

# *Gulf Coast Association of Black Journalists, Inc.*

For Immediate Release  
November 10, 2008

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## **Gulf Coast Association of Black Journalists Inc. Formed**

The officers and members of the Gulf Coast Association of Black Journalists are pleased to announce the formation of its chapter in Mobile. GCABJ was formed to provide a professional organization that will strive to unite Black journalists along the Gulf Coast who are dedicated to excellence and diversity in news coverage and equality in the industry. In addition, special efforts will be made to encourage Black students who are interested in pursuing careers in the media.

The Gulf Coast Association of Black Journalists has successfully identified its officers as follows. Kym Thurman, of NBC 15 was elected president of the chapter. Other officers include Keisha Payton of WKRG- vice president; Latoya Veal of the City of Prichard- secretary; Sonia Halmon of NBC 15- treasurer; and Marcus Powe of Fox 10 as parliamentarian.

“As members of the Gulf Coast Association of Black Journalists we believe it is our duty to promote an accurate portrayal of African Americans in the media,” said Thurman. “As journalists we are passionate about the written and spoken word. GCABJ will work to encourage journalists to use those tools accurately and fairly to help promote unbiased coverage of community issues.”

GCABJ is a Professional Chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists. NABJ, the nation's largest organization of journalists of color was founded December 12, 1975, in Washington, D.C.

GCABJ was founded and incorporated by Charles Mullins, JD. Charles was a part of the Birmingham Association of Black Journalists, and saw the need for a chapter here along the Gulf Coast. Mullins recently moved to Mobile after graduating from Miles Law School in Birmingham.

The Gulf Coast Association of Black Journalists next meeting will be Saturday, November 22, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. It will be held at the Moorer/Springhill Branch of the Mobile Public Library located at 4 McGregor Avenue South.

GCABJ is opened to working journalists, including reporters, editors, photographers, newsroom managers, etc., who produce, gather, and disseminate news for newspaper, television, radio stations, magazines, wire services, etc. This also includes freelance journalists, public relations, journalism teachers, and other media-related professionals. Anyone interested in joining GCABJ is encouraged to e-mail us at [gcabj\\_mobile@yahoo.com](mailto:gcabj_mobile@yahoo.com).