

APPLICATION FOR US WILPF SECTION NATIONAL BOARD

Position you are applying for: TREASURER

Name: BARBARA L NIELSEN

Cell: 1-415-430-5873 Contact Here: Yes No

Line of work/profession: LEGAL & ADMINISTRATIVE RESEARCHER, ANALYST, ADMINISTRATOR AND MANAGER

How long have you been a member of WILPF US? (minimum of 24 months of continuous membership by **October 1**, 2022, is required) FIRST JOINED IN 1971; LIFE MEMBER SINCE 2005

For each of these application questions, please use 1-2 paragraphs to answer. *The content of this page will be posted on the WILPF US website.*

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

WILPF is comprised of members engaged in our mission supporting our vision in many ways – many of us are thriving at the “think globally – act locally” level and very involved in our communities through our branches or when at-large, engaging with like-minded individuals in work we feel passionate about, often, and cooperatively, in coalition with other kindred organizations. The ideal of our member-driven membership organization is that we are democratically-run on a non-hierarchical basis – we are a nonprofit membership corporation with our general members as the stakeholders who elect a national board to handle many administrative matters for us – and our member drive our program, at both the International, US Section and local levels. This sometimes takes more time than some of us might want, but it is a participatory way of being transparent and engaging multiple points of view. I have been part of this process for about 50 years now and while democracy is messy, it embodies what we preach that is necessary for good governance and social justice. Service on the national board offers opportunities to work together in this national leadership group as a team, to encourage broader participation in the business as well as activism of WILPFUS through outreach to the general membership and to engage, and then keep as many in our membership as possible committed to find ways to encourage our growth and effectiveness in varieties of ways including but not limited to increasing our income and other resources to allow us to increase our activism and our voices at local, regional and national levels, as well as increasing the activism of our membership and our outreach, including towards communities not well represented currently, such as those in colleges and universities, those who are starting careers, those who are working but might be seeking ways to add activism to their lives; those living in the USA who may share our mission and vision, if they only knew that it existed; those who feel strongly that they want to “do something” but who are not aware of WILPF’s feminist lens in dealing with environmental issues. These kinds of issues have seemed to me, for years, to be integral parts of the emotional and ethical fuel that supports the cadence of the overarching ethos of what encompasses the WILPF that I know and support and encourage others to find and to participate in.

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

I joined WILPF in 1971 (Berkeley branch (now East Bay), inspired by my mentors in the Berkeley branch, including the late Madeline Duckles. After several years of local and regional (California Cluster meetings) activities, I had a break and focused, in part, on further education. After participating in the San Francisco Triennial Congress, I rejoined in 2005 and have been and am an active participant at the local, regional, national and international levels as well as being a part of the WILPF presence at the UN’s Commission on the Status of Women annual meetings. I am a Life Member. A Californian, I am in the San Francisco branch. Please see more detail about much of my work at the local, regional, national and international levels of WILPF, as well as references to my involvement of many years in the interactions of WILPF at the

United Nations' annual meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women.

3. Why are you interested in filling this position

I am seeking election to the position of Treasurer (and chair of the Finance Committee) on our national Board, which is one of three Officers (of our nonprofit membership corporation's) Board of Directors.

The diligent and attentive manner in which our outgoing Treasurer has performed the essential functions of these positions inspired me to seek service in this role, as has, also, the opportunity to follow the good service given in this role by several of our prior Treasurers, but, especially because we have been most fortunate to have had such a great Treasurer for the last six years. She has taken the lead and set the tone for strengthening our management and oversight of our financial health and resources as she has been working effectively with the members of our standing Finance Committee and, it has been a great thing, too, that our (termed-out) Treasurer has had close working relationships not only with our other two [membership nonprofit corporate] Officers – our Board President and Board Secretary, but also with the Chairs of our Development and Membership Development Board Committees, as well.

I look forward to supporting the standards set by our outgoing Treasurer and encouraging more knowledge of our finances and other resources, fiscal and otherwise, by more members of our Board and by more of our members, particularly those in leadership roles, such as issues committees and subcommittees, branch leaders, and also among our general members. I hope that we can build on the great work done during the past six years, in particular, and also how we might be creative in seeing financial resources, to be able to grow our finances and other assets. It will also be great to work with our Board's Development and Membership Development teams, as these three committees' goals and interests have important similarities and interrelationships key to realizing the possibilities for synergy in improving the overall success of our Section, focusing on strengthening our human and fiscal resources, especially relating to continuing to strengthen our relationship with our fiscal sponsor, Peace Development Fund, and being able to learn more from them as we grow our resources.

If elected, this will be the second time I will be serving in this position, having been elected by our members and then taking office for the 2008 term in that summer in Des Moines, at the end of the 2008 Triennial Congress, as was the norm for the Board term cycles during that period.

For most of the time since then, we have learned to rely more heavily on our membership than we had done in earlier time. We began the practice of accomplishing much of our infrastructure support by using the services of some incredibly talented people on whom we have relied who are serving WILPFUS. These part-time independent contractors provide a panoply of support in areas including administrative, fiscal and database, broadcast communications (Peace & Freedom, eNews, eAlerts and our website) and interpersonal communications (listservs), and more. Again, since 2008, our national Board members who chair standing committees and the general members whose volunteer service on those standing committees have all taken on much more hands-on roles than had been necessary prior to 2008. Members who have served as Treasurer (and chair of our standing Finance Committee) through 2022 have provided excellent stewardship of our financial resources. Again, I cite again to the good work accomplished by our current Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair (whose service has reached the maximum of six consecutive years and who is therefore "termed out")..

For us to be able to continue our work, we need to continue to safeguard the fiscal resources we have and sparingly contract for outside service providers (independent contractors providing administrative services that we need) so that the funds we have in hand will last us so that we can keep paying for those services that are absolutely necessary for us to keep operating and to grow.

We have had great guardians in our Treasurers/Finance Committee Chairs and in the members volunteering their service as Finance Committee members. We must continue such careful utilization of our resources while encouraging our "income committees" – Development (for raising funds and fiscal resources) – and Membership Development (for dealing with all aspects of energizing current members to grow and establish branches and ways to find potential members in possible new communities of interest – whether in colleges and universities, civic and activist organizations, PTAs, religious organizations, community organizations and other kindred activist organizations. And while these kinds of outreach actions are being encouraged, the Treasurer and members of the Finance Committee need to continue to work with our fiscal sponsor, the Peace Development Fund, to make sure our funds are safe and growing in value, and we can also encourage

efforts to find new donors and other sources of funds, as well. I hope to be part of that process and seek your vote to elect me to the position of Treasurer (and Finance Committee Chair) to be able to do so.

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

I have many decades of management, administrative, academic, legal, fiscal research, and governance experience in a wide variety of situations that will all be applicable to my service in this position. Please see information on non-WILPF work on my Activist Bio.

5. What skills can you offer in this position?

I bring prior service in this position in WILPFUS (see above), plus legal-based, fiscal-based, interpersonal experience-based, skills, plus a full panoply of office-related skills and abilities. I am IT literate and can read and construct spreadsheets, balance sheets, and ledger entries in an accounting setting.

Please be sure to review and “check” (some kind of check or X in place of the small square) the additional BOARD MEMBER’S COMMITMENTS on this and the following page – and then sign.

BOARD MEMBER’S COMMITMENTS

Being a board member requires a high level of dedication and commitment that extends beyond attending board meetings. The investment of time, talent, and treasure that each board member makes to our organization is deeply appreciated.

In addition to the specific job duties of each board member, I agree to all the following:

- (1) To serve (or complete) a 3-year term (or the remaining portion of the term), barring unforeseen circumstances, and to have access to — and be willing to communicate on board business with — email.
- (2) To attend virtually and make an active contribution at all regular board meetings. Regular board meetings are held every other month, although special meetings may also be scheduled.
- (3) To attend one in-person board meeting per year. In-person Board meetings are a critical part of Board development. (This in-person requirement is waived if the candidate can demonstrate a health reason, or other extremely compelling reason, that prevents him/her from attending. In this case, the candidate must be present by phone or virtual means for the meeting.)
- (4) If a member of the Steering Committee (SC), to plan to attend SC meetings. These are usually scheduled about every other month. At this time, the SC consists of all board members, except the At-Large Board Member(s). (The SC membership is specified in the Bylaws.)
- (5) To make WILPF one's priority activist involvement during the board term.
- (6) To commit to working as a team following the democratic arts of conflict resolution, facilitation, collaboration, and delegation and to develop a respectful working relationship with all WILPF staff and board members.

- (7) To participate in discussions and take responsibility for making decisions on US WILPF issues, policies, and other board matters. This includes participating in the deliberations on and passage of the annual budget and, as needed, making subsequent budget decisions.
- (8) To be collectively responsible, with the full Board, for the fiscal health of the organization by keeping one's membership current and by making additional monetary contributions to WILPF US.
- (9) To be cognizant of integrating fundraising, membership building, and program. Board members are asked to seek out and invite potential members to join our organization.
- (10) To promote WILPF locally as opportunities arise through one's professional, personal, and social network.
- (optional) To serve on ad hoc committees and to provide articles relevant to work area for the eNews.

"Signed" (By submitting this application from the email address above that you present as yours, this application will be considered as "signed" by applicant.)

"Signed" Name: Barbara L Nielsen

Date:

16 October 2022