



Lorri Yaskiewicz
WPF President

Dear WPF Sisters,

Happy July WPF Sisters! I would like to formally welcome our 13 new WPF members. We are looking forward to getting to know you better! Please remember our new member orientation is July 29.

July is synonymous with liberation and self-determination, honoring independence and unity. As we commemorate freedom, whether through national observances or personal milestones—let us recommit to lifting each other up. Be it through mentorship, open dialogue, or advocacy; may we continue to foster environments where every woman's voice is heard and valued.

It's hard to believe we are halfway through this year. Now is a great time to remember to refill our cups, by embracing growth and balance. With our busy schedules and commitments, it's essential to pause, refresh, and reflect. I encourage each of you to take intentional time for yourselves—whether it's a weekend hike, a creative pursuit, or simply savoring a sunset at the beach. These moments of restoration are not indulgent, they are our launchpad for renewal.

In closing, July offers us a chance to pause, connect, and recommit—to ourselves, to each other, and to our shared purpose. I am continually inspired by your resilience, creativity, and generosity. Thank you for being the backbone of this community, and for making every initiative richer and more impactful.

I hope everyone has a wonderful July 4th with your family and friends!



Authentically yours,

~Lorri

**July Meeting
Wednesday, July 9
12:30pm - 1:30pm
Starmount Country Club**



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

**EMERITUS & SUPPORTING MEMBERS, RSVP to attend. Lunch fee \$30.
Cash, check, PayPal, or Zelle**

MEETING RSVP

**WPF
2025 Board of Directors**

Lorri Yaskiewicz
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Jennifer Mencarini
President Elect

Amy Meinecke
1st Vice President

Ashley Raper
2nd Vice President

Marlee Foster
Secretary

Leigh Ann Klee
Treasurer

Marcy McHenry
Membership Chair

Mebane Ham
Programs Chair

Chandra Hackenbruch *Foundation President*

Laura Burton
Director at Large

Jeanie Duncan
Director at Large

Erica Parker
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.

Upcoming Events

Special Interest Groups

WPF Member Directory

WPF Facebook Page



What's for lunch in July?

- Sweet Corn & Basil Bisque
- Romaine and field greens salad bar with Matchstick carrots, diced tomatoes, cucumbers, artichoke hearts, olives, bacon, croutons, Ranch & Balsamic Vinaigrette Dressings
- Egg salad, Chicken salad, Tuna salad
- Mini sliced whole grain croissants (Cut in Half) and yeast rolls
- Ice Cream Sundae Bar with Vanilla & Chocolate Ice Cream and Assorted Toppings



July Program



Melanie Jones

Melanie Jones is a 36-year public safety veteran having served as a full time Deputy Sheriff for 10 years. She moved to Guilford County in 1999, and began working full time for Guilford County 9-1-1, and remained a reserve deputy with the Guilford County Sheriff's Office until 2013. She has been a Telecommunicator, Certified Training Officer, Asst. Shift Supervisor, Senior Shift Supervisor and 911 Operations Manager. Currently she serves as the Executive Director of Guilford Metro 911, one of the largest consolidated centers in the State of North Carolina.

Melanie is currently the President for the National Emergency Number Association, which has almost 24,000 members. Melanie is a former North Carolina APCO President (17/18), current APCO representative on the State of North Carolina 911 Board, Graduate of APCO International's RPL program (Registered Public Safety Leader), National Emergency Number Association Emergency Number Professional (ENP), Graduate of APCO International's Certified Public Safety Executive (CPE) program, National Emergency Number Association Center Manager Certification Program (CMCP) graduate, and a Graduate of City of Greensboro Leadership Edge Program. She also has her Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate from the State of North Carolina.



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 Marleegfoster@gmail.com with your 4 min special for a newsletter and we will include it during this year.

WPF SUMMER SOCIAL!

Join us on **Tuesday, July 15** from **6–8pm**
at the home of

Joy Shavitz

3207 Hobbs Landing Court.

We'll enjoy tasty hors d'oeuvres and beverages
and a fun social time together.

RSVP to Sherry at admin@wpforum.org to be added to the wait list.

Due to space limitations, reservations will be capped at the first 60 members who reply.

**If your plans have changed and you can no longer attend,
please let Sherry know, as we have a wait list.**

WPF Foundation News

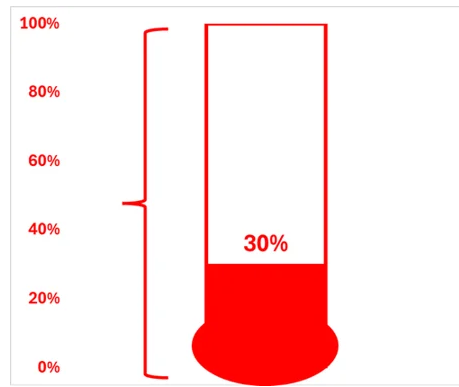
A Note From Chandra Hackenbruch, WPF Foundation President

Igniting Change: WPF Foundation Heats Up Guilford County!

Even as the summer sun blazes, I hope you're all finding time to create wonderful memories with loved ones! And speaking of heat, WPF women, you are absolutely on fire!

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we've already **reached 30% of our \$42,000 fundraising goal!** "Thank you" barely scratches the surface of our gratitude for your contributions to the WPF Foundation. Your gifts are truly making a difference, and I'm confident that with six months still to go, we'll not only meet but exceed our goal by year-end.





Grants in Action: Empowering Women and Girls

Every grant check has been sent and cashed, putting vital funds directly into the hands of organizations dedicated to uplifting women and girls in Guilford County. We can't wait to see the inspiring ways these programs, powered by your donations, will enrich and empower the lives of so many.

Please continue to spread the word about our grant program! Keep an eye out for the announcement of our next application cycle this September. Together, we are building a brighter future for women and girls in our community!

WPF FOUNDATION 2025 Board of Directors

Chandra Hackenbruch, President

Leslie Loyd, Vice President

Jody Susong, Treasurer

Directors at Large:

Neena Ballard

Andrea Bunn

Laura Burton

Beth Fischer

Keyshia Gray

Susan Gutterman

Maria Hanlin

Kimberly Marriott

Amy Meinecke

Jennifer Mencarini

Martha Peddrick

Ernestine Taylor

Sasha Trosch



Building Belonging Update!

July is Disability Pride Month

Disability Pride Month, observed in July, marks the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990.

Boston held the first Disability Pride Day in 1990. In July 2015, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the ADA, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio designated July as Disability Pride Month, marking the first official month-long celebration.

While not a federally recognized holiday, July is widely observed as Disability Pride Month and is celebrated in cities across the United States with parades and other festivities.



Disability Pride Month celebrates disabled persons embracing their disabilities as integral parts of who they are, reclaiming visibility in public and interacting fully with their disabilities out in the open, and rejecting shame and internalized ableism. Disability pride has been described as “accepting and honoring each person’s uniqueness and seeing it as a natural and beautiful part of [humanity].”

The American Bar Association (ABA) created a 21-Day Disability Equity Habit-Building Challenge syllabus in honor of Disability Pride Month. You can view the syllabus and learn more about the challenge [here](#) on the ABA’s website.

Membership Update!

We are excited to welcome 13 new members to WPF’s membership class of 2025:

Leslie Alderson
Lindsay Brock
Erickia Elbert
Lindsay James
Shelly Johnson
Rebecca Kaye
Martha Kesler

Lauren Norris
Ursula Strong
Grace Thompson
Theodora Vaporis
Cindy Weber
Kim Wilson



You'll want to check out their bios in the August newsletter, and to be present at the August luncheon meeting to be introduced to this awesome group! Thank you to the Sponsors and Membership Committee for helping bring in this wonderful new group of members!

Now is the time to start bringing potential new members to our meetings and considering co-sponsors for the class of 2026. Applicants must have attended 3 meetings between June 2025 and May 2026 to qualify for membership.

Look for details next month about a mid-September New Member Social as well.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS



It's SIPPIN' SISTERS Christmas in July with a Splash!

Time to get out the
Christmas pajamas or swimsuits!!

The choice is yours as
this years party will be poolside!
Come celebrate with us at:

Sue Hunt's home

2523 Brandt Forest Court

Greensboro

Monday, July 21

6:30 pm

Hostesses

Erica Parker, Janice Lanier, and Dede Potter

RSVP

VENMO (@ericapal) to Erica Parker

\$25 to reserve your spot!

WORKING MOMS

Pho Hien Vuong

Tuesday, July 22, 12-1:30 pm

Join us for Lunch!

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.

FINANCIAL DIVAS

Wednesday, July 23, 9-10 am

Weaver Park Center

324 W. Wendover Ave, Ste. 140

Join us in the "O" for a discussion of "AI Use Cases - How Can/Should We Be Using It Now?" . In your business, at your home, helping others in need, how are you seeing AI be used to date that could benefit you and other WPF members? What are you missing? Come prepared to share and learn. For more information or questions, contact Paula McMillan at 336.337.9507 or pmcmillan@stearnsfinancial.com.



Books and Arts

Blowing Rock Summer Outing July 24th to 27th:

Spend a long weekend in Blowing Rock with great friends and participate in any or all of the following activities:

Chetola Symphony By The Lake-(think MUSEP on steroids),
cost around \$60 to \$70, evening of the 25th

Blowing Rock Home Tour-morning or early afternoon of 25th, cost \$30

Tubing on Saturday, the 26th, cost around \$35

Wine Tasting

Cost of housing around \$250 to \$300

Deposit to save space-\$125

We still have spaces available on a sofa bed or top bunk!! For more information contact Kris Landrum at klandrum@tuggleduggins.com.

DINING OUT

Wednesday, July 30

6:30 pm

GIA: Drink, Eat, Listen
1941 New Garden Rd, 27410

Host: Ginny Maurer

RSVP to:

Amy Meinecke

at <https://form.jotform.com/251174291924155>

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, August 5

Book: Color of Water by James McBride

7:00 pm hors d'oeuvres and social time

7:30 pm discussion

Host: Marjorie Streck

RSVP mbstreck@yahoo.com

Discussion Leader: Pat Vedder

WINE DIVAS

FINS UP, PARROTT HEADS!

Join Us In "Wine-aritaville" for a

Jimmy Buffett-themed Wine Divas Night!

August 13th – 6-8pm

MM Interior Design Group

609 State Street, Greensboro

To RSVP, Venmo \$30 to Susan Russell (@Susan-Russell-111)



**WOW - WOMEN OF WALL STREET
Investment Club**

**Third Quarter Business Meeting
Thursday, August 21, 6:00 pm
Mt. Pisgah Church
2600 Pisgah Church Road**

The WOW Investment Club will not meet in July as several members are on holiday.

Please mark your calendar now.
Have a great summer!

**NEW!!! Nonfiction BOOK CLUB
meeting on a trial basis for the Fall of 2025
Tuesday Sept. 2 and Tuesday Nov. 4**

Join the WPF Nonfiction Book Club for the first meeting as we discuss **We Can Do Hard Things: Answers to Life's 20 Questions** by Glennon Doyle, Abby Wambach, Amanda Doyle.

We'll be meeting at Kate Panzer's house on Sept 2nd -
604 Waycross Dr, Greensboro. Social time at 7:00; book group discussion 7:30.
To RSVP, text Jennifer Thomas at 336-254-4325 or email jen@drjenthomas.com.

Bonus Special Event ...

Thursday, July 17 · 6:30 - 8pm EDT



Burn the Boats: A Storytelling Night

Some stories begin with a decision to leave something behind: A job. A relationship. An identity. A version of ourselves.

Book by Abigail C. Seymour

College Park Baptist Church

1601 Walker Avenue Greensboro, NC 27400

- Event lasts 1 hour 30 minutes
- Free venue parking

Burn the Boats is a live storytelling event featuring local women who've done just that—taken a leap, walked away from the known, and chosen transformation over safety. Inspired by the new book *Boat Burning for Beginners*, this evening is a celebration of bold choices, real voices, and community strength. Join us for an unforgettable night of short, powerful stories told live by women from the Triad who've burned the boats—and lived to tell about it.

What to Expect:

- 5–7 storytellers sharing true personal stories (5–7 minutes each), **including WPF's own Jennifer Mencarini(!!!)**
- Hosted by Abigail Seymour, contributor to *Boat Burning for Beginners* and founder of Camino Law
- Drinks + light refreshments
- Copies of the book "*Boat Burning for Beginners*" will be available with a suggested donation of \$15, which will benefit the Greensboro Women's Resource Center.

Tickets: This is a **free** event, but space is limited—please RSVP to reserve your seat. All are welcome. Come curious, come brave, come ready to cheer for the storytellers—and maybe recognize a little of your own story in theirs.

Click here for tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/burn-the-boats-a-storytelling-night-tickets-1407721726579>

*We invite WPF Nonfiction book club members to reflect on your own bold choices. We'd love to hear about them when we meet at Kate's house on Sept. 2nd!

BOOKS AND ARTS and LADIES OF LEISURE

Time to Plan for October

National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee

October 3-5, 2025

Books and Arts and Ladies of Leisure are teaming up for a trip to the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee the weekend of October 3-5. We will drive to Jonesborough on Friday when the storytelling begins and return home on Sunday. Jonesborough, the oldest town in Tennessee, is a 3+ hour drive from Greensboro. Tents are set up around this picturesque town to provide a fun place to hear tales you will laugh and weep over. We will stay in nearby, Greeneville, Tennessee and have dinner together on Friday and Saturday. It is a down-to-earth, entertaining weekend.



Here is a link to the festival: <https://www.storytellingcenter.net/festival/main/> Adult tickets are \$190 for 3 days and senior tickets, \$175. We suggest waiting to purchase tickets. You may even decide to purchase them on site.

We have reserved 6 rooms at the Hampton Inn in Greeneville about a 30 minute drive from Jonesborough. Each room has 2 queen beds and costs \$461.72 for 2 nights.

We hope you will decide to join us for a beautiful fall weekend in gorgeous East Tennessee. Or, it could rain. But that's lovely, too.

Please think about this! We hope you decide soon to join us, but we have until mid-September to finalize the number of rooms needed It's a wonderful fall outing. Let us hear.

Beverley Gass

(336) 255-3173

beverleygass@gmail.com

Jane Hewitt

(336) 312-0200

jhewitt51@gmail.com

Books and Arts

British Virgin Islands Sailing Trip-January 23rd thru 31st, 2026

Per person cost for 58 ft sailing catamaran, captain, cook, and steward and all food and beverages-\$3,742/person, plus crew tip of \$600 to \$700, plus airfare

There is only one space left for this trip,

Contact Kris Landrum (klandrum@tuggleduggins.com) if you want additional information about this trip.



Women's Professional Forum, PO Box 38594, Greensboro, NC 27438

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