

AMWA Carolinas Chapter 2007-2008 Annual Report

Officers for 2006–2007

President: Tara Hun-Dorris, MMC, ELS
President-elect: Carol Bader, MS
Secretary: Ellen Stoltzfus, PhD
Treasurer: Tracey Fine, MS, ELS
Immediate past president: Jennifer King, PhD, ELS

Other members serving the Chapter are—

Listserv manager: Diane Feldman
Newsletter editor and Web boss: Pat French
Coordinators of OTC Readers Group: Tracey Fine and Jenny Walker

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President-elect: Ellen Stoltzfus, PhD*
Secretary: Susan D'Alessandro, MS*
Treasurer: Tracey Fine, MS, ELS*
Immediate past president: Tara Hun-Dorris, MMC, ELS

Other members serving the Chapter are—

Listserv manager: Diane Feldman*
Newsletter editor: Deana Betterton-Lewis*
Web boss: Pat French*
Coordinators of OTC Readers Group: Tracey Fine and Jenny Walker (not an elected position)

*Pending official chapter election at the end of September; no other nominees received as of the deadline of September 17, 2007.

Membership

As of July 26, 2007, the Carolinas Chapter had 259 members. This is a typical membership number for us following spring conference registration.

Budget

Current balance: \$11,825.00

Meetings and Programs

So far this term, our programs have been very well received. This year we are continuing to alternate between monthly networking lunches and topic-specific dinners. The dinners have a pre-established topic for discussion, and at each dinner, a member of the executive committee

is responsible for leading a discussion or finding a topic expert to lead the discussion. We have moved our bi-monthly president's networking lunch to have a presence in Raleigh, NC, so that we now have events in Raleigh, Durham, Cary, and Chapel Hill, encompassing the major cities in the Triangle region.

Date	Location	Meeting	Attendance
January 4, 2007	Durham, NC	President's networking lunch	5
January 11, 2007	Durham, NC	Executive committee meeting	5
January 25, 2007 (January 18, 2007 postponed due to weather)	Durham, NC	OTC Reader's Group: <i>Middlesex</i> , Jeffrey Eugenides	6
February 8, 2007 (February 1, 2007 postponed due to winter weather)	Cary, NC	Networking dinner Discussion topic: Effective manuscript writing	10
February 22, 2007	Durham, NC	Chapter meeting: freelance panel	14
March 1, 2007	Durham, NC	President's networking lunch	3
March 22, 2007	Chapel Hill, NC	OTC Reader's Group: <i>Born on a Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant</i> , Daniel Tammet	8
April 5, 2007	Cary, NC	Networking dinner Discussion topic: medical ethics	12
May 4, 2007	Chapel Hill, NC	Chapter Spring Conference	63
May 22, 2007	Durham, NC	OTC Reader's Group: <i>The Memory Keepers Daughter</i> , Kim Edwards	8
June 7, 2007	Cary, NC	Networking dinner Discussion topic: Experienced freelancers discussion group	8
July 19, 2007	Morrisville, NC	Executive committee meeting	5
August 2, 2007	Cary, NC	Networking dinner Discussion topic: Narrative writing	4
September 13, 2007	Raleigh, NC	President's networking lunch	5

The winter chapter meeting, a freelance discussion panel, attracted a small but enthusiastic crowd. Panelists Terry Paul, a full-time freelance writer; Terri O'Quin, a full-time freelance editor; Jennifer King, a part-time freelance writer; and Susan Sisk, a new freelance writer and former hiring manager provided over 2 hours worth of information, guidance, and useful tips.

A book group called the "OTC Readers Group" was created in 2006 by Tracey Fine and Jenny Walker. This member-driven book group meets bimonthly and has a loosely structured format. The group meets at various local restaurants for a dinner (attendees are responsible for paying for their own meals) and a lively discussion. At the end of each meeting, one attendee volunteers to choose the next book and meeting location. The inaugural meeting was in September 2006. Book selections have ranged from light-hearted mysteries to memoirs. The meetings have been well-attended by AMWA Carolinas members and their friends. The next meeting will be Nov 27, 2007, and the group will discuss *The Last Girls* by Lee Smith.

Spring Conference

The Carolinas Chapter 2007 Spring Conference was held Friday, May 4, 2007, in Chapel Hill, NC. Registration opened February 1, 2007. The following curriculum courses were offered: Understanding Sample Size and Study Power (ADV) [#729], Basics of Human Anatomy and Physiology (EW) [#227], Writing the Final Report of a Clinical Trial (PH) [#414], and Statistics for Medical Writers/Editors (C) [#110]. New this year, the chapter also offered 2 open sessions: Evidence-based Medicine and Understanding Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacogenomics—these were highly popular and successful, and we plan to have open sessions again next year. The chapter also had 2 conference sponsors for the first time, to help offset expenses associated with the event. Also, the evening prior to the conference, Chapel Hill residents and AMWA members Jenny Walker and Tracey Fine led conference participants on a tour of the UNC campus that ended at Top of the Hill, a Chapel Hill restaurant. For a complete description of our 2007 chapter conference, please see the article on page 3 of the attached [chapter newsletter](#).

The Carolinas Chapter 2008 Spring Conference has been scheduled for Friday, May 2, 2008, in Chapel Hill, NC, continuing the tradition of holding the conference on the first Friday in May. The chapter again plans to offer 4 curriculum courses and 2 open sessions.

Newsletter, Web Site, and Listserv

We published issues of our newsletter, *Carolina Connections*, in March and September of 2007. We plan to publish our next issue in December 2007/January 2008. A recent membership survey (see below) indicates that the newsletter is one of our chapter's most valued resources.

We continue to keep our Web site, amwacarolinas.org, current with announcements of upcoming events, a calendar, conference registration, the newsletter, and information about the chapter. For the first 9 months of 2007, the Website averaged 2.8 unique hits per day. We also maintain a listserv where we send reminder announcements of upcoming events to chapter members.

Membership Survey

We conducted a membership survey in 2007. Responses were solicited via listserv and at our annual spring conference (chapter members only). Overall, 26 members responded,

representing 10% of our membership. Results are discussed in detail in the article on page 6 of the [attached newsletter](#).

New Programs

This fall we are also starting 2 new programs. Our mentoring program will pair new medical writers or those wishing to learn more about another aspect of medical writing with experienced writers. We also are starting an outreach program for members who live outside of the Triangle, NC—which is the primary location for chapter events. See the president’s message on page 1 of the [attached newsletter](#) for a description of these events.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Hun-Dorris, MMC, ELS
AMWA Carolinas Chapter President, 2006-2007

One attachment: September 2007 newsletter.