

Jessica Kiser

From: Jessica Kiser [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 21, 2024 10:55 PM
To: Jessica Kiser
Subject: AMWA Mid-America Chapter Fall/Winter Newsletter
Attachments: TechWrite STL Event Summaries Nov 2023 and Jan 2024.pdf; Iowa Networking Group Event Summary Nov 2023.pdf

Dear Mid-America Chapter,

I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays and had a good start to 2024. We have an exciting year ahead!

- Is one of your resolutions this year to be more involved in the Chapter? The regional networking groups are a great place to start! See upcoming events across the chapter [here](#), and check out what your colleagues are doing in the attached event summaries from our St. Louis and Iowa groups.
- Calling all book readers! Whether you read 1 or 100 books this year, please consider sharing your favorites and not-so-favorites with Leslie Neistadt [REDACTED] through the end of 2024. She's creating a list of "picks and pans" for books read by our membership throughout the year. All genres are welcome! This is not for medical writing only, but to share those books we love (and those we'd recommend to stay away from) as we read them throughout the year.
- Important links:
 - Chapter LinkedIn Group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12517224>
 - Chapter Website: <https://www.amwa-midamerica.org/index.html>

Happy 2024!

Sincerely,

Jessica Kiser, PharmD

2024 Communications Chair, Mid-America Chapter

Iowa Networking Group Event Summary

November 2023

The Iowa Networking Group of the Mid-America Medical Writers Chapter recently held their annual dinner at The Sanctuary Restaurant and Pub in Iowa City, IA on November 10th. The featured speaker was Tricia Brown, Senior Director of Internal Communication and Public Relations at the University of Iowa. Tricia shared her journey of developing the DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Style Guide for the University of Iowa, completing the project in an impressive 9 months. <https://diversity.uiowa.edu/resources/dei-style-guide> The meeting was attended by Heather Widmayer, Julia Moffitt (Iowa events coordinator), Pei Fen Yen, Lynn Holsapple, Oche Onyeche, Gina Morgan, and Tricia Brown (pictured L to R). The Iowa Networking Group's next event will be an informal gathering over coffee sometime this winter in Iowa City. If you're interested in joining their distribution list for future events, please reach out to Julia Moffitt.



TechWrite STL Event Summaries

January 2024 luncheon (15 attendees, including 6 AMWA members)

Business consultant Susan Ryan of SC Ryan Consulting LLC presented “Best Practices for Working Remotely” to the group on January 10th. She provided ideas for individuals, managers, and organizations as to how to stay connected and engaged with their coworkers when they are not physically co-located. Most attendees were remote workers, and Susan discussed the importance of having a dedicated workspace, scheduling, having proper IT tools and systems in place, and making time for work-life balance and connection with others. A handout of her tips is available on the Mid-America chapter website. The program was very well-received by all attendees.

November 2023 luncheon (10 attendees, including 7 AMWA members)

On November 08, Leslie Hinyard presented “Fewer Words & Bigger Font” to the TechWrite STL group over lunch at the Sunny Street Cafe. She provided guidelines about when to use tables vs figures, how to make the message pop in either format, and how to create eye-catching and informative infographics. Lively discussion with engaged audience members ensued throughout. Many resources for further research were provided, and copies of her slides were posted on the Mid-America chapter web site.