

BPAL's Jones files for city/county school board

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Chronicle Staff Writer

Three more names, including that of one black female, were added to the growing list of candidates filing for the city/county school board this week, while the first Republican candidate for district attorney filed in Raleigh.

Among those filing to run for school board was Naomi W. Jones, who filed Wednesday as a Democratic candidate for one of the five seats available this year on the board.

Mrs. Jones, 54, a retired chairman of the Black Political Awareness League (BPAL) and a member of the state Black Leadership Caucus. She is also a member of the executive board of the local NAACP, chairman of the Carver School precinct, and a commissioner with the Winston-Salem Housing Authority. This is her first attempt at elected public office.

Her platform includes restudying an elementary-school extended day, improving bus safety and reviewing the discipline and suspension program in the schools, according to a prepared statement.

"Although I retired from the school system last year," Mrs. Jones said, "I'm still interested in children. I think I can bring something new to the board."

"I would like to see more aggressive involvement of the parents in the educational process," she said. "Also, we need a higher degree of school spirit among faculty, parents and students."

Mrs. Jones also said more adult drivers are needed for the school bus system. "The statistics show that more accidents have occurred with student drivers," she said.

Also filing for school board seats were J. Warren Steen on Friday and Phillip J. Lanier on Wednesday. Both filed as Democrats, bringing the number of Democrats to file for seats on

November's elections will be held March 6.

According to a press release, Steen has been actively involved in the public schools. He currently serves on advisory councils for Community Schools and the Developmental Economic Education Program.

"I have only one goal," the statement read, "and that is to

help our school system to be the best one in North Carolina."

Steen is executive director of the Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce Foundation and group manager of public affairs and communications at the Chamber of Commerce.

Republican H. Dwight Nelson is the first to announce his intention to oppose incumbent Democrat Donald Tisdale for district attorney. Nelson filed in Raleigh last Tuesday. Tisdale filed on Jan. 9.

Nelson, 38, a Rural Hall Tisdale, "If anything, his shortcomings have been his public relations."

Nelson also said he expects black support.

"I think I'm going to offer black voters an alternative to Mr. Tisdale if I get the nomination of my party," he said.

Nelson had said in a prepared statement that, "justified or not,

the public has lost confidence in the present district attorney. My purpose ... is to restore confidence in our district attorney's office."

Nelson also said he will seek "improved cooperation between the district attorney's office and law enforcement officials," if elected.

Filing last Wednesday for county commissioner was WSJS radio announcer Wayne G. Willard. Willard filed as a Democrat.

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Bishop plans to buy

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nel 45, had agreed last year to purchase Winston-Salem black gospel station WSMX from Macedonia True Vine Pentecostal Holiness Church, but the deal never was finalized.

Though Willis has been out of town on business and was unavailable for comment, a vice president at his Norfolk office confirmed Willis' intent to purchase the Thomasville station. In a telephone interview from his Norfolk office, Walter Brickhouse, Willis' vice president, said the purchase should be final by the end of this month. He also cited the reasons that prompted Willis' decision to buy WTNC.

"The bishop has a terrific following of his ministry in that area," Brickhouse said. "WTNC is a good facility, and it has a lot of potential as far as being able to generate an audience."

He noted that the radio station's location was also a significant factor in choosing to purchase WTNC. Brickhouse said one of the major advantages that WTNC will have over its competitors is

that it can be heard in Greensboro and in High Point.

The station also can be heard in Winston-Salem.

Brickhouse said Willis plans to program crossover inspirational music and will seek a target audience between the ages of 18 and 49. Brickhouse noted that the eventual station manager will be responsible for implementing a format that plays approximately 70 percent black gospel music and 30 percent white gospel music. He said the station will feature a "good mixture of contemporary and traditional gospel music."

Brickhouse also said that it is Willis' policy to staff his stations with personnel from within the same area and noted that a promotional campaign will be launched to announce the purchase of the station and will be aimed largely at Winston-Salem. Although he declined to reveal specifics of the campaign, Brickhouse did say that Willis will make an appearance to officially open his new station.

Martin's dream

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and we must destroy the system without destroying the individual."

Mendez said Dr. King was a modern-day prophet who caused many citizens to rededicate themselves to the principles of truth, justice and freedom. "He died for all people," Mendez said. "He not only died to free black people from oppression, but also to free whites from bigotry."

Movie

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adopted the name William Lord.

The brothers were white, but John Warner owned movie theaters in Greenville's black district and frequently booked minstrel shows, athletic events and other forms of entertainment for primarily black audiences.

"Greenville in the '30s and '40s was one of the hottest places for black entertainment on the East Coast," Albright said. Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway and Earl "Fatha" Hines all played on "the Block" on Albemarle Street, known for its fashionable entertainment.

Warner was known to stroll around Greenville with a movie camera, shooting footage of the town's everyday happenings.

In 1947, William Lord and John Warner pooled resources and began making movies. The first, "Greenville on Parade," was a documentary of town life and has been lost. The second was "Pitch a Boogie Woogie" and starred Herman Forbes and Tom Foreman, a longtime Greenville community leader who died in 1977. The two portrayed chums who muse about opening a nightclub and then dream of the good times they would have there.

"The film has that dream of being a star, of making great movies or books -- a dream that so many people have," Albright said.

Much of the film consists of singing, tap-dancing, soft-shoe and mildly exotic dance routines by scantily dressed women.

"The type of dance depicted was the kind of thing we saw in the traveling minstrel shows," said Forbes, now a retired elementary school teacher from High Point who was chosen North Carolina teacher of the year in 1975.

Before "Pitch a Boogie Woogie" could be released to black theaters around the country, Warner had a quarrel with a distributor, and the film never got outside North Carolina and South Carolina.

Lord-Warner Productions dissolved in 1949.

Albright hopes to tour the state with the film and present lectures on black history. He has received the support of many black officials in Greenville.

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