

## **AMWA Meeting 10 March 2020**

**Call to order: 2:00 pm**

Attendees: Rebecca, Natalie, Leslie, Raeesa, Susan, Lisa, Heather

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

### **Events in St. Louis**

Update by Joanne via e-mail:

- 1) March 31, Tuesday: Luncheon on "Find Customers-- Do Work-- Get Paid" presented by Betsy Frick

As an independent consultant, contractor, or freelancer (three names for the same thing), you have to have customers - and even with them, you will starve if your rates are too low. You also need to protect yourself by getting every agreement in writing. At this session, we'll talk about resources to find customers, work with them successfully, and determine a living rate. New independents and those with years of experience are encouraged to attend and share their experience with the basics of running an independent business.

There are currently 14 attendees signed up on the Evite for this event, and 4 "maybes".

- 2) May 4, Monday: Luncheon on "Medical ghostwriting: ethical and practical controversies" by Pranali Pathare and Dana Delibovi

Despite the opposition of AMWA and other groups, medical ghostwriting remains a common practice. Ghostwriting is especially frequent in communications tied to the pharmaceutical/device/diagnostics industries. Why is medical ghostwriting still so prevalent? Is it always unethical, or are there gray areas where ghostwriting seems acceptable? What is your experience with ghostwriting? This meeting will explore these questions. There will be ample time for discussion, both philosophical and practical.

- 3) July 22, Wednesday: Ten Tips for Networking - and Practice! organized by Lisa Balbes

- 4) September is currently open-- we are looking for an employment attorney to lead a discussion about the restrictive anti-freelancing legislation that's been introduced in state legislatures, including Missouri

- 5) November - Best and Worst Books of 2020, coordinated by Leslie Niestadt

### **Events in Kansas City**

Update by Raeesa: No in-person events organized. Planning a webinar on dealing with Impostor Syndrome in Medical Writing. Asked Chapter members if there was a date/time they would

prefer for a webinar. Everyone thought around lunchtime (noon to 1 pm) would be best. Tentatively planning something in April around noon.

Raeesa asked how Chapter members were informed about upcoming events. Rebecca said there is no official email list because the membership changes frequently. The AMWA HQ sends out a membership roster that has all the email addresses. These can be used to send e-mails to members once the webinar is finalized.

St. Louis keeps their own e-mail list of AMWA Members and Friends interested in local events. There was a suggestion about using this list and combining it with members from Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas City to promote future events.

Emails about webinars should be sent out to Chapter members at least 2 weeks ahead of the scheduled date. A reminder e-mail can be sent out 1 week before the event. Possibly also post on the AMWA Engage forum.

### **Events in Nebraska**

Update by Rebecca: Nothing to report

### **Events in Iowa**

Update by Natalie: Trying to organize a webinar by Freida Wiley on AI in Medical Writing. The webinar will provide a broad overview of the topic – What is AI, How it is used in medicine/healthcare/regulatory writing, Machine learning and big data, How AI can be used to make medical writers more efficient, etc. Frieda is available from end of March onwards, but no date has been finalized yet.

To promote engagement in Iowa, Natalie would like to promote the online events as organized by the Iowa AMWA Network. All members in attendance were supportive of this move.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Update by Leslie:  
Accountant is currently working on our taxes and will be ready to be filed on time.

### **Newsletter**

Update by Susan: Next issue will be ready by the end of March. If the webinar information is ready, please send it by the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March (approximately March 25<sup>th</sup>).

### **New Member Report**

Update by Heather: Four (4) new members – 2 from the Kansas City region and 2 are from outside our Chapter states.

### **CAC Update**

Update by Leslie: Discussed Chapter affiliation issue during CAC update. Based on the CAC meeting minutes that were previously sent by email, the committee seemed unwilling to tackle the issue. Other Chapters also seemed to have a similar problem. The meeting was running late, so did not get a chance to discuss the issue at length. Will bring it up again at the next meeting.

### **Other Business**

Lisa fixed Chapter-related spam emails that Officers had been receiving. The e-mail address was removed from the Chapter website.

Natalie was contacted by people looking for freelancers. It seemed like they wanted someone to write some material that they would then re-brand as their own. It seemed suspicious. Just a word of caution to be wary of such offers.

### **Next Chapter Meeting**

Tuesday, May 12 at 2:00 p.m.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.**