

# AMWA MID-AMERICA

**Spring 2018**



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# A Note from the Editor

Magdalena Berry, MA

Dear Chapter Members,

“It’s cold. That’s all.” That’s how I started the Winter issue’s “Note,” and we’re only slightly warmer now.

In any event, we hope you’re getting more sun these days!

This issue contains a report from the St. Louis TechWrite group and a brief introduction to our new President.

Many, many thanks to Past President Rona Grunspan for her leadership of the Chapter, and welcome to Laura Long, President, who has stepped in to serve.

Remember to plan for the AMWA annual conference in D.C. this fall. We hope to see you there!

Regards,

Magdalena Berry  
Newsletter Chair  
[magdalenaberry@missouristate.edu](mailto:magdalenaberry@missouristate.edu)

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## Chapter Officers

**President:** Laura Long, BA, MA

**Treasurer:** Leslie Neistadt, ELS

**Secretary:** Linda Landon, PhD

**Membership chair:** Heather McNeill, MA

**Kansas City events coordinator:** Laura Long,  
MA

**President Elect:** Rebecca Bigelow, PhD

**Newsletter chair:** Magdalena Berry, MA

**Webmaster:** Lisa M. Balbes, PhD

**St. Louis Freelance Luncheon Coordinators:**  
Lisa M. Balbes, PhD, Joanne M. McAndrews,  
PhD

**Nebraska Event Coordinator:** Rebecca  
Bigelow, PhD

# St. Louis-area Freelance Luncheon Series: TechWrite STL

Joanne McAndrews, PhD  
Lisa Balbes, PhD



The TechWrite STL group continues to hold bi-monthly 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.

**Lisa Balbes** led a discussion about business travel tips on January 9th. A seasoned traveler, she traveled out of town on business 18 times during 2017 and had many great tips to share. Lisa provided advice about flights, getting from the airport to your hotel, lodging, luggage, money, and food. The handout from her presentation can be found on the chapter website (<http://www.amwa-midamerica.org/assets/data/TravelTips.pdf>).

**Alice Fugate** moderated "Fun Things for Geeks to Do in St. Louis" on March 14th. Prior to the luncheon, Alice solicited suggestions from members about fun activities in the St. Louis area that require leaving one's home. This resulted in a list of recommended fun stuff to do

including science, humanities, technology, education, art, and music. The list is available here: <http://www.amwa-midamerica.org/assets/data/GeekFun.pdf>

**Upcoming events** include

- a tour of Native American galleries at the St. Louis Art Museum in May
- "Medical Communication Companies" presented by Tom Wolf in July
- a dinner with a panel discussion, "The Business of Freelancing" moderated by Elizabeth Leight and Pranali Pathare in September, and
- "Best and Worst Books of 2018" moderated by Leslie Neistadt in November.

**Lisa Balbes and Joanne McAndrews** 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 schedule of upcoming luncheons can be found at <http://www.amwa-midamerica.org/index.html>. Past topics and handouts are available on the History tab on that website.

# Our new President-Elect, Rebecca Bigelow

Rebecca Bigelow has been a freelance medical writer for seven years. She has extensive experience in developing scientific communication materials such as publications, training modules, review articles, executive summaries, needs assessments and press releases. Her key area of expertise is in oncology. Rebecca holds a PhD in Molecular Pathology from the University of Texas, Houston/M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and lives in the Omaha metro area. She is looking forward to being an active member of the Mid-America AMWA chapter and organizing events for the Nebraska area.

## 2018 AMWA Medical Writing & Communication Conference

Trends and Opportunities for Medical Communicators

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<https://www.amwa.org/page/Conference>