

June program: Improve your focus

Learn how to get more career traction as you de-stress and effortlessly improve your focus with tips from the Wichita Professional Communicators program and luncheon Wednesday, June 7, at Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas. Our guest speaker is Dorothy Gray, owner of Creative Brain Works in Wichita. The luncheon buffet will begin promptly at 11:30 am.; doors at 11 am. if you'd like to come early to network.

Do you feel stressed, overwhelmed or exhausted by life? Do you have trouble focusing or keeping up because of stress? Most people move through life without being able to do their best due to overwhelm or lack of focus. Gray will help teach you how to switch on higher level functioning so that you can shine. She will discuss techniques to improve your focus and de-stress dramatically in order for you to tap into your creative solutions. Gray will also share simple tools to help you effortlessly be more calm, focused and able to increase your productivity.

Gray has been coaching professionals for more than 30 years. Creative Brain Works provides customized sessions to fit an individual's needs and career issues.



Please RSVP **no later than noon Tuesday, June 6**, to [Eventbrite](#).

Remember, the RSVP deadline is firm, and individuals must pay for cancellations received after the deadline.

Your attendance at the monthly meeting helps support WPC scholarships for college students majoring in journalism or a communications-related field. WPC also offers an opportunity to support the scholarships through its "\$1 for 1 minute announcement" during our introductions at the meeting. In addition, raffle tickets are available for books and other donated items with winners selected at each meeting.

DATE: Wednesday, June 7

TIME: 11:30 a.m. *sharp*

PLACE: Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas

COST: Members \$15, students \$10, guests \$20

Reservations/cancellations required:

Go to [Eventbrite](#) by **noon Tuesday, June 6**. Payments may be made online, or you may pay at the door.

Words from our president: Finding help when you need it



How convenient for me that June's program for Wichita Professional Communicators will offer insights into focusing our busy brains. I just happen to need some help.

That's the thing about organizations and communities, be they professional, family or friends. You can look to any of them for support whether life is looking up or down, crazy or all around.

WPC helps provide pathways and resources for its cohorts in communications. And not just through good programming, but through members themselves.

WPC's June 7 program will be given by member Dorothy Gray, whose credentials in brainwork will make your own brain boggle. I suspect every one of us can benefit from her expertise.

For your networking pleasure, WPC includes communicators from the worlds of academe; the arts; aviation; mental and physical health; news, broadcast and other publishing; and social work.

College students and young graduates come into the organization with strong resumes full of acquired knowledge and skills that also benefit and enrich all members.

Your professional organizations are there for you, just like trusted family and friends. Your job is to reach back to those reaching out to you.

— Shannon Littlejohn

WPC members, KMWU staff Shaar, LeBlanc & Faulx win awards

Deborah Shaar is the winner of a prestigious national Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) award for excellence in journalism.

Shaar, a news reporter for KMWU Wichita Public Radio in Wichita, Kansas, earned SPJ's Sigma Delta Chi Award for investigative reporting in the radio 101+ markets category.

Shaar was honored for her 2016 stories about a Federal Aviation Administration plan to eliminate a weather observation program at Wichita's Eisenhower National Airport without local input. She reported on the story for six months until the eventual resolution in Congress that mandated the FAA to do a thorough safety review before making any changes.

SPJ's Sigma Delta Chi Awards are some of the most prestigious and coveted awards given to journalists. More than 80 awards recognize the best in professional journalism in categories covering print, television, newsletters, art/graphics, online and research. Judges chose the winners from more than 1,300 entries.

Shaar joined the news team at KMWU in September 2014. She spent more than a dozen years working in news at both public and commercial radio and television stations in Ohio, West Virginia and Detroit, Michigan. Before relocating to Wichita, she taught news and broadcasting classes at Tarrant County College in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas area. Shaar earned Bachelor and Master of science degrees in journalism from the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University.

KMWU News won two regional Edward R. Murrow awards from the Radio Television Digital News Association. **Aileen LeBlanc** and Carla Eckels were honored in the Hard News category for "Then and Now: Summer of Justice." **Nadya Faulx**, Hugo Phan and Beth Golay were honored in the Excellence in Social Media category for "Primary Primer."

LeBlanc and Faulx are members of WPC.

RTDNA's Edward R. Murrow Awards recognize the best electronic journalism produced by radio, television and digital news organizations around the world. The regional winners move on to the national competition with winners to be announced in June.

Note these dates: July 12 & Sept. 13

Please note that because of the closeness of the regular WPC meeting and the Fourth of July holiday, the July meeting will instead take place the second Wednesday of July – July 12 – instead of July 5.

Also save the date of Sept. 13 for WPC's annual scholarship fundraising event.

KPC 2018 conference will be in Wichita

Our state chapter, Kansas Professional Communicators, is planning to hold its annual conference in April 2018 in Wichita. Anyone who is interested in being involved with planning that conference – or making programming suggestions – should contact Becky Funke, rfunke3@cox.net.

NFPW conference registration is open

[Registration](#) is open now for anyone who wants to take advantage of early-bird pricing to attend the annual [NFPW Communications Conference](#) in Birmingham. The conference will serve up plenty of Southern hospitality, history and useful professional development topics and opportunities. Early-bird rates through July 24 are \$395 for members, \$495 for nonmembers. Rates increase \$50 after that.

Keynote speakers will include author Rick Bragg and retired Judge Helen Shores Lee. Lee's Birmingham home was bombed during the turbulent Civil Rights Movement. The conference will also celebrate NFPW's 80th anniversary. WPC president Shannon Littlejohn will be representing Kansas Professional Communicators as its Communicator of Achievement, vying to be named KPC's COA.

Pre- and post-conference tours will include visits to NASA's Space Camp and the towns where Harper Lee, Truman Capote, F. Scott Fitzgerald and other writers with Alabama ties lived and worked. There's even time for a visit to the sandy Gulf Coast beaches.

[Grants](#) are available for NFPW members attending the conference for the first time. The deadline to apply is July 15.



WPC Programs & Calendar 2017

June 7 :	WPC monthly luncheon featuring Dorothy Gray on sharpening your mental skills, 11:30 a.m. Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas
June 19:	WPC board meeting, noon, Watermark, 4701 E. Douglas
July 12:	WPC monthly luncheon with program on Wichita Public Library, 11:30 a.m. Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas
July 17 :	WPC board meeting, noon, Watermark, 4701 E. Douglas
Sept. 7-9:	NFPW conference, Birmingham, Alabama
Sept. 13:	annual WPC scholarship fundraising event

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 \$15, students \$10, all others \$20. Check in and pay at the WPC table inside the banquet room, or prepay through Eventbrite. Members: please leave your name tag with our check-in hostesses. In times of inclement weather, WPC will follow the status of USD 259 closures in deciding to cancel a monthly program meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2017

WPC Professional:	\$149 (Includes membership in National Federation of Press Women, Kansas Professional Communicators and Wichita Professional Communicators)/ \$149 for 2016 membership
WPC Local:	\$50 (Membership in WPC only)
WPC Student:	\$45 (Includes membership in NFPW, KPC and WPC)
WPC Retired:	One-time payment of \$105 for KPC plus \$30 annually for NFPW (no additional WPC dues necessary). Make payment to WPC.

COMM LINKS

Wichita Professional Communicators: www.wichitaprofessionalcommunicators.com
Kansas Professional Communicators: www.kansasprofessionalcommunicators.org
National Federation of Press Women: www.nfpw.org
NFPW Agenda newsletter: <http://nfpw.org/pdf/currentissue.pdf>.

2017 WPC Board

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