

# AMWA MID-AMERICA

**Summer 2017**



## **In this issue:**

- St. Louis Freelance Luncheon Series
- Chapter Dinner in Orlando

# A Note from the Editor

Magdalena Berry, MA

Dear Chapter Members,

Marigolds shout “summer!”, so I’ve used a (royalty-free) photo of some that volunteered in my garden for this issue’s cover.

It’s a pretty light issue this month. We have the report on the St. Louis Freelance luncheon series and some news about the chapter dinner in Orlando. Please plan to attend if you’re at the AMWA Medical Writing & Communication Conference this year. It’s always a lot of fun to meet Midwest chapter colleagues and the food’s good, too! Thanks to Joanne McAndrews for organizing these annual events.

You can find more information about the chapter and some other resources for writers at our chapter web site: [www.amwa-midamerica.org](http://www.amwa-midamerica.org)

As always, feel free to send me any suggestions or contributions for this newsletter.

Magdalena Berry

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## Chapter Officers

**President:** Rona Clair Grunspan, MD

**Treasurer:** Leslie Neistadt, ELS

**Secretary:** Linda Landon, PhD

**Membership chair:** Heather McNeill, MA

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

**Newsletter chair:** Magdalena Berry, MA

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

**St. Louis Freelance Luncheon Coordinators:**

Lisa M. Balbes, PhD, Joanne M. McAndrews,  
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.

Mark Denk, Assistant Vice President of the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, led a private tour of the Helix Center Biotech Incubator for our group on May 4th. He described the thriving start up community in the St. Louis area, and showed attendees office space, wet lab, and dry lab areas of the building, noting that the Helix Center is at 100% occupancy. During the tour, participants talked

briefly with executives from MediBeacon, Blue Orb Solutions, and SaniTrace.

Upcoming events include “Writing for Television” in July, a dinner with a presentation about mindfulness meditation in September, and “Best (and Worst) Books of 2017” 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 on our chapter website (<http://www.amwa-midamerica.org/index.html>). A complete list of past topics, as well as handouts, is available on the History tab on that website.





Freelance Luncheon Attendees

# AMWA Mid-America Chapter Dinner

By Joanne M. McAndrews, PhD and Leslie E. Neistadt, ELS

For the past twelve years, Mid-America chapter members have gathered for dinner on Thursday evenings during the AMWA Medical Writing & Communication Conference. We always enjoy meeting each other and learning about members' different backgrounds and work environments. This year's dinner is planned for Thursday November 2nd in Orlando, FL. We will dine at Frontera Cocina

in the Disney Springs area. There is a free shuttle bus that runs from the Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin to the Disney Springs area.

**Please email**

**[joanne@joannemcandrews.com](mailto:joanne@joannemcandrews.com) by Friday October 20th if you plan to attend.** Hope to see you there!



*Join us in Orlando  
November 1 - 4, 2017*