

CANDIDATE STATEMENT – BARBARA L NIELSEN

My name is Barbara L Nielsen and I am a candidate for the position of Treasurer (and Finance Committee Chair). I joined WILPF in 1971 (Berkeley branch (now East Bay), inspired by my mentors in the Berkeley branch, especially 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 WILPF in 2005 and have been and am an active member and participant at the local, regional, national and international levels as well as being a part of the WILPF Delegation's presence at the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women annual meetings, including involvement in various aspects of the US Section's Student Practicum in Advocacy and our Local 2 Global Project. I am a Life Member. A Californian, I am in the San Francisco branch.

If elected, this will be the second time I will be serving in this position of Treasurer (and Finance Committee Chair), 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.

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 Fun, and being able to learn more from them as we grow our resources.

