



DANA G. WELCKER, ACP

Candidate for the office of: Area 1 Director

Paralegal, since: 2005

NALA Member, since: 2005

QUALIFICATIONS

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: 2.5 years of college

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION/AWARDS: Advanced Certified Paralegal in Contracts Management/Contracts Administration, Trial Practice, and Real Estate Principles

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES: I have been a member of NALA's CEC and PDC for 3-year terms. I have served on the board of my local and state associations including as President. I also served on the board of a legal based charity formed to assist domestic abuse survivors file for divorce.

MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER ASSOCIATIONS: Northeast Florida Paralegal Association; Florida Alliance of Paralegal Associations

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS OR COMMENTS: I enjoy mentoring new paralegals as well as people considering becoming paralegals. I could talk about the profession all day about what I have learned over the years and why I highly recommend the job choice as well as getting your NALA certification. I have held positions of leadership and have given many seminars on various topics related to our profession.

QUESTION RESPONSES

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

I would like to serve on the NALA Board of Directors because I loved being involved at a higher level when I served on the Professional Development Committee and Continuing Education Counsel. It is nice to have a say in NALA's path moving forward and how we can improve the paralegal experience, keep an eye on changes to the paralegal profession, and making sure our members are aware of and prepared for what lies ahead. More than ever before areas are opening for paralegals. NALA can provide what is necessary and is already on top of making educational articles, seminars, webinars, and conferences for our benefit. It is an exciting time to be a paralegal as the possibilities are endless. We are not just in law firms anymore.

I want to be a part of what NALA is doing and my experience working in a variety of areas of law will allow me to participate in discussions in useful ways. I have a lot to contribute and my experience with NALA so far has shown me that NALA is very receptive to new ideas as well as building on what we have accomplished.

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

I started my legal career in Charleston, S.C. after getting involved with The Charleston Association of Legal Assistants. I served as their Vice President before moving to Florida in 2002. I have served on several positions for the Northeast Florida Paralegal Association (NEFPA) including President. I have also served as President for the Florida Alliance of Paralegal Associations (FAPA), a statewide organization concerned with the education of Florida paralegals and staying abreast of any changes to the paralegal profession. FAPA was responsible for beginning the Florida Registered Paralegal credential while I was serving on the board as the NEFPA delegate. I also worked with a group of attorneys, paralegals, and a local police department's Victim's Advocate to form a non-profit organization called Missing Link of Jacksonville. Missing Link meets monthly to assist domestic violence survivors in filling out the forms needed to file for divorce and get free from their abuser. I served on several board positions with Missing Link including President.

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

I understand how boards work and understand everyone deserves to be heard regardless of whether or not you agree with their position. You must be professional, gracious, and accept that you cannot always have it your way. I have served on two NALA committees, the Professional Development Committee and the Continuing Education Counsel. I enjoyed the experience and learned even more about how NALA operates and how to work with a group of people who all have the same idea but different ways to achieve the end goal. While working on those committees I was exposed to different ways of inspiring creativity and supporting each other. I loved every minute of it.

WHAT MAKES NALA'S MISSION MEANINGFUL TO YOU?

I have been a paralegal for over 26 years. NALA's mission statement is my mission statement. My Linked In page introduces me as someone who wants to improve the paralegal profession and mentor anyone I can. I have written articles for NALA and taught seminars on a variety of subjects. I tell anyone that will listen that I cherish my NALA certification more than anything else I have done. When I moved from S.C. to Florida, I found my NALA certification was required in order to work for certain clients at my firm. I explain to people that a NALA certification is worth getting for themselves as much as being beneficial to their careers. It boosts your confidence and makes you more valuable to your firm or other place of business. All paralegals work as a team with other legal personnel, your team is only as good as its members. We owe it to ourselves and our clients to be as current and educated as possible. We must also never lose sight that integrity means everything.

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

I don't see any possible disruptive forces impacting NALA other than the current virus situation. I may be missing something but NALA has always been in the forefront of protecting the paralegal profession and filing Amicus Briefs in more than one case where a paralegal issue was being discussed/impacted. But to keep to the question, I think as long as NALA keeps moving forward and utilizing its members as resources it will survive and thrive.

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