



President's Column

From the desk of Wilma Moore-Black



While traveling to Memphis recently, about every two out of three people mentioned the "Wizard of Oz" when I said I was from Kansas. They couldn't resist a joke about Dorothy and her ruby red shoes. My thoughts shifted to her sidekicks and where I fit in life.

The tin man wants a heart to be able to love the things he can't change; the lion, some courage to change the things he can; and the scarecrow, a brain with which to know the difference. So down the yellow brick road, I go in a quest for courage to change the things I can.

Most of my life I've had to speak up for myself. I was the middle child of 10 brothers and sisters who shared the same mother in the same house. The three Hawkins siblings were the oldest, the two Moores in the middle, and five Sears were younger than me. My brother Donnell Moore had always been labeled "special" while at Ingalls Elementary, and he often needed lots of courage. So many times I was always standing up for him and fighting his battles.

As years passed, I learned you just didn't get too far if you were always afraid of something. When I was awarded the "Danforth 'I Dare You' Leadership Award" at East High, I thought, there must be something really special in me. I believe that, for the majority of the time, courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice inside each of us just yearning for the sunrise and a chance to start another day.

The pleasant demeanor of my mother Essie, who had a contagious smile and laugh, sticks with me. I think of her daily and am thankful that we got to be friends before she died. As we approach the celebration and observance of the Mother's Day, I am grateful for all the traits from my mother. She taught me to be independent, caring, honest, and most of all proud of whatever I attempted to do. Just like Dorothy, I was glad to find my way back home to Kansas.

Wichita is where I was born and raised and I'm proud of my hometown when I'm home and abroad. It's important and even cool to represent my hometown in the most prestigious way to anyone with whom I associate. Lots of courage helps you become your own best advocate, keeping you happy with yourself and life.

May 6 WPC meeting — Tallgrass: The little independent film festival that could

An independent film festival in Wichita? How about an independent film festival in spite of financial difficulties, negative press and the untimely death of the festival's founder?



At our next luncheon meeting at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 6, Ann Keefer, president of Wichita Association for the Motion Picture Arts, (the parent organization of Tallgrass Film Festival), and Teri Mott, the festival's director of marketing, will talk about one man's dream and how an entire team of stubbornly independent film fans are making it come true.

Please RSVP to Becky Funke no later than noon Monday, May 4, at bfunke@activeagingonline.com, call 316-942-5385, or reserve and prepay with PayPal at www.wichitaprofessionalcommunicators.com. Remember, the RSVP deadline is firm.

- DATE: Wednesday, May 6
TIME: 11:30 a.m. sharp-12:30 p.m.
PLACE: Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas
COST: Members \$12, students \$10, guests \$15

Reservations/cancellations required: E-mail Becky Funke by noon Monday, May 4, at bfunke@activeagingonline.com or call 942-5385. To prepay online using PayPal, visit the WPC Web site.

WPC's Jill Miller named 2009 KPC Communicator of Achievement

Kansas Professional Communicators, our state organization, named WPC member Jill Miller the 2009 Communicator of Achievement at the April 18 KPC awards banquet. WPC hosted the KPC conference April 17-18, with Jill co-chairing the conference committee. The COA is KPC's top honor, bestowed to a member for contributions to KPC and to the communications industry.



Jill owns Creative Business Solutions in Wichita and, since 1998, she has helped entrepreneurs' dreams come true through her independent business development consulting company. She holds an entrepreneurship degree from Wichita State University.

This from her LinkedIn page: "With a passion for helping people reach their goals, Jill helps fledgling business owners launch new ventures and seasoned business owners reach new possibilities. Partnering with service and retail businesses of all sizes, she provides employee development, strategic direction, proven business systems, and creative solutions."

Jill has been a member of the National Federation of Press Women, our national organization, since 2006, the same year she helped organize a fashion show to trace the 75 years of NFPW for its anniversary conference in Virginia. With a flair for fashion and makeup, Jill has also done the makeup for ArtAid's famously wild annual fashion show for 16 years, as long as the event has been staged in Wichita, and is, what her friends describe as a an obsessive event planner, whether the event be a chili cook-off, a fashion show or a conference.

As the Kansas COA, she is being considered as the COA of NFPW. Please take a moment to congratulate Jill and wish her good luck.

* * * * *

More winners at KPC

Congratulations to all WPC members who placed in the 2009 KPC Communications Contest. First-place entries advance to the national competition — the NFPW convention in September in San Antonio, Texas.



Les Anderson: 1, 1, 2, 3
Judy Conkling: 3
Donna Dilsaver: 3
Cori Dodds: 1, 1
Jennifer Heinicke: 1
Sharon Iorio: 1, 2

David Kamerer: 1, 1, 1, 2
Wilma Moore-Black: 1, 3
Melissa Lacey Nagy: 1, 1, 2, 2
Cheryl Miller: 1
BD Tharp: 1, 2, HM

* * * * *

KPC conference was a success

Nearly 60 professional communicators from around the state converged on the Hilton Garden Inn in Wichita April 17-18 to Jazz Up their communication toolbox during the KPC state conference, which was hosted by WPC this year. The speakers and panel discussion gave everyone great ideas and strategies for retooling communication skills and strategies to stay competitive in today's business environment.

Thanks to the WPC members who served on the conference committee for all their hard work: Sandy Evans and Jill Miller (conference chairs), Judy Conkling, Cori Dodds, Beth Hershberger, Susan Hund-Milne, Melissa Lacey Nagy, Shannon Littlejohn, Cheryl Miller, Wilma Moore-Black and Kathy Souter.



Also helping make the conference a success were our sponsors: Copy Express, Guy and Beth Bower – the Good Time Guy and his Good Time Wife, Wichita State University's Elliott School of Communication, WSU's Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, The Wichita Eagle, Snap Accounting/Mark Dodds, Via Christi Wichita Health Network, ewdogan.worldventures.biz, and Susan Hund-Milne/AP Creative.

* * * * *

Four WSU students win communications scholarships

Three Wichita State students will split the \$1,500 scholarship awarded by Wichita Professional Communicators for the upcoming year. Bethany Garton, Jennifer Wright and Chanda Stauffer were selected as this year's recipients from a pool of eight applicants. WPC president Wilma Moore-Black will make the presentations at WSU's Elliott School of Communication awards banquet May 12.



Shae West, who works with WPC board member Shannon Littlejohn in WSU's University Relations office, is the recipient of the WSU scholarship from Kansas Professional Communicators.

* * * * *

Member news

Welcome to our newest member Kathy Manweiler, whose Web site is dontsaydiet.com. Kathy can be reached at dontsaydiet@gmail.com. Kathy already has become an active member, volunteering to fill the role of publicity chair with Kansas Professional Communicators.

WPC president Wilma Moore-Black was elected to fill an unexpired term as second vice president for bylaws for KPC.

Received a promotion or award, changed jobs? Share your news with your fellow WPC members and friends. E-mail nwsbrfs editor, Amy Geiszler-Jones, algj64@sbcglobal.net.

* * * * *

What We're Reading



Summertime often means catching up on reading. Tell fellow WPC members about your latest read. E-mail the title and author of the book and your observations to nwsbrfs editor, Amy Geiszler-Jones, algj64@sbcglobal.net.

* * * * *

Tell us more about you

The inquiring minds of your fellow WPC members want to know more about you. Last year, we started publishing the occasional member profile in WPC nwsbrfs to help us get to know one another. We've run a handful of profiles, and would like to share more. Here are the standard questions. E-mail your answers, along with a photograph, to nwsbrfs editor, Amy Geiszler-Jones, at algj64@sbcglobal.net.



Name:

Employer:

Your full business title and describe what you do:

A little about your family:

A little about where you grew up:

Your educational background:

Your favorite things to do, see or visit in Wichita:

One thing about you that would surprise people:

The most interesting/funny/unusual/weird person you've ever interviewed or written about:

Your favorite book:

* * * * *

WPC Programs & Calendar • Year 2009

- May 6: WPC luncheon at Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas, featuring speakers Teri Mott and Ann Keefer on the reinvention of the Tallgrass Film Festival
- May 11: WPC board meeting, noon at Watermark, 4701 E. Douglas
- June 3: WPC luncheon at Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas, featuring Wichita State assistant vice president for campus life Deltha Q. Colvin on how to find and get grants
- June 8: WPC board meeting, noon at Watermark, 4701 E. Douglas
- Dec. 7: WPC holiday mixer

WPC offers professional development and major networking opportunities for working communicators, freelancers and career-directed students. Membership is open to any person who is paid as a communicator. We welcome visitors to our monthly luncheon meetings. Members \$12, students \$10, all others \$15. Check in and pay at the WPC table inside the banquet room, or prepay with PayPal on the WPC Web site. Members: please leave your name tag with Teresa Veazey, membership chair.

RESERVATIONS, CANCELATIONS REQUIRED

E-mail bfunke@activeagingonline.com or call 942-5385 *no later than noon on Monday* before each luncheon meeting. You're responsible for your reservation or cancellation. If you reserve a spot but do not attend, you are still responsible for paying for lunch. If you don't have a reservation but wish to attend the meeting, we'll try to give you a seat but do not plan to eat. Meetings begin promptly at 11:30 a.m. If you've reserved a meal but haven't arrived by 11:45 a.m., your plate may be sold.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

- WPC Professional:** \$138 (Includes membership in National Federation of Press Women, Kansas Professional Communicators and Wichita Professional Communicators)
- WPC Local:** \$50 (Membership in WPC only)
- WPC Student:** \$35 (Includes membership in NFPW, KPC and WPC)
- WPC Emeritus:** One-time payment of \$105 for KPC plus \$20 annually for NFPW (no additional WPC dues necessary). Make payment to WPC.

COMM LINKS

Wichita Professional Communicators: www.wichitaprofessionalcommunicators.com
Kansas Professional Communicators Web site: www.kansasprofessionalcommunicators.org
National Federation of Press Women site: www.nfpw.org

2009 WPC Board

PRESIDENT - Wilma Moore-Black wmbcreative@yahoo.com or wilma.black@wichita.edu
PAST PRESIDENT - Cori Dodds cdodds@wichitaeagle.com
PRESIDENT ELECT – Beth Bower beth@goodlifeguy.com
SECRETARY - Kathy Souter kathy210929@cox.net
TREASURER - Carreen Simon carreen.simon@cox.net
VP MEMBERSHIP – Teresa Veazey Teresa.Veazey@wichita.edu
VP PROGRAMS - Jill Miller jilldm@swbell.net
AT-LARGE - Shannon Littlejohn shannon.littlejohn@wichita.edu
AT-LARGE - Susan Hund-Milne susanhm@cox.net
AT-LARGE - Melissa Lacey Nagy melissa_lacey@via-christi.org
AT-LARGE – Judy Conkling judy_conkling@via-christi.org
SCHOLARSHIPS - Deb Umberger dumberger@ilrcks.org
COURTESY / RESERVATIONS - Becky Funke bfunke@activeagingonline.com
NEWSLETTER EDITOR / E-NEWS - Amy Geiszler-Jones algj64@sbcglobal.net
WEB MANAGER – Jennifer Heinicke jenniker@gmail.com
PUBLICITY - Sandy Evans sevans@evansprbird.com
HISTORIAN - Liz Kennedy lizkennedy@wscribe.com