

PawPrints Newsletter



Fall 2025



www.humanesocietyofwilkes.org



P. 2 Meet the nominees to the 2026 HSOW board!

2025 HSOW Annual Membership Meeting



Please plan to come together at Dom's Bakery & Pizzeria in N. Wilkesboro for our annual meeting! We'll start at 5:30 PM and have everyone on their way home by 7:30 PM.

Along with our annual reports and updates, we'll have great food and fellowship for all.

All current HSOW members are encouraged to attend. New and prospective members are welcome! Membership may be started or renewed at the meeting or on the website.

Tuesday, Nov. 11, 5:30 - 7:30 PM
Dom's Bakery & Pizzeria,
908 D St,
North Wilkesboro, NC 28659





Board of Directors 2026 Election

The HSOW Nominating Committee has recommended the following slate of nominees for election to the 2025 HSOW Board of Directors that will be presented for approval by the membership at the annual meeting.

Kim Hatfield (re-election)
Leah Bishop (new)
Tom Silvey (new)
Lori Todd (new)



HSOW Board Nominee Bios



Leah Bishop:

I'm excited to meet you all. I grew up right here in Wilkes County and later attended UNCG, where I earned my degree in Graphic Design. I now work as a Senior Graphic Designer and am passionate about marketing, photography, and all things art.

Animals have always been close to my heart. I proudly call myself a “crazy wiener dog lady” and share my life with my fiancé Tim, and three rescue dachshunds (two mixes and one full). After moving back to Wilkes two years ago, I've been eager to reconnect with the community that raised me and give back in meaningful ways.

I look forward to supporting the Humane Society's mission and meeting more fellow animal lovers along the way!

Fun fact: For my high school senior project, I designed and sold t-shirts to raise money for the Humane Society of Wilkes—so this truly feels like a full circle moment!

Kimberly Hatfield:

Kim is the owner and manager of Waggles Pet Supply & Dog Wash, has been a member of the HSOW since 2009 and has been on the board of directors most of that time.

Kim has worked on various committees and assisted with fundraisers and food drives. As an active member of the community, she also consistently donates and volunteers at schools, community events and other rescue groups. Kim has two elementary age daughters that are also pet lovers and have adopted two of the HSOW cats





Board Nominee Bios, Continued

Lori Todd:

I am a retired nurse. I am 64 years old and a native of Wilmington, NC. I lived in Ashe County for 21 years before moving to North Wilkesboro in 2017 with my husband. We wanted to escape the snow/ice of the mountains while staying close to beautiful western NC. I have 2 adult children who both live in Atlanta, GA, along with my two grandsons. So, I travel as often as I can to see them. Being an RN for 25 years made me develop good people skills, good communication skills, and I also feel I possess good organizational skills. I feel all of these together would help me be an asset to the HSOW Board. I love all animals, and enjoy volunteering any way I can for HSOW in order to make a difference in the lives of the animals.

Tom Silvey:

I'm a lifelong advocate for animal welfare, a retired engineering and business professional, and a committed member of the Wilkes County community. I spent 42 years working in engineering, project management, and executive leadership within the nuclear and fossil power industries of Westinghouse Electric and Siemens Energy . That career gave me a strong foundation in strategic planning, organizational oversight, and problem-solving—skills I now bring to the organizations I serve. My wife and I have owned Roaring River Vineyards in Traphill, NC, since 2001, and I currently serve on the Wilkes County Tourism Board, where I help promote the beauty and culture of our region.

Animal welfare has been a lifelong passion of mine. My wife and I share our home with five rescue dogs, and I proudly support organizations like the Humane Society of Wilkes, Humane Society of the United States, ASPCA, PETA, North Shore Animal League, and Wilkes Rescue Group. I believe deeply in the mission of protecting and advocating for animals, and I'm committed to helping improve the lives of both animals and the people who care for them. I've been married for over 33 years, with four children and nine grandchildren who bring me great joy. I would be honored to bring my passion, experience, and energy to the Humane Society of Wilkes as a board member



Thank You to Our Generous Donors!



Below is a list of those who have made financial donations to the Humane Society of Wilkes between June 2025 and September 2025.

Special thanks also go to all those who donated in these other ways: our Amazon and Chewy wish lists, collection jars and boxes, merchandise purchases and participation at fundraising events, adoptions, online promotions, and providing food and supplies for our foster pets! The donations of our members and supporters are what keep us going. Thank you so much!

Deborah Absher in memory of Harrison Wilson
Kevin & Angela Anderson in memory of Harrison Wilson
B&C Concrete Products in memory of Mitzi Combs
Samuel Barker
Shana Barone
Phillip Ballinger
Jeffery Bauguss
Ashley Billings
Erica and Jonathan Billings
Leslie Boyd-Long
Karen & John Broome in memory of Harrison Wilson
Lori Brown in honor of Kristen Mayberry
Jeanine Brushwood in memory of "Scotty Sr."
Tracy Bumgarner in memory of Harrison Wilson
James & Paula Byrd in memory of Mitzi Combs
Marvin & Frances Cantrell in memory of Tommy Minton
Nancy Carter in memory of Harrison Wilson
Francis Casey in memory of Harrison Wilson
Angela Castro
Ronald Cate
Audrey Chapel in memory of Mitzi Combs
Mark Chipman in memory of Mitzi Combs
Karen & Hayden Church in memory of Tommy Minton
Kelly Church in memory of Mitzi Combs
Birgit Clager
Helen Coffey in memory of Allen Ramsey
Alison Collins in memory of Mitzi Combs and "Tucker" Allen
Cora Combs in memory of Mitzi Combs
Meredith Comer in honor of "Buddy" and "Cassie"

Richard & Theresa Cook
John & Susan Corey
Becky Craft
Paula Curry in memory of Harrison Wilson
Elaine Davidson
Hailei Davis
Sharon Deem
Charles & Susan Dudek in memory of Mitzi Combs and "Bandit," Eric & Chelsea Brown's dog
Judy Cook Duncan in memory of Harrison Wilson
Margie Edgerton in memory of Mitzi Combs, "Ned," beloved cat of Pat Burkett, "Molly," and "Daisy Mae"
Mary Ann Eller
Joe & Sarah Fesperman in memory of Harrison Wilson
Jeff Fields and Friends
Sandra Forrest
Kendall Forester
Rebecca Fredenzks
Brian Gaal
Cynthia Glass in memory of Harrison Wilson
Margaret Glenn
Vickie Greene in memory of Harrison Wilson
Jamie Harrison in memory of Hallie Mae Shew
Susan Hayes in memory of Mitzi Combs
Penny & Lyman Horne in memory of Clayton Porter
Karen & Jerry Howard in memory of Mitzi Combs
Interflex Group
Judy Johnson & Amanda Barrows in memory of Mitzi Combs

June-September Donors, continued

Patricia Johnson
Ken & JoAnne Kimrey in memory of Mitzi Combs
Jackie Kocar
Charlene & Joel Laster in memory of Tommy Minton
Dan Little in memory of Kara Lytton Cahill
Chasity Lovette
Daryl B. Lovette in memory of Harrison Wilson
Katrina Lowe in memory of Harrison Wilson
Penny & Lyman Horne in memory of Clayton Porter
Tony & Diane Marion
Dot & Richard Marlow in memory of Mitzi Combs
Amy Martin
Chris M. Mastin in memory of Harrison Wilson
Frank McConnell in memory of Yates & Margaret McConnell
Arlene & Guy McGrane
Harold McManus
Vickie Minton in memory of Tommy Minton
Diane Mitchell
James & Kathy Motsinger in memory of Harrison Wilson
Charles Munson
Heather Murphy
Donna Noble in memory of Harrison Wilson
Mae Norman & Sherron Warren in memory of Harrison Wilson
N. Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Women in memory of Carol Childress
Josh Pace
Ashley Panzera in memory of Harrison Wilson
Mary Pardue in memory of Harrison Wilson
Barbara Parsons
Barbara & Larry Pendry in memory of Mitzi Combs and Tommy Minton

David Poteat in memory of George Church
Matt Present
Avahlee & Johnny Richardson
Richard Reinhart
Theodore Reynolds in honor of Harrison Wilson
Rick Rose in memory of Mitzi Combs
Heather Salley
Brad & Melanie Shinaman in memory of Irene Stone, Martha Absher, D. Rhodes, and Harrison Wilson
Rose Shulman in memory of Mitzi Combs
Tom Silvey
Daniel Sims in memory of Ronald J. DeShon
Patrick & Shari Smith in memory of Tommy Minton
Sandra Smith in memory of Tommy Minton
Sylvia Smith & Audi Bloise in memory of Mitzi Combs
James Smoak
Victoria Stanley in honor of Mary and Katie Parsons
Denise Sturdivant in memory of Susan Whittington
Jeffrey Swofford in memory of Hallie Shew
Dean & Joyce Taylor in memory of Tommy Minton
Turlington and Company, LLP, in memory of Clayton Porter
Gretchen & Hughes Vandervort
Avery Van Noy in memory of Harrison Wilson
Patricia B. Vick
Cindy R. Wagner
Dan & Diana Weston
Steve Willocks
The Winston Salem Foundation
Elaina Wyatt in memory of Tammy Prebor and Dorothy Moy
Frances Yale
Christopher Zdana

THANK YOU
SO MUCH



Welcome New Members June 2025 – September 2025

Welcome to our new members
who joined between
June 2025 and September 2025.
We are also very thankful for all of you
who have renewed your memberships!

- Leah Bishop
- Ethan Brooks-Livingston
- Amanda Duffield
- Jennifer Earp-Johnson
- Jessica Faw
- Carol, Alan, Elijah, and Benjamin Flora
- Kendall Forester
- Maci Goulds
- Judy McMillan
- Donna Poe & Jazmine Phillips
- Kaitie von Cosmos



humansocietyofwilkes.org

These Fall Events Are Right Around the Corner, with More on the Way!

Barktober Fest



Join us for the 2nd Annual Barktober Fest at Wilkes Wags & Wiggles — a fun-filled day of doggy costumes, delicious BBQ by Midtown Market, and adoptable furbabies from the Humane Society of Wilkes, our event beneficiary. This community celebration is all about wagging tails, festive fun, and supporting a great cause! Here's what you and your furbabies can look forward to:

Spooktacular Costume Contests – Dress up your pups (and yourself!) for a chance to win fun prizes!

BBQ Plates by Midtown Market – Because every great paw-ty needs tasty food!

Adoptable Furbabies – Meet the most adorable dogs looking for their furever homes through the Humane Society of Wilkes, our wonderful beneficiary again this year.

Community Fun – Games, laughter, wagging tails, and memories waiting to be made!

This event isn't just about fun it's about making a difference for animals in need. Your support helps raise funds for the Humane Society of Wilkes so they can continue their lifesaving work.



PetSmart Charities National Adoption Week HSOW Foster Pet Adoption Fairs

Friday, October 24, 4:30 - 7:00 PM

Saturday, October 25, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

PetSmart, Wilkesboro, NC
1514 Winkler Mill Rd. Ext., Wilkesboro, NC 28697



HSOW Adoption Report

We're close to 600 adoptions so far in 2025!





268 cats/kittens adopted Jan. 1, 2025 – Oct. 16, 2025

324 dogs/puppies adopted Jan. 1, 2025 – Oct. 16, 2025

plus one rabbit, two lizards, & one tortoise!

Kudos to our Foster-Adoption team and special thanks to Dr. Lillian Royal and her wonderful staff at Wilkes Veterinary Hospital. To see the most current list of HSOW pets available for adoption, visit our website and click on the Adopt tab.

Newsletter Contributors

-  Lauren Johnson
-  Blair Hancock
-  Sherrie Sentell
-  Alison Collins



Look what's growing in our yard this fall!

A fungus known as "dog turd" fungus, more formally called *Pisolithus tinctorius*!

Seems appropriate!

