

AMWA Mid-America Chapter Meeting of January 11, 2022—version with balances

Call to order: 2:00 pm

Attendees. Lisa Balbes, Dana Delibovi, Raesa Gupte, Liz Leight, Joanne McAndrews, Heather McNeill, Leslie Neistadt, Matt Sandbulte, Susan Sunderman

Everyone introduced themselves to help Dana (Secretary) record all who were present.

Liz's plan: follow standard agenda, but open to other topics.

Approval of minutes

Minutes from 2021 November approved.

Events in St. Louis

The membership of the St. Louis chapter, in conjunction with TechWrite STL, was recently surveyed on topics of interest; 2022 meetings will reflect some of those topics. Joanne said that the topic list can be shared via email for those interested.

Joanne and Lisa presented upcoming events. Events are regularly updated and available at: <http://www.amwa-midamerica.org/index.html>

On 1/11/22, the chapter held its first meeting on the year; the topic of goal-setting was presented by member Sunali Wadehra, MD. Total attendance was 20, include 13 AMWA members.

Upcoming events:

- March—How to use the reference tool Mendeley, presented by Diane Morton
- May—Writing/editing tips, presented by Ruth Thaler-Carter
- July—Health Care Options for Freelancers, presented by Veronika Redmann
- September—Dinner meeting with editors, organized by Jo Seltzer and Ruth Thaler-Carter
- November—Best and Worst Books of 2022, led by Leslie Neistadt

Liz asked whether meetings could be open to a wider audience. Lisa noted that the chapter doesn't want to have huge numbers of people, to preserve the small chapter community feel. Granted, some topics might have broad interest, but presenter's permission to expand outreach would be needed.

Events in Kansas City

There is nothing new that is AMWA-chapter specific. However, Raesa attended a meeting of SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives). Raesa attended a SCORE webinar about book publishing, which was a primer on the topic, delving into issues like self-publishing vs acceptance by a publisher. Raesa suggested that, if any chapters are interested in a meeting on this topic, she can reach out to SCORE/the presenter.

Joanne mentioned TechWrite STL member Patrick Dorsey, who runs a small press called Legendary Planet: <https://legendaryplanet.com/>.

Susan recommended that Raeesa write a short blurb for the newsletter on the SCORE meeting.

Leslie said we can pay a small honorarium for an external speaker, if we want to bring in a speaker on the topic of book publishing.

Events in Nebraska

The last event was reported in the November minutes: In-person networking event including 4 attendees—Matt, Rebecca Bigelow, 1 other AMWA member and 1 non-member. This lunch meeting was productive, and pleasant because it was during a lull in the pandemic.

Nebraska has not planned other events. Rebecca and Matt will continue partnering.

Treasurer's Report

Account balances were provided by Leslie.

We are doing well financially, and we can afford honoraria.

Liz asked what kinds of honoraria we pay:

- Leslie: We base an honorarium on time, eg, a 3-session program had an honorarium of \$300. Typically, it's \$50 to \$100 for an hour program
- Joanne: TechWrite for dinner meeting has paid \$50 plus dinner

Leslie also noted that the Chapter Advisory Council (CAC) meeting will be held in February.

Newsletter

There was no newsletter in December. Rebecca has written a president's letter (her last), and she sent the letter to Susan for publication.

Susan requested that anyone who wants to include anything in the newsletter should pass it on to her. She thanked Heather for always updating the membership list to keep the newsletter recipient list up to date.

Susan asked Heather about the current guidance for taking people off the newsletter list. Joanne and Heather discussed the 3-month, AMWA grace-period after membership expires. Based on this discussion, Susan plans to continue dropping names from the list after the 3-month grace-period, plus any she may have missed that have been on longer than 3 months.

New Member Report

Three new members were added last month, for a total of 105. The new membership list usually comes in around the 10th of the month, but is not here yet.*

Matt set up a LinkedIn site—a group members can join for networking at: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12517224/>. Right now, the LinkedIn group is not very active. To get more active, we need to be posting news. Unfortunately, job postings are not allowed.

Joanne suggests mentioning the LinkedIn group in the newsletter.

*The report arrived several hours after the meeting; it corroborated the total of 105 members.

CAC Update

CAC meeting is scheduled for February 2022.

New Business

Liz asked for plans and ideas for the coming year:

- Joanne will coordinate hosting a chapter dinner at the national AMWA conference; November 2-5, 2022, in Denver CO.
- Several participants discussed the chapter-wide business meeting; Liz suggested that this might be a venue for brainstorming ideas for the year
- Leslie had a thought for the newsletter[†]: highlighting some of the presentation handouts on our site. She believes that many members aren't aware of the resources available there

Next Chapter Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

[†]Provided by email after the close of the meeting.