

President's Column

From the desk of Wilma Moore-Black

It is funny how time slips away. It was just 11 months ago that I was granted the honor to serve as the 2009 president. What an exciting, productive and rewarding year it's been for me!



- Each first Wednesday of the month, I intentionally sat at a different table during our luncheon meetings at Larkspurs to meet guests and to enjoy refreshing conversations with members. Many times my meal got cold, but it was still tasty, because it was important to make sure the buffet line was started at 11:30 a.m. sharp. It is a privilege to have meetings with a meal and speakers during the scheduled time so everybody can return to work in a timely manner.
- On the second Monday of each month, super cooperative and dedicated members of the WPC board did their job, shared ideas, worked on projects, and tackled ways to improve the group's support to scholarship funds for deserving college students. Truly, I thank each board member for reserving time to attend meetings in the basement of Watermark Café and Bookstore; extra efforts were made to listen and learn as you were challenged to just share your thoughts and engage in all discussions. Your advice on professional development for the group and contributions to the success of a "jazzy" spring conference were greatly appreciated.
- About the third Tuesday each month, the deadline to complete the president's column always came. The reminder email, like clockwork, from Amy Geiszler-Jones was inevitable. She's been a sharp editor who also made it fun to fight the time clock. It was my pleasure to write a column, share a part of my life, values and my inner soul. It was a blast writing the columns, deciding which topic I wanted to tinker with while juggling my schedule to write, revise and proofread my final message.

Once again, thank you, thank you for the privilege and joyous adventure to serve as the 2009 president of the Wichita Professional Communicators. My role moves to serving on the board as a past president. My vision still matches the organization's goal to be stronger, increase membership and become more visible in the Wichita area, Kansas and nationwide.

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Celebrate the holidays — and WPC — at Dec. 7 mixer



Our holiday mixer is just around the corner and will be a great one, as always. We'll have an early-evening reception 4:30-6:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, at Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas.

Reception activities include WPC board elections and drawings for books and other items to benefit the WPC scholarship fund. The reception is just \$12 for members, students and guests.

Filling hors d'oeuvres, bite-sized desserts, coffee, tea and soda will be served.

A cash bar will be available. Giveaways will be awarded, with a \$5 donation per chance suggested.

Please RSVP to Becky Funke **no later than noon Thursday, Dec. 3**, 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: Monday, Dec. 7
TIME: 4:30-6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas
COST: \$12 per person

Reservations/cancellations required:
E-mail Becky Funke **by noon Thursday, Dec. 3**, at bfunke@activeagingonline.com or call 942-5385. To prepay online using PayPal, visit the WPC Web site.

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Donations for mixer giveaway gifts accepted

Check your corporate cupboards and your closets for possible giveaway gifts for our holiday mixer drawings. A \$5 donation per chance is suggested. If you have something to contribute — a book, company merchandise or something to regift — please bring your items by 4:30 p.m. to the Dec. 7 mixer at Larkspur.

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Vote on 2010 officers at Dec. 7 mixer

Elections for the 2010 slate of Wichita Professional Communicators officers, listed below, will be held during the Dec. 7 mixer at Larkspur. The reception is a come-and-go reception, so please be sure to fill out a ballot before leaving the festivities. Many officers and those already serving on the board have agreed to stay on this year or to fulfill new roles. Anyone interested in serving the organization should contact Beth Bower, beth@goodlifeguy.com.



President: Beth Bower
President-elect: ?
Secretary: Carreen Simon
Treasurer: Melissa Lacey-Nagy
VP membership: Teresa Veazey
VP programs: Jill Miller
VP scholarship: Deb Umberger
At-large board members: Kathy Souter, Susan Hund-Milne, Shannon Littlejohn

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Renew membership or join now

WPC memberships expire at the end of the calendar year so please remember to renew now for 2010. New members are encouraged to sign up, as well. You may fill out the attached application or pay online using PayPal at the WPC Web site (www.wichitaprofessionalcommunicators.com).

For questions about WPC membership, please contact Teresa Veazey, WPC membership VP, at teresa.veazey@wichita.edu or 978-6462.

There are lots of great reasons to join WPC, KPC and NFPW as a professional member. Here are a few:

- **Networking** with a diverse nationwide membership of communications leaders and trendsetters.
- **Professional development** through local workshops, the annual spring KPC conference and fall NFPW conference. Professional members enjoy discounts to all.
- **State and national communications contests** recognizing outstanding performance in a broad range of professional categories. Professional members pay a reduced entry fee.
- **Leadership development opportunities** through local, state and national organization boards and committees.
- **KPC and NFPW Communicator of Achievement competitions**, the top honor for Professional members, recognizing career contributions to the communications industry.
- **KPC professional development grants** for attending non-KPC conferences and workshops in the communications field.
- **Informative newsletters and e-news alerts** about news of interest to communicators, member news and more, from NFPW, KPC and WPC. Find out about jobs in the field that aren't advertised elsewhere.
- **Free "Need a Pro?" listing** on the KPC Web site. Nonmembers must pay a fee for this service.
- **Scholarships** for university communications students.

To learn more, visit our Web sites: www.wichitaprofessionalcommunicators.com
www.kansasprofessionalcommunicators.org
www.nfpw.org

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Member News

Jill Miller recently moved her business, Creative Solutions, to 437 N. St. Francis, in which she's sharing space with her husband Tom Page's new recording studio.

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Entries for KPC contest due Jan. 11



Enter your best work in Kansas Professional Communicator’s annual contest that offers several categories in writing, advertising, public relations work, Web site development, electronic media, photography, books, research and much more. The contest deadline is Monday, Jan. 11.

All 2010 contest entries must have been published, issued, broadcast or epublished between Jan. 1, 2009 and Dec. 31, 2009. All necessary forms to enter the contest, along with the listing of categories, are available at www.kansasprofessionalcommunicators.org.

For more information, contact state contest chair and WPC member Becky Funke at 942-5385 or bfunke@activeaging.com.

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Scholarship awards increases, applications due earlier

Three changes are in store for the 2010 scholarships awarded by Wichita Professional Communicators — the awards will increase from \$1,500 to \$2,000, students from Butler Community College will also be eligible to apply, and the deadline has been moved up.

As in past years, scholarships will be awarded to either one, two or three students in varying amounts. The number of scholarships and the amount of each is determined by a WPC committee that reviews all applications.



In addition to being open to Friends, Newman and Wichita State university students, the eligible applicant pool will now include Butler Community College students as well. To be eligible, students must have declared a major in print or broadcast journalism, mass communications, public relations or advertising. Applicants must have completed a minimum of 45 hours of college credit with an overall grade point average of 3.0.

All four schools will receive information about the scholarship and applications soon. The deadline for submitting completed applications has been moved from the end of March to Feb. 1. This change will give students time to work on their applications over the holiday break and will enable WPC to award scholarships before the end of the school year, according to WPC scholarship VP Deb Umberger.

WPC awards all qualified applicants, whether or not they receive a monetary award, memberships in our local WPC chapter, Kansas Professional Communicators, and the National Federation of Press Women.

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Roundup of the Roundup on the River conference

If you were unable to attend this year’s NFPW conference in September in San Antonio, check out the latest edition of NFPW’s Agenda, http://www.nfpw.org/pdf/AGENDA_Fall09.pdf. It includes highlights of the various speakers.

Mark your calendars for next year’s NFPW conference, being held in Chicago Aug. 26-28.

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What We’re Reading

Susan Hund-Milne has been reading “Parting Visions, Uses and Meanings of Pre-Death, Psychic, and Spiritual Experiences?” by Melvin Morse, M.D. Hund-Milne says, “Dr. Morse, a practicing pediatrician, uses meticulous research to show that pre-death visions can empower the dying and the living. He explored and scrutinized the testimony of people who have had a wide range of spiritual experiences. I’m fascinated by it. Can hardly put it down.”



After seeing the recent stage production of “Wicked” in Wichita, **Deb Umberger** decided to read the book by Gregory Maguire, even though she’s never been attracted to fantasy novels.

Umberger says, “The book is about Elphaba, a girl who was born with a strange appearance and a prickly disposition, in the land of Oz. It tells her story before Dorothy from Kansas arrived in this land of sorcery and otherworldly characters. The story makes the reader think about how physical appearance can be deceiving and how it can influence the kind a person a child may become. How people perceive Elphaba has a big effect on how she perceives herself.

When people call her the Wicked Witch of the West, she starts using the name to refer to herself, even though it isn't a fair description. In this book, nothing is simply black or white; no one is simply good or evil. It's an interesting read because it takes the one-dimensional characters we know and explains why they are the way they are.

"I liked the book and may have to rethink my opinion of the fantasy genre."

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.

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Meet a Member

Beth Bower, 2010 WPC president

Employer/Describe what you do: Self-employed freelance writer and part-time bookseller at Watermark Books & Café. I write for a number of publications in the local area and sell books at Watermark on Mondays.

About your family: I've been married to my husband, Guy, for 27 years and we have two boys, both graduates of K-State, and two dogs, both "rescued" animals. Guy is a retired Air Force pilot who flies for FedEx and does a radio show called The Good Life on KNSS 1330 AM. Because the radio show revolves around "food, wine and fun for your ears," we travel to various food events and wine regions in search of that "fun." We also like to entertain. He's the chef but I'm a darn good cook!

Where you grew up: I was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., and after graduating from high school, I joined the Air Force. My first job was as a helicopter mechanic and I was the second woman helicopter mechanic in the Air Force and the first in the Tactical Air Command. After three years of "grease" monkey work, I transferred jobs and worked with pilot records. This job took me to Spain where I met Guy. We got married in Las Vegas and then I relocated to England. After my oldest son was born in Cambridge, I got out of the Air Force to raise him. We moved to Las Vegas and after the birth of my second son, I went back to school to get my degree. It wasn't until after we had moved to Florida, three years later, that I got my degree in English with the emphasis in creative writing from Florida International University.

Your favorite things to do, see or visit in Wichita: What's fun in Wichita? Food, music, shows, museums: We have it all. Whoever says Wichita lacks entertainment opportunities, hasn't looked lately. If you're a wino, like me, events abound and then some. If you're a foodie, we have some of the best food, best prices and best chefs around. And then some ...

One thing about you that may surprise people: Are these the hands of a helicopter mechanic and yes, they are my own nails.

The most interesting/funny/unusual/weird person you've ever interviewed or written about: Everyone I've interviewed is interesting/funny/unusual and/or weird; you just have to get them to tell you that bit about them. Everyone has a story. I did get to interview the first woman fighter pilot to go through training at McConnell. And yes, she did have to wear Depends on some flights. Goes with the territory.

Favorite book: Well, there are the ones I've probably read more than eight times each, if that qualifies: "Little Women," the entire, original "Dune" series by Frank Herbert, "Doomsday Book" by Connie Willis (it features a pandemic, Black Death and time travel, how bad can it be?), and the "Dragonriders of Pern" (the early books). Right now, Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum novels and Charlaine Harris' Sookie Stackhouse vampire stories. Not much of a non-fiction fan other than food magazines and cookbooks.



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WPC Programs & Calendar • Year 2009-10

- Dec. 7: WPC holiday mixer, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas
- Dec. 14: WPC board meeting, noon at Watermark, 4701 E. Douglas
- Jan. 6: WPC luncheon feature Kansas political blogger Rebecca Zepick, 11:30 a.m. at Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas
- Jan. 11: WPC board meeting, noon at Watermark, 4701 E. Douglas
- Aug. 26-28: NFPW conference in Chicago

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
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Season's Greetings