Charlotte Chapter by Carin Siegfried

The Charlotte Chapter came into being when Carin Siegfried, who had been a member of the WNBA-Nashville and WNBA-New York Chapters, moved to Charlotte in 2004 to work at Baker & Taylor. Although she stayed a network member of the New York Chapter for five years, that just wasn’t enough. In the spring of 2009, she met with Tracey Adams of Adams Literary Agency, and Betsy Thorpe, an independent editor, to discuss starting a chapter.

They invited other friends to join them at an organizational meeting a few weeks later and found they had a core group of 12 to 15 women from across the industry who were excited about this new venture. Mary Grey James, then president of the National WNBA, flew out from Nashville to meet the group and provide additional detail about the WNBA. The group then established their bylaws and elected officers, and in May 2009 held their first official event at Park Road Books. At the event, bookstore owner (and new WNBA-Charlotte treasurer) Sally Brewster presented the books she was recommending for “reading by the pool” that summer. In June, newly elected president Carin Siegfried attended the annual national meeting in Nashville, and the chapter was officially recognized.

The chapter has many annual events, including a fall mixer, a book swap, a panel on publishing co-sponsored by the Charlotte Writing Club, and a U.N. event. Each year culminates with Sally Brewster’s now-annual recommendations for summer reading, followed by “Bibliofeast” during National Reading Group Month. Bibliofeast is a literary...
dinner, where, throughout the course of the evening, authors rotate to each table for conversations with guests.

Nearly seventy members strong, the Charlotte Chapter of the WNBA represents a broad swath of the book world, from publishing professionals to writers and authors to teachers and librarians to readers. With a monthly book club of Great Group Reads books and occasional Happy Hours, there’s something to please everyone.