



CHERYL J. NODARSE, ACP

Candidate for the office of: Secretary

Paralegal, since: 1988

NALA Member, since: 2013

QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: Central Michigan University (B.S.); Lansing Community College (Associates Degree)

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION/AWARDS: CP (1990); ACP- Real Estate, Land Use (2014); Affiliates Award (2017); State of MI Licensed Realtor (2018)

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES: NALA Treasurer (2018-present); NALA CEC Member (2016-2018); NALA Director (2013-2016); Great Lakes Paralegal Association – Founding Director; President (2015-2017); State Bar of MI Paralegal Section Council Chair (2007; 2012)

MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER ASSOCIATIONS: State Bar of Michigan Paralegal Section; Greater Lansing Association of Realtors; Michigan Association of Realtors; National Association of Realtors

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS OR COMMENTS: With over 30 years of paralegal experience, it has been my privilege to learn from outstanding mentors, and to mentor other paralegals in return. I have learned that progress comes about when the NALA Board considers all opinions, comes to a consensus, and then rolls up its collective sleeves to get the work done. As NALA Treasurer, it was a privilege to assist with development of NALA's 5-year strategic plan. I would like to work toward the plan's successful conclusion.

QUESTION RESPONSES

WHY DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON THE NALA BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

Throughout my 32 years as a paralegal, I have been positively impacted by paralegal leaders and mentors. At the beginning of my career, a paralegal mentor encouraged me to volunteer with the local affiliated association and take NALA's certification exam. When I moved to a different state, another NALA affiliated association was there to provide the continuing education required to maintain certification. Since that time, I've served with statewide paralegal associations, the NALA Board of Directors and Continuing Education Council, and currently as NALA's Treasurer.

Over the years, I've participated with NALA's leaders and learned that NALA's work is never done. With the implementation of the 2018 strategic plan, our course is set, and I hope to see NALA continue to meet the goals and achievements of the plan. I also wish to continue as a NALA leader in order to be a positive, guiding influence to paralegals whose time in leadership is yet to come.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR PRIOR BOARD OR SIMILAR LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES?

- 2018-Present: NALA Treasurer
- 2016-2018: NALA Continuing Education Council Member
- 2013-2016: NALA Area Director
- 2016-2017: Great Lakes Paralegal Association President
- 2014-2016: Great Lakes Paralegal Association NALA Liaison
- 2012-2013: State Bar of Michigan Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section Ex Officio
- 2011-2012: State Bar of Michigan Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section Chair
- 2010-2011: State Bar of Michigan Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section Council Member
- 2008-2009: State Bar of Michigan Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section Ex Officio
- 2007-2008: State Bar of Michigan Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section Chair
- 2002-2007: State Bar of Michigan Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section Council Member

WHAT SPECIFIC SKILLS AND STRENGTHS WOULD YOU BRING TO THE BOARD TO HELP NALA MOVE FORWARD?

I am a collaborator and team-player by nature: I am always seeking common connections and ways of bringing together people and groups. And I am both dedicated to NALA and driven to see the organization thrive for the betterment of our members and our profession. When assigned tasks, I do what it takes to get the job done. Finally, at my core I am a positive thinker, always seeking ways to improve what NALA is doing and how to make the NALA experience more meaningful.

WHAT MAKES NALA'S MISSION MEANINGFUL TO YOU?

I was privileged to be a part of the revamping of NALA's mission statement in 2018. The mission statement reads: "Advancing paralegals through certification and professional development." My favorite part of the statement is the word "advancing." To "advance" means to move forward, which blends well with the paralegal disinclination to accept things the way they are simply for the benefit of maintaining the status quo.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS ANY POSSIBLE DISRUPTIVE FORCES IMPACTING NALA?

Our country – and the entire world – is currently battling the COVID-19 pandemic. Paralegal jobs are at risk as many law firms lay off or terminate staff. Paralegals within firms, industries, or other entities not equipped for staff to work at home are struggling. The economic fall-out from the pandemic will be a reckoning force that NALA must face for the benefit of our members. I want to help NALA shine as a beacon of hope and steadfastness during a troubling time.

Each candidate was also asked to create a video with their own personal message to voters.
Those videos can be found on the NALA Youtube channel.



NALA - The Paralegal Association