



Wichita Professional Communicators

Affiliated with Kansas Professional Communicators and NFPW

www.wichitaprofessionalcommunicators.com

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2021 WPC Holiday Mixer

What: WPC's holiday event with a white elephant gift exchange, friends, food, and music.

When: 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 1

Where: Larkspur Bistro & Bar,
904 E. Douglas Ave., Wichita,
KS 67202

Registration: RSVP by noon Tuesday, Nov. 30, on Eventbrite to save \$5! Advance tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Walk-ins are \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Students are \$10. (Ticket price includes buffet lunch, dessert, water, coffee or tea. Please note: If you register to pay at the door, you will be invoiced if you do not attend.)



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December 1 • wichitaprofessionalcommunicators.com

Celebrate the season with your professional communicator friends, music, food and fun!

'Tis the season to celebrate with Wichita Professional Communicators during our Holiday Mixer at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 1. Join the gang at Larkspur Bistro & Bar in Old Town for lunch, dessert, music and gifts! To participate in our white elephant gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10 or less.

In support of local businesses this season — your gift must be purchased at a local store. Gift cards are allowed! WPC member Shannon Littlejohn will bring some friends for ukulele

music, and WPC member Wilma Moore-Black may entertain us with some karaoke.

Celebrate a successful year with your closest communicator friends. We can't wait to ring in the holidays with you this December!

Proceeds from this event help support WPC's scholarship fund. You may donate directly on our [Donate page](#). Every year, WPC provides scholarships of up to \$2,000 for Wichita-area college students majoring in a communications field.

Giving Back at Tallgrass Film Festival

WPC Members Volunteer

By Wilma Moore-Black

Learning a new craft while volunteering is a remarkable experience. Add an opportunity to be engaged with 113 worldwide filmmakers, see KAKE-TV friends, and five action-packed days of fun and great food—you're in paradise. I'm talking about my first volunteering experience at the 19th annual Tallgrass Film Festival in Wichita, where 187 films were screened from 58 countries and in 18 languages.

Was I tired going into the festival? Yes! But it was worth it all. In fact, working for almost nine months in advance of the Oct. 20-24 festival as part of the 13-member Gordon Parks Advisory Board was automatic. The Tallgrass board and staff need community involvement. This was the first year for a new film category—Gordon Parks Outstanding Black Filmmaker award.



From left: Andre Seward, David Parks and Shane Ewing at KAKE-TV

WPC members I saw were Naomi Shapiro, Cecilia Green, Ellie Keppy and Emily Christensen. Shapiro was busy as a City of Wichita employee-partner with the festival. It was during a festival reception at Botanica that I ran into Green and her husband. Thanks to them for donating an autographed Gordon Parks post-

er to The Kansas African American Museum earlier this year. Keppy was one of the first-class uber drivers for the VIP filmmakers attending the “stubbornly independent” festival.

For Emily and her husband, Mark, the film festival was like a second honeymoon. They've been attending the Tallgrass film festival as “regulars” for years and spent their first anniversary at Tallgrass in 2019. Emily stood out with sparkles in her eyes dressed in her most appropriate outfit for each night's outing. They looked like lovers at first sight, and it was obvious they loved screening films together and were happy.



From left: Sheree Jones, David Parks, John Scheck, JoAnne Lofland and Art Busch

Next to that experience was seeing former KAKE-TV employees Tina and Alex Walterscheid, JoAnne Lofland (and her husband, Art Busch), and John Scheck, who is still employed as a director after 37 years. At the Drury Hotel, the festival's host hotel, I crossed paths with former “Good Morning Kansas” anchor Jan Gardner Binder who ensured hotel guests were satisfied with their stay.

My most treasured festival relationship came when I got to know Arietta Austin, the hospi-



From left: Blaire Birdsong, Arietta Austin, Ann Keefer and Wilma Moore-Black pose in a fun selfie shot.

tal director for Tallgrass. She took over “handling” David Parks about six days during the festival so I could get some well-deserved rest in my home. David and I had been traveling to promote Gordon Parks' works and the movie “Shaft” since Oct. 3. And, I can't leave out connecting again with Will Williams, a long-time Tallgrass volunteer along with his wife; Williams taught me how to design and order grave markers during a stint at Maple Grove Cemetery.

It was so pleasant and relaxing at the hospitality rooms offered at The Drury Hotel and The Lux, a place equipped with delicious food from local food vendors several times a day, small group film discussions, gifts from festival sponsors and a place to screen films daily.

What a beautiful experience at each venue and journey during the 2021 Tallgrass Film Festival. Hats off to all who worked hard to make it happen for 9,000 guests, and we're ready to do it again Sept. 28 to Oct. 2 in 2022. It will be the festival's 20th anniversary.

Job Opportunities

Keeping an eye out for you

- **Howerton+White** is hiring a [marketing and advertising copywriter](#).
- **KMUW** is seeking applicants for the [2022 Korva Coleman Diversity in Journalism Internship](#).
- **Allen, Gibbs & Houlik** is looking for a [marketing communications associate](#).

More Jobs!

- **Neighboring Movement** is hiring a [communications director](#).
- **Koch Engineered Solutions** is looking for a [global marketing manager \(remote\)](#).
- **Cargill** is hiring a [digital marketing lead \(open to remote\)](#).

From the WPC President

Grateful for WPC teamwork, leadership



As I wrap up my year as president of Wichita Professional Communicators, I am grateful for the team of board members I had the pleasure of working with this year as well as the new leaders coming on board in 2022.

Teamwork makes the dream work. There's no "I" in team. Ah, so many clichés come to mind, but I will not torture you with more. In my experience, these phrases ring true. I could not have led WPC this year without our strong team of volunteer board members alongside me, each one a pro: Dawn Monroe, Kylie Cameron, Emily Christensen, Jennifer Eaton, Sean Jones, Naomi Shapiro, Judy Conkling, Wilma Moore-Black, Shannon Littlejohn, Leisl Sackschewsky, Beth Bower and Vanessa Whiteside. I invite you to join me in thanking them for their hard work this year.

Elections for the 2022 executive board members took place during WPC's November meeting, and the slate of nominees was approved: Sean Jones, president; Naomi Shapiro, president-elect; Brittany Sweeney, treasurer; and Ben Redington, secretary.

I am excited to hand over the reins to Sean after watching him knock it out of the park this year as our VP of programs. The future of WPC is bright with these four leading the way!

Leadership experience is just one of the many benefits of serving on the WPC board. The friendships made along the way are another benefit. It's a community of professionals you feel connected to. Are you looking for a leadership opportunity in 2022? You may not realize how volunteerism can change your life. If you are interested in serving on the WPC board, contact Sean Jones at sjones@wichita.gov.



Darcy Gray

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Wichita Professional Communicators is growing, and we invite you to join us in welcoming new members:

- **Kindra Goertzen**, creative manager for United Way of the Plains
- **Christopher Wren**, director of sales and marketing for Candlewood Suites
- **Sherii Farmer**, community relations manager for Evergy
- **Amy DeVault**, journalism instructor and student media advisor at Wichita State University



Know someone who's interested in joining WPC? Purchase a 2022 membership now and get the rest of 2021 free! Join today through our [website](#).



WPC Member News

- **Jill Miller's** Finishing School for Modern Women joined forces with PourHouse by Walnut River Brewing Company to form an alliance of Badass Women in Wichita. Women of all ages are invited to participate in discussions and actions that "build community, empower women and develop our badassery," according to the alliance's [Facebook group page](#). You can also sign up online for their [newsletter](#).
- **Emily Christensen's** podcast for mama.film, Feminist Foremothers, won a Special Project Award in the Arts Council's 2021 Art Awards.
- **Sam Smith** is a new board member for The Arts Council in Wichita.
- **Shannon Littlejohn** spoke during the "Taco 'bout Les" event Nov. 12 in Valley Center honoring and remembering Les Anderson. Littlejohn was vital in launching the Les Anderson Fund for Students at Wichita State University.
- **Kindra Goertzen** is among the members of Wichita Business Journal's new Emerging Leaders Class.
- **Amy Geiszler-Jones**, Kansas Professional Communicators president and historian for National Federation of Press Women, brought Mary Pat Hoag, assistant NFPW historian and member of Nebraska Press Women, with her to WPC's November program.
- **Julie Ann Baker Brin** gave back by making a sizable hair donation to Locks of Love, in addition to volunteer publicity for the Wichita Alternative Gift Market.

WPC & AFFILIATES CALENDAR

Dec. 1: WPC holiday mixer, 11:30 a.m. at Larkspur Bistro & Bar.

Dec. 13: WPC board meeting, noon at Dawn Monroe Training

Dec. 15: WPC-ICT "Unoffice" Holiday Party, 5:30-7:30 p.m., location TBA

Jan. 5: WPC monthly program, 11:30 a.m. at Larkspur Bistro & Bar.

Jan. 10: WPC board meeting, noon, details TBD.

Jan. 19: Early bird deadline for NFPW Communications Contest.

NFPW 2022 Communications Contest

Earn recognition for the great work you do! The [National Federation of Press Women's 2022 Communications Contest](#) is accepting entries online, and the early bird deadline is Jan. 19. This two-tiered professional contest is open to both members and non-members, with entry fees discounted for members. The first tier of the contest is run at the state level. First-place winners from the state-level contest advance to the national level of judging. To be eligible to compete at the national level, the entrant must be an NFPW member in good standing. Entrants can join NFPW (professional level membership) once they learn of their winning status. NFPW offers numerous contest categories, including writing, editing, photography, graphics and design, radio and television, web and social media, advertising, public relations, speeches and more.



2021 WPC BOARD

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