A Lasting Legacy

Linda Kester of Phillipsburg, Kan., dreamed of being a writer. Then, one fateful day, she was introduced to a newly named editor of a small newspaper who was in dire need of help with the workload of writing stories. That editor was Amy Eck, who had joined KPC as a college student and scholarship recipient.

Linda not only took on special interest stories but also began writing a weekly column that was featured in The Phillips County Review in Phillipsburg.

In October 2001, Linda became ill. By November, she was hospitalized with cancer. Linda died Friday, Jan. 4, 2002, at the age of 49.

On her deathbed, Linda shared how pleased she was that she had been able to fulfill her dream of being a writer. Her family — and her friend, Amy Eck — want Linda’s dream to continue by helping college students. Since Linda’s death, they have worked to raise $2,000, which will fund the 2013 KPC scholarships.

In Linda’s honor, we share her story here and also will share it with the students from The University of Kansas, Kansas State University, Fort Hays State University and Wichita State University. Linda Kester’s name will be added to our role of patrons as a posthumous donor.

We in KPC salute Linda Kester for pursuing her dreams; we thank her family and friends for their generous donation; and we hope that Linda’s story will inspire all of us to aim high.

We need your voice

I’ve spent the better part of my lifetime sitting in meetings and serving on boards of organizations or leading committees for one organization or another. I attended my very first 4-H meeting in utero and my family jokes that I knew Roberts Rules of Order before my ABCs. In fact, I’ve spent more than a decade on this very KPC Board of Directors in several different offices.

However, I know that stepping up and accepting a leadership position isn’t for everyone. The reasons are many — career, family, hobbies, joining the French Foreign Legion — but in the end the result is the same. A member chooses to spend her free time in other pursuits rather than taking on one more responsibility.

(See Voice, Page 2)
**Linn Ann Huntington**, KPC first vice-president for membership, was quoted in an Associated Press story about the end of the University Leader student newspaper at Fort Hays State University. Huntington is professor and director of journalism at the school. The story was also picked up by NBC News.

**Teresa Veazey** worked a stint during the KMUW public radio fund drive.

**Angie Prather** is the new vice president for communications and investor relations for the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce. According to the Wichita Business Journal, in the newly created position, Prather will direct communications for the entire chamber plus enhance the chamber’s investor relations efforts.

**B.D. Tharp** is one of the group of authors who blog at authorexpressions.blogspot.com. Tharp’s postings are published on the third Monday of the month.

**Jill Miller** was named a Woman in Business by the Wichita Business Journal.

**Gwen Larson**, KPC’s newsletter editor and social media director, has been selected to present two sessions at the 2013 NFPW conference in Salt Lake City. Larson will present a pre-conference workshop on social media designed for people just getting started on Facebook and Twitter. The second workshop will be about branding yourself for today’s job market whether looking for a new job or selling your freelance skills.

Do you have news to share with other members? Send it to Newsletter Editor Gwen Larson at gazettegl@yahoo.com.

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**Voice**

And, I’m here to tell you that is OK. It’s OK to not be an officer or to lead a committee. This is not meant to be a guilt trip for not juggling a family, a career and KPC.

A mentor of mine once told me that a world of leaders runs out of folks to lead pretty quick. His point was that it’s perfectly OK to say “no” sometimes. To step aside and let others take on those tasks, to delegate the responsibility.

But, he cautioned me that the system only works if those being led occasionally speak up and question those whom they follow.

Healthy organizations need the input of all of their members in order to thrive. And, by speaking up and letting their voices be heard, members get a benefit too.

They go beyond writing a membership check and instead start sharing those great ideas they’ve kept to themselves because of doubt and fear. And, some of those ideas they contribute may turn out to be just the thing those leaders were looking for to re-energize the group as a whole.

Your KPC Board of Directors is amazingly talented. These women are smart and capable and professional. But, even they can’t lead this organization by themselves. I can’t lead this organization by myself. We need YOU to share your thoughts with us so that we can make KPC better for all.

And, there’s a prime opportunity to do just that this coming April at the 2013 Kansas Professional Communicators Conference in Manhattan, Kan. We’ll have a great slate of speakers on hand for professional development, like always. But, we’ll also have our annual meeting. Here we’ll review bylaws, listen to officers reports and maybe vote on a few action items.

This annual meeting is required by our bylaws, but I encourage you to look at it as more than a requirement. It’s an opportunity for YOUR voice to be heard.

Would you like to see some changes in our contest? Bring them up.

Do you have an idea to encourage membership? Bring it to the table.

Got some thoughts on scholarships, patrons or financial planning? Let’s talk.

KPC’s future is what we members make it. Not a board of directors. Not NFPW. But all of us. Together.

And, I look forward to making that future with you in April.

KPC President Jenni Latzke can be reached at 620-227-1807 or flatzke@hpj.com.
Register now for state conference

Join Kansas Professional Communicators and discover thoughts, tools, and talents on Saturday, April 27, 2013, in Manhattan for KPC. That’s when we convene for the annual spring conference.

Together we will discover what is happening in communications. Meet at the Hilton Garden Inn for registration and business meeting. Then cross the street to the Flint Hills Discovery Center for workshops, scholarship lunch, and tour of the center. Then it’s back to the Hilton Garden Inn for the afternoon workshop followed by evening communication contest awards, silent auction to raise scholarship funds, and KPC Communicator of Achievement honors.

A keynote morning speaker is Jane Marshall, a food journalist and culinary historian. Marshall has written about food for the New York Times Newspaper Group, the Dallas Morning News, the St. Louis Beacon, the Detroit News and other newspapers throughout the country. She can tell us about the communications class with food blog training she teaches to dietetics master’s students and how to access the archives at university libraries to write books.

Also in the planning stages are workshops on Twitter and how to moderate a civil discussion and prepare for an interview concerning contentious topics.

Many events happen in Manhattan in the spring: get that reservation in before KPC needs to release hotel rooms (Room cut off is Wed., March 27.) The Hilton Garden Inn is at 410 S. 3rd St. in Manhattan. Ask for the Kansas Professional Communicators block at a rate of $114 plus tax for single/double. We have rooms blocked for Friday, April 26, and Saturday, April 27.

Members, send your early bird registration check for $90 made out to “Kansas Professional Communicators” to the conference treasurer Becky Funke, 9 Argon Dr., Goddard, KS 67052-9423. Non-members may attend for $120 for full registration. After Monday, April 15, members also pay $120 for full conference registration. A lunch-only reservation is $24. A dinner-only reservation costs $30. Take advantage of early prices.

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Registration is available online at www.kansasprofessionalcommunicators.org.

Or fill out and mail Page 4 of this newsletter with your payment.

Social Media

If you haven’t found KPC on social media, now is your chance.

Facebook: KPC has a group, which is available at https://www.facebook.com/groups/27162791568/. The group is open to anyone and is used as a recruitment tool.

LinkedIn: Membership in KPC’s LinkedIn group is restricted to members of KPC. The group is available at http://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=101307 &trk=anet_ug_hm. The group is available for discussions with fellow members and also will include job postings, which is a perk of KPC membership.

Twitter: We’ve also joined Twitter. Follow us @KansasPC.
Kansas Professional Communicators  
Spring Conference in Manhattan April 27, 2013  
Hilton Garden Inn and Flint Hills Discovery Center

Registration fees:  
KPC Members, $90 (until April 15, then $120)  
Non-Members, $120  
Students and Retired Members, $60  
Evening Awards Banquet Only, $30  
Lunch Only, $24  
Workshops only, no meals (students only), $20

Accommodations: The Hilton Garden Inn is at 410 S. 3rd St. in Manhattan. Ask for the Kansas Professional Communicators block at a rate of $114 plus tax for single/double. (Room reservation cut-off is Wednesday, March 27) We have rooms blocked for Friday, April 26, and Saturday, April 27.

Conference Sponsorships: Please consider offering sponsorship opportunities to your employer and business associates — or to promote your own business — during this exciting conference. Sponsorships help defray the cost of this event and help make it affordable to all. Click here for more information.

Remember Your Silent Auction Items: Please consider bringing an item for our silent auction, which builds our Scholarship Fund. Check here if you will be bringing a silent auction item ______________.

Conference contact:  
Carol Hockersmith, carol.hockersmith@gmail.com

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| Full conference | $90 | Make checks payable to:  
| Member |  
| Non-member | $120  
| Student / Retired member | $60  
| Awards banquet only | $30  
| Lunch only | $24  
| Workshops only, no meals* | $20  
| **TOTAL ENCLOSED** | $_______ | Kansas Professional Communicators  
(If your employer needs a federal ID number, please contact bfunke@activeagingonline.com/)  

Mail your check and registration form to:  
Becky Funke, KPC Conference Registration  
Active Aging Publishing  
125 S. West St., Suite 105  
Wichita, KS 67213

To pay electronically with credit card:  
Use Paypal.com and email payment to kansasprocom@gmail.com  
You will still need to mail this form to Becky Funke at the contact info above.

Name_________________________________________________________Business________________________________
Address__________________________________________________City__________________________Zip___________
Date_____________________________E-mail_______________________________________________________________