



CHAPTER OF THE YEAR

We're thrilled to share that WIFS Portland Metro has been named Chapter of the Year!

This recognition means so much to us because it reflects the work and commitment of our members, volunteers, board, and chapter leaders who continue to show up and make WIFS PDX what it is. From growing our membership and creating meaningful programming to getting involved in our community and supporting the broader WIFS organization, this award represents a true team effort.



We plan to put the cash prize right back into our chapter by creating more opportunities for meaningful connection, learning, and community building. We want to keep investing in the relationships that make WIFS so special.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this chapter and helped us get here. This award belongs to all of you, and we're excited to keep building on this momentum together.

ICYMI...



If there's one thing the past few months have reminded us, it's that the best part of WIFS is the people.

We kicked off summer with Pups & Cups at Tualatin Dog Park, bringing members and their four-legged friends together for coffee and conversation. In July, Gab Zenner led us on a Bridge Walk & Talk through Portland's bridges and waterfront, giving us a chance to explore our city while getting to know each other along the way. We also gathered for Bridge to Happy Hour at Daphne Jaegar's office, learning, connecting, and enjoying time together after work.



But National Conference was the real highlight of the summer. With women from across the country gathered in Portland, there was a palpable sense that we were part of something bigger than our individual careers and day-to-day work. We were there to learn, certainly, but also to remind each other that we don't have to do this alone. And, of course, we couldn't celebrate 90 years of WIFS without cake!



One message from conference that stuck with us came from Shari Dunn, who challenged the audience to rethink the way we talk about "imposter syndrome." Feeling uncomfortable when we're in a new situation, stepping into a new role, or sitting at a table where we haven't always felt represented is normal. Doubting ourselves in those moments doesn't mean we don't belong. Sometimes, the discomfort is simply evidence that we're growing.

That idea felt especially fitting for WIFS. As one panelist put it, "Community is about having a shared purpose." When we come together around the shared WIFS mission of being allies for belonging and connection, we push back against the idea that we're supposed to figure everything out on our own. We get to learn from each other, encourage each other, and make room for one another at the table.



That same spirit carried into the breakout sessions, where we walked away with practical ideas for building more authentic relationships with our clients. The work we do is about more than expertise. It's about coming alongside people, listening well, understanding where they are, and helping them navigate what comes next. In many ways, the same empathy and connection we strive to create within WIFS is what allows us to show up differently for our clients.



As we head into the fourth quarter, we want to carry that feeling forward.

We are working hard to build out our programming calendar, with content, event timing, and location carefully selected based upon member feedback. Keep an eye on our event calendar at wifspdx.org so you can see what exciting events are coming up!



Lastly, our chapter is growing! If you had the chance to attend National Conference in Portland and decided to join our chapter because of your experience, welcome! We're so glad you're here.

If you're looking for a way to get more involved, Q4 is a great time to jump in. Whether it's helping with an event, welcoming new members, joining a committee, or simply getting to know someone new, there are plenty of ways to be part of what we're building. We will see you soon!

UPCOMING EVENTS

BRIDGE TO HAPPY HOUR

October 15th
4 PM

BPG Wealth Management
Clackamas, OR

BOOK CLUB

November 17th
8:30 AM

Coava Coffee Roasters
Grand Ave.
Portland, OR

FA LA LA FIESTA HOLIDAY PARTY

December 9th
5 - 7 PM

Margarita Factory
Tigard, OR