



**Near North Unity Program (NNUP)  
Membership Meeting NOTES  
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
Monday, February 23, 2026**

**In Person Meeting  
Cornerstone Center, 1111 N Wells**

**Welcome & Introductions**

- **Review Question and Answer Guidelines**

**AGENDA**

- **Meet your Candidates**
  - **12th District State Candidates**
    - **Paul Kendrick**
      - **Long time resident, Lincoln Park LSC member, work with Indivisables, College Success - Hope Chicago.**
        - **Work toward lowering housing costs and increasing affordability.**
        - **Create the missing middle of housing.**
        - **Legalize accessory units.**
        - **Ban cell phone use in High Schools**
  - **7th District State Candidates**
    - **Jason Friendman**
      - **Worked for Bill Clinton and Durbin.**
        - **Long-time Chicago family history.**
        - **Grandparents settled on west side and now family is in the Lincoln Park area.**
      - **Has a construction business and worked with father.**
        - **History of hiring MBE and Women owned business on projects.**
      - **Work on Affordability for everyone.**
        - **Has a history of working with the Jewish United Fund.**
    - **LaShaun Ford**
      - **19 years a Illinois State rep.**
      - **Proponent of the Second Change program that just passed.**
      - **I worked on the West and South side treatment facilities of the city.**
      - **Was born on the Near North side.**
      - **Believer in Violence Interrupters.**

- He visits prisons and works to increase funding for colleges in prison, like Barber college. Also he works to make sure there is more access to healthcare and textbooks for prisoners.
  - Did work to get Prisoners the right to vote.
- **Support John Lewis Voting Rights Act.**
  
- **9th District State Candidate**
  - Yolanda Morris - Unopposed
  
- **5th District Senate Candidate**
  - Lakesia Collins - Unopposed
  
- **Community Updates**
  - **New Restaurant Daboul Avenue**
  - **Owners (Hugo and Mado) discuss their love of food and how they learned to cook at home with their families.**
    - **Started selling food at festivals and now using a ghost kitchen at 831 N Sedgwick to prepare food.**
  
  - **Easter Egg hunt April 4th**
  - **By the Hand Club speaks.**
  
  - **Feb 24 - 18th District Police Council meeting, Anti-Cruelty, 157 W Grand, 6 pm**
  - **Feb 25 - OTMRA Progressive Dinner, \$5 select menu items**
  - **Feb 25 - RNRA and SOAR 7th District Candidate Forum, (registration required - see inside details)**
  - **Feb 26 - OTMRA mixer, Woodies Flat, 1535 N Wells, 5:30 - 7:30 pm**
  - **Feb 27 - YFBF Open House Ribbon Cutting, 1338 N Sedgwick, 4:30 pm - 7 pm**
  - **Feb 28 - Black History Month event, Seward Park, 12 pm - 3 pm**