

# 2024 Winter Edition NEWSLETTER



## *President's Letter*

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the TX WPF community. We have accomplished so much already in the 2023-24 fiscal year, and I am filled with gratitude to be serving as President of such a wonderful group of women.

Our Events Committee has organized some incredible events. The Houston region hosted a private showing of the Barbie movie. The San Antonio region held an educational seminar on Positive Arbitrage. During the holiday season, the DFW region hosted an ornament-decorating craft party, while the Austin and Houston regions hosted painting classes. San Antonio also held a wine tasting event. Make sure to check the TX WPF website and ensure you are receiving our emails to stay updated on upcoming events. The Events Committee always welcomes suggestions for social activities and educational seminars, so please don't hesitate to share your ideas.

The highlight of the year for me was our Annual Conference, which took place on January 18-19, 2024, in Austin. The Annual Conference Committee did an outstanding job organizing a variety of panels on topics such as the industry outlook for 2024 and legislative impacts to municipalities. We also had an exercise on effective mentoring. During the networking happy hour before the conference, we had a Kendra Scott pop-up shop where attendees could shop for beautiful jewelry while supporting a great cause. Thanks to your support, we were able to donate \$391 to our chosen beneficiary charity, Vogel. To learn more about Vogel and the important work they do, please visit their website at <https://vogelalcove.org>.

I would also like to share some exciting news about our Scholarship committee. They are gearing up to kick off the 2024 Scholarship application process. This committee is dedicated to finding women who are interested in pursuing careers in public finance and providing them with financial assistance. In the 2023-24 school year, TX WPF awarded a total of \$14,000 in scholarships. Our annual sponsorship funding allows us to provide more scholarship funds than any other local WPF Chapter. Additionally, the Mentoring Committee will work hand-in-hand with the scholarship winners to pair them with mentors within our organization, offering guidance and support as they embark on their career journeys.

I want to take a moment to commend our Newsletter, Website, and Social Media committees for their hard work in keeping our members informed and connected. With members spread across such a large state, it's no small feat to ensure everyone is up-to-date on all things TX WPF. These committees deliver engaging content and useful information to our members.

Lastly, I want to express my deep admiration for all the time and effort contributed by our committees and board members. It is truly remarkable to see how much we are able to accomplish thanks to the dedication of our volunteers. If you are interested in becoming more involved in TX WPF, I encourage you to consider joining a committee. It is a great way to contribute your skills and ideas while connecting with other like-minded professionals. And please, spread the word and encourage others to join as well. We are always looking to grow our community and make a greater impact together.

If you have any questions, ideas, or just want to connect, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at any time. I value your feedback and am here to support you. I look forward to seeing you at future TX WPF events and continuing to make a difference together.

*Kristel Richards Jech, President*



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## Executive Officers

Kristel Richards Jech – President  
US Bank

Michelle Straley – Vice President  
Veteran's Land Board

Nicole Conley – Secretary  
Siebert Williams Shank

Leslie Cook – Treasurer  
RBC Capital Markets

Laura Slaughter – Financial Officer  
MAC of Texas



## 2024 TEXAS WOMEN IN PUBLIC FINANCE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

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The Texas Chapter of Women in Public Finance operates a scholarship program that provides scholarships annually. Named after Katheryn “Kate” Anne Bechtold, a staunch advocate for equal access to opportunity and natural leader, the scholarship program was created to assist young women in their pursuit of higher education at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Additionally, the program also strives to encourage the consideration of careers in Public Finance and provide an opportunity for scholarship recipients to engage with seasoned professionals and learn about various career opportunities.

For 2024, there will be up to seven recipients in the following categories:

- Two (2) scholarships of \$1,000 to a college-bound, female high school senior;
- Two (2) scholarships of \$1,500 each to a female undergraduate student;
- Three (3) scholarships of \$3,000 each to a female graduate student.



**The Scholarship Committee is looking for volunteers to read and score the 2024 scholarships applications. Please reach out to Samantha Jones if you would like to help. [sejones@rwbaird.com](mailto:sejones@rwbaird.com)**

### Scholarship Key dates:

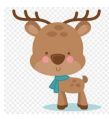
1/19/2024 – TXWPF scholarship applications are live on the website.

4/12/2024 – TXWPF scholarship applications are due.

4/24/2024 – application assignments and scoring presentation will be distributed to volunteer readers.

4/30/2024 – scores due from volunteer readers.

5/10/2024 – scholarship recipients will be notified.



## Save the Date: 2024 TX WPF Mentoring Kickoff Event

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It's our inaugural year to kick off the **Texas Women in Public Finance Mentoring Program** which is designed to enhance careers and provide personal benefits for professionals from all areas of public finance. Don't miss out on an opportunity to build your network and strategically develop your career across organizations. Together, we elevate each other through the power of supportive and meaningful mentor-mentee relationships.

**If you are interested in being a mentee, mentor, or both, please email the following details by February 16<sup>th</sup> to :**

[patty.fougerat@texascapitalbank.com](mailto:patty.fougerat@texascapitalbank.com) and [gera.mcguire@moodys.com](mailto:gera.mcguire@moodys.com)

**Subject:** TX WPF Mentoring

Name:

Current Company/Municipality:

Years in business:

Desire to be a Mentor, Mentee, Both:

Only current members of Texas Women in Public Finance are eligible to be a mentor or mentee. If you have not yet joined Tx WPF and would like to participate, we encourage you to become a member ASAP. [Click here to join TX WPF.](#)

**Save the Date**  
**2024 TXWPF Mentoring Kickoff**  
**Tuesday, March 5, 2024**  
**4:30 - 6:30 pm CT**  
**Virtual Location: TBA**

***TX WPF Mentoring Committee:***

Patty Fougerat (Co-Chair), Gera McGuire (Co-Chair), Courtney Okezie, and Amy Perez



## TEXAS WOMEN IN PUBLIC FINANCE COMMITTEES

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Community Service Committee – Kim Edwards, Tx State Comptroller

[kimberly.edwards@cpa.texas.gov](mailto:kimberly.edwards@cpa.texas.gov)

Events Committee – Lynette Bratton, Bratton & Associates

[lynette@bratton-associates.com](mailto:lynette@bratton-associates.com)

Legal Advisory Committee – Lynette Bratton, Bratton & Associates

[lynette@bratton-associates.com](mailto:lynette@bratton-associates.com)

Membership Committee – Marisol Warneke, Robert W Baird & Co.

[mwarneke@rwbaird.com](mailto:mwarneke@rwbaird.com)

Mentoring Committee – Gera McGuire, Moodys & Patty Fougerat, Texas Capital Bank

[gera.mcguire@moodys.com](mailto:gera.mcguire@moodys.com)

[patty.fougerat@texascapitalbank.com](mailto:patty.fougerat@texascapitalbank.com)

Newsletter Committee – Amy Perez, Harris County

[amy.perez@bmd.hctx.net](mailto:amy.perez@bmd.hctx.net)

Scholarship Committee – Samantha Jones, Robert W Baird & Co.

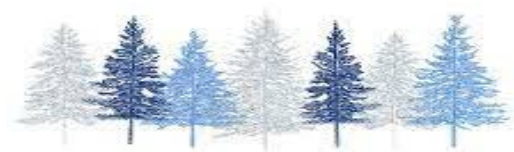
[sejones@rwbaird.com](mailto:sejones@rwbaird.com)

Sponsorship Committee – Taylor Klavan, Squire, Patton, Boggs

[taylor.klavan@squirepb.com](mailto:taylor.klavan@squirepb.com)

Website and Social Media Committee - Marisol Warneke, Robert W Baird & Co.

[mwarneke@rwbaird.com](mailto:mwarneke@rwbaird.com)





## ISSUER AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

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For those not aware, National WPF created a program last year to assist an Issuer with travel and expenses to attend the National Conference. Katrina Montgomery was the Issuer Ambassador representative from Texas in 2023.

- The program will be continuing in 2024. Based on feedback after last year's program, chapters will have more time to find new members and there are two options:

1. With five (5) new WPF members (including lapsed members), up to \$500 will be allocated towards travel and expenses related to one (1) Issuer Ambassador attending the annual conference.

OR

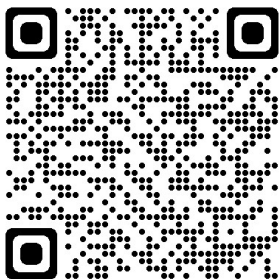
2. With ten (10) new WPF members, up to \$1000 will be allocated towards travel and expenses related to one (1) or two (2) Issuer Ambassadors attending the annual conference.

- Up to \$1000 can be allocated to a single Issuer Ambassador, or
- Up to \$500 each can be allocated to two Issuer Ambassadors

Issuer Ambassadors have a chance to meet and provide feedback on their experience.

We will need to have the minimum number of new National WPF members representing our chapter signed up by April 15 to qualify for the program.

QR code for quick access to signing up as a member.



## 28th Annual Conference

September 18-20, 2024

Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina  
San Diego, CA





When women  
support  
each other,  
Incredible  
things happen.

- [February 29<sup>th</sup>](#) – 3rd quarter Lunch & Learn – Dallas region (in person and virtual)
- [May](#) – 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Lunch & Learn – Houston region (in person and virtual)
- [Sept. 18-20<sup>th</sup>](#) - National WPF Annual Conference – San Diego, CA

Stay tuned – more social events coming soon in each region throughout the year!

WINTER



## Our Members in Action





