

National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA)

43rd Annual General Meeting

Additional Notes for Members

Dear Member,

Please find enclosed additional information regarding the 43rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).

This meeting will be held **at 11am on Tuesday 28 May 2024 at the Richmond Event and Education Centre, No.1 North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7, D07 TH76.**

Particular points to note are the following:

1. Members' entitlement to attend and vote at the AGM:

- Only those Members whose names are on the Register of Members on the date of the notice of the AGM will receive the notice.
- Members whose names were on this Register one month before the date of the AGM will be entitled to vote at the AGM.
- No Member shall be entitled to vote unless they have paid all membership fees immediately due to NALA.
- Members present shall have the following number of votes:
 - Individuals shall have one vote; and
 - Organisations may send up to three voting delegates and each delegate present shall have one vote;
- Non-members may attend the meetings unless a majority of the Members attending vote otherwise.

2. Proxy Voting

- Individual Members who are unable to attend may vote by proxy by completing and returning the Proxy Form. Further details are contained on the Proxy Form.
- Organisation Members cannot vote by Proxy. However, they can register up to 3 members of their organisation to attend and vote on their behalf by completing the online registration form. Changes can be made to the registered attendees up until 11am on 26 May 2024 by contacting NALA's Governance and Compliance Officer at **membership@nala.ie** or by calling **087 291 6383**.

3. Election of Directors and Officers

- Members running for election have been nominated and seconded by two Members of NALA. Such nominations were received at NALA's office on or before 26 April 2024.

As detailed in the table below, NALA has received eligible nomination forms from the following ten individuals for Officer and Director positions on the Board:

Candidate	Position	Proposed by	Seconded by
1. Margaret Kelly	Chairperson	Pat Ayton	Frances Ward
2. Aoife Foley	Director	Patricia Nolan	Margaret Kelly
3. Chris Potts	Director	Pat Ayton	Dr. Eleanor Neff
4. Dr. Eleanor Neff	Director	Paula Tiller	Toni Lambe
5. Elma Teahan	Director	Ciaran Casey	Margaret Kelly
6. Margaret Hanrahan	Director	Eamon McAuliffe	Maurice Sammon
7. Dr. Michelle O'Driscoll	Director	Prof. Laura J Sahm	Tom O'Mara
8. Patricia (Trish) Nolan	Director	Margaret Kelly	Tom O'Mara
9. Tadhg Quill-Manley	Director	Margaret Kelly	Ciaran Casey
10. Tom O'Mara	Director	Margaret Kelly	Dr. Eleanor Neff

As there:

- is only 1 nomination for the Chairperson position, subject to approval by Members at the AGM, Margaret Kelly will be considered re-elected to this position.
- are nine places available for Directors on NALA's Board and only nine nominations received. subject to approval by Members at the AGM:
 - Aoife, Elma, Eleanor, Patricia and Tom will be considered re-elected to serve as Directors
 - Chris, Margaret, Michelle and Tadgh will be considered elected to serve as Directors

At the AGM, each candidate will be asked to:

- introduce themselves and
- to say why they are looking to be re-elected or elected to the Board.

In the meantime, you can find further information about our candidates below.

Margaret Kelly

Margaret retired from the Department of Education and Skills in 2012. Her work there included responsibility for policy, funding and monitoring of programmes aided under the European Social Fund, Further and Adult Education, and curriculum policy and developments.

Margaret has been serving as NALA's Chairperson since October 2020. Margaret is also the Chairperson of our Literacy and Staff Policies, and Governance Subcommittee.

Aoife Foley

Aoife is the National Financial Inclusion and Social Policy Worker with National Traveller Money Advice and Budgeting Service (NTMABS). Before joining NTMABS she worked in adult and community education and has a background in human rights law. Aoife has worked as a voluntary literacy tutor in Kerry and Dublin.

Aoife has served on NALA's Board since April 2022 and is a member of our Audit, Risk and Finance Subcommittee.

Chris Potts

From Dún Laoghaire, Chris left school at aged 13. When his two daughters started asking him to read to them, he decided to do something about his literacy. Starting with a one-to-one tutor, he then joined a computer class and later moved to a group and started to write. Chris's poems have been published. When Chris went to his first NALA Student Day he realised he wasn't alone. Chris has spoken about his experiences in Dún Laoghaire, Cloverhill prison and at NALA's International Literacy Day. He has participated in the Quality Framework Committee that reviewed his local literacy centre. Chris wants to make sure nobody is left behind and is keen that NALA would remain learner-centred.

Chris was on NALA's Student Subcommittee from 2013-2016. In 2018, he wrote to NALA about the concerns he had about the direction of literacy services. From September 2023 – April 2024, Chris was a member of NALA's Strategic Planning Advisory Group.

Dr. Eleanor Neff

Eleanor works in the Literacy Development Centre in South East Technical University. Eleanor has worked in adult education for 21 years with a focus on literacy work for the past 14 years. As a tutor with Kerry Education and Training Board, she delivered a wide range of literacy courses and worked on the Refugee Resettlement Programme. In 2020, she worked with NALA's Distance Learning team and Marking Progress project.

Eleanor has served on NALA's Board since April 2022 and is a member of our Education, Training and Assessment Subcommittee.

Elma Teahan

Elma is Director, Financial Services Audit in KPMG. A chartered accountant, Elma also holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from University College Cork (UCC). She has many years' experience providing audit, assurance, accountancy and advisory services to clients in insurance, investment management, banking and other sectors. She is an advocate of education and inclusion and diversity.

Elma has served on NALA's Board since December 2020 and is the Chairperson of our Audit, Risk and Finance Subcommittee.

Margaret Hanrahan

Margaret Hanrahan is an adult literacy student from County Tipperary. She learned to use the iPhone in her local centre in Cahir, with Tipperary ETB. She completed English and Communications courses at Levels 3 and 4 and has used the Learn with NALA website in the centre in Cahir. Having seen a notice on the website, she attended the 2022 NALA Student Day in Cork. Margaret won a case against the bank that was trying to take back her home. She is keen that people would not take out loans without reading and understanding everything they are signing. She is passionate about people, particularly women, being able to understand financial information. Margaret qualified as a legal assistant in early 2024, something she never thought she would be able to do.

Margaret has been active member of NALA's Student Subcommittee since 2022.

Dr. Michelle O'Driscoll

Michelle is a Lecturer in the School of Pharmacy UCC, and a Senior Postdoctoral Researcher with the National Suicide Research Foundation. She has collaborated on the development of a UCC/NALA Digital Badge for Health Literacy for Health and Social Care Professionals and is a strong advocate for health literacy as an educator and in terms of lived experience research. She would be delighted to have the opportunity to engage further with NALA and contribute to the progression of health literacy education and policy at a national level.

Patricia (Trish) Nolan

Trish has worked in the public library service for over thirty years and has also worked as a volunteer tutor. Currently she works as Executive Librarian with Carlow County Library Service and has an active interest in adult literacy. She is Right to Read Co-ordinator for Carlow County Council and has led many initiatives including the Carlow - A Literacy Friendly County research project. Her family learning project - Story Streets – is currently part of a national pilot. This aims to support reluctant readers to gain confidence in reading regularly with their young children.

Trish has served on NALA's Board since April 2022 and is a member of our Literacy and Staff Policies, and Governance Subcommittee.

Tadgh Quill-Manley

Tadgh Quill-Manley is a junior insurance and financial broker in Cork City. He holds both the CIP and QFA qualifications and received the Insurance Institute of Ireland's CJ Gladstone High Achiever Award in 2023. He has served as a volunteer board member of the National Advocacy Service, also serving on its Finance, Risk and Audit subcommittee. He also serves on the boards of the Cork Centre for Independent Living and the Cork Deaf Association (both Section 39 service providers, based in Cork city centre). He is also a board member of the Irish Horse Welfare Trust.

Tadgh has a relation with an intellectual disability, and literacy was one of the main challenges faced by them. He was very grateful for the strong support and compassion they received in educational assistance, which incorporated literacy, and would like to support NALA in its work as a result.

Tom O'Mara

Tom O'Mara is Head of Digital Education in University College Cork. He manages the Centre for Digital Education, which provides support to staff around the best application of technology to learning.

An educator for over 27 years, Tom has worked as an English language teacher at third level in Ireland and abroad. He was also the Distance Education Coordinator with NALA for nine years. Tom led the design and development of www.writeon.ie and supported the development of the literacy TV series on RTÉ.

Tom has served on NALA's Board since April 2022 and is a member of our Education, Training and Assessment Subcommittee.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the AGM, please contact Michelle Reade, Governance and Compliance Office, membership@nala.ie or 087 291 6383.