

## **Julie Leak**

**Position:** At-Large Board Member - full term, ends January 2028

Raleigh, NC

Line of work/profession: Previously Legal Secretary

1. As a mission-driven membership organization it means we, as a collective, work to achieve our goal of abolishing war and nuclear weapons as our primary duty. To accomplish our goals we must build the membership and raise funds to continue our work for economic and social justice. It is more important than ever that shifts be made in federal spending away from the war economy. Our mission is clear.
2. I have been a member of the WILPF DMV (District, Maryland, Virginia) for two years. I was displaced from New York in 2020 due to Covid 19 and spent considerable time in Washington. I attended a number of meetings and events as they were in the process of reactivating the Branch.
3. While it was not clear to me if I would qualify, I was encouraged by the members of the DMV Branch to apply and I spoke with a current Board member at the UN in September. I now feel it would be a good fit for my interests, passion, skills and current living situation.
4. I have participated in many actions with Code Pink which is also a Women's Peace Organization where teach-ins are used for education and followed up with congressional action to support the goal of peace.
5. I would say the skills I have to offer would be commitment, courage, communication, planning/organization and persistence to adapt to challenges.

## **Candidate Statement**

My name is Julie Leak and I am a candidate for the At Large Board member.

Many activists my age (77) tell me their life as an activist began with the Vietnam War. It was much later for me. I was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 1984 and was elected to the Vestry. That was the first time I participated in an official capacity in an organization. At that time I joined the Episcopal Peace Fellowship which started by engagement with social justice issues. At that time there were many community issues in Raleigh but two national issues of concern to many - Apartheid in South Africa and Palestine. Demonstrating against Apartheid was a first for me.

Fast forward to New York City 2009 where I had become an advocate for Single Payer Health Care and met the New York Raging Grannies. Singing about all the issues moved me in directions I could not have imagined. All the issues become important when you learn about them through song and sing those words.

Whether I am successful at this election or not I plan to continue some research I have started as I remember hearing that somehow WILPF was involved in starting the Raging Grannies so that is on my to do list for the coming year. There is no longer an active branch here and I do believe there should be one so I will do my best to move this along.

I must admit to not having an Activist Resume and quite frankly never knew there was such a thing until I saw it at the last minute preparing this and asked Google! Wonders never cease. So if not now perhaps next year.

[Julie's bio is included in her candidate statement.]

### **Letter 1**

2) Board position(s) for which you recommend this individual for consideration as a nominee:

At large or any position she requests

3) How do you know this individual and for how long?

I have known Julie for almost 2 years—as long as I have been in WILPF myself.

4) Please list three reasons why you are nominating this individual.

Julie is committed to peace.

Julie takes the time to understand issues before expressing a position on them.

Julie gets along very well with others.

Julie is a longtime peace and justice activist, who brings the perspective of a woman of African descent to our work.

5) What WILPF experiences/activism/background of this member makes you think of this person as a good fit for national service on the board? What talents, experiences, and skills do you believe this member will bring to the WILPF US section/board?

See number 4.

6) Have you advised the nominee of your nomination of him/her?

Yes.

Jill Clark-Gollub

### **Letter 2**

2) Board position(s) for which you recommend this individual for consideration as a

nominee:

Any

3) How do you know this individual and for how long?

2+ years

4) Please list three reasons why you are nominating this individual.

1. Ms. Julie's exceptional organization and communications skills: anytime you see Ms. Julie she will have a folder in her hand with artifacts, documents, and printouts of emails that pertain to the matter that she is participating in. Her decades spent as a legal secretary means that she is always organizing her work as part of a larger strategy and fully present in the moment that she is participating in so that she can ensure that whatever is accomplished in that moment doesn't stop there but continues growing and gathering momentum after the fact.

2. Ms. Julie is both very active in direct actions and organizing as well as a strategic thinker: in any given week, she might be attending protests, conferences, and meetings in 3 different cities. Most people who are this active might not have the capacity to think long-term and strategically. That is not the case with Ms. Julie – I often seek her advice and input on things I am working on and cherish her strength in being able to place the particular immediate action into a long-term trajectory that gives it more meaning.

3. While she has only been officially a member of WILPF for 2 years she has been attending meetings for over a decade and has deep institutional knowledge of the Peace-Growing space and a large, varied network of many people who respect her deeply. I am particularly interested in seeing how Ms. Julie can use this institutional knowledge and her participation in the New York City Branch before it was sunsetted. I hope that she can be part of reviving that Branch so as to fortify our presence there with the UN and other international organizations.

5) What WILPF experiences/activism/background of this member makes you think of this person as a good fit for national service on the board? What talents, experiences, and skills do you believe this member will bring to the WILPF US section/board?

Ms. Julie is someone who Shows Up holistically and stays consistent. She has done this through her activations with the Raging Grannies, Code Pink, various Solidarity Networks and of course WILPF. She also manages to get along with everyone, which is rare for our space. Also her lived experience as an African Descendent of Enslaved Peoples who grew up in the South and still has strong ties to her home, family and community in North Carolina grounds her activism in work that is instantly practicable.

6) Have you advised the nominee of your nomination of him/her?

Yes!

Tara Vassef