

Position: Institutional Board Member

Name: Julie Groves, ARM

Institution: Wake Forest University

Title: Director, Risk Services



Biography: Julie Groves has been the Director of Risk Services at Wake Forest University since 1999. Among her responsibilities are administration of the university's insurance programs, coordination of campus-wide loss control efforts, oversight of the university's ERM program, and she is a member of the university crisis response team. Ms. Groves is also on the board of the North Carolina Self-Insurance Security Association, and the Forsyth County Risk Management Advisory Committee. In addition, she serves on the board of Bookmarks, Inc. a non-profit bookstore and literary organization committed to putting books in the hands of young children. She earned both her B.A. and M.A. from Wake Forest University.

Please describe your past Risk Management experience and previous involvement with URMIA.

I've been the Director of Risk Services at WFU for over 20 years. I love my job because every day is different, and I appreciate being able to help people think creatively about ways to do things in a safe manner. I am a third-generation WFU grad, and my love for my alma mater informs my everyday job activities - I want to do all I can to make my campus as safe as possible.

My introduction to URMIA was the 2008 Annual Conference in Washington D.C. Since then, I've been involved in numerous ways. I am wrapping up my first term on the Board of Directors, and I've served on the Communications and Scholarship Committees. I was the chair of the 2019 Eastern Regional Conference in Richmond, VA, and the co-chair of the 2020 Eastern Regional Conference in Raleigh, N.C. I also served on the Governance Task Force. What I appreciate most about URMIA is the network of contacts I've made during my time as a member. I know that I can reach out to any of them, as well as to the URMIA listserv, when I have a question or need advice. The resources available to me through this association play an integral role in my job.

What leadership skills and talents make you a good candidate?

I am a linear thinker, and I believe this not only helps me to be extremely organized, but it gives me the ability to break big-picture ideas down into logical, manageable steps. Additionally, over the years, I've come to understand three things: it is important to be a thoughtful listener, it is important to be kind and respectful, and it is important to have a good sense of humor. Helping others feel heard and respected, and helping others laugh can really help break down barriers and foster community.

How would you get the membership more active in URMIA?

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed so much about the way we work. Remote interaction is constant, and it may be months before regular, in-person gatherings return. Because people are now used to online collaboration, URMIA needs to take advantage of this "new normal" by continuing to offer webinars and podcasts that not only help members learn, but also showcase our resources, and help members stay connected to one another. One suggestion would be to have regional web-based gatherings, which would help foster a sense of a regional risk management community. We need to continue to remind the members of the tremendous value of their membership, particularly during times like those we're now experiencing.

Briefly outline your vision for continuing to move URMIA forward.

I mentioned some of this in my previous answer, but I believe URMIA needs to do two things. First, URMIA needs to continue to communicate in various ways to keep our membership educated, informed, and connected. This will help reinforce the value of the URMIA membership, and will hopefully encourage more member engagement, particularly during this time of isolation. Second, we need to be thoughtful about planning for the future by developing various scenarios to deal with the possibility of prolonged social distancing, as well as the eventual reemergence for our association's in-person programs.