

AMWA Mid-America Chapter Meeting of July 20, 2021

Call to order: 2:00 pm

Attendees: Rebecca, Liz, Joanne, Leslie, Matt, Heather, Susan, and Raeesa

Previous meeting minutes approved.

Events in St. Louis

July 12, 2021: "Buckle up for Fast Tech, Slow Write, and the Royalty Rip-Off" presented by Louise Noeth over Zoom luncheon. 'Landspeed' Louise is a motor sports enthusiast. She talked about publishing 2 books with lots of pictures, including contract negotiation do's and don'ts. Event had 12 attendees (including 7 AMWA members).

September 30, 2021: In-person dinner to be held at CJ Muggs in Webster Groves. Ruth Thaler-Carter will be talking about public speaking tips

November 3, 2021: 5th Annual Best and Worst Books of 2021 led by Leslie Neistadt

Events in Kansas City

Nothing to report.

Raeesa has a Roundtable presentation on "Productivity tips and tricks" at the Annual Conference. She asked if she can practice her talk with a chapter-wide webinar.

Events in Nebraska

Nothing planned currently.

Rebecca and Matt would like to plan an in-person event and will connect to discuss further details.

Matt is presenting a grant-writing workshop at the annual conference. He would like to do a practice talk as well. Rebecca can send out emails once dates are finalized. Recommend giving members at least 3 weeks' notice before the talk.

Iowa Update

Joanne found 17 AMWA members who live in Iowa, but it is not clear if they are affiliated with the Chapter. There are some members in Iowa City and some in Des Moines. In the past when Natalie DeWitt was trying to organize IA events, geographical distance was a considerable limitation. It may be worth reaching out to members to see if they want to be involved with the Chapter. Rebecca will send out emails to these 17 members to see if they are affiliated with our Chapter and if someone would be interested in organizing them. It is possible that some of those members may be affiliated to other Chapters closer to them, perhaps in Chicago.

Chapters receive funds from HQ based on their member counts. Officers expressed frustration about Chapters not being automatically assigned to members when they register.

Treasurer's Report

Leslie has not yet transferred \$1,000 from Checking to Savings as discussed in the previous meeting, but will be doing that soon. Taxes are in progress. We've got an extension from the IRS. Leslie is currently working on the financial report that is due August 1st. Annual registration for the state of Missouri also needs to be updated.

Newsletter

Nothing to report.

Susan requested people to submit materials and asked for feedback on what members would like to see in the newsletter. Joanne suggested including information on the Iowa Chapter. Materials for the newsletter are due 1st week of September.

New Member Report

Heather reported a total of 102 members. One person joined since our last meeting, but they are from Wisconsin. They were sent the welcome e-mail, but also informed that they could choose to be affiliated to a Chapter closer to home.

Nine of the 17 members in Iowa are currently affiliated with our Chapter.

CAC Update

Next CAC meeting is next week. Leslie will share minutes when they become available. Important takeaway from the last meeting is that most Chapters are continuing with virtual meetings and events. Everybody has recognized this extends our reach, allowing people who can't attend in-person events to also participate.

Other Business

Budget for Annual St. Louis dinner:

In the past, 10-15 AMWA members have attended the dinner. The speaker this year is not an AMWA member. The group would like to pay for her dinner and offer an honorarium. All members agreed that this would be a good use of our Chapter funds.

There was a question about whether the venue had asked for a deposit, in case the event is cancelled due to COVID. Joanne explained there was no deposit or charge for booking the room. People only pay for the meals.

Chapter LinkedIn Group:

Matt is managing the Chapter LinkedIn page. He accepted all the member requests to join and wanted to send a welcome message. Apparently, you need to be connected to each member to be able to send them a message. He couldn't find an easier way to get around this issue. There hasn't been any activity on the group or new requests. Rebecca said she mentioned the LinkedIn group in our last newsletter. Ideas on how to liven up the group are welcome. Rebecca suggested that would also be a good place to ask Iowa members if they would like to participate. Heather suggested discussing the Best and Worst books of 2021 on the LinkedIn group may also get some conversation going.

Annual Conference fees:

Joanne said she did not get an email about conference registration discount codes for Officers, but went ahead and registered any way. Presenters received their discount codes.

Next Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.