

July program: Wichita's 'library of the future'

Programming note: Meeting is the second Wednesday of July

More community workshops and services, a new central library – come learn more about what's happening with the Wichita Public Library as Cynthia Berner, director of libraries, is the next presenter at the Wichita Professional Communicators program and luncheon Wednesday, July 12, at Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas. The luncheon buffet will begin promptly at 11:30 a.m.; doors at 11 a.m. if you'd like to come early to network.

Berner will give us an update on the new \$37 million Advanced Learning Library being built at 2nd Street and McLean. A project that has been in the works for many years, the new library is expected to open in 2018 and is designed to be a “library of the future.” The building will incorporate multiple learning styles and expands access to technology and services.



Berner, director of libraries since 2000 after serving five years as coordinator of administrative services, will also share ways her and her staff are communicating the library's changing role in the community.

Please RSVP **no later than noon Tuesday, July 11**, 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, July 12
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, July 11**. Payments may be made online, or you may pay at the door.

Grammarisms redux: Taming the tangible evidence

I recently went on a quick search of the Wichita Public Library website for, what else, “grammar.” Since the WPL is a research library whose possession of and/or access to data is practically unlimited, 436 titles popped up in a one-word search. The listings represent just what is potentially available in Wichita.

As a proper geek, I tried again with other key words such as “English” (14,463 titles); “English usage” (169); language (11,498) and “language usage” (171).

You see what this could become: endless. But all results show where a resource is located, what type of material it is, even a link to “More Details” and “Request It.”

Imagine sitting among a stack of books on your own favorite subject, thumbing through pages and stopping to absorb what you find. Google is a swift ally in our searches, but for swiftly verifiable information among proven resources, there is still nothing like a public library. Explore. <http://www.wichitalibrary.org/>

– Shannon Littlejohn

Words from our president: Raise your hand if you love libraries



If we were to survey our membership, we would likely find many longtime library lovers. Those of us have sweet memories of hours spent lingering among the books at a main library or a branch, taking a stack to the desk for checkout, and heading home eagerly anticipating leisurely reading. We also recall urgent hours spent researching, fact checking, asking a librarian for help, and, eureka, finding what we need to complete a term paper, a thesis or a dissertation.

Those benefits haven't changed, but now our local library offers so much more, with free computer access, free programs and courses, tech training and constant upgrading of its offerings.

We are fortunate to live in a city that decided to invest in its own future with a new library, and when it opens, it will dazzle even the curmudgeons among us. I've been honored to serve on the Wichita Public Library board, and watch minds and hearts turn toward a firm "yes" for an advanced learning library that will more than quadruple its public computer count, add gathering spaces, an auditorium, a coffee shop and countless other amenities.

"... the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries." ~Carl Sagan, *Cosmos*

— Shannon Littlejohn

Member news

Four WPC members, all of whom had earned first-place honors in the KPC communications contest, won eight awards in the NFPW communications contest: first-place awards to **Amy Geiszler-Jones** (specialty articles – physical health, fitness mental health, self help) and **Angie Prather** (social media campaign and videos for website, both in the nonprofit, government or educational categories); second-place honors to **Judy Conkling** (blogs – nonprofit, government or educational); a third-place award to **Debbie Elmore** (specialty articles – social issues); and honorable mentions to Elmore (specialty articles – sports) and Prather (PR materials – reports and publications regularly edited by entrant).

Laura Roddy and **Brian Whepley** were writers on teams that received Gold Awards at the Kansas City Press Club's Heart of America Awards in June. Whepley was the writer of the article "The Number of Kansans Not Voting Would Fill Kauffman Stadium over 18 Times." Roddy was the writer of the article "Full Court Press." The stories were published in *The Journal*, the magazine of the Kansas Leadership Center.

See the work of **Anne Welsbacher** come to life on the stage in August at the Wichita Scottish Rite Center's Signature Theatre. Her play, "Last Chance Liquor," will be performed at 8 p.m. Aug. 18 and 19, and 7 p.m. Aug. 20. Tickets are \$18 with discounts available.

NFPW conference registration is open with early-bird rates until July 24

Littlejohn will represent Kansas communicators in COA contest

[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 represent 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.





“Communication, Chardonnay and Crudities”

Annual WPC scholarship benefit

6-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13 • Audi Wichita, 1575 N. Greenwich

Start collecting auction items now!

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 Shannon Littlejohn, shannon.littlejohn@gmail.com or Becky Funke, rfunke3@cox.net.

WPC Programs & Calendar 2017

- 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
- Aug. 2: WPC monthly luncheon with program, 11:30 a.m. Larkspur, 904 E. Douglas
- Aug. 21 : 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

President: Shannon Littlejohn, shannon.littlejohn@gmail.com

Vice President: Amy Geiszler-Jones, algj@64@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Judy Conkling, judyconkling@cox.net

Treasurer: Cindy Kelly, thecindykelly@gmail.com

VP, membership: Adrienne Churchill, nachurch11@gmail.com

VP, programs: Lori Miller, lori.miller@marathonresources.com

Courtesy/reservations: Deborah Shaar, deborahshaar@yahoo.com

Newsletter/enews editor: Amy Geiszler-Jones, algj@64@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster: Melanie Jenney, mjenney@gmail.com

Scholarship chair: Rebecca Funke, rfunke3@cox.net

Historian: Shannon Littlejohn, shannon.littlejohn@gmail.com



Member at-large Elizabeth Bower, beth@goodlifeguy.com