



A message from WPF President, Amy Meinecke

As I continue to settle into my role as your President, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the support and encouragement you have shared with me throughout this transition. I am fortunate to have the guidance and collaboration of our dedicated board, which makes this journey even more rewarding.

As we welcome May, I am excited to share updates about what's happening this month and highlight the work your board has been undertaking on your behalf.



Amy Meinecke
WPF President

As always, the May luncheon brings the WPF Foundation presentation highlighting the grant recipients your generous donations have supported. These funds help foster growth, confidence, and success for women and girls seeking to achieve their goals in life and career.

And don't forget to “**wear green for Maureen**” at our luncheon this month, in memory of our former member, Maureen Hartigan!

Also, this month we are finishing up the popular Small Group Dinners.

Here are some important updates from your board:

- The **50th Anniversary Committee** has begun preparing special activities to celebrate WPF's milestone anniversary next year.
- We have received a **new laptop generously donated** by a member, which will support our Admin's work for WPF in a more secure and efficient way.
- The board is actively **seeking better rates for our Money Market account** to strengthen our financial stewardship.
- **New member outreach** will be a focus this year, as we strive to encourage and support our newest members.
- We are also committed to **defining WPF's mission for 2026 and beyond**. In the coming months, we'll be seeking your collaboration to help shape our future direction.
- The board has approved and begun **onboarding Neon One CRM**, which will greatly improve our organizational processes and member management.
- All **Special Interest Groups (SIGs) now have Chairs**, ensuring the continuation and success for each group's activities.
- Directors at Large, Neena and Dee are hard at work planning our **annual Summer Social**. Stay tuned for details!

The board and I look forward to a productive month and year ahead, and to collaborating with you as we celebrate our achievements and chart our path forward together.

~Amy



ACTIVE & ACTIVE RETIRED MEMBERS RSVP ONLY
if you can NOT attend

EMERITUS & SUPPORTING MEMBERS, RSVP to attend.
Lunch fee \$35.
Cash, Check, PayPal, or Zelle

MEETING RSVP

WPF
2026 Board of Directors

Amy Meinecke
President

Kellie Burgess
1st Vice President

Christine Byrd
2nd Vice President

Janice Lanier
Secretary

Shirley Lucky
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Anne Smith
Membership Chair

Corinne Auman
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Susan Gutterman *Foundation President*

Neena Ballard
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Dee Blake
Director at Large

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Past President & Nominating Chair

Sherry Barr
Administrative Assistant

WPF is committed to supporting and endorsing equal opportunities for all people without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability or genetics.

Newsletter Archives

Upcoming Events

Special Interest Groups

WPF Member Directory

WPF Facebook Page



NEWS & UPDATES



Greeters and 4 minute Specials

Please consider being a greeter or sharing a 4 min special for an upcoming membership meeting this year.

Greeters: Arrive to the monthly meeting of your choice around 11:50am. Sherry will provide you the purple greeter sash. Grab your nametag, stand near one of the entry doors and welcome your fellow WPF sisters. [SIGN UP HERE](#)

4 Min Special: If you have never done one please consider signing up for one of the dates available. This is a chance for you to tell us about you, not just your work but what makes you-you! This year 4 min specials will be given after the program and we ask that you try to keep them to a few short min. Not comfortable speaking to the group? No problem, write a 4 min special to go in a newsletter.

Email Janice Lanier at janice.lanier88@gmail.com with your 4 min special for a newsletter and we will include it during this year.

WPF Foundation News

**A message from Susan R. Gutterman,
WPF Foundation President**

May marks a celebratory event as we spotlight the remarkable organizations awarded grants in 2026, each working toward hope and empowerment for women and girls. Within the heart of Guilford County, five incredible organizations are creating life-changing transformations, embodying the very essence of our mission.

Through your continued and increased generosity, we achieved an extraordinary milestone, awarding \$39,636 to support these vital programs!

This year's gathering promises an inspiring experience; the theme is Building Resilience, Expanding Opportunity. You will connect with and hear directly from the visionary women leading these grant-awarded organizations. We are an integral part of a mission that empowers women and girls by supporting:

- opportunities for women and girls to aspire to or further their careers;
- education and leadership development of women and girls;
- education of the public on the status and rights of women; and
- recognition of achievements and contributions of women.

On behalf of the WPF Foundation, I am honored to announce the 2026 Grantees:

AAUW Greensboro Branch – \$4,000 for STEM Education for Girls

AAUW North Carolina and its 11 branches embrace the mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. The Greensboro Branch provides hands-on programs and activities starting with 4th grade girls in a makerspace setting. Our teaching materials for robotics and electronics provide basic instruction and include design learning through group projects and presentations. We are entering a new phase called "Find Your STEM – Shape Your Future." As girls come more prepared and even more eager to engage with STEM learning tools, we want to offer an upgraded atmosphere and enhanced makerspace equipment to inspire the creativity and curiosity of our students. This program will serve 150 girls during the grant period.

Women's Resource Center of Greensboro, Inc. – \$10,000 for Women to Work

Founded in 1995, the Women's Resource Center of Greensboro (WRC) was created as a central hub where women could access information, support, and assistance in navigating local services, with a mission to promote the self-reliance of women and strengthen families across Greensboro. Women to Work provides job readiness training and placement support tailored to women, especially single mothers pursuing self-sufficiency. Participants receive ongoing education in employment skills, financial literacy, and job search strategies from business professionals. Services include career assessments, goal setting, resume writing, interviewing, networking, budgeting, and soft skills. Working alongside other WRC programs and community partners, it offers wraparound support that extends beyond employment, including continued financial education and confidence-building resources to help women thrive. This program will serve 140 women during the grant period.

She Built This City – \$10,000 for Taking Up Space: A Seat at the Table

She Built This City's mission is to provide industry disruptive programming that sparks interest and builds pathways to lucrative careers in the skilled trades for youth, women, and marginalized communities. Taking Up Space: A Seat at the Table seeks to create lasting change for girls in STEM by increasing representation, exposure, access, and early engagement in architecture & skilled trades. Our goal is to empower girls to see themselves as capable builders, designers, and innovators through meaningful hands-on learning and mentorship. By connecting participants with women professionals in architecture, engineering & the trades, we aim to dismantle stereotypes, build confidence & strengthen a sense of belonging in traditionally male-dominated industries. This program will serve 20 girls during the grant period.

Communities in Schools of Greater Greensboro – \$5,636 for GEMS: Trauma Informed Care for Adolescent Girls

Communities in Schools' mission is to surround under-resourced children with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve a middle-class life. Trauma Informed Care (TIC) for adolescent girls is an approach that recognizes the widespread impact of trauma on adolescent development and responds with practices that promote safety, empowerment, and healing. It creates the belief that teens thrive when environments are safe and predictable,

relationships are supportive and their voices are honored. The program aims to develop resilience and healing. This program will serve 30 girls during the grant period.

OPERATION XCEL - \$10,000 for Girls Academic & Leadership Enrichment Program

Serving approximately 800 K–8 students weekly across seven centers in under-resourced neighborhoods in Guilford County, North Carolina, Operation Xcel provides personalized tutoring in reading, math, and STEM, along with social-emotional learning and college and career-readiness experiences. The Operation Xcel Girls Academic & Leadership Enrichment Program provides afterschool and summer programming for K–8 girls in Guilford County focused on academic achievement, STEM exposure, leadership development, and social-emotional growth. Through personalized tutoring, hands-on STEM activities, and mentorship, girls build academic skills and a vision for future educational and career success. This program will serve 216 girls during the grant period.

We warmly invite you to join the WPF Foundation Board of Directors in contributing to the Foundation. Together, we are Building Resilience, Expanding Opportunity for women and girls to embrace a future filled with success.

Giving is Easy!

- At the WPF membership meeting:
 - WRITE A CHECK and leave it with Sherry.
 - COMPLETE a PLEDGE CARD on your table.
- PAY DIRECT on the WPFF website at <https://wpforum.org/donate/>
- Make an ONLINE donation using the QR Code.



Every act of generosity contributes to a positive change in the lives of women and girls. Consider amplifying your gift through your employer's matching gift program, a powerful way to further support the Foundation's vital work. Many of your fellow WPF members are already leveraging this incredible opportunity!

Finally, please join me in expressing our deepest gratitude to the dedicated members of our Grants Committee, whose insights and tireless efforts selected our inspiring 2026 grantees. Sasha Trosch led the Grants Committee; her skill and leadership enhanced the review and selection process.

2026 Grants Committee

Sasha Trosch, Chair
Kellie Burgess
Laura Burton
Marlee Foster
Susan Gutterman
Dawn Kane
Denny Kelly

Brenda Madden
Jen Mencarini
Kate Panzer
Martha Peddrick
Terri Shelton
Jody Susong
Beverly Williams

WPF FOUNDATION

2026 Board of Directors

Susan Gutterman, *President*
Chandra Hackenbruch, *Past President*
Laura Burton, *Vice President*
Neena Ballard, *Secretary*
Jody Susong, *Treasurer*

Directors at Large

Melissa Burroughs

Christine Byrd
Beth Fischer
Karen Foster
Maria Hanlin
Kim Marriott
Amy Meinecke
Martha Peddrick
Ernestine Taylor
Sasha Trosch



WPF Membership News

Anne Flegal Smith, Membership Chair

May is the last luncheon to bring potential new members for qualification for 2026 Membership!

As a reminder, here are the qualifications for Sponsorship and for applicants. More details are available on the WPF website: wpforum.org.

Sponsorship Requirements:

- A WPF member is qualified to be a primary sponsor for a new member after she has been an Active member for at least two FULL years. (The membership year for new members begins August 1st).
- Qualified members may sponsor or co-sponsor NO MORE THAN TWO applicants in a year. The year begins with the application deadline, running from June 1 to May 31.

- Supporting members, members of the Membership Committee, and the WPF President may not serve as primary or secondary sponsors.
- The primary sponsor is responsible for ensuring that an applicant appears to meet the basic membership qualifications set out in the New Member Application and can comply with attendance requirements.
- Questions regarding a potential applicant's suitability for membership should be directed to the Membership Chair before asking the applicant to submit an application.
- Confirm, through the Membership Chair or the Administrative Assistant, that the Occupational Category of your applicant has not reached its quota.
- Email all required documents/files to the Membership Committee Chair by the June 1st deadline.
- Sponsors agree to provide any information about the prospective member as requested by the Membership Committee.
- If an applicant is declined for membership, the primary sponsor and co-sponsors will be notified prior to notifying the applicant.

To qualify for Active membership, applicants must:

- Be employed full-time or be employed in a career where the content and professionalism of the work is the measure of eligibility rather than the number of hours worked.
- Work or reside in Guilford County.
- Be an experienced upper-management executive, licensed or degreed professional active in the profession, business owner, or official elected or appointed to public office.
- Have a minimum of five years of professional experience and a minimum of two years of experience in the same or related field of work in which she is engaged at the time of her application.
- Be cleared by their Primary Sponsor for an available slot in the appropriate Occupational Field Category (please contact Membership Chair).
- Be sponsored by a total of three sponsors. The primary sponsor must be an Active or Active Retired member. Secondary sponsors may be Active, Active Retired or Emeritus members.
- Prospective members must attend a total of three WPF lunch meetings, one with each of her sponsors, within the twelve months prior to application filing.

Please reach out with questions: Membership Chair Anne Smith at anne@smithpartnerswealth.com or 336-420-9245.

Anne

Spring Small Group Dinners Update!

Small Group Dinners are going great! Here's an update from host Dee Blake. Check the [WPF Facebook](#) page for more photos and updates!

Monday, April 27th, WPF members Judy Piper, Bonnie McAlister, Leslie Alderson, Janice Lanier, Carol Rauch, Katie Klod, Lindsay James, and Dee Blake enjoyed fine dining and lively conversation at EPIC Chophouse in N. Greensboro. Members used the time to learn more about each other and to share tips and memories on a wide variety of topics.



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

WINE DIVAS

🍷 Cheers! The Wine Divas are Returning

It's time to dust off your favorite wine glass—the Wine Divas are officially back! We've missed the casual chats and great pours, and we can't wait to get the group together again. Looking ahead, we are officially scouting for hosts for the following months:

- June
- August
- October



- **Host anywhere:** Please don't feel limited to your home! If you'd prefer to host at a local park, a favorite wine bar, or a community space, let's make it happen. 🌿
- **A little wine wisdom:** For these upcoming sessions, we're looking to add a light **educational aspect**. Whether it's a quick deep-dive into a specific region or a fun lesson on pairings, we want to walk away with some new wine facts. 🎓 [Don't worry we have some resources!!]
- **Keep it casual:** The goal is always fun first—no fancy appetizers or formal attire required. 🍷

If you're interested in hosting or have a specific topic you're dying to learn about, email or text and let us know!

Cheers,
Neena Ballard
ballardmwb@gmail.com
303-523-4835

NON-FICTION ONLY BOOK CLUB



For our next meeting, we'll be reading:

The Sisterhood:

The Secret History of Women at the CIA by Liza Mundy

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Location: Lindsay Brock's house: 4 Fern Bluff Ct., Greensboro

RSVP via email please.

Lindsay's email: lbrock@stearnsfinancial.com

Time: 6:30 pm hors d'oeuvres and social time

7:00 - 8:00 or 8:15 pm book discussion

Katie Klod will lead the discussion.

If it works for you to bring an appetizer or a dessert, that would be great. No signing up for snacks.

Running out of time to read the book? Please come anyway- we want to see you.

About our book for May:

The Sisterhood: The Secret History of Women at the CIA by Liza Mundy.

Released in October 2023, this heavily researched, 480-page history explores the pivotal roles women have played within the CIA. Note: this is a lengthy book (18 hours on audio).

"A rip-roaring read about spycraft and the CIA's inner workings . . . an inspiring group portrait of extraordinary CIA women whose careers are multisided profiles in courage."—Steve Coll, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Ghost Wars*

"Liza Mundy is a prodigious reporter and a wonderful writer who has uncovered the stories of the female spies and analysts who helped make the CIA what it is today."—Peter Bergen, bestselling author of *The Rise and Fall of Osama bin Laden*

Next Up:

We'll be reading *Girl on Girl: How Pop Culture Turned a Generation of Women Against Themselves* by Sophie Gilbert for our July 7th meeting.

Organizers:

Jen Thomas & Kate Panzer

Jen's Cell 336-254-4325

Kate's Cell 336-420-1421

SIPPIN' SISTERS

We have filled all 18 spots for our event at Gia on May 12th at 6 PM, hosted by Leslie Alderson and Jody Susong. We're excited to see you all there!

If you want to join the waitlist, please email lesliealderson@yahoo.com

Our next event will be in July. More information coming soon!



SERVICE TO OTHERS

Wednesday, May 13

We will be collecting *gently used books for all ages* for **The Kellin Foundation's Hope Hub** at the Women's Professional Forum Meeting on **May 13th**.

The Hope Hub provides opportunities for children, individuals, and families to access books through child-centered spaces and a community lending library. Books are also used in therapy and peer support sessions based on client and family needs, so your donations truly make an impact.

Donation Options:

- Bring books with you to the meeting on May 13th
- Drop off in advance at my office:
1106 Park Terrace (off Spring Garden Street)
- If you have a larger donation, I'm happy to arrange a pickup in advance

Please note: I will park my car in front of the entrance at Starmount on May 13th for easy drop-off. The same place as the Simple Gestures Van pick up.

Thank you!
Kim Grimsley-Ritchy

WORKING MOMS

Undercurrent

Tuesday, May 19

4-5pm

Join us for Happy Hour

Moms of all ages welcome.

RSVP to Marlee Foster at marlee.foster@conehealth.com.

Working Mom's group is part support group and part resource group. We learn so much from each other and have the chance to share the trials and tribulations of being a working Mom in this day and age. There is always laughter, an empathetic ear, and sometimes a great suggestion to help you when you thought you have exhausted all possible options.



LADIES OF LEISURE

Jazz Night at the Magnolia House

Wednesday, May 20

Come enjoy dinner and jazz on Wednesday, May 20 at the Magnolia House, a historic hotel at 442 Gorrell St. in Greensboro that catered to Black travelers during segregation. We will donate \$10 each to the artist performing that evening when we register, then order dinner from the menu when we arrive. The music starts at 6 p.m. The event is organized by the Ladies of Leisure SIG.

[Click Here](#) to register and sign up for the 5:30pm slot.

[Click Here](#) to view the menu in advance.

Please register by the end of business on Monday, May 11. Arrive at 5:30 p.m. on May 20 and park in the Plott Street parking lot on the side of the Magnolia House. Enter the side door to the lobby. Questions? Contact Dawn Kane at 336-340-4807 or daka1@att.net.

BUILDING BELONGING Industries of the Blind Thursday, May 21 11:30am-1:00pm

We will meet at 11:30 in the 33 & Elm Coffee Shop Conference room, tour from there and return for the discussion with some employees.

Grab a coffee and a snack or lunch while you're there! You can even pick up some IOB swag, including a "world famous" broom! IOB has been making them for 80 years!

Have you ever wondered what that big white building is on Gate City Blvd? Are you curious about Greensboro best kept government manufacturing contractor? Perhaps you are still searching for the best coffee shop in Greensboro?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you'll want to make sure to join the Building Belonging SIG for a tour of Industries of the Blind. Since 1933, Industries of the Blind has employed visually impaired team member to provide contract manufacturing for the US Army, packaging solution, assembly services, and distribution all from its location on Gate City Blvd. And, they also have one of the very best coffee shops in town – 33 & Elm.

Join us to learn about this hidden gem and how it builds belonging for the visually impaired in our community.

Please RSVP to Susan Williams
swilliams@iob-gso.com

WOW - WOMEN OF WALL STREET Investment Club Thursday, May 21, 6pm Lucky 32 Restaurant 1421 Westover Terrace

The WOW Investment Club will have a dinner meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 6 pm at Lucky 32 Restaurant.

Please reply to Katrina Solomon at katrinak.solomon@gmail.com by Monday, May 18, if you would like to attend. We will sit on the patio with the weather permitting. Should be lots of fun!

DINING OUT

Tuesday, May 26

6:30pm

Imperial Koi

1941 New Garden Rd, Ste 200

Greensboro, NC 27410

Host: Christine Byrd

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Questions: Amy Meinecke at diningout@wpforum.org

FINANCIAL DIVAS

What You Need to Know in Planning Your Next Trip

Wednesday, May 27, 9-10 am

Weaver Park Center, 324 W. Wendover Ave, Ste. 140

The high travel season is upon us! What do you need to know that many people miss in planning your next trip? Whether solo travelers, couples, families or a corporate traveler, there are important nuances to consider in maximizing your experience, thinking about your safety/health, getting the greatest value, etc. Let's talk about travel insurance, luggage forwarding, visa processing, passport renewals, excursions, event tickets, etc. Jan McDiarmid, Owner of Cruise Planners, will moderate an engaging discussion about how to level up that next beach vacation, cruise, safari, European getaway or business trip.

For questions or more information, contact

Paula McMillan at 336.3379507 or pmcmillan@stearnsfinancial.com.

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, June 2, 6:30pm

Our June book is "The Vaster Wilds" by Lauren Groff.

Ashley Madden is hosting at

3208 Timberoak Court, 27410

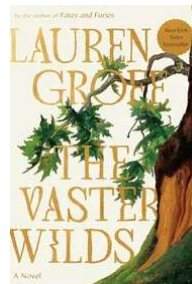
Mary Kelly Wetzel will lead the discussion at 7pm.

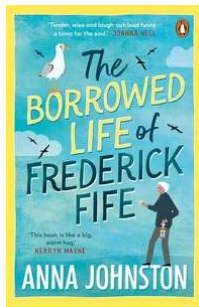
You can RSVP to

Nancy.radtke@allentate.com or Ashely.madden@gmail.com

If you have a nibble or sip to share, please bring it to Ashley's.

This is a thrilling read! "A young servant girl escapes a brutal colonial settlement (like Jamestown in the 1600's) and survives alone in the North American wilderness, blending a raw survival story with a meditation on colonialism, nature, and faith."





August 4, our host is **Amy Baradell** at 2307 Walker Avenue, **Beverley Gass** will lead the discussion, **"The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife"** by **Anna Johnston**. "A heartwarming novel about an elderly, broke man who, through a case of mistaken identity, takes the place of a missing nursing home resident, Bernard Greer, finding warmth, meals, and a chance to spread kindness while navigating the complexities of grief, forgiveness, and found family with other residents and Bernard's estranged daughter, Hannah."

We welcome you to discuss some great books with us!

Books and Arts **Blowing Rock Summer Trip** **July 16-19, 2026**

Spaces still available for our July weekend in Blowing Rock!!

One of our 2026 activities is our annual summer trip to Blowing Rock. Since we have two houses and a condo reserved, we still have openings for the trip, scheduled for July 16th through 19th. Activity options will include the Chetola Symphony by the Lake on Friday night, the 17th (tickets around \$85), tubing on Saturday morning (\$35), and possibly a wine tasting. Other activities participants frequently enjoy are spa treatments at Chetola, shopping in downtown Blowing Rock, and hiking on nearby trails. Prices for housing for the weekend range from \$200 to \$450 depending upon type of room/bath, sharing, etc., so, something for everyone. Dinner is generally at restaurants on Thursday and Saturday nights, with Friday night picnic at the concert, and breakfast enjoyed in our lodgings. Thanks to participants, there is never a shortage of food in the lodgings! If you want to join the 17 of us who have already signed up for this weekend, contact Kris Landrum (klandrum@tuggleduggins.com) for other details. A deposit of \$150 is required to secure your spot.

