

# 2026-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

## THE ROLE OF VICE PRESIDENT

The vice president shall exercise the functions of the president in the absence or disability of the president and, when so acting, shall have all of the powers and authority of the president. The vice president shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the directors or the president. The vice president is elected by the membership.

## CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT: **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 2024-2026, 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:** Federal Judicial Assistants Association 2015 - Present: Board Member since 2019 - Currently serve as President Offices held: President-Elect, Secretary and Parliamentarian, Ways & Means Committee, Annual Conference Committee, Sixth Circuit Representative & Scholarship Chair | Smokey Mountain Paralegal Association - Member since 2025 | Tennessee Paralegal Association 2014 - 2024: Past President; 1st Vice President; 2nd Vice President; Secretary (Association dissolved in 2025) | North Carolina Paralegal Association 2007 - 2014: Scholarship Chair | Tidewater Paralegal Association 1997 - 2007: 1st Vice President; 2nd Vice President; Secretary

**Other Qualifications or Comments:** Member – Chambers Staff Advisory Committee | Advisory Board Member – Paralegal Program - 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

**Serving on the board of directors of a national association requires a unique skill set that includes passion for the profession, an understanding of the association's mission and vision, and the ability to commit time and energy to advancing the strategic goals of the association. Tell us why serving on the NALA Board of Directors is important to you. Share your achievements related to board service and how your experience makes you suitable for the position.**

I believe deeply in the power of strong, engaged leadership to elevate the paralegal profession and ensure that every member's voice is represented. NALA has long been a guiding force in advancing professional standards, education, and advocacy, and I am passionate about contributing to that mission in a meaningful and strategic way. It is not just an honor—it is a commitment for me to serve, to listen, and to help shape the future of the association in a way that reflects the needs of its diverse membership.

My experience has prepared me well through a combination of leadership, service, and active engagement within professional organizations. I have served in positions where I collaborated with diverse teams, contributed to strategic planning initiatives, and supported programs aimed at member growth and development. Through these roles, I have strengthened my ability to think critically, communicate effectively, and make decisions that align with long-term organizational goals.

In addition, I bring accountability, dedication, and enthusiasm to every responsibility I undertake. My goal as a NALA Board Member is to support initiatives that increase member engagement, encourage participation, and ensure that NALA continues to evolve in a way that benefits both current and future paralegals.

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.