AMWA Chapter 14 Officers Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by chapter president, Rebecca Bigelow. Additional members present were Natalie, Leslie, Susan, Lisa, Heather, Joanne and Crystal. The minutes from the last meeting in March were approved.

Events in St. Louis

Joanne gave an update on events in St. Louis. They had a webinar on March 31st entitled "Find Customers -- Do Work -- Get Paid", presented by Betsy Frick; 19 people attended the event, including 8 AMWA members. A handout is available on the chapter website from the meeting. On May 4th, they held another webinar entitled "Medical Ghostwriting: Ethical and Practical Controversies" presented by Pranali Pathare and Dana Delibovi; 10 people attended the meeting, including 7 AMWA members. The presentation is available online.

Upcoming events in St. Louis are:
- Wednesday, July 22 - New Regulations for Freelancers, to be presented by a local attorney; details to be determined
- September is currently open
- November - Best and Worst Books of 2020, coordinated by Leslie Niestadt

Rebecca asked Joanne if the upcoming webinars could be opened to the entire chapter. The board discussed the possibility that we may need to increase the number of attendees we are able to host in a Zoom meeting, though at the present time, we have not had issues with going over the 100 person limit. It is possible to include a registration option for Zoom meetings when the announcement is first distributed. This would enable the host to keep track of the number of attendees.

Events in Kansas City

There were no events reported for Kansas City. Crystal mentioned that she received the chapter membership list and will organize an email distribution list for those members who live within a reasonable driving distance to Kansas City.

The board discussed budgets for local events. It was decided that $30/person/year would be allotted for reimbursement for food during events. It was agreed that $125 would be budgeted for honorariums for speakers.

Crystal asked the board for recommendations on the best approach to organize events and grow a local networking group. Heather described what had occurred in the past in the Kansas City area. She explained that participation was low during some previous events; however, she believes that more people have a strong desire to reach out and connect with other professionals right now and believes that it is a great time to form local groups. Natalie mentioned that she believes a virtual approach may be best to reach people right now.

Events in Nebraska

There were no events reported for Nebraska.

Events in Iowa
Natalie reported that the webinar she was organizing may not happen because of personal conflicts the speaker has. She will try to reach out to the presenter one more time and also try to find someone else who may be willing and able to give a similar presentation.

Webinar
The chapter held a webinar on "Imposter Syndrome" on April 30th presented by Anand Devasthanam. There were 21 members who registered for the event and approximately 14 people who attended. The slides were posted on the website, and Rebecca sent a recording of the webinar to the chapter.

Treasurer's update
Leslie Neistadt gave the Treasurer's report.

Chapter Advisory Council
The next CAC will be May 21st. Leslie had no updates to report. She mentioned that she will bring up the chapter membership issue again.

Newsletter
Susan will be sending out the next chapter newsletter in July. She asked for all articles before that time.

New Members
Heather noted that there were 4 new members, all in the St. Louis area, and that we currently have 98 total members.

Spam Issues
The board members reported that they have not had any spam issues since the website had been updated and email addresses removed.

Housekeeping
The next regular Chapter Officers Call will be Tuesday, July 14th, 2020 at 2 pm.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.
Signed,
Rebecca Bigelow, PhD
President, AMWA Chapter 14
In absentia Raeesa Gupte, PhD