

## **AMWA Mid-America Chapter Meeting of July 1, 2025 — version with balances**

### **Call to order: 4:31 pm**

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

With no new attendees to introduce, Matt began the meeting by asking for a review of the May 2025 minutes.

### **Approval of minutes**

Minutes from the May 2025 meeting were reviewed and approved. Joanne motioned to approve the minutes, Jessica and others seconded, and all other attendees were in favor.

## **AREA REPORTS**

### **Events in St. Louis**

*Reporting: Joanne McAndrews*

The next STL area meeting is Wednesday, July 9 – What Do Geeks Do For Fun Around Here?, presented by Alice Fugate. Ten people currently are registered.

Remaining 2025 Events

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.

### **Events in Iowa**

*Reporting: Terra White*

- Terra reported that members of the Iowa City group (3 people) gathered this past weekend in a casual meeting. Future event TBD.

### **Events in Kansas City**

*Reporting: Alysia Drummond (absent)*

- Alysia emailed an update to Matt. Four people have expressed interest in a virtual meeting after an in-person meeting failed to materialize this spring, and she will attempt to schedule the virtual meet-up later this summer.

### **Events in Nebraska**

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

- Matt does not believe a regional gathering has happened recently in Omaha.

## **Events in Kansas**

*Reporting: Matt Sandbulte*

- A new member in Wichita has been in touch with Matt, and they plan to meet on July 16 for the first informal area meeting.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

*Reporting: Jessica Kiser*

Jessica asked for any new chapter content that should be shared with the membership on LinkedIn or in the chapter newsletter. Terra will share a photo for inclusion in the next newsletter from the Iowa City group gathering.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

*Reporting: Heather McNeill*

Since the last report:

- Current active membership in the MidAmerica AMWA chapter is 101 members including one new member.

## **CAC (Chapter Advisory Council)**

*Reporting: Sunali Wadehra*

Sunali reported that the AMWA Board of Directors is working on strategic planning. The current requirements of each chapter are that four events are required annually, and one may be a virtual event. A new change for 2026 is that virtual events do not count toward the four required in-person gatherings. Lisa asked Sunali to ask what happens if a chapter is out of compliance. Joanne assured that the Mid-America chapter has enough in-person events to avoid this concern.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The Q2 2025 meeting was held virtually on Wednesday, June 4, and was attended by 23 people. Crystal Herron spoke to the group on the topic *Enlighten Medical Experts with the Power of Plain Language*. The attendees had opportunity to ask questions, and the message was well received.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The 2025 Annual Conference is Nov 4-8, 2025, in Phoenix, AZ. Joanne and Leslie are planning the chapter dinner during the conference for Thursday night, Nov. 6 at a restaurant that is within walking distance of the hotel.

Virtual meeting planning discussion began for a Q3 2025 virtual meeting (tentative, noon on Sept 3, 2025). Leslie suggested a topic related to AI and Jessica suggested to make it a roundtable discussion to allow for more awareness of what types of tools are used by the membership. Leslie offered to reach out to topic experts in the BELS membership group, if it is a topic the group wishes to pursue.

Matt reminded that elections for leadership positions will be held in November 2025. Matt encouraged everyone to consider whether they are interested in staying in their current position or choosing a leadership change before nominations for positions are posted. Matt asked for feedback from how recruiting might work for finding new leadership candidates who are not currently involved in leadership. Joanne suggested asking if anyone had volunteered

their interest during a national AMWA survey for seeking a chapter board position. Joanne and Lisa suggested that personal asks for a specific role/open position are helpful for recruiting. Jessica will post something when open positions are determined.

***Virtual meeting topics that have been suggested to entertain at future dates***

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

Statistics, Tom Lang

**Next Chapter Meeting**

Sept 2, 4:30 pm

**Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.**