

## President's Column

*From the desk of Wilma Moore-Black*

*"Love is an exploding cigar we willingly smoke." – Lynda Barry*

Love is a part of life we encounter whether we want to or not, with people, places and things we sometimes have no control over. That true test of love and explanations of love come from being a parent. You've got to have unconditional love.

For the last six months or more, I've wrestled with letting my 25-year-old daughter Heather go and truly be in love with Vinny Manuel II, the man she married Aug. 15.

Surprisingly, I didn't cry, but I have had some sad times and challenging moments during the last few months as I would see her baby photos on my bedroom wall or going to Kansas City to watch her try on her wedding dress.

It was time to let my baby go and allow her to become an adult. She wrote me a letter that read, "Mom, I love Vinny and I am proud of the life that we have made together. He makes me happy. I have learned how to truly love someone unconditionally through him. ... I love you and would not ask for anyone else to be my mother. I am the woman I am today because of you."

My heart was touched by her remark and the tears flowed. Flashbacks came of the years I tried to conceive. I was 32 and working at Wesley Medical Center when I had Heather. I moved on to a job at KAKE-TV shortly after she was born and had her nearby from every election, MD telethon, to listening to police scanners on the assignments desk. I've always been pretty protective about my daughter's presence on this earth, since I had experienced a miscarriage earlier in life. God always knows what's best and He replenishes your life with greater joys as needed.

I have been fortunate to add a compassionate son-in-law to my life along with my two children – my lifetime keepers. They have given me a sense of pride that's priceless. My gratitude is boundless.

When I do an inventory of myself, where I am now in life and what have I accomplished, I realize I've done OK, but I owe a huge debt to others who helped shape me. That help goes beyond your own family. It includes anybody who made you smile, think, feel guilty, work, fight, care and even cry -- for all those feelings emerged and made a difference in your life.

None of us made it on our own; we each can reach back, turn either to our left or right side, and help one another along the way. That feeling extends to my relationships with communicators in NFPW, KPC and the local Wichita affiliate. To teach is to touch a life forever, and it seems I'm learning something all the time from the people I meet along my journey. It's all part of being connected; it's all about love.

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## September luncheon: Consumer power with e-commerce

Chris Harmon, an e-commerce expert, will talk about the changing field of e-commerce that is giving more power to consumers at the next Wichita Professional Communicators' luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7, at Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas.



The Web has changed how we shop and ecommerce companies are doing more to reach out to the consumer. For Harmon, the Web changed his career. He started working in the print industry, developing prints and negatives for printing press plats and then switched careers to information technology. Since 1994, he has been a local consultant, specializing on the Apple platforms. In 1998 Chris started in IT at the Coleman Co. helping the company launch its site in March 2000. The site increased the sale of spare parts 385 percent in the first year. In 2007 Harmon updated Dean & DeLuca's site for the first time in over a decade; the new site has gotten favorable reviews. This year Harmon and business partner Don DeHamer formalized their company as Ecommerce Mechanics.

Please **RSVP to Becky Funke no later than noon Monday, Aug. 31**, at [bfunke@activeagingonline.com](mailto:bfunke@activeagingonline.com), call 316-942-5385, or reserve and prepay with PayPal at [www.wichitaprofessionalcommunicators.com](http://www.wichitaprofessionalcommunicators.com). Remember, the RSVP deadline is firm.

**DATE:** Wednesday, Sept. 2  
**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, Aug. 31**, at [bfunke@activeagingonline.com](mailto:bfunke@activeagingonline.com) or call 942-5385. To prepay online using PayPal, visit the WPC Web site.

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### **Volunteer opportunities for committee, judging contests**

Kansas Professional Communicators is seeking someone to chair its Communicator of Achievement committee. The award is presented annually at the KPC contest. This year WPC's Jill Miller won the award. Contact KPC president Gwen Larson, [larsong@emporiagazette.com](mailto:larsong@emporiagazette.com), if you are interested.

If you are interested in helping judge high school contests or other state affiliate communications contest, contact Becky Funke, [bfunke@activeagingonline.com](mailto:bfunke@activeagingonline.com).

From now until the end of the year, new members joining Wichita Professional Communicators for the 2010 calendar year will receive membership for the rest of 2009 free. That means extra months of getting the lower membership price at the monthly luncheons as well as receiving WPC e-news alerts about job openings and other items of interest, which is sent exclusively to WPC members. A membership form is attached.

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### **Join now for 2010 and get 2009 membership free**

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### **Share your news and information**

We share what's going on with various members through three standard newsletter features: Member News, where you can share recent news about yourself; What We're Reading, where you share the title and author along with your observations of your latest read; and the occasional member profile. Submit your items to nwsbrfs editor Amy Geiszler-Jones at [algj64@sbcglobal.net](mailto:algj64@sbcglobal.net). If you'd like to share your profile, e-mail the editor to receive a list of questions.

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### **WPC Programs & Calendar • Year 2009**

- Sept. 2: WPC luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas.
- Sept. 10-12: NFPW Conference in San Antonio
- Sept. 14: WPC board meeting, noon at Watermark, 4701 E. Douglas
- Oct. 7: WPC luncheon at Larkspur honoring KPC patrons at 11:30 a.m. at Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas
- Oct. 12: 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](mailto: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](http://www.wichitaprofessionalcommunicators.com)  
Kansas Professional Communicators Web site: [www.kansasprofessionalcommunicators.org](http://www.kansasprofessionalcommunicators.org)  
National Federation of Press Women site: [www.nfpw.org](http://www.nfpw.org)

## 2009 WPC Board

PRESIDENT - Wilma Moore-Black [wmbcreative@yahoo.com](mailto:wmbcreative@yahoo.com) or [wilma.black@wichita.edu](mailto:wilma.black@wichita.edu)  
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