

# AMWA MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER

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## Call for Speakers - AMWA-MAC's Regional Conference

AMWA-MAC is starting to plan for its regional conference which will take place **Friday, March 13, 2015** at the same location as last year: the Gaithersburg Marriott Washingtonian Center, Gaithersburg, MD.

We are seeking members from our chapter to share their knowledge and lead a roundtable, 1.5-hour noncredit class, or 3-hour noncredit class. Do you have a niche of expertise that others can benefit from, whether it be for medical writing, editing, career development, technology, or anything in between? If so, please go to [http://www.amwa-midatlantic.org/images/AMWAMAC\\_RFP2015.pdf](http://www.amwa-midatlantic.org/images/AMWAMAC_RFP2015.pdf) to download the Request for Proposals (RFP) form and submit it to Jill Roberts at [jillwroberts@msn.com](mailto:jillwroberts@msn.com) for consideration. RFPs are due by October 31, 2014.

Instructors get \$100 discounted off of their conference registration and they are paid \$300 for a 3-hour class or \$150 for a 1.5 hour class. Roundtable leaders receive \$20 off their registration. Feel free to partner with other members if you'd prefer to split the responsibilities.

Past classes by our members have been about:

- Editing
- Style manuals
- White papers
- Workplace expertise (FDA, regulatory writing)
- Federal hiring
- Business plans
- Panel discussions about freelancing

## ***Congratulations!***

Congratulations to two of our members who have taken their regional conference classes to the national conference! AMWA headquarters asked Nicole Van Hoey, PharmD, to make her class, "Establishing Style: Exploring and Developing In-House Guides," into a credit course (Essential Skills for writing and editing). Martin J. Spiering, Ph.D., ELS, will teach his class, "Challenges and Opportunities for Scientific Editing," as a roundtable at the national conference.

Whether it is a one-time experience or you develop it into something bigger, please consider becoming an instructor at the next AMWA-MAC regional conference!

## Officer Update

Coordination and planning is needed behind the scenes to run AMWA-MAC's conferences and website, report to headquarters, and keep the chapter moving forward. These outgoing Board of Directors for AMWA-MAC helped make it happen and we send them a huge thank you for their time as volunteers!

Jill Roberts, MAC President  
Tracy Warren, 2014 Conference Coordinator  
Devin Gary, 2014 Assoc. Conference Coordinator  
Susan D'Alessandro, Secretary

The incoming 2015-16 officers include:

Cherie Dewar, MAC President  
Jill Roberts, 2015 Conference Coordinator  
Michael Haynes, 2015 Assoc. Conference Coordinator  
Sarah Markel, Secretary  
Tracey Robinson, Treasurer  
Shilpa Shenvi, Membership & Volunteer Liaison

Our continued thanks go out to our regional coordinators who organize local events for everyone to enjoy! If you would like to plan an event, please see the article on the following page.

Are you interested in helping out? Serving as a volunteer provides excellent networking and the opportunity to learn from your colleagues. Contact Cherie Dewar ([Cherie.writer@gmail.com](mailto:Cherie.writer@gmail.com)) if you would like to become a volunteer.

## AMWA-MAC to Meet at the National Conference

If you are one of the 46 MAC members attending the AMWA national conference in Memphis, you are invited to the AMWA-MAC Greet & Go Dinner on **Thursday, October 9**. Members will meet at the designated Greet & Go room at 6:15pm and then walk to *eighty3* (<http://www.eighty3memphis.com/>) a short distance away. Please bring small bills as the restaurant will not issue individual checks.

Questions? Contact Martin Spiering at [spieringmj2002@yahoo.com](mailto:spieringmj2002@yahoo.com).  
MAC hopes to see you there!

## ***Did you know...? "Best of AMWA Leadership"***

Did you know that chapter leaders attend biannual conferences with AMWA headquarters and all AMWA chapter leaders? The spring meeting is in Bethesda, MD where HQ is located and the fall meeting is at the annual conference. If you become a chapter leader, you too may be able to attend these meeting. There are also monthly conference calls with HQ and chapter leaders.

One new idea that came from the meetings is the need to collect the best resources that each chapter has to offer. These resources can be used by chapter leaders to institute new programs in their chapters. Cherie Dewar of AMWA-MAC led the "Best of AMWA Leadership" team that queried all AMWA chapters for their best events, speakers, resources, and advice; the results will be posted on [www.amwa.org](http://www.amwa.org) in the coming months. Here are a few gems they found:

Indiana's chapter website has a large collection of free online classes <http://www.hoosieramwa.org/> and podcasts <http://www.hoosieramwa.org/resources.php>.

The Pacific-Southwest chapter publishes a monthly newsmagazine, *Postscripts*, which contains articles on AMA Style Guide, MS Word tips and tricks, and FDA and EMA updates. Current and past issues are available at <http://issuu.com/postscripts/>.

The Delaware Valley chapter publishes an informative monthly newsletter, the *Delawriter*. Current and past issues can be found at <http://www.amwa-dvc.org/article.aspx?page=delawriter-newsletter>.

## ***From the Forums***

The forums replaced the listservs a while ago, and while many of us miss the listservs, the forums still have some useful information. Here is one example from Melissa Bogen in NY who compiled a list of document delivery services (some may not be current):

<http://docdel.net/>

<http://pubget.com/>

<http://scholar.google.com/>

<http://sumsearch.uthscsa.edu/>

<http://www.biodox.com/>

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/>

<http://www.docjax.com/home/index.shtml>

<http://library.med.utah.edu/docsupp/index.html>

<http://www.lindahall.org/>

[http://www.merckmedicus.com/pp/us/hcp/hcp\\_home.jsp](http://www.merckmedicus.com/pp/us/hcp/hcp_home.jsp)

[http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/loansome\\_doc.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/loansome_doc.html)

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/>

<http://www.scirus.com/>

<http://www.tdico.com/>

<http://www.tripdatabase.com/index.html>

<http://www.gkdocuments.com>. (Ask if AMWA members can get a discount.)

Free, open-access articles:

<http://www.doaj.org/>

<http://highwire.stanford.edu/lists/freeart.dtl>

<http://www.plos.org/>

<http://www.freemedicaljournals.com/>

If you need a book:

You can find some of the bigger/popular texts in MD Consult (<http://www.mdconsult.com>)

Check the PubMed bookshelf or Google Books to see whether a full-text version is freely available.

Then you can check <http://worldcat.org> to see whether a library near you has a copy.

## **How to Plan an AMWA-MAC Event**

1. Decide on a location. If it is a restaurant, find out whether the group can have a small area to itself.
2. Decide on a date and time.
3. If a regional coordinator is in your area, check with them to see if they are available.
4. Run the idea past Cherie Dewar ([cherie.writer@gmail.com](mailto:cherie.writer@gmail.com)) for any conflicting events.
5. If funds are needed, send a short request proposal to the treasurer, Tracey Robinson ([tmrobinson12@gmail.com](mailto:tmrobinson12@gmail.com)).
6. Compose an email with the who/what/where/when information and send it to Jill Roberts for review.
7. Pick 3 dates (one month out, 2 weeks out, a few days out) for an email blast to be sent to the chapter. Email these dates and your announcement's subject and text to the webmaster, Judy Stoffer ([jstof408@gmail.com](mailto:jstof408@gmail.com)).
8. Feel free to contact Cherie Dewar with any questions.