

# AFFILIATE CONNECTION



## IMPORTANT MESSAGES



### **Message from Bridget M. Stuhr, ACP** *Affiliated Associations Director*

Hello Affiliates!

For me, it is officially softball season - my favorite time of the year - with both of my girls hitting the dirt for the next four-plus months. For any of you who have ever attended an 8U or 10U softball game, you are aware that these munchkins learn to become their own cheerleaders, literally. They learn at an early age how to recognize the accomplishments of each player and how those achievements have an impact on the team's momentum. They develop and SCREAM their cheers and chants for the entire duration of the game. One of my favorite chants is (please imagine that this is repeated three or four times and gets a little bit louder and shriller each time), "I'm fired up! You fired up? Yeah!" Repeat it until your inner 10-year old's heart is content.

How often do we, as paralegals and members of our local associations, do the same for our teammates and members? Are we taking advantage of the momentum and acknowledging the hard work of our team when a member volunteers to make 400 pieces of swag to be handed out at the next conference, organizes and recruits volunteers to participate at the next charity walk, or collects donations for an organization in need? Are we acknowledging when a committee creates a plan and hosts a CP prep course for the first time in 5 years or when one of your members is simply an amazing person who never backs away from a challenge or an opportunity to lend a hand?

These examples are exactly why NALA offers the Affiliate Awards. Each of NALA's Affiliated Associations can nominate one person or group for the award. The associations decide their own judgment criteria. If you are the only person nominated from your Affiliated Association, you are guaranteed to receive the award. There's no better way to acknowledge the hard work of a member

or group than to recognize them at NALA's 2023 Conference & Expo, so NALA members from around the world can cheer them on and continue to build the momentum, not only for the individual but also for your association.

The nomination form can be found online and takes less than 10 minutes to complete. Simply go to the [2023 NALA Affiliate Award Online Nomination Form](#) and nominate an amazing member or group from your Affiliated Association today! Nominations are due by May 1st, and I look forward to announcing your award winner at the NALA conference in Boston in July!

I'm fired up! You fired up? Yeah!



**Message from Sharon D. Jones, ACP**  
***Affiliated Associations Secretary***

Hi fellow Affiliates! I hope everyone's Easter weekend with your family and friends was nice and enjoyable, soaking in precious moments and making traditional memories to be shared with generations to come!

It is that time of year again to start getting geared up and ready for the 2023 NALA Conference & Expo in beautiful Boston! It is literally just around the corner. If you have not registered yet, the beautiful [brochure](#) is live on the NALA website. Get registered! If you have not booked your room, get it booked now because the rooms go fast like hotcakes! If you are attending the conference virtually, block off your days because you are not going to want to miss anything! As usual, there are fabulous speakers and great topics lined up. There is something for everyone! Expect, as usual, a jam-packed conference with learning, networking, meeting amazing paralegals from across the states, and visiting with our exhibitors to learn about great products, software, and more that make our jobs easy breezy!

NALA shared an informative piece on how to get your firm to pay for the conference on their website. [Take a look at it](#) and consider talking to your firm and/or your boss. You will not know if or what they will cover for the conference if you do not ask. A former co-worker shared with me that she submitted a request to her firm, but she was not sure they would pay for the conference because she thought the cost would be too much. Not only is her firm paying for the conference, but they are also covering all her costs: flight, hotel, and food. She is excited. Even though she has been working with this firm for years, this will be her first conference! One of my favorite sayings is, "Closed mouths don't get fed." I share this because firms understand the knowledge and value paralegals bring back from conferences and incorporate into their daily duties and tasks to make things run more smoothly. The wealth of information and knowledge obtained at the conference, which can be quickly implemented, is VALUABLE to the firms! Even if your firm will not cover the cost, take stock in your paralegal career and, if feasible, invest in yourself and your career. There have been times when I have paid for the conference and asked my firm to use the days as continuing education development days. I did not get the conference paid for but did not have to use PTO days or get docked for taking those days off for the conference.

As a reminder, Affiliates, if you have not done so already, [submit your nomination](#) for the Affiliate Awards. You are allowed to nominate one person or group for this award and can access the form on

NALA's website. The deadline for nominations is May 1st.

Alright, conference preparations are full speed ahead! Let's get SET, READY, and GO! Yeah, it is backwards, but I like to get everything set, then get ready! Let's go!

Are you a member of a NALA Affiliated Association?  
If so, you will see a 25% discount when renewing!  
If it isn't reflected please contact NALA.

**25% OFF**  
AN ACTIVE TYPE  
MEMBERSHIP

## IMPORTANT DATES & REMINDERS

### **Affiliate Award Nominations are due May 1st!**

Does your association have a stellar member you would like to recognize with an Affiliate Award? Any member of your association's board of directors can nominate one person from your association. Nominations are due May 1st, so do not miss your chance to shine the spotlight on one of your members!

### **Nominations for Director & Secretary are due May 1st!**

The deadline for submitting nominations is May 1st. Be sure to get your nominations in ASAP!

### **Mid-Year Reports are due June 8th!**

NALA Affiliated Associations are required to submit a mid-year report. Once NALA receives your submission, you will receive an email confirmation and a copy of your report within 5 business days.



### **AA Town Hall - May 20th 10:30am-12:00pm**

Register at [this link](#) to attend the virtual meeting. Recordings will be available upon request.

The purpose of the **AA Town Hall** virtual meeting is to create strong ties between the Affiliated Associations and NALA, share experiences and practices, provide support and technical assistance, and collect feedback. The meeting will be moderated by Bridget M. Stuhr, ACP, NALA's Affiliated Associations Director, and Sharon D. Jones, ACP, NALA's Affiliated Associations Secretary. If you have any queries or topics that you would like to discuss prior to the meeting, kindly post them in the NALA Liaison Group on NALA Commons.

## AA Virtual Presentation - Tuesday, September 19th, 2023, 6:00pm-7:00pm

AA Virtual Presentation from AAPi by Adrienne Berry, ACP, and Laura Reaves, ACP, "Keeping it Real: Transparency & Innovation within your Organization". The link to attend will be shared closer to the date of presentation, and recordings will be available upon request.

If you have any questions, please email [affiliates@nala.org](mailto:affiliates@nala.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Attention All Affiliated Associations!

It's time to show off your association at this year's Affiliate Showcase at conference. With a high attendance rate and attendees reporting it is one of the most fun events, this is an opportunity you don't want to miss. Bring your best swag, handouts, and activities to create a memorable booth experience. Who knows? There may even be live music and delicious treats and drinks. Don't wait - sign up now and start planning your booth setup. Let's make this year's Affiliate Showcase unforgettable!

**The deadline to register is May 1st.**

All you need to do is fill out [this form](#) and email it to [affiliates@nala.org](mailto:affiliates@nala.org).

**We look forward to seeing you at the Affiliated Associations Showcase on July 12th from 7:00-8:30 PM ET in Boston!**



### CP Exam Development Forum

Would you like to apply your expertise in a way that matters while also expanding your professional network? To learn how you can contribute to the development of the Certified Paralegal Exam, attend the CP Exam Development Forum on May 16th from 6-7:30 p.m. CT.

**To be eligible to attend, you must be either a CP/ACP in good standing for at least three years or a JD with at least five years of experience as a practicing attorney**

All attendees must be willing to relinquish/avoid involvement in the creation, development, or delivery of CP Exam study materials during your term with the panel if you are selected.

Please submit [this form](#) on our website to request attendance.

## RESOURCES



### **Are you proud to be a NALA Affiliated Association?**

Make sure everyone knows it by adding the NALA AA logo to your website and social media channels! Not only does it identify you as meeting NALA's professional and ethical standards, but it also makes it easy for prospective members to find and recognize your association. Choose from three colorways for the perfect fit for your brand. Do not miss this easy way to enhance your association's visibility and credibility! Complete logo guidelines for NALA Affiliated Associations are linked [here](#).

Also, found [here](#) is a step-by-step guide to making an image a link for sending your association members to the NALA website for an easy connection to our resources!

### **Join us in welcoming our newest Affiliated Associations team member, Mary Carwile!**

Mary is the new NALA Membership Services Representative, taking on the role of supporting the Affiliated Associations! Over the past decade and a half, she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees, studying philosophy and historic preservation research, while also working in a variety of settings. She enjoys working in environments that require critical thinking and creative problem solving to ensure she is always learning and growing as a person.



She has two sweet dogs and resides in Tulsa, Oklahoma – where she was born and raised – after having lived in the states of Missouri, Massachusetts, Texas, Michigan, and Georgia over the past two decades. Working in a variety of highly adaptive roles has taught her fundamental communication skills and an appreciation for supportive environments. As a new member of the NALA team, she is excited to provide positive and welcoming support to the community!



### **Did you know that NALA Commons has an AA and NALA Liaison group? Are you signed up and posting?**

We want to encourage all our AAs to post their association news, activities, and events directly to [NALA Commons](#). Let us make sure we get the word out!

### **NALA AA Visits and Support Requests**

You can request to have a NALA Board member attend and speak at your event, both in-person and virtually!

You can also request NALA materials to distribute at your next event, including NALA brochures, NALA swag, *Facts & Findings* magazines, and other goodies!

Click [here](#) to submit a request.



### **Shine the spotlight on your Affiliated Association!**

We know that our NALA Affiliated Associations are out there doing great work, and we are excited to give you a platform to tell your stories. We hope to highlight the amazing work done by all your associations and give you the well-deserved spotlight! We would love to learn more about your association and the services/benefits you provide to your members and community and share that information with other associations!

This newly-added feature article will include pictures of the association, quotes from the members and leaders, and highlights of the work you are doing. We want to provide other associations with a comprehensive look at your association and the impact you are making in your community. We are also open to any suggestions for how you would like your association to be featured, to make sure the article reflects your vision and mission.

We look forward to hearing from you and featuring your association in our new feature article! Do not miss this opportunity to get the spotlight and show off all the great work your organization is doing. We cannot wait to see the amazing stories you all have to tell!

If you're interested in participating, please email [affiliates@nala.org](mailto:affiliates@nala.org).

## Let NALA Share Your Association's Newsletter and CLE Events!

### **Newsletters**

NALA wants to share with the nation all the fantastic work that NALA Affiliated Associations do every day to grow and develop the paralegal profession.

NALA Affiliated Associations are invited to send their association's newsletter to [affiliates@nala.org](mailto:affiliates@nala.org) for it to be posted for all NALA website visitors to view.

Visit [NALA's website](#) now to see what some of the other associations have already shared. Be sure to click on Affiliate Newsletters.

### **CLE Events**

Our affiliates provide CLE events every month. When submitting your CLE request to NALA, do not forget to check the box that allows NALA to share your event on the NALA website.

See what is being offered this month by clicking [here](#).

## Improving our response time to NALA Affiliates!

**\*NEW\* Affiliated Associations email contact:** [affiliates@nala.org](mailto:affiliates@nala.org)

This is the best way to reach the NALA Affiliated Association leadership team.

NALA is now using a dedicated email address ([affiliates@nala.org](mailto:affiliates@nala.org)) for all affiliates' use. Using one centralized way to reach NALA will improve our ability to respond to your inquiries faster. Please take the time to update your records. This address should also be used for email communications to AA Director, Bridget Stuhr, AA Secretary, Sharon Jones, Manager of Member Engagement & Retention, Patrice Pratt, Member Services Coordinator, Cate Bengé, and the new Affiliate Member Services Representative, Mary Carwile. We appreciate your support as we make this transition!



NALA—The Paralegal Association

6450 S Lewis Ave, Ste 250

Tulsa, OK 74136

918-587-6828

Manage Email Preferences, [click here](#)  
Opt-out of ALL NALA emails.

