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Dear Chapter Members,

Greetings!

Spring has arrived, more or less. I’m surrounded by green hills dotted with black cows, and the pansies are in bloom. The cover photo’s from our local nursery, which has a great display of jonquils and pansies.

Included in this issue is the first of a set of posters contributed our chapter president, Rona Grunspan, The deadline for the next newsletter is June 20, 2016. Newsletters are generally issued quarterly, at the end of March, June, September, and December.

Welcome to our new officers! Laura Sheppard, MBA, MA, Medical Writing Manager at Mallinckrodt in St. Louis, has volunteered to be our Membership Chairman, and Leslie Neistadt, ELS, Managing Editor at St. Louis University, has taken over the Treasurer responsibilities from Joanne McAndrews. Thanks, Joanne, for all your work, and thanks to Laura and Leslie for joining our merry band of chapter officers!

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

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

Magdalena Berry
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Chapter Officers

President: Rona Clair Grunspan, MD
Treasurer: Leslie Neistadt, ELS
Secretary: Linda Landon, PhD
Membership chair: Laura Sheppard, MA

Newsletter chair: Magdalena Berry, MA
Webmaster: Lisa M. Balbes, PhD
St. Louis Freelance Luncheon Coordinators: Lisa M. Balbes, PhD, Joanne M. McAndrews, PhD
The TechWrite STL group continues to hold 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.

Dana Delibovi presented at our January luncheon, speaking about “Diversifying Your Work Stream”. Dana presented her ideas and practical ways of developing more than one kind of work to generate income, using her own career path over the past eight years as an example. She gave attendees a list of questions to discuss, and talked about how her own work stress decreased significantly once she started working in several different areas.

Upcoming luncheons include “Breaking into Regulatory Writing” by Chris Feely and Joanne McAndrews on March 30th and “Tips to Make Your Documents and Websites Accessible” by Alice Fugate on May 19th.

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 on our chapter.
The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by chapter president, Rona Claire Grunsan. Six members were present, including Rona Claire Grunsan, Joanne McAndrews, Lisa Balbes, Lisa Neistadt, Laura Sheppard 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. The topic for the Wednesday March 30, 2016 meeting will be breaking into regulatory writing. Speakers for the May and September 2016 upcoming meetings have been arranged. The annual TechWriteSTL dinner will be held on September 2016 to celebrate 10 years of TechWriteSTL luncheons. Joanne McAndrews is organizing the dinner. For information on TechwriteSTL activities, please visit http://www.amwa-midamerica.org/.

Events in Kansas City
Phyllis Hudson will lead the effort to plan and hold events in Kansas City. Phyllis and Rona Claire Grunsan are planning new events for the Kansas City area members. Contact Rona Claire Grunsan (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 Grunsan and Laura Sheppard have been attending the monthly Chapter Leader Calls and reported on the topics that were discussed. The next call will be the second Monday of April.

Spring Board of Directors meeting
The Spring Board of Directors meeting will be held on April 7-8, 2016 in Bethesda, Maryland. A chapter representative is needed to attend this meeting. Laura Sheppard indicated interested in attending this meeting as the Mid-America chapter delegate.

Chapter Report
The Spring Chapter Report has been submitted by Linda Landon

Housekeeping
Chapter Officer Meetings – The next Chapter Officers Call will be on Tuesday April 12, 2016 at 11:30 pm by using a Google Hangout

Treasurer’s report - Joanne McAndrews presented the treasurer’s report. Leslie Neistadt will become treasurer in April, 2016. Joanne will train her. Joanne is currently gathering information for the chapter 2015 tax return, due March 15, 2016

Chart of chapter officer duties – The list of Chapter officer duties will be finalized and sent to the chapter officers for review. Leslie Neistadt will be the new chapter Treasurer. She is a new member of the Mid-America Chapter.

Membership - Laura Sheppard is the new membership chair. Laura discussed methods of encouraging members to participate and to use the new AMWA portal.
Rona Grunspan, MD has offered to share a few posters that she's created for various conferences. I've inserted a .pdf here; you should be able to zoom in on this newsletter so that you can read the poster. I've also attached a .pdf file to the e-mail sent with this newsletter.

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**Poster: A Blueprint to Success: Onboarding a Medical Writer**

Rona Claire Grunspan, MD and April M. Coburn, BA, MLA

**ABSTRACT**

Title: A Blueprint to Success: Onboarding a Medical Writer

**Objective:** The purpose of this study was to identify industry onboarding practices and assess the effectiveness of each in improving employee retention and job satisfaction.

**Methods:** A survey of 35 medical writers was conducted over a 3-month period. The survey included questions about the onboarding process, retention, and job satisfaction. The data was analyzed using descriptive statistics.

**Results:** The survey results indicated that the majority of medical writers had a positive experience with the onboarding process. However, some areas for improvement were identified, such as better communication and training.

**Conclusions:** The results suggest that implementing more comprehensive onboarding programs could improve employee satisfaction and retention. Organizations should consider investing in these programs to enhance the onboarding experience.

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**REFERENCES**


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**RESULTS CONTINUED**

The results demonstrated that medical writers who were satisfied with their onboarding process were more likely to remain with the organization. The survey results indicated that the majority of medical writers had a positive experience with the onboarding process. However, some areas for improvement were identified, such as better communication and training.

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**CONCLUSIONS**

The results suggest that implementing more comprehensive onboarding programs could improve employee satisfaction and retention. Organizations should consider investing in these programs to enhance the onboarding experience.