

WICHITA PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATORS

Official newsletter of the Wichita Professional Communicators
wichitaprofessionalcommunicators.com



Wichita Professional
Communicators



FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Kristin Bogner

Welcome to a new year with Wichita Professional Communicators. We are glad you're here!

Our board is hosting a retreat at the end of the month to have meaningful discussion about the work we plan to do in 2024. Some discussion topics will include reviewing our mission statement, considering a professional development offering, starting a membership campaign and evaluating our annual fundraiser. If you're a member who has feedback on any of these topics, please reach out to me. We will keep you updated.

While I think it's important this organization's president communicates with the membership, in lieu of this letter each month, starting in February I plan to change it up and interview one of our members. I believe we need to deeply honor the history of our organization by celebrating some of our longer standing members' experiences – while we also celebrate innovation and achievement by members in all stages of their careers. I hope by highlighting some of our members, we can further learn from one another through this newsletter.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If you are a current member of WPC/Kansas Professional Communicators/NFPW, you should have received an email from NFPW headquarters to renew your dues since membership runs on the calendar year.

To continue your WPC and KPC membership, select both the Kansas and Kansas-Wichita affiliates when renewing. To check your membership record to ensure all your information is correct or to renew, visit <https://nfpw.memberclicks.net/join> . If you haven't already, create a login and password to access your record. If you'd like to join WPC/KPC/ NFPW, visit the same link.

Dues are \$160 (\$30 for WPC, \$40 for KPC and \$90 for NFPW). A professional-level membership provides more networking opportunities with professionals across the U.S. and access to both NFPW and all other affiliates' programming (many offer virtual options). It also offers more professional development opportunities, including financial grants for members, advocacy for First Amendment issues and recognition through a national contest.

For any questions about membership, please contact info@nfpw.org or Amy Geiszler-Jones, KPC vice president of membership, at algj64@sbcglobal.net or 316.210.4931.

Renewals for local-only WPC membership are handled directly by WPC.

Part of my continued commitment to WPC in 2024 is to increase our membership. It started by inviting both Dr. Cheryl A. Clark and David Parks to the last 2023 holiday luncheon at Larkspurs Bistro and Bar.

A first-timer to the luncheon, Clark participated in the gift exchange by sharing one of her CDs entitled "The Essence of Praise." She is a gospel singer, motivational speaker and author of "Hope for the Heart." In her book, she shares the story of how she overcame a traumatic brain injury and survived a critical car crash.

Parks, the son of international photographer, filmmaker and author Gordon Parks, has attended the luncheons before. A two-time Purple Heart recipient, David Parks is author of "G.I. Diary," a firsthand accounting of his experiences in the Vietnam War. He also assisted his father in the production of the films "The Learning Tree" and "Shaft."

This was the first time Clark and Parks both attended as invited guests, and both enjoyed the luncheon and conversations. -- Wilma Moore-Black, Scholarship Co-Chair

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

[Ascension is looking for a Manager, Internal Communications.](#)

[Textron Aviation is looking for a Manager of Content Marketing.](#)

[The American Heart Association is looking for a Digital Content Manager.](#)

[KSAS/KMTW is looking for a Chief Engineer.](#)

NFPW CONTEST

January 17 is the first deadline for entries in the annual KPC communications contest. KPC president Gwen Larson oversees the submitted entries and gets them to the judges.

[For more details about entering the contest, click here.](#)



Dr. Cheryl A. Clark, David Parks and Wilma Moore-Black



WPC SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IS MARCH 4

Applications are now being accepted for the 2024 scholarship awarded by Wichita Professional Communicators (WPC). The deadline for online applications is midnight March 4. WPC offers an annual \$2,000 scholarship to students pursuing degrees in the communications field at Wichita area colleges and universities.

Students pursuing careers in advertising, digital media, editing, graphic design, journalism, marketing, photography, public relations, public speaking, writing and other mass communications areas should apply.

Besides the monetary award, the scholarship recipient will receive a one-year membership in WPC and its affiliated state and national organizations, Kansas Professional Communicators (KPC), and National Federation of Press Women (NFPW which is open to both men and women).

The winner will be announced in spring 2024. Requirements for a complete application can be found online at WichitaProfessionalCommunicators.com. For questions or more information, email WichitaProCom@gmail.com or directly contact WPC's scholarship committee co-chairs Wilma Moore-Black at wilma.black@wichita.edu or Ellie Keppy at keppy@kmuw.org.

"We have a strong, supportive membership that believes in giving back to grow our own communicators," Moore-Black said. "The entire membership has many opportunities to get involved in WPC, KPC and NFPW individually and with group projects." Funds for the scholarship come from donations and WPC events like the annual mixer featuring a silent auction. Plans are underway for the 2024 event, and a Save the Date promo will be circulated soon.

WPC & AFFILIATES CALENDAR

Jan. 10: WPC monthly luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at Larkspur. Speakers are members of WSU's The Sunflower staff.

Jan. 17: Early bird deadline for KPC, NFPW communications contest.

Feb. 7: Monthly luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at Larkspur. Speaker: Kaity Robinson with the Brand 5.



President: Kristin Bogner

President-Elect: Kindra Goertzen

Secretary: Ben Reddington

Treasurer: Brittany Sweeney

VP of Programs: Sean Jones

VP of Membership: Haley Crowson

Reservations: Teresa Veazey and Becky Funke

Scholarship/Fundraiser: Ellie Keppy and Wilma Moore-Black

Newsletter: Monica Springer

Social Media: Angie Prather

Historian: Shannon Littlejohn

At-Large: Conni Mansaw

At-Large: Jill Miller

At-Large: Teri Mott

Past President: Naomi Shapiro

Parks' visuals justify First Amendment



By Wilma Moore-Black
Kansas Professional Communicators
Wichita Professional Communicators

Messages in Gordon Parks' photographs defend American privileges promoted in the First Amendment.



Wilma Moore-Black

He was the first Black photographer hired by Life magazine and became internationally known for using his camera as his choice of weapons against inequality, poverty and racism.

Parks' leadership roles define the integrity and charisma he would bring to the table globally.

He represented and lived the meaning of a Pulitzer Prize award

recipient. Unapologetically, Gordon Parks' photographs showcased his intention to get people to think or listen, react or overreact, be emotional or nonresponsive, to evoke an emotion.

A 20th-century photographer, Parks used his camera lens as a change agent that advocated for the rights of anyone faced with inequality, empowering them to tell their own story. That storytelling was mastered through his eyes with his camera lens.

The Ulrich Museum of Art based at Wichita State University has an outstanding Gordon Parks Collection that is open to the public. The largest collections of his works are at the Gordon Parks Foundation in New York; many original items, including Gordon's piano, are housed at the Gordon Parks Museum/Center for Culture and Diversity in the Ellis Family Fine Art Center at Fort Scott Community College in Fort Scott, Kansas.

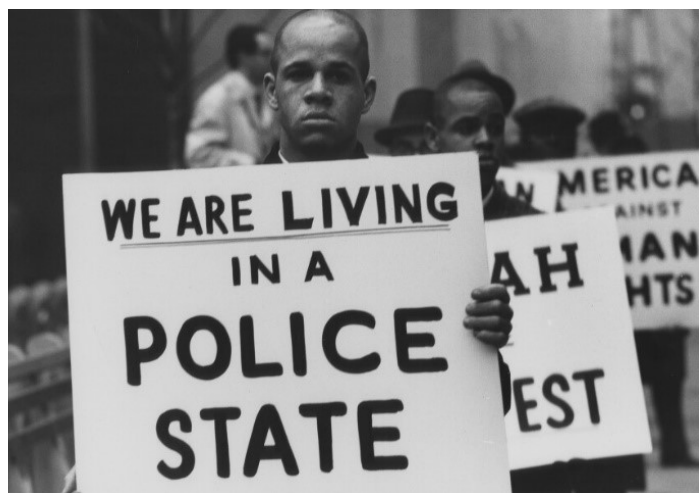
Parks gained high standards and solid values from his parents, books and self-appointed mentors. Credit must be given for his ambition, faith, integrity, cultural aspirations and vision for growth. He was born Nov. 30, 1912, in Fort Scott to Sarah (Ross) and Andrew Jackson Parks. At age 93, he died of cancer on March 7, 2006, in his Manhattan, New York, home. A memorial monument honoring Parks stands tall in the now integrated Evergreen Cemetery in Fort Scott.

A first-generation and limited-income individual, Parks' successes have been a motivator to his children, family, colleagues and generations to come. The youngest of 15 children, he left Fort Scott in his teens for better opportunities. Parks was awarded honorary doctoral degrees from 54 colleges and universities. Many of those international awards were still hanging on the bathroom walls in the New York home when he died.

Besides his love for film and photography, Parks found peace in the universal language: music. He was a self-taught pianist and composer. He never gave up and always expected his filmmaking crew or anyone working with him to aim for perfection, measuring up to Gordon Parks' standards.

Each of his photos is worth a thousand words-plus. That's why his legacy lives on to keep hope alive and as a lifetime fight for equality and the First Amendment.

Wilma is CEO/President, WMB Creative Productions/ Publicist for David Parks, son of Gordon Parks; retired associate director, TRIO Communication Upward Bound, Wichita State University; and retired weekend assignments editor and consumer advocate "Write Wilma," KAKE-TV, ABC affiliate in Wichita; twice past president for Wichita Professional Communicators and WPC 2023-24 scholarship co-chair.



Gordon Parks' Visuals Justify First Amendment Rights. Photo courtesy of the Gordon Parks Foundation. Gordon Parks, untitled, New York, 1963, Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University