



June 17, 2023

Greetings Cousins,

First let me, say “**Happy Father’s Day**” to all the fathers! Enjoy your special day!

Today The Executive Committee approved the electronic voting procedure, registration, and requirements, which will be sent out via Constant Contact by Monday June 19, 2023.

As you may be aware, this is an election year for National Chairman and National Vice Chairman. The candidates who are running for the office of National Chairman are, Cousin Artie Thompson and Cousins Jelani Vanholten. See their **bios** below.

Artie Thompson

Hi everyone, my name is Artie Thompson and I have been nominated as National Chairperson for the National Cousin Reunion. My family is in the McGriff family. I have been a member of 2 local chapters, both in New York while living there and in Detroit. As a native of Detroit, I lived in New York for 40 years until I found it necessary to return home to care for my mother, Deborah Thompson. I have been a member of the cousins since the 1970’s.

I’m a forward thinker and technologically astute. In New York I’m an Event Planner/ Food Consultant and has supervised many teams of people. I have been the project manager for the celebratory red-carpet event for George Bush, three fundraising events for Barack Obama, Bloomberg’s Annual Company event (in excess of 12,000 people), and The Apollo Theater. Additionally, I’m an actor, singer and was reality television personality on “Chef Roble & Co., on Bravo TV Network. I am also a part of the LGBTQ+ community.

Jelani Vanholten

Jelani Vanholten is a former New York City Correction Officer, He’s a doer He and his wife Started a Successful Daycare, Called Little Lives, when they wanted better quality care for their twin boys and have continued to create Businesses and Opportunities for Youth along the way. He himself is an aspiring Actor, an AAU Basketball Coach for the Carolina Kings, Non-Profit organization.

A Father and husband to his wife Shawanda Vanholten, sons Jani (Jan-i) and Jahche (Jah-shay). He is the Grandson of Charlie Shannon and the late Hazel Shannon & Son of Debra Shannon. He and his family has been living in The Raleigh NC area for the Last 8 years. Always looking for ways to invest and stay ahead of the curve. Being Nominated for the Second time is Quiet an honor and hopefully you learned a little about me what makes me tick and what motivates me as well. Thanks for your Time.

Thank you for letting us share this information with you. See you in Atlanta. God Bless you.

Othniel McGriff
National Chairman