

AMWA MID-AMERICA

Spring 2013



In this issue:

- Editor's Greeting
- Annual Chapter Report
- St. Louis Freelance Luncheon Series

Editor's Greetings

By Magdalena Berry

It's been a long winter in the Midwest, but I hope most of us have dug out of the snow by now!

Here's the publication schedule for this newsletter.

Issue	Submission Deadline	Publication date
Spring	March 25	March 31
Summer	June 25	June 30
Fall	September 25	September 30
Winter	December 27	December 31

We'd like the newsletter to report on chapter affairs but also to reflect the expertise, accomplishments, concerns, etc. of our members. *You're contributions make that happen.*

What could you contribute (and the length is up to you, of course)?

Ideas include

- a list of useful resource(s) you've discovered (don't assume everyone already knows about it!).
- a *brief* book or article review
- notice of your or another member's award or promotion
- notices of job openings

Chapter Officers

President: Rona Clair Grunspan, MD
 Treasurer: Carol J. Sonderman, MA, ELS
 Secretary: VACANT
 Membership liason: VACANT
 Newsletter chair: Magdalena Berry, MA
 Webmaster: Carol Sonderman

Submissions can be e-mailed to me at magberry@me.com.

This issue of the newsletter includes the chapter's annual report to the AMWA Board and a report about the St. Louis Freelance Luncheon series.

Thanks, and enjoy the good weather while it lasts!

-Magdalena

Get ready for

Expanding our Horizons

**AMWA's 73rd Annual Conference
 November 6-9, 2013
 Columbus, OH**

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

AMWA CHAPTER REPORT

Spring 2013 - Board of Directors Meeting

- A. Chapter Name/Number:
Mid-America/14
- B. Current Membership Count
A total of 88 members as of March 1, 2013.
- C. Tax Identification Information (State EIN or Federal ID)
Mid-America doesn't have State EIN or Federal ID.
- D. Incorporation Status - nonprofit educational one
- E. Chapter Leadership/Officers (Name, Title and Term of Service)

Name	Title	Term of Service
Rona Claire Grunspan, MD	President	2010-present
Carol Sonderman, MA, ELS	Treasurer/Webmaster	2005-present
VACANT	Secretary	N/A
VACANT	Membership Chair	N/A
Magdalena Berry, MA	Newsletter Chair	2011-present
Joanne McAndrews, PhD Lisa Balbes, PhD	St. Louis Freelance Luncheon Coordinators	2006-present

- F. Delegate Assigned for BOD meeting (Name, Title and Term of Service)

Name	Title	Term of Service
Rona Claire Grunspan, MD	President	2012-2013

- G. List of Chapter committees (Name of Committee, Chair, and goals)

St. Louis-area Freelance Luncheon Series; co-chaired by Lisa Balbes, PhD and Joanne McAndrews, PhD; the goal of this group is to meet six times a year to discuss topics of interest to freelance medical/technical writers.

- H. Brief Financial Status Report

The checking account has a balance of \$ 9,811.85.

The certificates of deposit have a balance of \$12,577.

- I. 2013 Chapter Conference dates (if applicable)
- J. Summary of Progress since last report (may include information on the following)

<p>Membership</p>	<p>The Mid-America chapter currently has 88 members. Rona Claire Grunspan, has sent a welcome e-mail to each new member AMWA head quarters with a link to our chapter web site. Rona has also fielded questions about AMWA from a few interested potential members. Lisa Balbes and Joanne McAndrews met with some college students in December 2012 to discuss the field of medical writing and student membership in AMWA.</p>
<p>Financial Status</p>	
<p>St. Louis-area Freelance Luncheon Series, now known as TechWrite STL</p>	<p>St. Louis-area freelance Mid-America chapter members have been holding bi-monthly luncheons with St. Louis-area Society for Technical Communication (STC) Consultants and Independent Contractors (CIC) since September 2006. A different topic of interest to freelance medical/technical writers is presented by a member and then discussed at each meeting, usually over lunch at a local restaurant. Lisa Balbes and Joanne McAndrews are the co-organizers of this group. In January 2013, the group voted to change the name of this group to “TechWrite STL”.</p> <p>The topic of the September 2012 luncheon was “Writing a Tagline” presented by Jan Niehaus. Jan discussed the benefits of having a tagline for one’s business, and she used several real-life examples from her work to illustrate how to develop meaningful taglines. Luncheon attendees shared their business taglines, and a discussion of favorite taglines from well-known brands capped off an enjoyable meeting.</p> <p>Rob Saigh led the November 2012 luncheon, “In Media Res”. Rob discussed the process of writing a novel, what he looks for in great writing (with examples from some of his favorite books), and National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), the annual November contest in which participants write a 50,000-word novel in one month. The meeting concluded with a lively discussion of the current state of the publishing industry, the pros and cons of self-publishing, and participants’ prior experience with writing books.</p>

	<p>Mid-America chapter member Mary Jo Blackwood gave the presentation at the January 2013 luncheon, “Taking Leave of a Long-Term Client or Employer”. She shared personal experiences and strategies to leave a position on good terms. A lively discussion ensued about leaving on good terms regardless of whose decision it was to sever the relationship.</p> <p>Upcoming 2013 luncheons include “Libraries: Resources and Remedies” to be presented by Ruth Kaufman in March; “How Do You Structure Your Time?” moderated by Joanne McAndrews in May; “Developing a Logo for your Company” to be presented by Jan Niehaus in July; “Reinventing Yourself for today’s economic realities” to be led by Dana Delibovi in September; and “Lessons Learned from Self-Publishing” to be presented by Pat Dorsey in November.</p>
Website	http://www.amwa-midamerica.org
Newsletter	http://www.amwa-midamerica.org

K. List of Action Items or Discussion Items
[none]

St. Louis-area Freelance Luncheon Series: TechWrite STL

**Joanne McAndrews, PhD, and
Lisa Balbes, PhD**

St. Louis-area freelance Mid-America chapter members have been holding bi-monthly luncheons with St. Louis-area Society for Technical Communication (STC) Consultants and Independent Contractors (CIC) since September 2006. At each meeting, a topic of interest to freelance medical and technical writers is presented by a member and then discussed with the group, usually over lunch at a local restaurant. In January 2013, members voted to change the name of this group to “TechWrite STL”.

Mid-America chapter member Mary Jo Blackwood gave the presentation at the January 2013 luncheon, “Taking Leave of a Long-Term Client or Employer”.

She shared personal experiences and strategies to leave a position on good terms. A lively discussion ensued about leaving on good terms regardless of whose decision it was to sever the relationship.

Upcoming 2013 luncheons include “Libraries: Resources and Remedies” to be presented by Ruth Kaufman in March; “How Do You Structure Your Time?” moderated by Joanne McAndrews in May; “Developing a Logo for your Company” to be presented by Jan Niehaus in July; “Reinventing Yourself for today’s economic realities” to be led by Dana Delibovi in September; and “Lessons Learned from Self-Publishing” to be presented by Pat Dorsey in

St. Louis-area Freelance Luncheon Series: TechWrite STL

November.

Lisa Balbes and Joanne McAndrews are the co-organizers of this group. Please contact them at lisa at balbes dot com or joanne at joannemcandrews dot com, respectively, to be added to the mailing list for this group—new members are welcome, as are suggestions for future luncheon topics and volunteer presenters.