

**ARIZONA ASSOCIATION
OF
BLACK JOURNALISTS**

**P.O. BOX 865 PHOENIX, ARIZONA
85001-0865**

*"Home of the
2000 National Association of
Black Journalists Convention"*

President

Michelle Fitzhugh-Craig

*shades Magazine
(602) 435-8524*

Vice-president/Print

Weldon Johnson

*The Arizona Republic
(602) 444-8657*

Vice-president/Broadcast

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Secretary

Suzanne Wilson

*Metro Networks/Westwood One
(480) 348-3006*

Treasurer

Kathy Johnson

*San Bernardino Sun
(909) 292-6442*

Parliamentarian

Lysa Fitzhugh

*J.P. Morgan CHASE
(480) 902-6747*

Immediate past president

Eva Bowen-Harris

*KNXV Channel 15 (ABC)
(602) 685-6340*



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June 14, 2004

National Association of Black Journalists

Attn: Chapter Grants
8701-A Adelphi Road
Adelphi, MD 20783

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Michelle Fitzhugh-Craig and I am the president of the Arizona Association of Black Journalists. Our organization is comprised of working journalists in print, broadcast and radio outlets, and communication and public relations specialists statewide.

AABJ's goal for the 2003-2005 term is to challenge Arizona media companies to advance racial, ethnic and cultural diversity on their staffs. In 2004, the organization will release its report on the results of a 2003 survey of Valley print and broadcast media. These findings follow up on AABJ's media day event, "Diversity in the Arizona Media: "A Call To Action." We have also begun to work with the National office to correct some of the problems that exist locally.

The AABJ board of directors is committed to the continued nurturing of aspiring journalists through its scholarship program. Also, advancing Arizona as a viable professional market to members of the National Association of Black Journalists, an initiative AABJ launched when it hosted the national convention in 2000.

I hope you will seriously consider our request for one of the Spring 2004 Chapter Grants. Please accept the accompanying materials to help make your decision.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Michelle Fitzhugh-Craig
President
Arizona Association of Black Journalists

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Now in its seventh year, the Arizona Association of Black Journalists is in the middle of a two-year process to have a stronger presence within the community. Over the past year, we have completed several goals, which include our community service initiative. This phase of awareness has placed members throughout the Valley to “give back” and to reach our young journalism students at the high school, and in some cases, the middle school levels.

We are requesting the full amount of \$500 for the following:

HIGH SCHOOL MENTORSHIP WORKSHOP - \$300 requested

This one-day workshop, scheduled for Oct. 2, will provide students with hands-on experience in the field of print and broadcast journalism. Local print, radio and broadcast professionals will mentor students during the workshop.

We are in the early stages of planning this event but anticipate offering the students mock news events for them to cover, a news writing contest for trophies and cash prizes and a critiquing session.

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE - \$200 requested

Tempe, Ariz. will be the site of the last Presidential debate between President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry. In order to help the community better understand the issues at hand, AABJ plans to host an “Evening with the Candidates,” a satellite-fed broadcast of the event at a local venue. Following the debate, a panel discussion will take place with media professionals, community leaders and political representatives from both parties.

We feel this event will not only help us connect with the community on another level, but will help them understand some of the issues each candidate stands behind and provide insight into local issues and candidates in upcoming elections.