

## THE ROLE OF SECRETARY

The secretary ensures the integrity of Board documents, provides accurate minutes of Board meetings, oversees mail votes conducted for the Board, and sits on the Executive Committee. The secretary is elected by the membership.

## CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY: DEBBY SAWYER, ACP



**Paralegal Since:** 1992

**NALA Member Since:** 2003

**Educational Background:** Bachelor of Science in Leadership & Management, Regent University, 2005 | Paralegal Certificate, Jackson State Community College, 1992

**Professional Certification/Awards:** ACP 2010 | CP, 2004 | NALA Affiliated Associations Award 2007 | Tidewater Paralegal Association Founders Award 2007

**Volunteer Activities:** NALA - Member since 2003 | NALA Officer – Secretary 2024-2025, Treasurer 2022 - 2024 | Board Member 2009-2021 | At Large Director | Region III Director | Affiliated Associations Director | Region II Director | Affiliated Associations Secretary | Affiliate Exchange Presenter | Professional Development Committee 2021 - Present

**Membership in other Associations:** Smokey Mountain Paralegal Association Member since 2025, Tennessee Paralegal Association 2014 - 2024: Past President | 1st Vice President | 2nd Vice President | Secretary, Federal Judicial Assistants Association 2015 - Present: Board Member since 2019 - Currently serve as President-Elect Offices held: Secretary and Parliamentarian Ways & Means Committee Annual Conference Committee Sixth Circuit Representative & Scholarship Chair | 6th Circuit Representative & Scholarship Chair, North Carolina Paralegal Association 2007 - 2014: Scholarship Chair, Tidewater Paralegal Association 1997 - 2007: 1st Vice President | 2nd Vice President | Secretary

**Other Qualifications or Comments:** Advisory Board Member – Paralegal Program at Nashville State Community College | Article contributor, Facts & Findings | Article contributor, Affiliates Brief | Article contributor, FJAA Newsletter | Audited first NALA LEAP Class 2007-2008 | Facilitated CP/CLA Study Groups | Volunteer at Virginia State Bar Conference | Guest Speaker for paralegal programs | Volunteer for NC Mock Trial Competition

**To be a truly great board member requires having good character, a strong commitment to the paralegal profession, the gift of time, and a willingness to use personal and professional resources to advance NALA's mission. Tell us your “why.” Why are you interested in serving on the NALA Board of Directors?**

I have served on the NALA Board of Directors for many years in various positions. The question being asked is “Why am I interested in serving on the NALA Board?”. First, we should remember that all NALA Board members are volunteers. All of us have volunteered at one time or another for reasons such as skill development, personal growth, career advancement, mental and physical health or for a sense of purpose. I am a NALA volunteer because I am deeply invested in NALA, believe in its mission and vision, and am committed to supporting an association whose purpose is to promote and advance paralegals. Being a NALA Board member allows me to represent and serve NALA and its members, but it also allows me to actively contribute to our great paralegal profession and its future. Further, it enables me to demonstrate my desire to help others, make a difference, develop new skills, meet new people, and work as a team. Every individual who serves on the NALA Board gains valuable leadership skills and experience. The decisions made by the NALA Board constantly move the dials, shift mindsets, and influence decisions, so our profession can remain relevant and valued.

**Watch Debby's candidate video [here](#).**

## DISCLAIMER:

The candidate information provided has been published exactly as submitted by candidates and has not been edited or verified by NALA.