

Secretary

Eileen Kurkoski

Candidate Statement

Please consider me for WILPF's Board secretarial position, a three year term.

Since 2014 I have been working enthusiastically to fulfill the ideals of WILPF.

This has included writing meeting notes for my Boston branch, working on our branch newsletter, our retreat and advisory board, and creating and preparing flags and banners with other branch members for our rallies and marches. I also worked on the national Development Committee and the Earth Democracy Committee.

I took the coordinating lead for the preparation of our branch's participation in this year's Earth Day Solidarity Event and for collecting money, toys and clothes from our branch to contribute to an indigent kids Christmas party in Boston. I put forward the idea of having a national 'Most Dangerous Women's Book Group' in 'Peace and Freedom', which resulted in a book discussion on an OneWILPF call.

Volunteering for WILPF is important to me so I will responsibly use my computer, organizational, interpersonal and creative skills to take accurate, clear notes, to carry out other secretarial job description duties, to facilitate our manifesto goals, help resolve disagreements, and help grow our national organization...and do this with a bit of humor, since we are often very serious. Please consider voting for me.

Application

1. US WILPF is a mission-driven membership organization. What does that mean to you?

This means the members are working diligently to meet the ideals of WILPF as listed and described in the WILPF Manifesto, which emphasizes working for peace and justice for individuals (particularly female), society and the environment.

2. Please describe your involvement in WILPF, including a brief summary of work at the level of branch, national, and/or international:

Since joining WILPF, 11/2014, I have taken notes at annual retreats & meetings for my branch. With other WILPF-ers I lobbied legislators for criminal justice, environmental and peace initiatives. I/we rallied, marched, protested and tabled for these causes each year, often I making the posters and signs we carried. I headed up our recent national Solidarity Boston group event. Nationally, I helped find ways to raise money in the development committee and organized & made calls to my Boston branch members encouraging financial support. I participate in WILPF environment committee. I helped to organize and break down the national WILPF Boston office. I promoted in Peace and Freedom, "The Most Dangerous Women Book Group" and on an OneWILPF call we had a good book discussion, which I led.

3. Why are you interested in filling this position?

Taking notes comes easily to me so I am glad to use this skill. I hope to see the bigger picture within WILPF and find ways to facilitate good communication of ideas & actions that promote our WILPF ideals and grow our organization.

4. Please describe your other non-WILPF work or involvement that you believe helps qualify you for this position:

I help take notes at MA Peace Action and MA350Newton meetings and have been doing many of the legislative, protesting, and art work actions mentioned above. Most of my/our Boston WILPF work is in collaboration with these and other organizations.

5. What skills can you offer in this position?

Besides being a good typist and organizer I think my need to understand helps me to ask clarifying questions to get the essence of an issue. I can 'connect the dots' and come up with possible solutions to obstacles, sometimes thinking outside the box.

Activist Biography

My political activism began in 2012 with the Occupy movement and my work with the hungry and homeless started out of my church's Social Action committee around 2002.

I have coordinated my church's Hunger and Homeless task force for several years. I have been a reluctant leader but an active supporter of people and causes I believe in, especially banning war and countering the man made causes of climate change. Over the past few years I have been participating in MA Peace Action and the Newton branch of 350MA; for both I help take notes, offer ideas, attend rallies and talk to legislators.

Since November 2014, at my first exposure to WILPF I felt at home and joined. I found the speakers, the energy and conversations very stimulating at the two day retreat and I recorded most of it in my notes. I immediately became the Boston branch secretary and initially asked many questions to understand and clarify all the activities the branch was doing.

Since 2014 I have been working energetically to fulfill the ideals of WILPF.

I've been recording meeting notes, working on our branch newsletter, recording our annual retreats and advisory board meetings, and creating and preparing flags and banners with other branch members for our rallies and marches. I also worked on the WILPF national Development Committee and the Earth Democracy Committee.