

## ELNA Board 2015-16 Candidate Questionnaire:

**YOUR NAME:** Christine Kosirog

---

1. From the website: The purpose of the East Lawrence Neighborhood Association is to facilitate understanding with the City of Lawrence and Douglas County; to maintain and enhance living conditions; to foster communication in East Lawrence and to maintain good relations amongst neighbors, businesses, organizations and other neighborhoods in Lawrence.

As a board member, how would you contribute to ELNA's mission?

From my experience on the board I feel I have a good understanding of the varied communication needs of our neighborhood. I also recognize the challenges that presents to our neighborhood association. I will continue to push for all our current means of communication to be used-paper newsletter, e-news, website and social media. In addition, I would continue to work to find ways that developments with the city that may affect or neighborhood (which occur quickly and during regular business hours) can be communicated to our association and neighbors (who may not be able to attend to these items quickly or during regular business hours).

2. How many full ELNA meetings have you been to in the past 12 months?

I believe 11 out of 12.

3. Have you volunteered, donated, or attended ELNA events? If so, which?

I have done all of the above.

4. What kind of project(s) would you like to pursue for the neighborhood?

I enjoy the projects that celebrate our neighborhood and the people who live in it. I intend to stay the main point person for ELNA merchandise (ordering, housing and delivering to events or people who order it), helping to coordinate cooking at KVKL Game of the Week (which raises money for our neighborhood and also fosters our relationship with other organizations), organize the Holiday Bureau where ELNA/East Lawrence adopts a family or two in need through the Ballard Center and purchases gifts and gift cards in order to provide them with a happy holiday.

5. How long have you lived in East Lawrence? Why did you move here?

Bought our house in October 2001. The things that brought us here are different than the things that keep us here. We came here because we were young, starting a family, on a budget and still wanted to be a part of the nightlife that downtown offers. We stay here because of the proximity to New York and Central schools, because of the friendships we've formed, because East Lawrence has taught me (and is teaching my children) what it means to be a part of a community, because I feel like myself here, because I love the grit and mix of residential and industrial, because I can feel the ghosts of the people who were here before me and I find that comforting.

6. What are the major issues facing East Lawrence today?

I think we are a neighborhood in flux. Our challenge is to figure out how to make the most out of the opportunities while we continue to maintain/create a neighborhood that is ours. I also think, in the face of development, we need to find ways to protect the economic diversity of our neighborhood.

7. How would you characterize the essence of the neighborhood?

I think we are a community of working class, open-minded, creative, problem-solvers, with a fiercely independent spirit. I hope to foster those qualities in the face of change.

8. What other community / city boards/ groups do you belong to or attended regularly this past year?

As a mom of 3 who works full time, I do not typically have the time to make it to other meetings. ELNA IS what I do.