

Position: President-Elect
Candidate: Julie L. Groves
Institution: Wake Forest University
Title: Director, Risk Services



Biography: Julie Groves is the Director of Risk Services at Wake Forest University, a position she has held for over 20 years. Among her many responsibilities are the administration of the university's commercial insurance program, the coordination of cross-campus loss control efforts, and the management of WFU's ongoing ERM program. She is the co-chair of the WFU Safety & Security Committee, and is a member of the WFU Crisis Management Team. She earned both her B.A. and M.A. degrees in English from Wake Forest University, and wrote her Master's Thesis on the works of F. Scott Fitzgerald. She highly recommends *The Great Gatsby* as a great summer read!

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. 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 believe in this institution and the educational experience it offers, and because of this, I want to do everything I can to make this campus as safe as possible. I also serve in a risk management capacity outside of WFU. I am on the board of the North Carolina Self-Insurance Security Association, and am a member of the Forsyth County Risk Management Advisory Committee.

I have been involved in URMIA for 13 years. Since then, I've attended each annual conference, and that experience is always the highlight of my year. I am currently serving my second term on the Board of Directors, and previously served on the Communications Committee, the Scholarship Committee, and was the chair/co-chair of the 2019 and 2020 Eastern Regional Conferences. I was also a member of the Governance Task Force. You can hear me talk to all sorts of interesting people on URMIA's podcast, *URMLAmatters*. What I appreciate most about URMIA is the network of contacts I've made during my time as a member. 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. 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 break down barriers and foster community.

How would you get the membership more active in URMIA?

URMIA is one of the most valuable resources I have as a Risk Manager. However, busy schedules and limited finances often prevent people from being involved at a deeper level, particularly where travel to conferences is concerned. During COVID we've learned new ways to help people be more connected, and we should capitalize on this knowledge. We should continue to work to utilize technology in a way that fosters community, and disseminates valuable information to the membership. We should also work towards creating small, one-off, local events for URMIA members. These would be low-cost, regional events that would draw folks together for a few hours, and would provide an avenue for local networking and resource sharing.

Briefly outline your vision for continuing to move URMIA forward.

We want URMIA to be on the proactive side of issues. In order to do that, we need to look carefully at emerging issues, and work on collecting resources and developing materials that will educate our members. This is where we need to be more purposeful about utilizing technology as a means of member education and connection. In addition, we need to strengthen our relationships with other professional organizations in an effort to leverage their knowledge and resources, as well as to share our own.