

AMERICAN MEDICAL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

MID-AMERICA CHAPTER



Welcome

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In this second issue of Mid-AMWAzup we grieve the loss of Bob Iles. Many will miss Bob, as noted in his obituary on page 3. We will certainly miss his contribution as a newsletter author. As you can see, the amount of text in this issue is light. Your contribution is needed for the newsletter effort to be a success.

I suggest that, even though we need all of you to contemplate writing an article for the newsletter, you consider it seriously only if it seems like the right thing to do. I recently had an opportunity to take an esteemed position with a professional group I donate time to and realized that a major reason that I wanted to take it was for

recognition. That is not the best reason to take a job so I declined to do it.

I've come to understand that if I chase happiness for happiness' sake, it usually eludes me. On the other hand, if I do good work and apply ethical principles to my job, happiness is often a byproduct of that work.

A life remembered is a good reminder that this permutation of life I am currently enjoying will not last forever. Thus, it is important for me to apply myself to working on what I believe in and with any luck, a little joy will find me every now and then.

—*Tad Coles, DVM*

Mid-America Chapter Conference: Kansas City

Mark your calendars!

Our chapter conference is set for May 2-3, 2008 in Kansas City, Missouri.

We will have an opening dinner at a local restaurant on Friday evening, May 2nd. Workshops, round table discussions, and a chapter luncheon/business meeting will be held on Saturday May 3rd.

We are pleased to announce that Bart Harvey, MD, PhD, of The University of Toronto will be teaching two workshops at our conference – the Core Curriculum workshop Statistics for Medical Writers and Editors (G) [110] and the Advanced

workshop Understanding Sample Size and Study Power (ADV) [729].

Dr. Harvey was the recipient of AMWA's Golden Apple award in 2006, for excellence in workshop instruction.

There will be two round table discussions running concurrently with the workshops. Cindy Dempsey, RN, MPH, Medical Writer, MDS Pharma Services, Lincoln, Nebraska will lead a discussion entitled, "Basic overview of clinical study design" Joanne McAndrews, PhD, Freelance Medical Writer, St. Louis, Missouri, will lead a discussion entitled, "Top 10 Free Web Sites for Medical Writers".

— *Joanne McAndrews, PhD*

Mid-America Chapter: Growth In Local Groups

Several local events groups have formed within our chapter in recent months. These groups will meet for activities including potluck dinners, informal networking lunches, outings to local museums and other attractions, dinners with guest speakers, panel discussions, walks or bike rides through local parks, etc.

Chapter members in southwest Missouri (Springfield area) are gearing up to try a first gathering after the holidays. The contact person for this group is Maggie Castrey, mcastrey@sbcglobal.net.

AMWA freelance chapter members in the St. Louis area routinely gather with the local Society for Technical Communication (STC) freelancers for joint meetings. The AMWA contact person for the St. Louis area meetings is Joanne McAndrews, jmmcandrews@earthlink.net.

The Kansas City area group plans to have its first gathering in early 2008. They are currently considering the possibility of following the lead of the St. Louis area group and investigating having joint meetings with the Kansas City STC chapter and/or a local group of

regulatory affairs professionals. This group is currently looking for leadership, but for now will be coordinated by Tad Coles, coles@everestkc.net, Rona Grunspan, ronaclaire@hotmail.com, and Anthony Eidelman anthony_eidelman@yahoo.com.

Let us know if you become aware of a local meeting of interest to our AMWA members. Upon approval by Mid-America AMWA Chapter officers, these announcements may be added to our website: <http://amwa-midamerica.org> and/or an e-mail blast announcement may be sent to local AMWA members. Just send the particulars to our membership chair, Joanne McAndrews, jmmcandrews@earthlink.net, to get the ball rolling.

If you live in Lincoln, Neb., Omaha, Neb., Ames, Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa, or Iowa City, Iowa, and would like to help organize occasional chapter activities in your area – social, work-related or otherwise – please contact Joanne McAndrews and she will put you in touch with others in your area. Thank you!

—Joanne McAndrews, PhD
Tad Coles, DVM

President's Letter

Hello!

I was saddened to learn that a longtime chapter member, Bob Iles has passed away. The chapter extends our condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues. Per his family's request, we will honor his memory with a donation to his local chapter of the Salvation Army.

This is a busy time of year for medical writers who are juggling the end-of-year projects and preparing for the holidays. I hope that everyone finds time to enjoy both their work and their families during

this wild but fun time of year. I invite you to share your pictures or stories from the holidays in the next edition of our newsletter. This invitation includes sending pictures of significant events that have occurred during the past year, such as weddings and new grandchildren (you know who you are!).

I am delighted with the progress the chapter conference team has made in planning and arranging for our May chapter conference. We have set the date and arranged for excellent learning opportunities as well as some fun time to visit with each other. As soon as we have a

venue, we will notify chapter members so that everyone can plan accordingly. Anyone that would like to help out is welcome to drop an e-mail to volunteer.

The active participation of many established and new members has brought some new ideas and new ways of developing and maintaining the community of writers in our Mid-America Chapter. Keep up the good work, this active participation rewards everyone involved with opportunities for learning and friendship.

Happy Holidays to All!

—Donna Coffman, MD



Robert L. “Bob” Iles

AMWA member, Bob L. Iles, age 73, passed away November 25, 2007 at his home in Olathe, KS.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, November 29, at Grace United Methodist Church in Olathe, Kansas. Family members greeted friends immediately following the service.

The family suggests remembrances in Bob’s name be made to the Salvation Army, 420 E. Sante Fe, Olathe, 66061.

Bob was born September 26, 1934 in Logan, Ohio to Harry and Evelyn Iles. He graduated from St. Clairsville High School, and received his Master’s degree in English Literature from Bowling Green State University.

Bob married Phyllis Hutchinson on December 17, 1955 in Waterville, Ohio. He had a career as a pharmaceutical representative and respected medical writer while residing in Ohio, Michigan, New Jersey, Indiana, New York State, and most recently, Kansas. Bob and his

family relocated to Kansas in 1973 when he accepted a position from Ewing Kauffman and Marion Laboratories. In later years, he enjoyed writing novels, plays, and short stories.

Bob also enjoyed restoring MG’s and was active in his community, riding along with the Johnson County Sheriff’s Department, where he volunteered.

Bob is survived by his wife of 52 years, Phyllis, of the home, their children, Sarah Johnston and her husband Fritz Graf of Westerville, OH, Christina Robson and her husband Ron, Olathe, KS, Bob Iles of Walnut Creek, CA and James Iles of Denver, CO. He is also survived by his sister, Betty Jo Weber, of Columbus, OH, Bill Iles, of St. Clairsville, OH, and six grandchildren.

This information was gathered from the obituary published in the Kansas City Star on 11/27/2007. To leave a message for the family, please visit <http://www.Penwellgabel.com>.



2007-08 MidAmerica Chapter Contacts

Home Page

<http://amwa-midamerica.org>

President: Donna Coffman

donrcoffman@earthlink.net

President-Elect: Christine Frank

books@christinefrank.com

Treasurer: Carol Sonderman

eediting@yahoo.com

Secretary: Kristin Povilonis

kpovilonis@goamp.com

Membership Chair: Joanne McAndrews

jmmcandrews@earthlink.net

Webmaster: Carol Sonderman

eediting@yahoo.com

Newsletter Chair: Tad Coles

coles@everestkc.net

Newsletter Design/Layout: Marilyn K. Hauk

mkhauk@mac.com

Newsletter Copy Editors:

Loga Ganesh

GaneshLoga@PRAIntl.COM

Brandi Schubert

Brandi.Schubert@wolterskluwer.com

Kathi Whitman

kwhitman@incredibleenglish.com