST CHAPTER CANDIDATES

KEVIN WILHITE, 7536 W. Strong Street, Harwood Heights.

I am writing this to express to you why I would consider myself to be a strong candidate for re-election to the position of Northwest Chapter Chair. I represent a community (Harwood Heights) that is often left out of the conversation when it comes to politics on the northwest side, and I believe the main reason for this is the fact that many of the residents of my community feel apathetic towards government in general, and more specifically the political process.

But before I get more into that topic, I would like to tell you a little about myself. I was born into a working class family on Chicago's south side that has been politically involved for many decades, one that showed me the importance of hard work when it comes to getting candidates elected that best represent your values and interests. Since those early days, I deepened my community involvement by becoming an Eagle Scout, and winning several awards related to volunteer work and service. I then went on to school at Elmhurst College where my worldview was sharpened to reflect the values and lessons I had learned over time. I am now happily married to my lovely wife Anna, and have three children, to whom I hope to pass my love of community involvement on to as well.

Last year I had the honor of being elected to the position of Northwest Chapter Chair, and it has been quite an experience. While we are still working to get the Chapter working and viable, we have been blessed with some great examples of how to do just that via the South Chapter. It was my pleasure to help sponsor their Spaghetti Dinner earlier this year, and this event served to illustrate what can be done with a well-organized chapter, which is what I hope to bring to the Northwest Chapter in the coming months ahead.

I have also been blessed with the task of helping to organize the IDD Dinner this year, in the capacity of contacting and coordinating speakers. This has been a very exciting process, and I look forward to working on more projects like this in the future with IVI-IPO.

DANIEL POGORZELSKI, 3545 N. Paris, Chicago.