

AMWA Mid-America Chapter Meeting of July 9, 2024 — version with balances

Call to order: 4:32 pm

Attendees (alphabetical): Lisa Balbes, Jessica Kiser, Heather McNeill, Julia Moffitt, Diane Morton, Leslie Neistadt, Matt Sandbulte, Heather Widmayer

Approval of minutes

Minutes from May 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved by the members attending.

AREA REPORTS

Events in St. Louis

Reporting: Lisa Balbes

- The next STL area meeting is Wednesday, July 10 at 11:30 a.m. Elizabeth Donald will present on Developing New Skills. 13 people plan to attend.

Upcoming 2024 St. Louis Meeting Schedule

September 11 - Artificial Intelligence and Scientific Publishing, presented by Lisa Balbes

November 13 - Best and Worst Books of 2024, presented by Leslie Neistadt

All meetings are held at Sunny Street Cafe, 11692 Manchester Road, Des Peres from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Events in Iowa

Reporting: Julia Moffitt

- Julia reported no events in the Iowa region recently as she has been traveling. She plans to arrange something during the fall.

Events in Kansas City

Reporting: Taylor Overmiller (absent), Matt updated.

- Matt plans to meet with a group in KC when he is in that area. He will update when he can travel there.

Events in Nebraska

Reporting: Rebecca Bigelow (absent), Matt updated

- Matt and Rebecca have planned an event for Aug 26, 6:30 pm. Rebecca will send the invitation to the Omaha area members. Venue: Charleston's Restaurant.

Events in Kansas

Reporting: Matt Sandbulte

- Matt reached out to a new member from the Wichita area, but no response yet for a networking event.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Reporting: Leslie Neistadt

Bank account balances as of July 7, were reported by Leslie.

Leslie has submitted the state annual registration report. She is currently preparing the annual treasurer's report, which is due to the national office in August 2024.

MEMBERSHIP

Reporting: Heather McNeill

Since the last report:

- Current active membership in the MidAmerica AMWA chapter is 107 members, with two new members.

CAC (Chapter Advisory Council)

Reporting: Leslie Neistadt

The last CAC meeting was May 15, but minutes aren't yet available. Leslie will forward to the group when she receives the minutes. The next meeting will be in August.

COMMUNICATIONS

Reporting: Jessica Kiser

Jessica plans to send the summer newsletter in the next couple weeks. She is requesting any new material to include. Lisa suggested that upcoming St. Louis events can be added, and Matt said to include the Omaha event as well. Leslie asked for suggestions to contribute to the best and worst books event in November, even if people cannot attend the meeting.

Jessica plans to send another newsletter in the fall quarter.

Matt asked for Jessica to include a thank-you to the membership who took time to respond to the survey.

Contact Jessica at any time if you have any chapter content that should be posted to LinkedIn.

OLD BUSINESS

Matt Sandbulte discussed the member survey results. Our membership is quite diverse in job roles as well as geographically.

Total participation was 21 members (about 20% completion rate). Two members indicated that they are interested in volunteering with chapter activities. Matt will reach out to them to explore how they might volunteer. A large percentage (32%) of members are satisfied with their current participation in AMWA Mid-America chapter. Biggest barriers to participation are understanding scheduling conflicts and difficulty in participating because of geographic spread of the region. Many expressed interest in volunteering to plan virtual and in-person events.

Leslie Neistadt noted that people are interested in events, and especially guest speakers. Virtual events have been highly attended.

Jessica Kiser reminded that people joined a 'virtual coffee' chat when they couldn't attend meetings in person, and still had some interaction with the members attending events in other areas.

Julia Moffitt suggested a separate virtual event rather than trying a hybrid/live event because of technological challenges.

Heather Widmayer suggested planning virtual opportunities because of the geographic dispersion of the membership.

NEW BUSINESS

Fall chapter report is due August 1 to AMWA national office, activities for March – June 2024. Matt and Heather will work on submitting that report.

Just announced! The venue for the MidAmerica chapter dinner at the AMWA annual meeting. Thursday night, Oct 24, Tommy's (746 Tchoupitoulas Street; tommyscuisine.com), and located near the meeting hotel. Leslie says it looks like a nice spot.

Leslie Neistadt suggested the chapter business meeting be combined with a virtual presentation by a guest speaker to encourage attendance. Suggested early November, soon after the annual meeting. To schedule a guest speaker, we need to arrange meeting details with advance notice to secure the speaker and to notify the membership. In terms of an in-person chapter event, the last St. Louis event was not well attended despite many "yes" RSVPs.

Diane recalled a successful in-person chapter meeting in the late 1990s, but Matt recalled that Joanne had shared in a previous meeting that a chapter-wide, in-person meeting held at the Harry Truman Library in Independence, MO in the mid 2000s, was not well attended.

Heather McNeill shared that she enjoyed hearing gems from the annual meeting during the virtual business meeting, to hear what people gleaned from the annual meeting. She also suggested that a new member is in the KC area and between Matt, Alysia Drummond and Taylor Overmiller, an event could be planned for the KC area.

Jessica Kiser suggested scheduling three virtual events for the next year (virtual happy hour/coffee chat of the membership, summary of AMWA conference, chapter business meeting and a guest speaker content). She suggested that a volunteer mini committee could drive the content for virtual meeting planning.

Matt suggested scheduling one event per quarter for a calendar of events to give members an opportunity to be involved. Matt suggested Jill Sellers, a new volunteer, could be asked to help with this scheduling. In terms of a possible in-person chapter event, Matt suggested looking at what other chapter have done for devising content for a meeting agenda.

Mini committee: Matt, Diane, and Jill will start exploring ideas for guest speakers.

Lisa Balbes suggested trying a low-cost, in-person event where a guest speaker could attend virtually. An in-person watch event and interactive cocktail hour/get-together in each city provides an opportunity to interact but not travel a long distance to attend.

Next Chapter Meeting

Sept 3, 4:30 pm

Nov 5, 4:30

Meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.