

AMWA MID-AMERICA

Spring 2014



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Upcoming Events

Spring Event for Kansas City Branch

Thursday, April 17, 2014 • 6:00 pm

Hosted by Kansas City AMWA

Johnson County Library, Leawood Pioneer 4700 Town Center Dr,
Leawood, KS 66211

RSVP at <http://www.punchbowl.com/parties/a2a0edd16eaf29cd5bf0>

Save the Date!

Shake, Rattle, and Write

**AMWA's 74th Annual Conference
October 8-11, 2014 Memphis, TN**

Chapter Officers

President: Rona Clair Grunspan, MD

Treasurer: Joanne M. McAndrews, PhD

Secretary: VACANT

Membership liaison: VACANT

Newsletter chair: Magdalena Berry, MA

Webmaster: Lisa M. Balbes, PhD

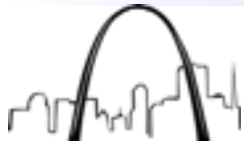
St. Louis Freelance Luncheon Coordinators:

Lisa M. Balbes, PhD, Joanne M. McAndrews,
PhD

St. Louis-area Freelance Luncheon Series: TechWrite STL

Joanne McAndrews, PhD

Lisa Balbes, PhD



The TechWrite STL group continues to hold its bi-monthly lunch meetings. At each meeting, a topic of interest to freelance medical and technical writers is presented by a member and discussed by the group, usually over lunch at a local restaurant.

Leslie Neistadt, AMWA Mid-America chapter member and Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS) Registrar, described several of the available medical/technical writing certifications, including requirements and costs at our January 2014 luncheon. Leslie distributed a handout with a comprehensive table, which summarized requirements, fees, etc., and she noted that some certifications require coursework, while others require passage of an exam. Attendees discussed the pros and cons of certification. Leslie described the specifics of the BELS exam process, including the application process and preparing for the exam.

TechWrite STL and St. Louis-area AMWA Mid-America chapter members met for dinner on

March 25, 2014. Maureen Hoock, MSPT, LMT, a St. Louis-area Physical Therapist and Massage Therapist, discussed ergonomics for computer users, and how to prevent and treat repetitive stress injuries resulting from excessive computer use. Some attendees sent photos of themselves in their computer work stations ahead of time, and Maureen made specific recommendations for their setup during her presentation. She also provided a handout with stretches to combat muscle tension, and demonstrated a few massage therapy techniques on attendees.

Upcoming events in 2014 include a tour of the newly renovated St. Louis Central Public Library on May 16th, "Writing for the Web" in July, "Avatars in work-related communications" in September, and "Preparing for Tax Season" in November.

Lisa Balbes and Joanne McAndrews have been co-organizing the group since its founding in 2006.

A listing of upcoming luncheons can be found on our chapter website (<http://www.amwa-midamerica.org/index.html>) and a list of past topics is available under the History tab.

Photo: Lisa Balbes



Maureen Hoock, demonstrating a massage therapy technique on Patrick Dorsey to relieve head and neck tension

Call for Officers

Magdalena Berry, MA

The Mid-America chapter officers have been meeting regularly by phone to clarify and update our procedures. One result was the Bylaw revision, which you voted to approve. We've also streamlined our bookkeeping and banking.

The chapter has openings for officers, two of which I've described below. Please consider joining our team! Contributing your talent and energy can make our chapter an even better resource for members.

We value AMWA. A small donation of time would go a long way to strengthening and supporting our organization!

Secretary

General Duties

- Attends all general, business, and executive board meetings of the chapter
- Takes minutes at all business and executive board meetings
- Keeps a list of members of the chapter

Reporting

- Prepares and mails announcements for chapter meetings
- Prepares a report for the annual business meeting
- Informs the executive secretary of AMWA and editors of the Chapter newsletter and the National newsletter of the activities of the Chapter

Membership Chair

General Duties

- Attends all general, business, and executive board meetings of the chapter
- Plans recruiting methods and retention efforts

Reporting

- Notifies headquarters of all name and address changes of chapter members
- Sends monthly welcome e-mails to new members, including link to Chapter Web site and latest issue of newsletter
- Forwards monthly list of chapter members received from AMWA headquarters to Newsletter Chair and St. Louis Freelance Luncheon coordinators

Officers serve for two-year terms. The time commitment for these positions is approx. 2-3 hours a month at most.

If you're interested in participating, contact me at magdalenaberry@missouristate.edu, Thanks!