



## **WOMEN IN PUBLIC FINANCE**

*26 Years of Cultivating Connections*

### **2022 REPORT**



26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference – Scottsdale, AZ



## A MESSAGE FROM 2022 BOARD PRESIDENT Sheila Duffy

At the outset of this 26<sup>th</sup> year of Women in Public Finance, in last year's annual report, I promised a year dedicated to setting the tone for the years to come with an in-depth strategic planning process and with efforts to raise the profile of our valuable organization, leveraging strategic alliances with like-minded organizations.

I am happy to report that we made great progress on all of our key priorities for 2022. We formed a strategic alliance with the Bond Buyer to increase exposure for WPF and promotion of our excellent programming. We made the cover of a national publication! Bond Dealers of America featured WPF in their summer issue of their quarterly publication *FIXED INCOME INSIGHTS*.

Regarding the important work of strategic planning, we engaged board members, both current and past, to come together for two days in Denver and develop a strategic plan for the next five years. Twenty-eight people made the trip to Denver for the day of planning discussions, led by our strategic planning facilitator, Martha Newton of Fairchance, LLC, a New York based, woman owned non-profit consulting firm.

We engaged in lively discussions about the direction and value of our fine organization, revealing the passion that all these public finance leaders have for our mission. Martha Newton produced a summary report, which is available to members to read.

We value our members, our chapters and our sponsors and all of our friends across the nation. We are committed to providing opportunity for growth and education for our members, supporting careers and promoting diversity within the public finance industry. Many thanks to all of you!

**OUR MISSION:** Support and advance the careers of women in public finance by fostering relationships and networking and providing educational and learning activities and forums.

## WOMEN IN PUBLIC FINANCE 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Back (L to R):** Julie Santamaria, Christine Pihl, Tina Wilson, Pam Holton, Biljana Seki, Kelly Hutchinson, Sandy MacLennan, Kathleen Bowe, Elizabeth Bowes, Jessica Lamendola, Jennifer Fredericks.

**Front (L to R):** Elizabeth Funk, Kayla MacEwen, Sheila Duffy, Ritta McLaughlin, Marcie Lewis

\*Missing from the photo:



Angelique David



Kathy Miles



Patricia Rodriguez

### WPF BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President:** Sheila Duffy  
**VP, Board Development and Governance:** Angelique David  
**VP, Chapters:** Kayla MacEwen  
**VP, Conference:** Jennifer Fredericks

**Immediate Past President:** Ritta McLaughlin  
**Secretary:** Sandy MacLennan  
**Treasurer:** Marcie Lewis  
**Deputy Treasurer:** Pamela Holton

### BOARD MEMBERS (alphabetical)

Kathleen Bowe  
 Elizabeth Bowes  
 Elizabeth Funk  
 Kelly Hutchinson

Jessica Lamendola  
 Kathleen Miles  
 Christine Pihl  
 Patricia Rodriguez

Julie Santamaria  
 Biljana Seki  
 Tina Wilson

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Communications:** Biljana Seki  
**Education:** Kathleen Bowe  
**Membership:** Christine Pihl

**Mentorship:** Elizabeth Funk, Emily Alwood  
**Scholarship:** Jessica Lamendola

## CHAPTERS AND CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

### ALABAMA

**Marcie Lewis**  
PFM Financial Advisors LLC

### BOSTON

**Jennifer Capasso Mendonça**  
Locke Lord LLP

### CHICAGO

**Sharone Levy**  
Nixon Peabody LLP

### FLORIDA

**Kathryn Driver**  
Housing Finance Authority of Pinellas County

### GEORGIA

**Fadzai Konteh**  
PNC

### INDIANA

**Katy Clayton**  
First Internet Bank

### IOWA

**Cristina Kuhn**  
Dorsey & Whitney LLP

### KANSAS & MISSOURI

**Sarah D. Sanchez**  
UMB

### LOS ANGELES

**Mieke Holkeboer**  
Western Alliance Bank  
  
**Anna Sarabian**  
Fieldman Rolapp & Associates

### LOUISIANA

**Mary Guidry**  
Investar Bank

### MARYLAND

**Anna C. Horevay**  
McGuireWoods LLP

### MINNESOTA

**Jessica Cameron Mitchell**  
PFM Financial Advisors LLC

### MOUNTAIN REGION

**Erika Coombs**  
Piper Sandler & Co.

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**Bree Mawhorter**  
City and County of San Francisco

### OHIO

**Emily Cannon**  
PNC Capital Markets LLC

### OKLAHOMA

**Melissa Westfall**  
Hilborne and Weidman, P.C.

### SAN DIEGO

**Toni-Marie Kahre**  
San Diego County Water Authority

### TENNESSEE

**Carol Ward**  
City of Memphis, TN

### PACIFIC NORTHWEST

**Christi Jacobsen**  
Hillis Clark Martin & Peterson P.S.

### TEXAS

**Amanda Stephens**  
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

### VIRGINIA

**Giedre S. Ball**  
Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority

### WISCONSIN

**Tatiana Graver**  
Wisconsin Health & Educational Facilities Authority  
(WHEFA)

## OUR STORY

Founders Courtney Shea, Sarah Eubanks, Lois Scott, and Nancy Remar had a vision in 1997 that the public finance industry needed more support for women, so they decided to launch Women in Public Finance (WPF). WPF began as a Chicago based organization and has grown over these decades to 22 regional chapters, ultimately drawing interest and participation from all over the United States. WPF is national membership organization with chapters, individual members, and affiliates throughout the United States. Our values are grounded in leadership development to advance women in public finance through mentoring, educational and scholarship programs and relationship building. Members in the organization represent many facets of the industry including state and local government issuers, investment bankers, commercial bankers, attorneys, financial advisors, rating agency analysts, bond insurers, and trust officers, among others. The 2022 Board coordinated benefits for WPF members through the following Board Committees:

### STANDING COMMITTEES

- Board Development and Governance
- Chapters
- Communications
- Conference
- Education
- Membership
- Mentorship
- Scholarship

### AD HOC COMMITTEE

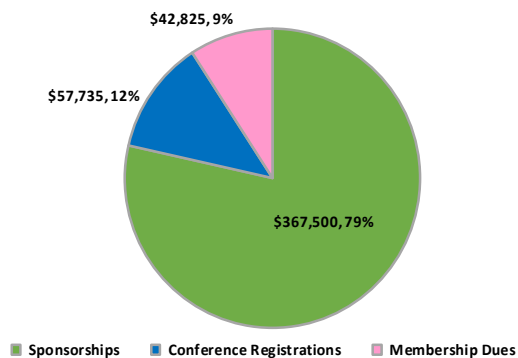
- Strategic Planning

The Board of Directors of Women in Public Finance welcomes indications of interest from chapter members willing to serve on committees and provide ‘womanpower’ necessary to further the Board’s mission of supporting and advancing the careers of women in public finance.

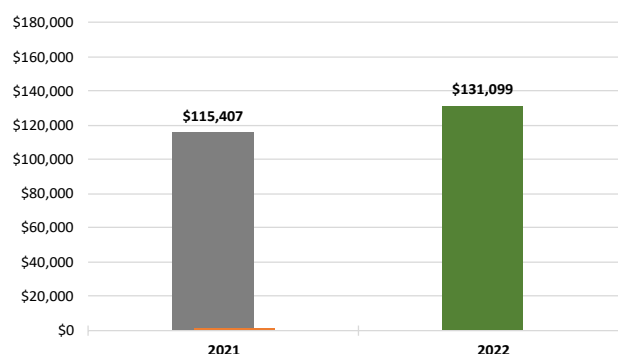
## FINANCIALS

With thanks to our many supporters, WPF’s net income has increased year-over-year by 14% from \$115,407 in 2021 to \$131,099 in 2022. The WPF income sources are sponsorships, conference registrations and membership dues. The sponsorship monies account for 79% of the annual budget.

**2022 Income Sources**



**Annual Net Income Comparison**



## 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

### WPF SPOTLIGHTING WOMEN

We have continued our [Spotlighting Women](#) series on our website, which acknowledges, celebrates, and shares the remarkable stories of women in the public finance industry who have been willing to take risks and pave the way for future generations of professionals. Listed below are those accomplished women who were spotlighted in 2022.

- Nicole Conley, Texas
- Sheila Duffy, Colorado
- Jennifer Fredericks, Illinois
- Teri Guarnaccia, Maryland
- Natalie Jaresko, Puerto Rico
- Genevieve Jopanda, California
- Carol Polumbo, Texas
- Marina Scott, Utah

### MEMBERSHIP

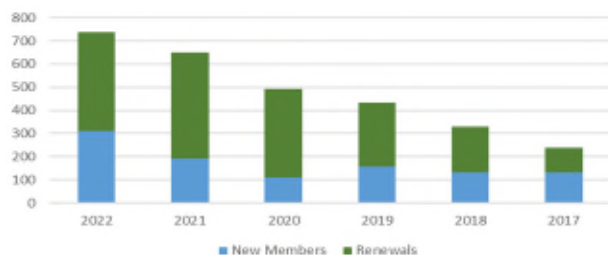
#### Chair: Christine Pihl

WPF saw continued growth in membership in 2022 ending the year with 702 dues-paying members, our largest membership ever, compared to 651 members in 2021. This is a 14% increase since 2021 and a 3x increase since 2017.

Notably, a membership drive was held in July, **Bring a Friend to WPF Month** which added new members. 53 new members were added that month compared to 35 new members for the same period last year, an increase of 20 members.



**WPF National Annual Membership Comparison**



## SCHOLARSHIP

### **Chair:** Jessica Lamendola

To encourage young women to consider careers in public finance, the Scholarship Committee recognizes college-bound high school students and both undergraduate and graduate school students who have exhibited scholastic achievement and demonstrated leadership skills by awarding scholarships. In addition to the opportunity for an award, scholarship recipients are afforded the opportunity to meet established women in the public finance industry and learn about career options. In 2022, 15 National Scholarships – totaling \$15,000 – were granted to aspiring public finance female professionals.

#### National Scholarship Winners

<b>EMILY CHENSKI</b> – <i>Hopewell Junction, NY</i>	<b>NICOLE CHANAGA</b> – <i>North Hills, CA</i>
<b>HOLLY DIPALO</b> – <i>Merrick, NY</i>	<b>MEGHA PRASAD</b> – <i>Lexington, MA</i>
<b>ALISA FINE</b> – <i>Clearwater, FL</i>	<b>ALANA C. RAMIREZ</b> – <i>El Paso, TX</i>
<b>TATIANNA FRECKLETON</b> – <i>Nutley, NJ</i>	<b>RIMSHA REEM</b> – <i>Bayonne, NJ</i>
<b>NATALIE MADRIGAL</b> – <i>Downey, CA</i>	<b>LIANA ROKH</b> – <i>San Francisco, CA</i>
<b>EMILY MAIDA</b> – <i>Fredericksburg, VA</i>	<b>DANIELLA SIRLEAF</b> – <i>Philadelphia, PA</i>
<b>ELLEN MCDONOUGH</b> – <i>Des Moines, IA</i>	<b>VANESSA VIRGIL</b> – <i>Fruitland, MD</i>
<b>JESSICA NEUHARTH</b> – <i>Owatonna, MN</i>	



## EDUCATION

### **Chair:** Kathleen Bowe

The Education Committee supports the organization’s mission by providing educational opportunities and resources designed to advance the careers of women in the public finance industry. By developing, facilitating, and promoting educational offerings, members enhance their knowledge of the industry, develop unique skillsets and hone leadership skills. In 2022, WPF hosted webinars on technical, industry-relevant topics as well as leadership and professional development training. Our webinars included:

- Protecting Your Organization from a Cyber Attack;
- Women’s Leadership Panel; and
- Book Club Featuring Marina Scott, Municipal Issuer and Historical Fiction Writer.

## MENTORSHIP

### Chair: Elizabeth Funk

Mentorship is one of the most important tools for professional development and has been linked to greater productivity, career advancement, and professional satisfaction. WPF recognizes that mentorship is critical in helping to nurture and grow future leaders, maintain current industry leaders, and provide an opportunity for current members to remain engaged. The mentorship program launched in 2019, has doubled in size each year and continues to provide opportunities for women to grown and learn from each other.





## CHAPTERS

### VP: Kayla MacEwen

We continued to make progress on Illinois incorporation for each chapter with the goal of this process being completed in 2023. We are in the process of adding another east coast chapter in early 2023 and potentially two other chapters by the end of 2023. Chapter collaboration played a key role in 2022 with the sharing and co-hosting of virtual events. We also took time to focus on feedback from chapters, assist chapters on best practices and scholarship programs, and organize a value proposition for chapter membership drives.

### Chapter Scholarship Winners

**RACHEL SAAL** – Boston  
**RACHAEL RANDALL** – Indiana  
**MELANIE FRANCESCHINI**– Los Angeles  
**KAYLEE CAMPBELL** – Minnesota  
**MAYA NELSON** – Minnesota  
**LAUREN STREFF** – Minnesota  
**JENNA VEENKER** – Minnesota  
**ASTRID ALVARADO** – Texas  
**JENNIFER DUPLESSIS** – Texas

**SARAH GIFFORD** – Texas  
**LILY ANNA NICHOLS** – Texas  
**PERLA ROMERO** – Texas  
**SYDNEY NICOLE SCOTT** – Texas  
**KELLY YIN** – Texas  
**ABBY BERRY** – Virginia  
**GILLIAN HEDRICK** – Virginia  
**DORIAN PHILPOT** – Virginia

### WPF NATIONAL ORGANIZATION 2022 AT A GLANCE: 22 TOTAL CHAPTERS



**CONFERENCE**

**VP: Jennifer Fredericks**

**Host: WPF Mountain Region, Erika Coombs**



## 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Managing through the pandemic and following, WPF hosted its 26<sup>th</sup> annual conference in 2022 that was sold out. Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, and Christine Whitney Sanchez, Chief Culture Officer at Arizona State University's Technology Office and President of Innovation Partners International of the Southwest LLC,



our keynote speakers shared thoughtful and inspirational messages.

The fireside chat with Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch and WPF's Board President, Sheila Duffy was insightful. Ambassador Yovanovitch, who has decades of experience in Ukraine, Russia, and the many other countries that emerged from the former Soviet Union, shared her insights on the region and the current crisis, as well as experiences from her 33-year career in the U.S. Foreign Service and how she navigated her career as a woman in a predominantly male culture.



In her keynote, Christine shares her large-scale change philosophy and experience as an international consultant and as the Chief Culture Officer for Enterprise Technology at Arizona State University. She facilitated a Strategic Influence World Cafe to engage participants in developing a simple action plan for engaging stakeholders in collaborative strategic influence.



***DEI Continuing the Conversation From Mentorship to Deal Teams***  
Melissa Smith, Maria C. Sazon, Tina Wilson, Trenea Parvello



***People Commit to What They Help Create***  
Christine Whitney Sanchez



***Courageous Conversations Panel***  
Nicole Lance, Sintra Hoffman, Dawn Lang, Angela Bricmont, Margaret Danuser

## 2022 FOUNDERS' AWARDS RECIPIENTS

### Lifetime Achievement Award



**Ms. Ritta McLaughlin** is the director of investor education community outreach at the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation. In this

capacity, she serves as an expert on various personal finance and investor education topics, emphasizing communities of diverse cultures and socio-economic backgrounds. Ms. McLaughlin is responsible for cultivating and managing strategic partnerships with national and local organizations to enable and deliver innovative financial capability programming and foster engagement with diverse communities. She

serves as an advocate for informing and educating diverse communities about saving and investing. In this role, Ms. McLaughlin enhances FINRA's efforts to educate and empower diverse communities and increase engagement by delivering innovative financial capability programming. She also collaborates with researchers on studies to advance the understanding of diverse communities' financial capabilities, circumstances, and well-being. Prior to joining the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, Ms. McLaughlin served as the Chief Education Officer for the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB), served as deputy treasurer for the District of Columbia and worked as an investment banker in her early career. Ms. McLaughlin served as President of the Board of the National Women in Public Finance in 2021 and serves as a member of the Race, Equity and Bond Markets Advisory Group of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and an Advisory Board Member of the District of Columbia Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund. Also, she is a Founding Member of the Board of Governors for the Association for Public Finance Professionals of the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia (APFP). Most recently she served as an Advisory Board Member for the State of California's COVID-19 Taskforce for CEFA and CHFFA. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Policy from Vassar College and a Master's Degree in Urban Policy and Management from The New School for Social Research.

### She's Our Hero Award



**Kathleen Belden** is a Vice President in BMO Harris Bank's Institutional Markets group, focusing on education and not-for-profit clients throughout the U.S. Kathleen currently serves as the sector lead for not-for-profit educational institutions, with primary focus on private colleges and private K through 12 schools. She has years of experience in structuring, underwriting, and managing banking relationships with tax-exempt organizations. She regularly produces thought leadership content on the sector for BMO Harris' Educational Institutions site. She is actively involved with WPF, including as Founding Member and Past President of

WPF's Chicago Chapter and co-chair of the 2020 and 2021 National Conferences. Kathleen has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana.

### Claire Goodman Rising Star Award



**Toni-Marie Kahre** is currently a Senior Management Analyst with the San Diego County Water Authority. Toni-Marie joined the Water Authority in 2019 as an Assistant Management Analyst in the Budget and Treasury division of the Finance Department. She has made significant contributions to high profile and complex Water Authority financial projects such as debt refundings, the FY 2022 and 2023 Budgets, the 2021 Long-Range Financing Plan, and the Series 2022A bond issuance. Previously, Toni-Marie was a Relationship Specialist at Chandler Asset Management, a San Diego fixed income investment firm, working

closely with the sales & marketing team to drive strategic business development initiatives. Toni-Marie obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, Emphasis in Finance, from San Diego State University and currently serves as the President of the San Diego Chapter of WPF.



## RISING STAR AWARD RENAMED IN MEMORY OF CLAIRE GOODMAN



In May of 2022 we lost Claire Goodman, at the age of 41. A friend, public finance colleague, international traveler, proud Canadian and dog lover, many had the privilege of working closely with Claire and getting to know her on a personal level. Claire was born in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, on March 8, 1981 to Gregory and Barbara Goodman. She graduated from Lethbridge Collegiate Institute in 1999 before obtaining an undergraduate degree in Economics from the University of Lethbridge followed by a Master’s Degree in Economics from the University of Georgia.

She moved to Chicago to pursue a career in finance. She joined Scott Balice Strategies and later Public Financial Management (PFM) where, for more than a decade, she built a stellar career in public finance. She cared deeply about her work with her clients and colleagues, and fondly referred to her work with government clients as feel-good finance. Working with Lois Scott, one of WPF’s four Founders, Claire is remembered as a rising star.

“It seems like yesterday that I hired Claire, a newly minted economist with a quick mind and warm smile,” said Scott, who currently sits on several boards including the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago and Kroll Bond Rating Agency and is a co-founder of the 51 Fund. “To watch her bloom and grow to become such an important part of the public finance community was the privilege of a lifetime.”

“Claire was smart, well-prepared, analytic, insightful, never dropped the ball and had a wonderful, quirky sense of humor,” Scott said. “Her clients worshipped her and always told me what a special person she was. She made a difference every day in making communities across the country stronger and more resilient places.”

Though she was based in Chicago, travel was one of her greatest passions, taking her across the globe. She loved planning yearly trips to far off places, recently traveling to Russia, Vietnam, China, South Africa, and Denmark. She also loved to cook, a skill supplemented by a vast collection of cookbooks she collected from her many travels, and greatly enjoyed cooking far too much food for loved ones and friends. Claire also loved dogs and her rescue pit bull, Hot Sauce, was her constant companion, whether it was having a beer on the patio of one of her favorite restaurants or curled up next to her while reading a book.

In memory of our friend and colleague gone too soon, the National WPF’s Rising Star Award, going forward, will be named the Claire Goodman Rising Star Award.

### PAST FOUNDERS’ AWARDS RECIPIENTS

#### 2021

- Lifetime Achievement Award** – Rachael Eubanks
- She’s Our Hero Award** – Suzanne Beitel, Nancy J. Remar
- Rising Star Award** – Danielle Scott

#### 2020

*Virtual Conference, No Awards Presented*

#### 2019

- Lifetime Achievement Award** – Darlene Green
- She’s Our Hero Award** – Stephanie Tomblin
- Rising Star Award** – Gabriella Briceno

#### 2018

- Lifetime Achievement Award** – Karen Daly
- She’s Our Hero Award** – Emily Brock
- Rising Star Award** – Lori Schreckengost

## COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT AT THE 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



***26 welcome baskets  
filled by WPF members***

Founded in 1964, UMOM is in Phoenix, Arizona and is an innovative provider of shelter, housing and services for people experiencing homelessness. UMOM restores hope and rebuilds lives by providing shelter, services and affordable housing for people experiencing homelessness. UMOM provides shelter and services to more than 800 families and 800 single women every year.

On Friday, September 23, 2022, WPF conference attendees assembled 26 welcome baskets for families seeking services at UMOM to celebrate our 26 years of advancing women's leadership opportunities. The baskets are handed out at intake at UMOM and are full of personal care items so that families can enjoy a hot shower with the comfort of their own supplies. These baskets play a large role in the life of a person who is working to overcome homelessness.



*Scenes from the  
26th Annual Conference*



PRESENTING SPONSOR



FOUNDERS' AWARD EVENT SPONSOR



CONFERENCE SPONSORS





## MORNING PROGRAM SPONSORS



## AFTERNOON PROGRAM SPONSORS



## POST CONFERENCE EVENT SPONSORS



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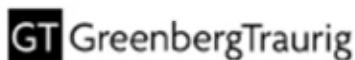
## DIGITAL SPONSOR



## PLATINUM SPONSORS



## GOLD SPONSORS



## SILVER SPONSORS



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPONSORS



## BRONZE SPONSORS



## MEDIA SPONSOR

## THE BOND BUYER



## BECOME A MEMBER

***Continue the vision of the WPF Founders***

<https://www.wpfc.com/become-a-member/#join>

- Attend webinars, at no charge, to build skills and network with industry experts
- Learn from and share your experiences in the Mentorship Program
- Contribute your knowledge and expertise on Board Committee to advance WPF and support women in the industry

And so much more!

## SERVE AS A BOARD MEMBER

***Dedicated, enthusiastic and creative women  
lead among leaders!***

***Application Deadline  
September 30, 2023***

***Selection and Notification  
December 2023***

***Three-year Term Begins  
January 1, 2024***

# ***Cultivating Connections!***

Learn more at [wpfc.com](https://www.wpfc.com)

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SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE



# 27th Annual Conference

September 21-22, 2023



Joining  
Forces

Salamander  
Washington, DC



## Women in Public Finance

c/o Municipal Advisory Council of Texas  
600 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
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