

January program: Table Topics for Communications Pros

Once again, Wichita Professional Communicators will kick off its year of programming with roundtable discussions. Join us Wednesday, Jan. 9, for our third annual table topics event. Our table topics are designed to help you broaden your network, think creatively, get support, brainstorm and dream. Even some minor ranting is welcome. The information will also help us tailor programming for the 2019 year. A WPC board member will moderate each table.



The doors to our meeting venue, Larkspur Bistro & Bar, 904 E. Douglas, open at 11 a.m., with our meeting starting at 11:30 a.m. sharp to allow us to keep to an ideal 60-minute meeting. Come early to network, catch up with one another and meet new members.

We'll capture your ideas and questions to compile and share them after the session. Come ready for some great conversation. Who better to learn from than the people who do what you do or aspire to do every day?

Please RSVP **no later than noon Tuesday, Jan. 8**, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wpc-monthly-meeting-and-luncheon-january-2019-tickets-53713388190>. Remember, the RSVP deadline is firm, and individuals must pay for cancellations received after the deadline.

DATE: Wednesday, Jan. 9

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

PLACE: Larkspur Bistro, 904 E. Douglas

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

There is a \$5 walk-in fee for members and nonmembers if you did not make a luncheon reservation.

Reservations/cancellations required:

Go to [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wpc-monthly-meeting-and-luncheon-january-2019-tickets-53713388190) **by noon Tues., Jan. 8**. Payment may be made online, or you may pay at the door.

Words from the WPC president: Let's get ready for the next year!

Have you started making your New Year's resolutions? Or do you just not even go down that road anymore? I have to admit it's hard for me to do – and keep – personal resolutions. But I'm extremely proud that our 2018 board set some initiatives and followed through on those and even more. That's why I'm pretty confident that our 2019 will be able to do the same. We are welcoming so many new members who I anticipate will keep us vibrant and adapting to the ever-changing communications and media landscape. (See the article on the new board elsewhere in this newsletter.)

As members, you have a chance to help us shape some programming and strategies as well. Please make plans to attend that Jan. 9 meeting to share ideas on how we can remain relevant with your professional challenges. We'll also want to get more members involved in some other processes for 2019, like selecting our scholarship recipient, looking at more programming options such as evening networking or meetup events and some other initiatives the board will tackle in 2019.

Let's close out this decade with some awesomeness as professional communicators – both on the personal and on the WPC community levels! I'll raise a toast to that for 2019. Will you?



– Amy Geiszler-Jones

KPC contest entries due: Jan. 9 early bird, book deadline Jan. 15, others Jan. 22

The Kansas Professional Communicators' annual communications contest is still accepting entries. Administered by our national parent organization, NFPW, this year's contest has undergone several changes, ranging from the types of categories to the requirements for submission. All entries and payments will be handled digitally.

Because communicators now do all kinds of work, several new categories have been added. New categories include ghostwriting, web content writing, personal website, essay writing, social media management, authoring novellas and more.

The contest is open to both members of KPC/NFPW and nonmembers. Winning first-place entries in the state level will advance to the NFPW contest if the entrant is a member. A nonmember first-place winner will be given the option to join KPC/NFPW to move on. KPC will pick up the cost of NFPW contest entries.



Here are some tips and the deadlines you should be aware of:

- Go to nfpw.org, hover over the Events option in the upper-right-hand corner to find the Professional Contest option on the dropdown menu.
- Read through the categories and descriptions and the rules to find out eligibility of entries and also requirements. The categories are defined by genres, such as writing, editing, radio and television, web and social media etc.
- You can create your profile and begin the entry process now. For example, if you plan to enter a newsletter that has finished publishing for the year, go ahead and upload that entry now. It will be saved and you can continue uploading other entries at a later date.
- To save on entry fees, enter by Wednesday, Jan. 9. All entries received after that date will be charged a one-time \$25 late fee. The final deadline for book submissions is Tuesday, Jan. 15 midnight in your time zone. The final deadline for all other entries is Tuesday, Jan. 22 midnight in your time zone.
- Cost to enter is first entry \$25, all other entries \$20 each for members; first entry \$30, all other entries \$25 each for nonmembers.

KPC contest winners will be determined in late February, with national winners determined in March.

– Amy Geiszler-Jones



Communicator of Achievement (COA) nominations needed

Nominations are being accepted for the 2019 Communicator of Achievement (COA) award, an honor presented by the Kansas Professional Communicators (KPC). The COA award is the highest honor bestowed as it reflects a person's involvement at the local, state and national level along with the community.

The winner will be announced at the organization's annual spring conference in Emporia. The state COA will go on to compete against other state winners at the National Federation of Press Women's conference planned in June in New Orleans, Louisiana. Contact KPC COA director Wilma Moore-Black at Wilma.black@wichita.edu for a nomination form and more details.

For more information about KPC, visit www.kansasprofessionalcommunicators.org
For more information about NFPW, visit www.nfpw.org

KPC conference to be in March

A final date has not been set, but the KPC annual conference is set to happen on a Saturday in March in Emporia. The KPC board is in the process of scheduling the conference based on venue space availability. If you have any ideas for programming, please contact WPC president Amy Geiszler-Jones, who is an ex-officio member of the KPC board, at algj64@sbcglobal.net or Monica Springer, KPC president, at springer.monica@gmail.com

Renew or join for 2019

WPC has maintained a diverse, vibrant membership, and we want to build on that success, as well as contribute to yours. Membership in WPC is by the calendar year, so please remember to renew or join for 2019, if you haven't already. Download the 2019 app from the WPC [website](#), fill it out and mail it or bring it to the next meeting. Join early in the year so that you can reap the benefits of membership the entire year. We'd also appreciate your help in letting other potential members know about WPC.



Introducing ... new WPC board

Besides the four elected positions of president, vice president, treasurer and secretary, appointed positions comprise the rest of the board. We are happy to announce we have several new faces on the 2019 WPC board.

Brand new members are Emily Christensen, vice president for membership; Nadia Faulx, vice president for programming; Naomi Shapiro, courtesy/reservations manager; and Jennifer Eaton and Kerry Johnston as at-large members. Darcy Gray is our other new member, having been elected secretary at the November general membership meeting. We are pleased to welcome Cheryl Miller back to board service as an at-large member.

Returning board members who are remaining in roles they held in 2018 are Amy Geiszler-Jones, president; Becky Funke, who was elected treasurer after serving on an interim basis; McLinda Schnyder, website manager; Wilma Moore-Black, nwsbrfs editor; and Careen Gibbons and Anne Welsbacher in at-large positions. Those switching roles from 2018 to 2019 are Adrienne Churchill, who was elected vice president; Shannon Littlejohn, scholarship chair; and Beth Bower, at-large member.

We are so grateful to have had the service of the following people in 2018: Judy Conkling, secretary; Dawn Monroe, vice president of programming; Deborah Shaar, courtesy/reservations manager; and Cindy Kelly, former treasurer and then at-large member. We lost two board members in 2018 – Kristi Parker, who died in March; and Brian Whepley, who moved out of state in early fall.

WPC scholarship page launched and accepting applications

The website for the WPC scholarship has been updated. It is open and ready to accept applications. You may begin sharing publicly. Go directly to [WPC Scholarship Page](#)

Community resources for communicators

WPC strives to offer networking opportunities, help fulfill professional development, provide insight to issues and be a resource. With an eye on the latter, we will make you aware of other resources available in the community that can benefit or may interest you as communicators.

Digital arts classes

If you need to learn some skills in the digital arts, here are a few places offering such classes.

- Wichita State Community Education – classes in Adobe Photoshop, basic digital photography, camera phone photography. [Click here](#) for specific times and info; one class starts in February, the others start in March.
- Mark Arts – intro to graphic design using Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. It's a 10-week, two-hour class, starting Jan. 12. [Click here](#) for more info.
- City Arts – classes in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Lightroom and digital illustration start in January. [Click here](#) for more info.



WPC Programs & Calendar 2019

Jan. 9	WPC monthly luncheon program, 11:30 a.m., Larkspur Bistro, 904 E. Douglas, roundtable discussions about WPC goals and events in 2019
Jan. 13	WPC board meeting, noon, Watermark, 4701 E. Douglas
Feb. 6	WPC monthly luncheon program, 11:30 a.m., Larkspur Bistro, 904 E. Douglas

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 with reservation. \$5 walk-in fee for members and nonmembers who do not reserve in advance.

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.

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>.

Thank you -- 2018 WPC Board

President: Amy Geiszler-Jones, algj64@sbcglobal.net
Vice president: Elizabeth Bower, beth@goodlifeguy.com
Secretary: Judy Conkling, judyconkling@Cox.net
Interim treasurer/scholarship chair: Rebecca Funke, rfunke3@cox.net
VP, membership: Adrienne Churchill, nachurch11@gmail.com
VP, programs: Dawn Monroe, dawnmonroe.training@gmail.com
Courtesy/reservations: Deborah Shaar, deborahshaar@yahoo.com
Newsletter/enews editor: Wilma Moore-Black, wilma.black@wichita.edu
Webmaster: Melinda Schnyder, mvschnyder@gmail.com
Past president/historian: Shannon Littlejohn, shannon.littlejohn@gmail.com
At-large members:
Carreen Gibbons carreens@gmail.com
Cindy Kelly, thecindykelly@gmail.com
Annie Welsbacher, awelsbacher@gmail.com



Welcome -- 2019 WPC Board

President: Amy Geiszler-Jones, algj64@sbcglobal.net
Vice president: Adrienne Churchill, nachurch11@gmail.com
Secretary: Darcy Gray, dgray5@kumc.edu
Treasurer: Rebecca Funke, rfunke3@cox.net
VP, membership: Emily Christensen, emily.christensen@wichita.edu
VP, programs: Nadia Faulx, faulx@kmuw.org
Courtesy/reservations: Naomi Shapiro, naomi@anchorwichita.com
Newsletter/enews editor: Wilma Moore-Black, wilma.black@wichita.edu
Webmaster: Melinda Schnyder, mvschnyder@gmail.com
Scholarship chair/historian: Shannon Littlejohn, shannon.littlejohn@gmail.com
At-large members:
Elizabeth Bower, beth@goodlifeguy.com
Jennifer Eaton, jeaton2@kumc.edu
Carreen Gibbons, carreens@gmail.com
Kerry Johnston, kerryjoh42@gmail.com
Cheryl Miller, cheryl.miller@wichita.edu
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