

2026-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

THE ROLE OF AREA 1, 2, 3 DIRECTORS

Area directors are required to either reside or be employed within areas 1, 2, or 3. Their role involves fulfilling the duties assigned to them by the Board officers. These directors will serve a two-year term.

DISCLAIMER:

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

CANDIDATE FOR AREA 2 DIRECTOR: EVA M. MERRELL, MBA, ACP



Paralegal Since: 10/01/1998

NALA Member Since: 04/01/2011

Educational Background: I was awarded a Master of Business Administration degree from Western Governors University in 2020. While a student there, I received their Application of Ethical Leadership Excellence Award. I attained my Paralegal Certificate from The American Institute for Paralegal Studies in 1993. Prior to that, I was awarded a Bachelor of Science, Public Administration degree from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 1992, where I graduated magna cum laude.

Professional Certification/Awards: I have been a NALA Certified Paralegal since 1996. I attained my Advanced Certified Paralegal Credentials in Land Use Specialty in 2021, Contract Administration/Contract Management Specialty in 2014, and Real Estate Specialty in 1999.

Volunteer Activities: I served as a member of NALA's Continuing Education Council (CEC) from 2021-2023. Prior to that, I contributed to the CEC's CP practice exam question writing initiative.

I am the author of the Real Estate chapter in NALA's Certified Paralegal Exam Fundamentals. I have written numerous features, articles, and book reviews for Facts & Findings, beginning in 2010.

I presented my first NALA seminar at the 2018 annual conference. Since then, I have presented numerous other seminars and webinars for NALA. My three most recent NALA on-demand webinars are currently available on NALA's website.

I have also been an active volunteer with the St. Louis Paralegal Association (STLPA). I held various roles, including Programs and Education Committee Co-Chair, Job Bank Chair, and Treasurer, continuously from 1997-2017. I have also contributed to STLPA in other capacities more recently, including as a mentor and seminar presenter.

I have presented webinars for the Alabama Association of Paralegals (2022) and the San Francisco Paralegal Association (2021).

Membership in Other Associations: I have been a member of STLPA since 1994. I was a member of the Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis and its Legal Support Committee from 2022-2025. I also served as Treasurer of the St. Charles County Toastmasters for one year during my membership in 2021-2023.

Other Qualifications or Comments: Many paralegals ask whether joining NALA and its affiliated associations is "worth it." I firmly believe that when we are active in our associations, we receive as much or more than we contribute to our fellow paralegals. I am fortunate to be an example of this.

I am grateful to have served in many roles and to have contributed in other ways to NALA and other paralegal associations throughout my career. These experiences have provided me with amazing opportunities to teach, mentor, and lead other paralegals, while simultaneously increasing my legal knowledge, developing my paralegal skills, and polishing my professionalism.

In my work as a paralegal, I have focused on real estate and finance, as well as the organizations that engage in these activities. This work has impressed upon me the importance of an organization's maintenance of a strong and efficient structure, honest and direct communication with its members, and prudent and strategic investment of finances.

I am excited to continue to bring my experience, skills, and understanding to NALA. I would appreciate the opportunity to do so in the role of Area 2 Director. Thank you for your consideration.

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 have worked as a real estate and finance paralegal for 28 years. I love being a paralegal and contributing to affordable housing and community development projects that have a meaningful impact on the public. Being an ACP, and a member and volunteer for NALA and affiliated associations, has been an integral part of my career. Best of all, it has enabled me to connect with paralegals across the nation, share my knowledge and skills, help others along their career journeys, and advance the paralegal profession.

Since 2010, I have assisted NALA's mission of equipping paralegals through certification, professional development, and advocacy. I have served on the Continuing Education Council, authored the Real Estate Chapter in NALA's Certified Paralegal Exam Fundamentals and Facts and Finding articles, and presented seminars and webinars.

I hope to expand this work by serving as the Area 2 Director, drawing on my extensive paralegal and NALA experience. My WFH schedule and the support of my firm and family give me the flexibility necessary for this role. I am excited to continue to contribute to the paralegal profession and would welcome the opportunity to do so as a NALA Director.

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