

AMWA MID-AMERICA

Fall 2015



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A Note from the Editor

Magdalena Berry, MA

Dear Chapter Members,

Greetings!

I was able to attend this year's annual meeting (AMWA's 75th!) and, as always, found it a valuable experience. The workshops and open sessions were excellent. I enjoyed meeting other AMWA members and reconnecting with those who've become my friends over the years. I heartily encourage all of you to plan on attending next year's conference, in Denver. There, you'll have unique opportunities to network, learn more about developments in the field, meet fellow writers, and generally, be inspired.

In this issue you'll find a reports about the recent St. Louis area Freelance Luncheon and our chapter dinner in San Antonio, and the minutes from last month's chapter board of directors meeting.

The deadline for the next newsletter is **December 20, 2015**. Newsletters are generally issued quarterly, at the end of March, June, September, and December.

As always, feel free to send any suggestions or contributions!

Magdalena Berry

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about the cover:

Drivers on Hwy 160 near Willard, MO, were pleasantly surprised (*amazed* might be more apt) by the sight of golden yellow fields of sunflowers. They blossom late in September. When they did, the fields became a sort of tourist attraction, as the crop is unusual in these parts, where we generally see big, round bales of hay instead of big, round flowers.

Chapter Officers

President: Rona Clair Grunspan, MD

Treasurer: Joanne M. McAndrews, PhD

Secretary: Linda Landon, PhD

Membership chair: Nicholas Russell

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 most meetings, 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.

July. Kathy Bernard of WiserU Training & Services discussed *“The Wonders of LinkedIn for Business and Career”* at the July 21st luncheon. A recognized expert and trainer regarding the LinkedIn.com website, Kathy outlined the importance of having a completed, up-to-date profile. She discussed the pros and cons of a free account versus a “premium” account, and the effects that the settings for various features on the site can have on your professional profile.

Recognizing that online networking is very valuable, Kathy also highly recommended a free, weekly St. Louis-area face-to-face networking event for innovators and entrepreneurs called Venture Café, held every Thursday from 3 to 8 pm at 4240 Duncan Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110.

September. TechWrite STL members and St. Louis-area AMWA Mid-America chapter members

gathered for dinner and a presentation by a speaker on September 17, 2015. Local attorney Jim Hacking led a lively and wide-ranging discussion entitled *“Contracts Are Fun!”* Attendees noted that this dinner marked the 9th anniversary of the joint AMWA/STC St. Louis-area freelance luncheon series.

November. Our final event for 2015 will be *“Don’t Get Technical with Me: The Truth about Technical Writing”* presented by Bob Saigh in November.

Lisa Balbes and Joanne McAndrews have been co-organizing the group since its founding in September 2006. A schedule of upcoming luncheons can be found on our chapter website (<http://www.amwa-midamerica.org/index.html>). A list of past topics is available on the History tab on that website, as are handouts from selected luncheons.

AMWA Mid-America Officers' Meeting Minutes from July 7, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by chapter president, Rona Claire Grunspan. Four members were present, including Rona Claire Grunspan, Joanne McAndrews, Lisa Balbes, Magdalena Berry, and Linda Landon.

Events in St. Louis

The St. Louis TechwriteSTL Freelance group is continuing to organize the St. Louis-area Freelance Luncheon Series every other month to discuss topics of interest to freelance medical/technical writers in the St. Louis, MO area. Speakers on a number of interesting and useful topics present at each meeting, and all meetings are set for the remaining meetings in 2015. The speaker for the September 17, 2015 meeting will be an attorney who will discuss ridiculous employment contract terms and how to deal with them. The November meeting will be held on November 12. The annual chapter dinner at the annual meeting will be held on October 1, 2015. Joanne McAndrews is organizing the dinner. Information on TechwriteSTL Freelance activities, please visit <http://www.amwa-midamerica.org/>.

Events in Kansas City

The Kansas City area members currently have no planned events at this time. Contact Rona Claire Grunspan (ronaclaire@gmail.com) if you or someone you know is interested in organizing an event in Kansas City.

Chapter Leader Call with the AMWA Board of Directors

Rona Claire Grunspan will obtain a list of upcoming Chapter Leader Call dates so that the Mid-American chapter can organize regular

attendees for the calls. Lisa Balbes will attend the September call, Joanne McAndrews will attend the and October 2015 call, and. Magdalena Berry will attend the November 2015 call.

AMWA 2015 Fall Board of Directors Meeting

The AMWA 2015 Fall Board of Directors Meeting will be held from 1:30 to 4 pm on September 30 at the annual meeting in San Antonio. The chapter delegate for this meeting will be Rosemary Ndolo.

Housekeeping

Semiannual reports – Joanne McAndrews has turned in the Treasurer's report. Linda Landon will turn in the final updated chapter report. *Chapter Officer Meetings* – The next Chapter Officers Call will on Wednesday November 11th at 1:30 pm.

Treasurer's report - The final CD at Boone County National Bank (now under a new name, Central Bank of Boone County) has matured and has been redeemed. The Boone County National Bank checking account will be closed. All accounts will be consolidated in U.S. Bank.

Minutes – The July 2015 minutes were approved.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Signed,
Linda A. Landon, PhD. ELS
Secretary, AMWA Chapter 14

AMWA Chapter Dinner in San Antonio



Big fun was had, within shouting distance of the Alamo!

Kelly Von Lunen, Cambrey Nguyen, Amanda Brungardt, Carrie Noriega, Magdalena Berry, Leslie Neistadt, Susan Sunderman, Kirsten Vaughan Ketner, and Joanne McAndrews met Thursday evening and followed the River Walk to Maria Mia's Bistro.

Thanks, Joanne McAndrews, for making all the arrangements. An event planner (among her many other talents), par excellence!