

AMWA MID-AMERICA

Fall 2016



See you
in
Denver!

In this issue:

- **St. Louis Freelance Luncheon Series**
- **Chapter Officers' Meeting**
- **Activity Report**

A Note from the Editor

Magdalena Berry, MA

Dear Chapter Members,

Greetings!

In this issue, you'll find reports on chapter activities, along with a request for your participation. While we're a smaller chapter, we have a strong core membership. Get to know your fellow chapter members! We have a chapter dinner at the annual conference (this year on Friday evening) and it's always a great deal of fun and good food as well.

You can find more information about the chapter and some other resources for writers at our chapter web site: www.amwa-midamerica.org

As always, feel free to send me any suggestions or contributions for this newsletter.

Enjoy the cooler weather!

Magdalena Berry

magdalenaberry@missouristate.edu



Where are we located??

Here's a link to a batchgeo.com map of our membership (no identifying information included):

<https://batchgeo.com/map/2377cc6d57a75087c80c3c0a39b001cc>

Chapter Officers

President: Rona Clair Grunspan, MD

Treasurer: Leslie Neistadt, ELS

Secretary: Linda Landon, PhD

Membership chair: Laura Sheppard, MA

Kansas City events coordinator

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

On July 21, Ann Patterson led a discussion of academic and education-related writing and editing, and the opportunities for freelancing in that world. The number of possibilities far exceeded the time allotted to discuss them all!



the perspective of a current editor-in-chief. He addressed the challenges and barriers to improving results reporting, and specifically his crusade against the p value. The lively discussion lasted was full of useful information, and a list of relevant resources has been added to the chapter's web site.

On Tuesday, Sept 27, the group had a very special dinner meeting, celebrating their 10th anniversary. Jay Piccirillo, MD, of Washington University School of Medicine and current Editor-in-Chief of JAMA Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery spoke about "The View from the Top" - journal article submission from

Joanne McAndrews and Lisa Balbes have been co-organizing the group since September 2006, when it was formed as a merger of the local AMWA and STC-CIC groups. A detailed listing of both upcoming luncheons and past topics is available at <http://www.amwa-midamerica.org/index.html>



AMWA Mid-America Officers' Meeting Minutes from September 26, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by chapter president, Rona Claire Grunspan.

Six members were present, including Rona Claire Grunspan, Joanne McAndrews, Lisa Balbes, Magdalena Berry, and Leslie Neistadt.

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. The November 2016 and January 2017 speakers are engaged.

The annual TechWriteSTL dinner will be held on September 27, 2016 to celebrate 10 years of TechWriteSTL luncheons. Eleven members will be attending. Joanne McAndrews and Lisa Balbes will lead a retrospective analysis at the November meeting of what this group has done over the last 10 years, followed by a discussion of where the group should go in the future. Joanne McAndrews and Lisa Balbes continue to organize the events.

For information on TechWriteSTL activities, please visit <http://www.amwa-midamerica.org/>.

Events in Kansas City

Rona Claire Grunspan is single-handedly leading the effort to plan and hold events in Kansas City. She would appreciate having a co-coordinator. Contact Rona Claire Grunspan (ronaclaire@gmail.com) if you or someone you know is interested in organizing an event in Kansas City.

Treasurer's update

Leslie Neistadt provided an update of our chapter checking and savings account balances. We currently have \$19,998.16 in savings and \$1,534.47 in checking. Our July AMWA rebate was \$864.00.

AMWA Chapter Financial Report

Leslie Neistadt submitted the semi-annual financial report in the beginning of August. Joanne McAndrews, immediate past treasurer, reviewed the report prior to submission.

Signed,
Linda A. Landon, PhD. ELS

AMWA Chapter Semiannual Report

Here are excerpts from the report, FYI.

Chapter Name and Current Membership Count: Mid-America, 87.

Chapter Incumbent and Elected Officers:

- President: Rona Claire Grunspan, MD
- President-elect: None
- Secretary: Linda A. Landon, PhD, ELS
- Treasurer: Leslie Neistadt, ELS

Chapter Leadership Transition Date (ie, when new leaders take office): April 2017

Chapter Delegate(s) to the AMWA Board of Directors:

Laura Sheppard (membership chair, 2016 to present)

Rona Grunspan (chapter president, 2010 to present)

Financial Position (as of 6/30/16):

	<i>Totals</i>
US Bank checking	\$1534.47
US Bank money market	\$19133.84
Major sources of revenue: AMWA chapter rebate	\$1711.87.00
Major sources of expenses: St Louis dinner in September, sending delegate(s) to the AMWA Spring BOD meeting	\$1767.08
Total cash:	\$20,668.31

Governance and Leadership: Officers are elected in April of each year by the chapter officers. Volunteers to fill empty offices are recruited by the current chapter officers. Chapter officer meetings are held every two months by conference call. Between August 2015 and August 2016, six meetings of chapter officers have been held. The minutes of the chapter officer meetings are attached to the end of this report. Four officers attended the November 2015 meeting; five officers attended the September 2015 meeting; six officers attended the July 2016, March 2016 and January 2016 meetings; and seven officers attended the April 2016 meeting.

Our thanks to Linda Landon for her work in compiling this report!

Consider becoming an officer...

Here's an invitation to become more involved in your chapter. Helping out as a member of our leadership team offers you a chance to interact with other professionals in your field and give back to AMWA at the same time. It's a win-win.

We're currently in need of someone to coordinate Kansas City area member events. We have a number of members in KC, and a small investment of time and energy could result in valuable and enjoyable gatherings there.

We're also seeking a member interested in being our chapter President! The duties and reporting responsibilities for the President's position are listed below. As we're a small chapter, the time required for these activities is quite limited.

President

- Serves as chairperson of the Executive Committee and as ex-officio member of all other committees
- Presides at executive board meetings of the chapter as coordinator of all chapter projects
- Delegates duties not specifically assigned to other executive board members
- Appoints standing and temporary committees
- Monitors the progress of all chapter activities

To find out more information, please contact Rona Grunspan (ronaclaire@gmail.com),