

AMWA Mid-America Chapter Meeting of January 7, 2025 — version with balances

Call to order: 4:33 pm

Attendees (alphabetical): Lisa Balbes, Jessica Kiser, Joanne McAndrews, Heather McNeill, Diane Morton, Leslie Neistadt, Matt Sandbulte, Sunali Wadehra, Terra White

Introductions

Matt opened the meeting by welcoming Terra White, who was recommended by Heather Widmayer to help arrange the member events in Iowa. Terra works for Quest Diagnostics as a medical writer. She became an AMWA member 6 years ago when she was hired at Quest Diagnostics.

Approval of minutes

Minutes from the November 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved by the members attending. Leslie motioned to approve the minutes, Joanne seconded, and all other attendees were in favor.

AREA REPORTS

Events in St. Louis

Reporting: Lisa Balbes

- The next STL area meeting is Wednesday, January 8 at 11:30 a.m. Diane Morton will present a virtual platform tour of LinkedIn and share tips and tools for effective use. The meeting will be virtual because of inclement weather.
Lisa said the website is up to date.

Upcoming 2025 St. Louis Meeting Schedule

2025 Events

January 8 – LinkedIn Platform Tour: Tips, Tools, and Trouble-Sparing, presented by Diane Morton

March 12 – Managing Workplace Stress, presented by James RW Linsin, PsyD, Clinical Psychologist

May 14 - The Third Age: How Tech Writers Plan and Enjoy Their Golden Years, presented by Dana Delibovi

July 9 - What Do Geeks Do For Fun Around Here?, presented by Alice Fugate

September 10 – Managing Difficult Clients and Coworkers, presented by Sunali Wadehra

November 12 – Best and Worst Books of 2025, presented by Leslie Neistadt

All meetings are held at Sunny Street Cafe, 11692 Manchester Road, Des Peres, MO from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. The meeting space is reserved for all 2025 meeting dates.

Events in Iowa

Reporting: Terra White

- Matt will send the Iowa membership list to Terra to assist with planning an event in the area.

Events in Kansas City

Reporting: Alysia Drummond (absent)

- Alysia was unable to attend. A planned event in October in the KC area was cancelled because of poor anticipated attendance and Matt reported that he expects area activity to resume in 2025.

Events in Nebraska

Reporting by email: Rebecca Bigelow (unable to attend), Matt updated

- Matt reported that Rebecca sent a query to the Nebraska area membership for planning a meeting in January 2025.

Events in Kansas

Reporting: Matt Sandbulte

- No events to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Reporting: Leslie Neistadt

Bank account balances as of January 3, 2025, were reported by Leslie.

MEMBERSHIP

Reporting: Heather McNeill

Since the last report:

- Current active membership in the MidAmerica AMWA chapter is 107 members. Two new members were from outside of the area, and Heather encouraged them to affiliate with their closest region.
- Heather will share the membership list with Terra.

CAC (Chapter Advisory Council)

Reporting: Sunali Wadehra

The CAC group had a short meeting in November. DEI offerings are available, and leadership positions are posted. Sunali will email the PowerPoint presentation to the group.

COMMUNICATIONS

Reporting: Jessica Kiser

Jessica reminded everyone to send any news items for the Winter 2025 newsletter, and anything to share on LinkedIn. She will report the annual meeting attendance as well as the election results in the next newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing from the previous meeting was discussed except to continue virtual meeting planning for 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting 1 Q1 2025/Wednesday, April 9, 2025 12 pm CST

Perhaps Tom Lang will be available to present a topic on statistics.

Meeting 2 Q2 2025/June

Breakthrough and Fresh Starts series, volunteer speakers from within or outside the group

Virtual meeting on career paths, including shifting to writing within a profession/field

Lay writing

Regulatory writing

Grant writing

Writing for education

Other virtual meeting topics proposed

Joanne suggested topics by AMWA members who present on broad topics of value to membership

Editing your own work, Hope Lafferty

Proofreading, Susan Aiello

Art of writing, Crystal Herron

Next Chapter Meeting

March 4, 4:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.