

Further information on candidates for the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) Board

Chairperson - Dr Eleanor Neff

Proposed by Margaret Kelly

Seconded by Patricia (Trish) Nolan



Dr Eleanor Neff works as an adult literacy lecturer in the Literacy Development Centre at South East Technological University. She has worked in adult education for 25 years, with a focus on literacy for the past 18 years. As a tutor with Kerry Education and Training Board, Eleanor delivered a wide range of adult literacy and ESOL courses and also worked on the Refugee Resettlement Programme. In 2020, she worked with NALA's Distance Learning team and on the Marking Progress project.

Eleanor has served on NALA's Board since April 2022 and is Chairperson of the Education, Training and Assessment Subcommittee. She is committed to adult literacy work and the power it has to open doors. Eleanor is going for the role of Chairperson because she strongly believes in NALA's work as a national organisation that supports adult literacy and adult learners.

With many years' experience across the adult literacy sector, she is an experienced facilitator with a strong focus on making sure everyone's voice is heard.

Eleanor has been connected with NALA in many ways since her early work as a voluntary literacy tutor and is very grateful to be considered for the role.

Vice Chairperson – Patricia (Trish) Nolan

Proposed by Tom O'Mara

Seconded by Michelle O'Driscoll



Patricia (Trish) Nolan has worked in the public library service for over thirty years and has also served as a volunteer tutor. She currently works as Senior Executive Librarian with Carlow County Council Library Service and has a strong interest in adult literacy.

In her role as Right to Read Co-ordinator, she has led a wide range of initiatives, and her Story Streets family literacy project is currently being rolled out nationally to all Irish public libraries.

Trish has served on NALA's Board since April 2022 and is Chair of the Literacy and Staff Policies and Governance Subcommittee.

Honorary Treasurer – Linda Ayres

Proposed by Eleanor Neff

Seconded by Sarah Shaughnessy



Linda joined the Irish Banking Culture Board (IBCB) late October 2018, successfully managing the programme plan for the establishment of the IBCB and then moving into leading elements of the IBCB work programme.

Linda has worked in financial services since 1997, across a range of roles from operations, learning and development, programme management, governance, leadership, executive coaching, and cultural and behavioural change. The last 10 years of her career have been primarily focussed on influencing and driving cultural and behavioural change.

She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Management and Law from Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT), the Institute of Banker's Certificate in Consumer Protection Risk, Culture and Ethical Behaviours, a first-class honours on the Diploma in Organisational Behaviour with the Irish Management Institute (IMI) and most recently distinction in

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) from University College Dublin Professional Academy.

She is passionate about inclusion and diversity both within my personal and professional life. She is confident that her experience working in Financial Services for nearly 30 years along with her more recent experience of chairing the board and finance subcommittee of my local community centre can add value to the Honorary Treasure role in NALA.

Director – Ciaran Casey

Proposed by Paula Tiller

Seconded by Patricia Nolan



Ciaran Casey is Chief Customer Officer and Commercial Director at Saol Assurance t/a AIB life. Prior to this he held a number of roles within AIB including Head of Digital Channels and Group Head of Deposit and Current Account Products. Ciaran is a Chartered Banker and Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA). Ciaran has served on NALA's Board since 2020 and is a member of our Audit, Risk and Finance Subcommittee.

Director – Mike Gogan

Proposed by Patricia (Trish) Nolan

Seconded by Geraldine Mernagh



Mike Gogan is a writer and editor working in Allied Irish Bank (AIB). He has been an advocate of plain language and of NALA for many years. He has worked for quite a few financial services brands where he has gathered a reputation for using simple language to engage customers in a way that makes them feel more comfortable and confident dealing with money. He has experience of being on boards and hopes to add value to NALA's board through a commercial lens.

Director – Tadgh Quill-Manley

Proposed by Elma Teahan

Seconded by Michelle O’Driscoll



Tadgh Quill-Manley is a Honours Bachelor of Arts graduate in Economics and Philosophy and holds several financial services qualifications. He has been involved with NALA since 2024. He is currently studying law at the King’s Inns. Having seen first-hand the barriers that limited literacy can create, he is deeply motivated to support the work of the National Adult Literacy Agency. He recognises how challenges with literacy can affect confidence, access to employment, and full participation in society, often in ways that remain hidden. This experience has shaped his commitment to inclusive, learner-centred approaches that meet people where they are and respect their dignity.

Director – Paula Tiller

Proposed by Eleanor Neff

Seconded by Geraldine Mernagh



Paula Tiller is a Regional Literacy Coordinator for Kerry under the Adult Literacy for Life Strategy. Starting in 2001, as a volunteer literacy tutor, literacy teaching and advocacy has been a large part of her life since then. She has worked as a NALA distance learning tutor and has delivered workshops at NALA events. As well as her involvement in teaching, she has co-developed themed literacy programmes. She is an advocate for integrating literacy and Universal Design for Learning across the adult and further education sector. Paula has served on NALA’s Board since May 2023 and is a member of our Education, Training and Assessment Subcommittee and Literacy and Staff Policies, and Governance Subcommittee.