

AMWA Mid-America Chapter Meeting of November 10, 2020

Call to order: 2:00 pm

Attendees: Rebecca, Joanne, Lisa, Leslie, Crystal, Heather, Susan, Elizabeth Leight, and Raesa

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Events in St. Louis

Update provided by Joanne:

Thursday, November 12, 2020: Fourth Annual Best and Worst Books of 2020 coordinated by Leslie Niestadt. RSVP for 15 yes and 2 maybe.

Tuesday, January 5, 2021: "Positive Psychology: The Science of Happiness" to be presented by Alice Fugate and Dana Delibovi.

Events in Kansas City

Update provided by Crystal: Asked Gretchen Griffin from Trilogy Medical Writing if she would present to our chapter in the new year. Gretchen had a presentation on Emotional Intelligence at the AMWA annual conference. We would most likely hold a Chapter-wide webinar. Date and time to be decided based on Gretchen's availability in January or February.

Events in Nebraska

Update by Rebecca: Nothing planned currently. However, Matt Sandberg had reached out to Joanne via LinkedIn and expressed interest in getting more involved in AMWA. Matt was invited to the meeting today, but did not hear back from him. Hope we can get him involved in local event planning in the near future. It would be nice to have in-person local events since it is a really small group in Nebraska. So, those may have to wait till next year.

Events in Iowa

Not available

Treasurer's Report

Update by Leslie.

Newsletter

Update by Susan: Thanks to all the contributors. Next newsletter is scheduled to go out at the end of December.

New Member Report

Update by Heather: Currently have a total of 108 members. The layout of the membership report was changed. Couldn't see any new members. Joanne pointed out that perhaps there were a few who had joined in October.

CAC Update

CAC meeting is scheduled for November 11, 2020.

Other Business

Candidate for President-Elect:

Liz was introduced by Rebecca as a possible candidate for the board's President-Elect position. Liz was a postdoc at Washington University in St. Louis, after which she took some time to take care of her family. She transitioned to freelance medical writing three years ago. In April 2020, she started working full-time at Amgen. Liz is waiting on clearance from her supervisor before she officially accepts the position of President-Elect.

Update local networking coordinator information on the AMWA website:

Joanne and Lisa are listed as the local contacts for St. Louis. Swarna is still listed as the Kansas City coordinator. Crystal and Raeesa need to be added instead.

Conference Follow-up:

Joanne, Crystal, Leslie, and Raeesa attended AMWA's first virtual conference this year.

Feedback from members:

Raeesa: This was her first meeting and she enjoyed it.

Joanne: This was her seventeenth AMWA conference. Attended the first one in 2004 when it was held in St. Louis. She missed all the hugs, but organized a Zoom networking call for all her friends. She also gave her round table presentation and had immense respect for students and teachers doing online learning. She missed the live interactions since the sessions were pre-recorded and found the live chat feature distracting.

Leslie: Really enjoyed the session on time management. Also missed the in-person interactions.

Crystal: This was her first writing conference. She found it less exhausting because you didn't have to go anywhere. She would appreciate spending more time with people in-person. She also enjoyed the live events more than the pre-recorded sessions. She hoped that in the future AMWA would still offer the virtual option for those interested and people could choose between attending virtually or in-person.

Elections for Officers:

Rebecca said it was hard to get people to volunteer for positions, but we should still vote according to the by-laws. Once Liz communicates her decision to run for President-Elect, Rebecca will send out a survey for members to vote.

Next Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.