

# The WPF Online Bulletin Board through LinkedIn

A new way to communicate general announcements, events, opportunities, fundraisers, job postings, recommendations (plumbers, caterers, doctors, financial advisors, etc.) ... or any networking inquiry that may help another WPF sister in her professional or private life.

It's a self-posted, online approach for sharing information that's not WPF business and not oh-so-personal ... a place where we can help others and find benefits for ourselves.

## **Site Administrator and Technical Support**

Susan Williams  
swilliam@highpoint.edu  
336-841-9429

## **Moderator and Content Advisor**

Miriam Barkley  
mcbarkle@gmail.com  
336-218-0776

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**As WPF members, we like to be in contact with each other. Especially online.**

We're grateful to Carol Matznick for WPF communications (reminders, newsletters, etc.) – email blasts that help us conduct WPF business.

And we're appreciative of Gloria Thompson for News of Our Sisters – personal news (awards, new jobs, marriages, births, and some not-so-happy things) – email blasts that keep us up to date on each other's private lives.

Now there's a third way to connect with your WPF sisters online.

## **About LinkedIn**

LinkedIn is a business-related social networking site. Launched in May 2003, LinkedIn is generally aimed at helping professionals strengthen contacts and pursue job leads, but its features are readily adaptable for WPF purposes. In August 2011, LinkedIn reported more than 120 million registered users in more than 200 countries. LinkedIn supports dynamic interest groups, like WPF, with easy-to-use, private discussion forums.

Learn more at [learn.linkedin.com](http://learn.linkedin.com).

## **WPF and LinkedIn**

In summer 2011 several WPF members recognized the Forum's need to communicate online about events, offers, and opportunities of benefit to WPF. An informal group – Matilda Kirby-Smith, Lynn Ritchy, Katrina Solomon, Susan Williams, Miriam Barkley, and Donna Newton (in spirit) – met to determine how to do this. The idea was to enhance networking communications through an online bulletin board – in addition to the email blasts from Carol (WPF business) and

Gloria (News of Our Sisters).

There were two desirable qualities: that communication not be dependent on email distribution lists, which are highly variable and difficult to maintain, and that the system be closed to non-WPF members.

The group selected LinkedIn as the web-based option for a new WPF Online Bulletin Board. They tested the system with reasonable success and then opened it to the WPF Board for three months.

*Now it's your turn.*

## **How to Join the WPF Online Bulletin Board on LinkedIn**

If you don't already have an account on LinkedIn, create one at [linkedin.com/reg/join](http://linkedin.com/reg/join)

Technologically challenged? Go to <http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/how-to-join-linkedin.html> for a 2:46-minute video, "How to Join LinkedIn For Dummies"

Once you've joined, you might want to explore the New User Guide at [learn.linkedin.com/new-users](http://learn.linkedin.com/new-users)

To join the WPF Online Bulletin Board:

1. Go to [linkedin.com](http://linkedin.com) (The site will recognize your account.)
2. Near the top right of the page, just left of the search box, click and hold the down arrow and select "Groups"
3. In the search box type in "WPF Bulletin Board" (Note: Use the whole phrase. If you type "WPF" you'll get numerous groups related to the "Windows Presentation Foundation.")
4. Click the resulting pop-up window
5. Click "Join Group" and you will get a response that says your request is pending approval. The request will go to the site administrator who will confirm you are a member of WPF and then allow you to join.
6. You will get an email indicating your request has been approved; reply to it as directed

Once you have joined, access the WPF Bulletin Board from your LinkedIn account via the "Groups" tab near the top of the page. The WPF Bulletin Board will appear on the pull-down menu.

To read WPF posts, you may either visit [linkedin.com](http://linkedin.com) or have posts sent to your email account. The latter is highly recommended. Here's how:

1. From the WPF Bulletin Board site, click the "More" tab (from the second row of tabs, not the top row under the LinkedIn logo)
2. Select "Your Settings" from the pull-down menu

3. Under “Contact Settings” at “Activity” check “Send me an email for each new discussion” (You can always uncheck this if activity becomes too brisk.)

## **User Guidelines**

1. The WPF Online Bulletin Board is accessible to members only. You must ask the site administrator to join the group and be able to post and read messages. Requests from non-members will be denied.
2. Give your post a meaningful title in the subject line. Enter a keyword or phrase that tells what the post is about. Examples: Fundraiser, Event, Restaurant Recommendation, Need an Electrician, Caterer Wanted, Who’s Got a Chicken Pot Pie Recipe.
3. LinkedIn limits the content area of posts to 200 characters. Be succinct.
4. Ensure that your post has a call to action. Don’t use it for chat or musings.
5. Refrain from posting religious or political messages. Nonetheless, fundraisers for your church, religious organization, or political association are acceptable as long as they are clearly identified as such and are open to everyone.
6. Do not post a follow-up unless you have something to add to the original post.
7. Do not start a new thread on a topic already discussed. Use the search function and read the posts to ensure your message is fresh.
8. Do not post Thank You messages to every person who answers your question or to every post you find useful. Respondents may go unacknowledged, and a Thank You is assumed.
9. Post in a way that is courteous to other users.
10. Respect the copyrights of websites, commercial media, and other LinkedIn users.