

Dear Mid-America Chapter,

The year is ending and a new year is around the corner, which is a great time for reflection. Below are some highlights from the past few months of 2025 in addition to the usual reminders. Many thanks to Joanne McAndrews and Leslie Neistadt for their summaries.

November 2025 TechWrite STL luncheon (11 attendees, including 8 AMWA members)

Leslie Neistadt invited guest speaker Jane Henderson, former Book Editor at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch newspaper, to speak to the group about changes in book publishing and reading trends over the last 30 years. How to become a book reviewer, how reading and book club trends have evolved, changes in publishing technology, stories from 30+ years of author interviews, and more were all covered during this very lively discussion. Books that have been made into movies were discussed, and whether the book or movie version was preferred. Sources for obtaining ideas for new books to read, and actual copies of books to read, were shared, along with ways to share books that have already been read (the consensus was that electronic versions are very difficult to share). Leslie shared the 17-page list of books members have read this year, with comments.

Mid-America chapter dinner in Phoenix (see attached photo)

Mid-America chapter members gathered for dinner at Blanco Cocina + Cantina in Phoenix on Thursday, November 6th, during the AMWA Medical Writing & Communication Conference. Attendees Anna Boyum, Collin Freeman, Rebecca Gee, Joanne McAndrews, Diane Morton, Leslie Neistadt, Matt Sandbulte, Tim Skog, Sunali Wadehra, and Terra White had fun visiting with each other and learning about members' different backgrounds and work environments while enjoying a delicious Mexican dinner.

Helpful Reminders

- Make sure to check the chapter website for upcoming events: <https://www.amwa-midamerica.org/>. There is a TechWriteSTL event coming up January 14.
- Important links:
 - Chapter LinkedIn group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12517224/>
 - Chapter website: <https://www.amwa-midamerica.org/index.html>

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Jessica (Kiser) Falconer, PharmD
2025 Communications Chair, Mid-America Chapter

