

Hello! My name is Mcanalle Neal and I have been a member of CAAR for just over three years. I am applying for the position of One Year Director on the Board of Directors. Since I was in high school, service work has been an important part of my life.. I participated in service work in high school with friends and my parents, and in college I was a part of the service fraternity (APO) and Madison House at UVa. A huge part of my individual journey has always been to find where I can be of service, and where I can contribute, whether large or small. I feel that I have a lot to learn and also a lot to bring to the table as a newer Realtor, and would love to be of service to an organization that has provided so much for me. I serve on the Women's Council of Realtors board and am a participant of the Pat Jensen Leadership Academy- I would love to be a part of the association in a different way. A difficult issue that is facing CAAR is one that is facing many associations across the nation: that some Realtors do not value the local associations and do not see any reason to be a part of a local association. Personally, attending educational classes and joining committees, project teams and our local chapter of Women's Council of Realtors has been such a positive and connecting experience for me- and I truly believe if all new realtors utilized the offerings of our local association they would be better informed, more successful, and overall happier in this career choice. As far as a diverse, equitable, and inclusive association- I would hope to encourage others, of all backgrounds, to meet and network face-to-face. The best way to foster diversity and inclusivity is to connect- and connection happens in person, at local establishments. It is hard to remain divided when you discover similarities and shared experiences- which is why it is important to invite all realtors to learn and grow together. I have met people of all types and backgrounds while either sitting in educational programs or networking events through CAAR, and it may have not been people I would regularly bump into in my normal life activities. Because of CAAR, I've been able to expand my circle and have so many new friends and professional connections I would have never expected to have- and I would love to be a voice of encouragement, inviting others to make the time and effort to participate more!