

AMWA MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER

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AMWA's New Website and Forums

This coming summer, you will see an improved national AMWA website that will contain forums to replace the listservs. Here is a quick snapshot of what's to come.

- The current listservs were discontinued on May 15th. New forums within the AMWA website, launching around July 1st, will replace the listservs.
- The forums will be similar to those found on LinkedIn.
- Past listserv archives will be available on the website.
- The new forums will not provide daily digests of all comments posted, but you can sign up to receive an email alert when a new topic is posted to a forum topic of your choice.
- The forum topics will be similar to the current listserv topics, e.g., freelance, editing, etc.
- The new forums will be mobile device compatible.
- The new website will be user-friendly, giving you the ability to access your curriculum record, change your password and username, and upload your picture.
- To login to the new website, your username will be your last name plus your AMWA member number, and your password will be your AMWA member number.
- You do not have to take action when the new website launches, but you are encouraged to logon to confirm your contact information and to sign up for the forums.



Upcoming Needs Assessment Survey

National AMWA will soon send out a member needs assessment Survey Monkey. Please take part in this anonymous survey--it will give you the option to enter a drawing to win a conference registration, a gift certificate, or a self-study course.

AMWA is on the cusp of many changes, mainly to modernize the organization with more online offerings and a certification exam. Your survey input is valuable in shaping these changes.

AMWA-MAC Conference a Success!

Thank you to all instructors and members who attended our March 22nd regional AMWA-MAC conference in Gaithersburg, MD! We broke our record with 63 attendees.

Here is a recap of two non-credit workshops, reviewed by Evelyn Ishmael.

The Business of Freelancing: Developing a Work Plan that Works for You

Leader: Nicole Van Hoey, PharmD

Nicole encouraged the class to think of ourselves as more than medical writers; we are each a small business. She pitched writing a business plan as a key part of our small business, but she pointed out that it doesn't need to be sophisticated. The act of writing out a plan benefits us because it clarifies our goals, gives us direction, strengthens our message, and holds us accountable. Nicole showed several templates from the Web that we could use as a guide to write a business plan. She also reminded us that a business plan shouldn't be a burden, but rather a tool to improve our business and make it look professional. Finally, she provided a helpful list of resources for our medical writing businesses.

Demystifying the Federal Hiring Process

Leader: Nicole Schultheis

Nicole had so much information to share! She uses *Ten Steps to a Federal Job* by Kathryn Troutman as her guidebook. Nicole works with Troutman at The Resume Place. Some hints from Nicole:

- #1 – *USAJobs.gov* works better with **Explorer** search engine
- #2 – *USAJobs.gov* prefers built resumes to uploaded resumes
- #3 – List only the last ten years of your experience
- #4 – If possible, present yourself as an expert or describe something you did independently
- #5 – Use a cover letter even if it is not requested

AMWA-MAC Newsletter Staff

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Hot Off the Listserv!

In case you missed them, these tips were recently shared on the freelance listserv:

A Glossary of Genetic Terms

Need to know the definition of genetic terms like exon, codon, genotype, and haplotype? Here is a free glossary from a recent issue of JAMA:

<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1677346>

How to Record a Call Made with an iPhone

Use an Olympus TP-8 Telephone Pick-up Microphone (sold on Amazon.com, \$39.99) that contains a microphone in the earpiece.

1. Place the earpiece in your ear and hold the phone up to the earpiece.
2. Plug the wire coming from the earpiece into a digital recorder to record the sound.

Note that this will not work as well if the earpiece is plugged directly into a computer because the computer cannot amplify the signal.

Convert a PDF to Other File Types

If you don't have AcrobatPro and you need to convert a PDF to another file type, try these websites:

1. <https://www.acrobat.com/exportpdf/en/pricing.html?trackingid=JBVXG>, \$20 a year.
2. <http://www.pdfdocconverterpro.com/?gclid=Clb9jvbx2LICFUqi4AodhwEAog>, free trial or \$39.90 to purchase.

Even though the listservs are disappearing, we hope that you will logon to the new forums (starting this summer) for more tips!

AMWA Member Benefits

F1000Prime (F stands for Faculty)

AMWA members can get a free month and a 10% monthly discount subscription to F1000Prime for \$8.95 / month. F1000Prime is an in-depth directory of top articles in biology and medicine, as recommended by a Faculty of more than 5,000 expert scientists and clinical researchers, assisted by 5,000 associates. F1000Prime provides a rapidly updated consensus map of the important articles and trends through the opinions and perspectives of more than 10,000 peer-nominated international experts. See <http://f1000.com/subscribe/amwa1> for details.

Free Pocket Training: Editing Text and Reviewing Comments in Adobe Acrobat

Learn to accurately and efficiently edit text and review comments in an Adobe Portable Document File (PDF). This Pocket Training provides an overview of all the Text Edit tools available in Adobe Acrobat as well as its options for evaluating comments from reviewers.

<http://www.amwa.org/securefileview.asp?f=pockettrainings/AdobeAcrobatPocketTraining.pdf>

Save the Date...

Casual or business casual dress is appropriate for these regional AMWA-MAC events.

Central Virginia – June 3rd

Who: AMWA-MAC members and all others interested in medical writing
What: Central Virginia Networking Meeting
When: Monday, June 3, 2013
Time: 6:30-8:30 pm
Why: Network, get to know fellow medical writers, and have some good food
Where: Bang! Restaurant
<http://bangrestaurant.net/>
213 2nd Street SW, Charlottesville, VA 22902 (434) 984-2264

RSVP and contact Regional Coordinator Kim Bullock kim.bullock@comcast.net

Baltimore – June 5th

Who: AMWA-MAC members and all others interested in medical writing
What: Baltimore area networking meeting
When: Wednesday, June 5, 2013
Time: 6:30-8:30 pm
Why: Network, get to know fellow medical writers, and have some good food
Where: Marie Louise Bistro
<http://www.marielouisebistrocatering.com/>
904 N Charles St Baltimore, MD 21201 (410) 385-9946

Please RSVP to one of these Regional Coordinators: tyyyyyEvvie Ishmael evvie.ishmael@gmail.com or Michelle Jones michellejones@jonesbiomediting.com

See page 3 for information about a speaker event in **Williamsburg, VA – July 18th**

We are looking for...

We are looking for your articles! If you have an article you would like to share in the next newsletter (like how you use AMWA's member benefits), please contact Cherie Dewar at cherie.writer@gmail.com.

Fun from the Listserv

Asylum for the Verbally Insane

Author unknown

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hie.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!

Let's face it - English is a crazy language.
There is neither egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither
apple nor pine in pineapple.
English muffins weren't invented in England .
We take English for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes,
we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square,
and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writer's write but fingers don't fing,
grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham.
Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one
amend.
If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of
them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?
If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?
Sometimes I think all the folks who grew up speaking English
should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane.

In what other language do people recite at a play and play at a
recital?
We ship by truck but send cargo by ship. We have noses that run
and feet that smell.
And how can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a
wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which
your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a
form by filling it out, and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

So if Father is Pop, how come Mother isn't Mop?

And that is just the beginning--even though this is the end.

Save the Date...

Williamsburg, VA – July 18th

Who: AMWA-MAC members and all others interested in medical writing
What: Speaker presentation
When: Thursday, July 18th, 2013
Time: 6:00 pm
Where: Restaurant in Williamsburg, VA, to be determined
RSVP: Deb Gordon at debra@debragordon.com
Why: Recent conference speaker, Juli Monroe, will present "Word of Mouth Marketing Made Simple." Her talk will cover:

1. Defining your target market in clear, concise terms.
2. Creating realistic word of mouth marketing goals.
3. Deciding on which word of mouth channels (in-person and/or social media) are right for you and your business.
4. Does a website make sense for your business?
5. Linking LinkedIn to both your in-person and online networking activities.
6. Developing a comprehensive action plan.

National Conferences

If you are serious about moving your career forward, networking, getting advice from your fellow medical writers, or taking classes toward your AMWA certificate, consider attending one of the upcoming national conferences. The next one is this coming November.

- November 6-9, 2013 ♦ Columbus, Ohio

Note: If you are interested in leading a roundtable at the upcoming conference in Ohio, please contact Lori Alexander at lori@editorialrx.com

- October 8-11, 2014 ♦ Memphis, Tennessee
- September 30-October 3, 2015 ♦ San Antonio, Texas