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Happy 4th of July!
Dear Chapter Members,

Greetings!

Welcome to the summer issue! The hollyhocks (or “harleyharcks” as they’re known locally) are impressively tall this year, and the tomatoes look good, too...

The deadline for the next newsletter is **Sept. 15, 2016**. Newsletters are generally issued quarterly, at the end of March, June, September, and December.

In addition to our regular contributions, I’ve included in this issue a reminder about the upcoming **Medical Writing and Communication Conference**, an excellent opportunity to network and enhance your skills provided through your membership in AMWA.

You can find more information about the chapter and some other resources for writers at our chapter website: [www.amwa-midamerica.org](http://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  
**Kansas City events coordinator**: Phyllis Edson  
**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, where 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.

In March, Joanne McAndrews and Chris Feely led a discussion about "Breaking into Regulatory Writing." This well-attended and lively session covered the types of documents required for regulatory submissions, companies that hire freelancers to write them, and how to get started in this field.

Our May meeting covered “Tips to Make Your Documents and Websites Accessible,” presented by Alice Fugate. Discussion covered the altruistic and economic reasons to be concerned with accessibility, specific guidelines and tools that can be used to create more accessible documents, and possible future technologies. The visual aids were a big hit – attendees learned how even soup can be inaccessible.

In July, Ann Paterson will lead a discussion of both academic and education-related writing and editing. How to find freelance opportunities, types of work available, and the expectations of employers in this sector are anticipated subjects.

For the group’s 10th anniversary, a special dinner event is planned for September 27th at CJ Muggs in Webster Groves, MO. Jay Piccirillo, MD, of Washington University School of Medicine will present "The View from the Top" about journal article submission from the perspective of a current editor-in-chief.

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.
The meeting was called to order at 11:30 pm by chapter president, Rona Claire Grunspan. Seven members were present, including Rona Claire Grunspan, Joanne McAndrews, Lisa Balbes, Laura Sheppard, Magdalena Berry, Linda Landon, 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. Speakers on a number of interesting and useful topics present at each meeting. The topic for the May 2016 meeting will be making documents and websites accessible to people with visual impairments. Speakers for upcoming meetings have been arranged. The annual TechWriteSTL dinner will be held on September 27, 2016 to celebrate 10 years of TechWriteSTL luncheons. Joanne McAndrews and Lisa Balbes continue to organize the events. For information on TechWriteSTL activities, please visit [http://www.amwa-midamerica.org/](http://www.amwa-midamerica.org/).

**Events in Kansas City**
Phyllis Edson will lead the effort to plan and hold events in Kansas City. Phyllis and Rona Claire Grunspan are planning new events for the Kansas City area members. Contact Rona Claire Grunspan ([ronaclaire@gmail.com](mailto: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 Grunspan and Laura Sheppard have been attending the monthly Chapter Leader Calls and reported on the topics that were discussed. There are 3 upcoming chapter leader teleconferences scheduled for May 9, 2016, Jun 6, 2016 and September 12, 2016 at 11:00 AM EST on each day. Volunteers are sought to attend the calls. *Minutes* – The September 2015 minutes were approved.

Signed,
Linda A. Landon, PhD. ELS

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**What:** A dinner with AMWA Mid-America chapter members and the TechWrite STL luncheon group

**When:** Tuesday September 27, 2016, 6:00 to 8:00 pm

**Where:** CJ Muggs, 100 West Lockwood, Webster Groves, MO 63119

**Who:** “The View from the Top”, presented by Jay Piccirillo, MD, FACS, editor-in-chief of JAMA Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery; Professor, Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery; Vice Chair of Research, Dept. of Otolaryngology; and Director, Clinical Outcomes Research Office, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO

**Please join us** for dinner and a presentation about journal article submission from the perspective of a current editor-in-chief, and mingle with other Mid-America chapter members.

An electronic invitation will be sent to all St. Louis-area AMWA members in July via the Punchbowl website.
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.

2016 AMWA Medical Writing & Communication Conference
October 5-8, 2016 Denver, Colorado

Full Conference Registration provides access to unparalleled education and networking, including General Sessions with award winning speakers, numerous educational sessions, a Resource Hall with exhibitors, roundtable topic discussion with lunch, beverage breaks, and an Awards Luncheon.

Register now at AMWA.org/conference!