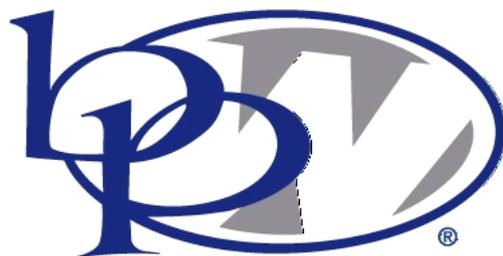


# TAR HEEL WOMAN

a publication of BPW/NC



## SPECIAL EDITION

## 2019-2020

## CANDIDATES FOR STATE OFFICE

Volume 94, Issue 5, Special Edition

April 9, 2019

# **TAR HEEL WOMAN**

**is a publication of North Carolina Federation of  
Business & Professional Women's Clubs**

## **BPW/NC Officers 2018-2019**

**President: Barbara Bozeman, Nashville**

**Vice President:**

**Treasurer: Linda Hardy, Nashville/Henderson**

**Recording Secretary: Julie Ueleke, Concord-Cabarrus**

**Parliamentarian: Barbara High-Tyre**

**Immediate Past State President - Elva Graham, Henderson**

### **BPW/NC Mission Statement**

The mission of BPW/NC is to provide professional and personal growth opportunities and to promote equity in the workplace.

### **BPW/NC Objectives**

- \* Improve outreach to North Carolina women to ensure membership growth of both local clubs and the Federation
- \* Promote program opportunities and resources for personal and professional growth for members across North Carolina
- \* Advocate for North Carolina working women and their families
- \* Promote structural changes to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federation

# Dates to Remember

## **APRIL 11: 8pm Candidates Forum via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/822276970>

Via Phone:

1-646-876-9923

Meeting Id: 822 276 970

## **APRIL 15: 8pm Candidates Forum via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/147293193>

Via Phone:

1-646-876-9923

Meeting Id: 147 293 193

## **APRIL 16: 8pm Candidates Forum via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/740789207>

Via Phone:

1-646-876-9923

Meeting Id: 740 789 207

**Election Poll Opens: April 21, 2019 at 12:01am**

**Election Poll Closes: May 5, 2019 at 11:59pm**

**BARBARA BOZEMAN**  
**NASHVILLE BPW**  
**CANDIDATE FOR STATE PRESIDENT**



**CANDIDATES FOR STATE VICE PRESIDENT**

**Linda Hardy**

**NASHVILLE /HENDERSON**

**BPW**

**Joanne Carfioli Naylor, Ph.D**

**MEMBER-AT-LARGE**



**DONNA WOOD**  
**NASHVILLE BPW**  
**CANDIDATE FOR STATE TREASURER**



**CANDIDATES FOR STATE SECRETARY**

**Emily Lemus**  
**NASHVILLE BPW**



**Vivian McPherson**  
**VIRGINIA-DARE BPW**



**CANDIDATES FOR STATE NOMINATIONS CHAIR**

**Melanie Miller**  
**CONCORD-CABARRUS BPW**



**Melody Barrett**  
**VIRGINIA-DARE BPW**





**BARBARA BOZEMAN  
NASHVILLE BPW  
CANDIDATE FOR STATE PRESIDENT**

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Born in Owego, New York, Barbara Bozeman was raised in Upstate New York and Rhode Island. A graduate of Middletown High School in 1982 and the Community College of RI in 1985, Barbara entered the US Air Force in April of 1989. For twenty years and twenty-two days, Barbara served her country as an Aircrew Life Support specialist. Along with taking care of safety and survival equipment for flyers, she provided survival training to flyers, and trained over 1,000 new members of her career field, as well as international military members. She also served as a member of the base Honor Guard and an Accident Investigator.

She is a recipient of two Meritorious Service Medals, multiple commendations and was honored as the #1 airman in her career field when she was awarded the Air Force Aircrew Life Support Airman of the Year Award. Barbara retired from the United States Air Force at the rank of E-7, Master Sergeant.

Since retiring from the Air Force in 2009, Barbara completed dual-majors in Human Resources and Business Management when she attended Mount Olive College. During her last year at Mount Olive College, she joined Wayne Duplin BPW. After graduating in 2012, she opened her first photography business, Sights & Hounds Photography.

As if running her own business, being a Chamber Ambassador and being part of the leadership of BPW weren't enough to keep her busy, Barbara manages to fit in time for her personal interests which include crocheting baby hats to support the American Heart Association, and work on renovating her home. Barbara owns a 1974 Shasta Compact Camper named "Lil" and is Sister #8523 of the group Sisters on the Fly – an organization dedicated to offering empowerment and sisterhood through exceptional outdoor adventures."

Currently, Barbara resides in Goldsboro, North Carolina. She serves as the State President for BPW/NC, is a member of the National Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs and is a member of Nashville BPW.

**BARBARA BOZEMAN**  
**NASHVILLE BPW**  
**CANDIDATE FOR STATE PRESIDENT**



**PLATFORM STATEMENT**

I seek your support to continue as the President of the BPW/NC for 2019-2020.

Since I joined in 2011, it has been my honor to be part of an organization that has led the charge in making the world a better place for women and men for the past 100 years. Every year has brought new experiences, challenges and new opportunities.

From Lincolnton to Nags Head, and many places in between, I have been fortunate to see first-hand how very talented and dedicated you all are. It is truly inspiring to see how the clubs have flourished over the past few years, despite any struggles or challenges endured. In October, I was honored to be present at the chartering ceremony for a new club in Chatham County.

I believe it is incumbent upon the leadership of BPW/NC to uphold the ideals of our platforms, while providing active and engaged support for our local clubs and communities. My goals for 2019-2020 include continuing to improve our processes and systems, promote our programs and members wherever and whenever I can, and to continue working toward getting the necessary structural improvements at Headquarters accomplished.

I wish to continue to lead the North Carolina Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs as President, for 2019-2020 and I thank you for your support.



**LINDA HARDY  
NASHVILLE / HENDERSON BPW  
CANDIDATE  
FOR STATE VICE PRESIDENT**

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

I was born in Baltimore, Maryland, and attended an all girl high school where we “Eastern Ladies” were taught that women could do whatever needed to be done. In the early 1960s this idea was pretty radical. Of course, as an only child of a father who believed his daughter could do anything a son could, I had already learned this lesson. Whether it was using tools to help with building and repair projects, taking apart and putting together machines, or playing sports, my father expected and encouraged me to excel. I also come from a long line of strong women whose husbands died young, leaving them to raise their children alone.

After high school I came to North Carolina to attend N.C. Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, received a BA in History, met and married a North Carolina native, and have remained in Rocky Mount ever since. I worked for 24 years in Halifax County teaching history, computers and competency lab skills in middle and high school. Then I moved to the Nash-Rocky Mount School System where I worked as a media coordinator in a middle school for the last 16 years of my career.

Since retirement my husband and I have done a lot of traveling and completed several projects around our home. I have remained active by taking a leadership position in forming and participating in the League of Women Voters of the Twin Counties, holding the position of treasurer since 2014; by being appointed to the Board of Trustees of Braswell Memorial Library by the Nash County Commissioners, currently serving as Vice Chair for the 2019-2020 term; and by working for the Nash County Board of Elections during early voting.

My husband and I have one son who lives in Rocky Mount. We are very proud that he will be awarded a master’s degree in Criminal Justice from N.C. Wesleyan College in May. We also have a god daughter, more like a daughter, who lives in Delaware and visits often. She has just become a grandmother for the third time. (I guess that make me a great grand grandmother.)

I have been a BPW member since 1978, have served on almost every committee on the local level and have held every office in the Rocky Mount club. Unfortunately, the Rocky Mount club folded last fall, my membership moved to the Nashville club where I was named assistant treasurer, and I have also joined the Henderson club. On the state level, I have served as vice president, treasurer, secretary, Board of Trustees member, and Foundation Board chair. I currently am serving as Federation treasurer.

If asked to name my greatest skill, I would have to say it is my organizational ability. I feel that my greatest strength is my dependability and my worse fault is expecting people to do what they say they will do.

My hobbies include reading, cross stitch, watching television, traveling, and collecting art

**LINDA HARDY  
NASHVILLE / HENDERSON BPW  
CANDIDATE  
FOR STATE VICE PRESIDENT**



**PLATFORM STATEMENT**

I believe in the principals on which BPW/NC was founded and the purposes for which it has continued to exist. Since it is foremost an organization of women helping women through its educational programs, its legislative platform, and its Foundation, I believe we need to strengthen our membership, expand our outreach, and make ourselves heard as an important voice for women. I believe we should continue to fight for women's rights, especially in this current climate where these rights are being threatened. We need to make every woman aware of these threats; make sure they understand that we are not currently equal to men in many areas, especially economically and politically. Women need to know their history from the fight our foremothers fought to gain the right to vote, through the time when we almost got the Equal Rights Amendment passed, to the present when such basic ideas as equal pay for equal work and reproductive rights are threatened. If women do not pay attention to what is happening in our country and the world, if they do not study the positions of their elected officials, if they do not take time to exercise that right to vote that our foremothers fought so hard to get, all our gains can be lost.

If I am elected Vice President of the Federation of Business and Professional Women, Incorporated, I promise to do my best to continue making our organization a strong voice for women.



**JOANNE CARFIOLI NAYLOR, Ph.D.  
MEMBER-AT-LARGE  
CANDIDATE  
FOR STATE VICE PRESIDENT**

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Dr. Joanne Carfioli Naylor, has dedicated her life to improving the lives of children and adults with communication disorders. She is the proud mother of an intelligent and independent teenage daughter who has experienced the excitement of BPW since birth. Dr. Jo has been a member of BPW in Texas as the Local Organization President of Corpus Christi BPW, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner up for Young Careerist of Texas, and in multiple positions in North Carolina at the local and state level, and as a Member at Large, and as a Virtual Member of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women after she moved to Provo, Utah.

Dr. Jo is currently an Assistant Professor for the Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology program at Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions. More than 97% of her students are women who are focused on improving the lives of children and adults who have deficits and challenges in communicating. Dr. Jo is also the faculty advisor for the National Student Speech-Language and Hearing Association at RMUoHP in Provo, Utah. She works with the faculty and students in her department and those in the fields of Physical Therapy, Physician's Assistants, Nursing, and Occupational Therapy on a daily basis. She also serves as the Continuing Education Chair of the Utah Speech-Language and Hearing Association and on the State Conference Planning Committee.

Dr. Jo continues to be dedicated to the increase in pay for women, equal rights for women, and the improvement of the lives of women in North Carolina and around the world. She is interested in becoming the Vice President of BPW-NC in order to provide support for the BPW-NC President, Executive Board, Foundation, and the current and future members of BPW-NC as the organization continues the mission of improving lives for the next 100 years.

**JOANNE CARFIOLI NAYLOR, Ph.D.  
MEMBER-AT-LARGE  
CANDIDATE  
FOR STATE VICE PRESIDENT**



**PLATFORM STATEMENT**

The success of BPW-NC is the result of 100 years of women dedicated to improving the lives of women in North Carolina and the world. The position of the Vice President is to support the President and the members of the organization. As Vice President I plan on continuing to support the President of BPW-NC and the mission of the organization who provide innovative and motivational programs to empower and improve the lives of the women in North Carolina. The mission of BPW-NC includes supporting the women of North Carolina professionally, personally, and politically.

My prior experience as a member of BPW-NC has been on multiple levels from a Local organization member of BPW of the Triad, the Foundation Scholarship Chair, the Federation Individual Development Chair, State Treasurer, and Convention Chair, and Board of Trustees Secretary, and as a Member at Large, have provided me with the skills and knowledge to support the President in all efforts to continue the mission of BPW-NC. The skills I have learned working with and for the women of North Carolina will continue to aid me in the support of the current mission and future directions of BPW-NC to improve their lives and the lives of women around the world.

The future of BPW-NC depends on the interprofessional and interpersonal collaboration of all current and futures members of BPW-NC and other organizations with similar goals focused on the goal of improving the lives of women in North Carolina and those in the rest of the world. If we are all to succeed, we must all work together to make the dreams of the founders of BPW-NC become reality. The time for women to use their professional, personal, and political skills to advance the status of women is now! All women need to work together to make equal pay, equal rights, and equal opportunities available for women of today and the women of the future.



**DONNA WOOD**  
**NASHVILLE BPW**  
**CANDIDATE FOR STATE TREASURER**

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Donna Wood is a Nash County, North Carolina native. She attended Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and began her accounting career as an auditor for KPMG in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Mrs. Wood has been a NC Local Government Finance Officer since 2010. She was hired in the position of Assistant Finance Officer in 2009 with Wilson County, NC and was promoted to the Finance Director where she served in that capacity until September 2014 when she was hired as the Nash County Finance Director.

Prior to working with Wilson and Nash County, Ms. Wood worked in Rocky Mount and Raleigh, North Carolina as well as Baltimore, Maryland in various assurance and Accounting Management roles connected to Government and Non Profit Programs and agencies.

Mrs. Wood is a Certified Public Accountant and a North Carolina Certified Local Government Finance Officer. She completed the Institute of Government's County Administration course in the spring of 2010 and has attended various courses and continuing education throughout her career.

**DONNA WOOD  
NASHVILLE BPW  
CANDIDATE FOR STATE TREASURER**



## **PLATFORM STATEMENT**

I am honored to have been nominated for this position by my local BPW Chapter. Accounting and Auditing have been my career and focus since I graduated from College in 1991.

The valuable qualities I would bring to the position of Treasurer primarily include my background and experience in accounting and auditing. I have experience as a Finance Director with North Carolina Local Governments as well as an invaluable background with auditing and various accounting positions. In addition, to my experience, I have a passion to serve and work toward streamlining and updating accounting reporting systems to become both effective and efficient for quality, control and transparency.



**CANDIDATE FOR  
STATE SECRETARY**

**Emily Lemus  
NASHVILLE BPW**

**PLATFORM STATEMENT**

Business Professional Women of North Carolina has helped me grow both professionally and personally. Keeping the Equal Right Amendment in regular conversation is essential in NC as the ERA has not passed yet here. As someone who works daily with people in crisis, I see the platform of BPW-NC as crucial to the needs of women. BPW actively works to ensure workplace equality, the Nashville Chapter highlights local small businesses owned by women by inviting them to speak at monthly meetings. The chapter also celebrates National Business Women's Week with local media coverage. As well as business owners, the chapter invites local health providers to come and speak to the group about the issues affecting women in our community. Mental health and nutrition have been topics covered in recent events, practical advice is given from local experts including discussion time for members.

While domestic violence affects men, the majority of victims are women. By being active in my local BPW I feel that I better serve my clients at work. I feel better integrated and connected with my community through the BPW members I know and those who visit as guest speakers. I can also bring to the group special events or needs of My Sister's House. We are all more aware and better able to assist each other and the needs of the community by our monthly meetings. BPW is truly women helping women and I see that every month at our meeting. It is such a positive environment, and as a young professional it has provided excellent guidance and mentorship from the seasoned members.

**CANDIDATE FOR  
STATE SECRETARY**

**Emily Lemus  
NASHVILLE BPW**



**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

I am the Executive Director of My Sister's House, the domestic violence and sexual assault agency for Nash and Edgecombe Counties. I am a Nash County native, married with five children. I am so privileged to be able to serve vulnerable families in the community I grew up in. After high school, I attended NC State graduating with a degree in History then attended East Carolina University and completed a master's in Atlantic World History. My plan was to teach history but there was an opening for Executive Director at My Sister's House. I began volunteering as MSH as a high school student in 2000 and became board member after college. The agency and its mission of empowerment for victims of domestic violence was very important to me.

Prior to my work at MSH I was a teaching assistant at East Carolina University for the Department of History. I also worked for the City of Rocky Mount in Parks and Recreation facilitating outreach educational programs and operating planetarium equipment. I have also traveled abroad for humanitarian work including two trips to Kenya with an orphan empowerment agency, English teacher in Sri Lanka, several construction and child development trips to Guatemala and El Salvador. I most recently traveled to Rwanda in February 2019 with an orphan empowerment agency. Empowerment and helping others to help themselves is a common theme in many aspects of my personal and professional life. That is why BPW means so much to me, women helping women succeed in the workplace while developing personal friendships and connections.

I was awarded The Samantha Hamilton Leadership Award at ECU in 2013 and named Young Careerist for my local chapter in 2017 and 2019. I have presented in state and national academic conferences and have had three book reviews published on the state and national level. I hope to bring my experience and education to assist BPW-NC in the coming year as state secretary.



**CANDIDATE FOR  
STATE SECRETARY  
Vivian McPherson  
VIRGINIA-DARE BPW**

**PLATFORM STATEMENT**

The element of communication has evolved. Pen has left paper to have its owner's energy transferred to text, message, emoji, click, share, "Like" of support. The beauty of the here and now is that we all can connect quickly to exchange and inform. I was introduced to BPW/NC in one of the best ways possible; the old fashioned verbal invite. That is what drew me to the first meetings. The women I met exemplified my positive experience. No delineation on age, experience, position, skills; we were all there woven in a web of support. Each individual lending their abilities and personalities to the table we shared.

Organizations can fade with the decades. I like the fact BPW is a professional women's organization that crosses national boundaries in its relationships. It has a domestic organization and an affiliation with the chapters that cross this country. It is women helping women where you must lead. From grass roots to the political arena, they have ushered change and supported new standards in efforts to address equal opportunities and treatment. Youth is a great time to introduce responsibility and concepts where each may rationalize the day to day decisions. These are skills of life. Having the tools early to assess and understand can be key to successes later on.

Women across the country (as well as globally) may be at different stages both in life, influence, and situation. States and Nations determine policies, norms, and the environment in which we may function to a certain degree. The resources we may access by such networks can help women in each state at their own stages of growth confront the issues others may have already faced. It is women tackling the worst challenges by providing the most positive tools. Scholarships, health care solutions, legislation, networking business solutions can enable women to move forward. An individual or group can lend momentum to those at their side. The challenges will span generations. Those generations in the same room confronting each platform together is what I am seeing in this organization and what I would like to see grow and be a part of. Language is communication. It is information. It can be a solution.

**CANDIDATE FOR  
STATE SECRETARY  
Vivian McPherson  
VIRGINIA-DARE BPW**



**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

I am originally from NY state but can say that North Carolina has held me the longest! I am a product of my experiences and education. I spent almost four years in Brasil (not a typo that is an “s”). Until this day, it remains one of my brightest experiences. Associação Escola Graduada de São Paulo or “Graded” as it is still known today, taught me there is a global experience to be had and we can be a very tiny part of a larger whole. We learned to communicate no matter what the preconceptions and found we were much closer than farther apart in our day to day. It has given me great friends abroad that I still touch base with and the ability to express myself in a language that continues to hold affection for me; Brazilian Portuguese. I cannot imagine not seeing the world. That would be a foreign concept. Upon returning stateside, I spent the last two years in high school at Plainfield High School outside of Chicago Illinois.

My First certificate received prior to University was a Merchant Mariner Passenger for hire Captain’s license. I was one of the first few female captains in Dare County to secure that. I married my best friend and we proceeded to work together for the last 36 years (on the same boat so there should be an award for that). We run our charter guide service together serving our third generation (in some cases) of clients sport fishing.

I was a working wife and mom of one son with limited time in the year. I was the mom that was happy to hit the road or ride the bus for field trips, band competitions, or games. It also meant that I had to make use of the system to attend college. It can be money, it can be time, or it may be both. I received my Associates at COA (Summa Cum Laude) in Manteo and returned to East Carolina University in Greenville to finish my BA in Political Science (ODK honor society). I commuted for my last classes to Greenville and learned that if you want it, you will find the path or make one.

I was encouraged recently by a good/successful friend to put my people skills to further use. I see up to 12 persons a day of various ages, backgrounds , and origins in my present work. People are a highlight in my day as they are so interesting! I have attended all required classes this past year to secure my North Carolina Real Estate Broker’s License. I see this as an opportunity that could come to fruition. The least you will ever gain is knowing. The most you can gain depends on luck, opportunity, and you! I look forward to meeting the members in our organization.



**CANDIDATE FOR  
STATE NOMINATIONS CHAIR**

**Melanie Miller  
CONCORD-CABARRUS BPW**

**PLATFORM STATEMENT**

Leadership. Mentorship. Inclusion. Support. Lifting up. Pushing forward. Past, present, and future interwoven and celebrated.

This is what I see in my local BPW club, and what I am sure is happening within clubs throughout our great state of North Carolina. And while it is possible for these qualities to happen organically, they are neither sustainable nor scalable without intentional focus and planning. I believe the leadership of the BPW/NC has the opportunity and responsibility to champion and foster these qualities both internally through local clubs, and externally to the general public. We have 100 years of history as advocates for working women and an indescribable amount knowledge and experience amongst our members. I believe the beginning of our 2nd 100 years should emphasize strategically planning for growth, awareness, and strengthening our presence. It is imperative that we tap into the diversity amongst our members – among many different categories of diversity - and make sure our leadership and committees are reflective of the diversity within our communities.

I was first introduced to BPW in the 1980s because my mother and aunt were members. Both were born near the end of the Depression, and while they still had what I considered some outdated and “old school” values (as most kids think about their elders!) I always saw and admired how they supported other women and were clear to me and my cousins that we could – and should - achieve anything we wanted in life. They embodied the concept of women helping women. My goal is to do the same. One of my favorite professional experiences was the 7 years I spent as the director of a mentoring program for middle school girls in Title 1 (low-income) schools, via the Girl Scouts. Many of those girls went on to become peer mentors after they completed the program. I loved it! Women helping women well before they become adults!

BPW matters because even though women have come so far in the last 100 years, much work still needs to be done. The Equal Rights Amendment is not ratified. Attacks on women’s reproductive health seem to occur almost daily. Pay equity remains elusive. North Carolina needs BPW because we will continue putting these issues forward and advocating for all women, regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age or national origin.

**CANDIDATE FOR  
STATE NOMINATIONS CHAIR**

**Melanie Miller  
CONCORD-CABARRUS BPW**



**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Melanie Miller is from Spartanburg, SC, but spent much of her summers and weekends in the little town of Columbus, NC, in Polk county, with her grandparents. Here she developed a love for making Jiffy Pop popcorn on the stove with her grandfather and watching Wheel of Fortune. Melanie went on to graduate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism & Mass Communication in 1995. While there she met her husband, Keith, a native Charlottean.

She began her career in radio and advertising but had always been interested in the nonprofit sector. After 2 years, she made the leap to nonprofit and never looked back. Melanie states, “My professional passion is advocating for those who get pushed to the sidelines. I didn’t know that when I first started this journey; but, looking back over the last 20 years, that is exactly what I am meant to do.”

Currently, Melanie serves as the Executive Director of The Arc of Union/Cabarrus. The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lives. Prior to joining The Arc, Melanie was the Director of Program Services at the Alzheimer's Association - Western Carolina Chapter, a voluntary health organization covering 49 counties in Western North Carolina. In this role, she provided leadership for the development, implementation and evaluation of education programs, support groups, and consultation services for the general public, individuals with dementia, family members, caregivers and professionals.

She also spent many years with Girl Scouts, Hornets' Nest Council, working in all aspects of membership, programming, special events, community outreach, and volunteer training and development.

Currently, Melanie serves as Vice President of the Kiwanis Club of Monroe, secretary of The Arc of North Carolina’s Conference of Executives, and is a member of the Union County Chamber of Commerce Women in Business, Concord-Cabarrus Business & Professional Women’s Club, and Union County Health Equity Collaborative. She also enjoys volunteering with the Terrific Kids Program, her children’s schools, and Girl Scouts.

Melanie and Keith live in Union county with their 2 teenage children and a menagerie of well-loved pets.



**CANDIDATE FOR  
STATE NOMINATIONS CHAIR  
Melody Barrett  
VIRGINIA-DARE BPW**

**PLATFORM STATEMENT**

I believe in equal pay for equal work for women, economic and legal equity and would like to see sexual harassment and all discrimination end for all time. Women's health issues remain at the forefront of our legislative efforts to ensure access to care, and development of programs to meet women's needs.

We should continue advocating for protection of civil rights for all, in addition to fighting domestic violence and promoting protection of victims and survivors.

I look forward to contributing toward efforts to expand professional and personal growth, to encourage self-sufficiency, independence and planning for the future, and to seek opportunities to empower our community of women.

**CANDIDATE FOR  
STATE NOMINATIONS CHAIR**

**Melody Barrett  
VIRGINIA-DARE BPW**



**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

I am a recent retiree from federal service, a knowledgeable and successful professional offering more than 29 years of practical and progressive federal career experience. My rich career history encompasses relationship building, broad national media campaigns resulting in positive media representation, expert writing and editorial support, and demonstrated program management and administrative effectiveness. I am a highly organized person and have been successful in managing multiple projects and consistently meeting deadlines.

Born and raised in Mississippi, I graduated from Mississippi State University with a bachelor's degree in Communication, focusing on Public Relations and Journalism. From there, I worked as an intern at the McAmis Agency and Butler Communications during the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, TN, and in October 1982, moved to Washington, DC, where I began a federal career in government communications. My prior federal assignments include: Director, Legislative and Public Affairs, U.S. Treasury Financial Management Service; Managing Editor, *Army RD&A Magazine*; Public Affairs and Communications Intern, Army Depot System Command; and various administrative positions at the Defense Audiovisual Support Agency and the National Guard Bureau.

Since retiring from federal service in 2013, I moved to Duck, NC, and joined the Virginia Dare Chapter of the Business and Professional Women's Club. Since moving to Outer Banks, I have worked in a variety of positions, including property inspections, reservations, and rental rehab for Seaside Vacations; and start-up consultant and store manager for Ella's Olive Tasting Room. I also briefly worked in Raleigh for the Department of Health & Human Services, managing media relations and privacy requests.

Now, I am enjoying living on the Outer Banks, and look forward to being more involved supporting women's issues as a member of the BPW, both on the local and state level. I have one son, Andrew, who lives and works in Raleigh, two step-sons, Ryan and Kyler, who live and work in Northern Virginia, and a Yellow Lab named Morgan.

Thank you to the  
2018-2019 State Nominations Chair:  
Marsha Riibner-Cady  
and the  
Nominations Committee:  
Mary Lou Babinski  
Elva Graham  
Varnell Kinnin  
for your hard work.

Thank you to the candidates for your  
willingness to serve and move us into  
the next 100 years!