



# CAROLINA CONNECTIONS

Carolinas Chapter—American Medical Writers Association

Winter 2006

## President’s Message

AMWA is primarily devoted to education, but many of us also value the networking opportunities that can help us find jobs. At almost every networking event we have new or potential members asking similar questions: how do I break in, what types of jobs are available, and how can I get one?

My first big break in medical writing happened as a result of attending a chapter networking dinner. Back in 2002, I met Rebecca Teaff, former manager of the editorial group at the Duke Clinical Research Institute (DCRI), at a networking dinner in Cary. At the time, I was trying to get a job where I could write and edit research articles. I had a PhD in cell biology and had authored 2 papers but nonetheless had few job leads.

At dinner Rebecca was generous in sharing what types of positions exist at the DCRI. She hired me later that year, and I was a senior editor at the DCRI for 2 years before starting my own company. I’m now serving as chapter president in part to give back to the community that helped me get a footing in a profession that I enjoy.

Our membership is diverse, and all of us have something we can give to the chapter. You don’t have to run for office or sign up to help with the annual conference to contribute to our community. All you have to do is participate—that could mean attending a networking lunch and just letting us know what you’re up to. The Executive Committee and I would love to see or hear from you. You’re the reason we’re here.

—Jennifer King

## 2005-2006 Officers

As announced in September, below is the slate of officers for the chapter for 2005-2006.

The officers are:

- President—Jennifer King
- President-elect—Tara Hun-Dorris
- Secretary—Carol Bader
- Treasurer—Tracey Fine

Other members of the Executive Committee (EC) are:

- Immediate Past President—Jenny Walker
- Listserv Manager—Diane Feldman
- Newsletter Editor and Web Boss—Pat French

Thank you for participating in the nomination/voting processes. We hope to have our best year yet, and our new officers will be critical to our success. Feel free to contact an officer to provide ideas for improvement, information about events of interest, or feedback about AMWA Carolinas. The EC stands ready to listen!

### In this Issue

President’s Message .....	1
2005-2006 Officers .....	1
Call for Abstracts .....	2
Call for Awards Nominations ..	2
2006 Events Schedule .....	2
2005 National Conference	
Highlights .....	3
Joint STC/AMWA Meeting .....	4
Annual Chapter Conference	
News.....	4
Are You Connected? .....	5

## Call for Abstracts

Do you have a good idea or some information that could enrich medical communications but not enough time to write a paper or create a formal oral presentation? Then don't miss your opportunity to participate in the Poster Session at AMWA's 2006 annual conference, to be held October 26-28 in Albuquerque! Go to the [national AMWA Website](#) to read all about it. Note: abstracts must be received by **March 1, 2006**.

## Call for Awards Nominations

February 15, 2006 is the deadline to submit nominations for AMWA's 3 honorary awards—the Active Fellowship Award, the Honorary Fellowship Award, and the Harold Swanberg Award—to be presented at the Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM. Any AMWA member may nominate qualified individuals for these awards. Visit the [national AMWA Website](#) for more information.

## 2006 Events Schedule

The AMWA Carolinas chapter has many important and informative events coming up in 2006. We hope to see you at one or more of these! Please see our [Website](#) for more details and directions as more events are added.

February 2	Bimonthly networking dinner, NeoChina, Cary. <u>Theme</u> : literature searching.
February 9	Joint STC/AMWA Carolinas meeting, SAS Institute. Cary. <u>Theme</u> : Intro to podcasts.
March 2	Bimonthly networking lunch, Johnny Carino's, Durham
April 6	Bimonthly networking dinner, NeoChina, Cary. <u>Theme</u> : medical publishing.
April 27-28	Spring Conference reception and courses, Friday Center, Chapel Hill
May 4	Bimonthly networking lunch, Johnny Carino's, Durham
June 1	Bimonthly networking dinner, NeoChina, Cary. <u>Theme</u> : BELS.
July 6	Bimonthly networking lunch, Johnny Carino's, Durham
August 3	Bimonthly networking dinner, NeoChina, Cary. <u>Theme</u> : Publication ethics.
September 7	Bimonthly networking lunch, Johnny Carino's, Durham
October 5	Bimonthly networking dinner, NeoChina, Cary
October 26-28	National AMWA Conference, Albuquerque, NM
November 2	Bimonthly networking lunch, Johnny Carino's, Durham
December 7	Bimonthly networking dinner, NeoChina, Cary

## 2005 National Conference Highlights

The 65th annual national AMWA conference was held September 29 – October 1, 2005, in the beautiful city of Pittsburgh. The Carolinas chapter meet-and-greet, held on the 29th, was a smashing success; in fact, we didn't have nearly enough chairs! Some of us also got to hear and see the Rolling Stones concert for free (the hotel was across the street from the concert stadium). More adventurous chapter members paid a visit to [Primanti Brothers](#) to sample their infamous sandwich, which includes the french fries and coleslaw between the slices of bread! Several of us also got to enjoy the Incline, aerial tram cars that go up and down 3 hills in the city. They offer panoramic views and a small history lesson, to boot.

Oh, and we also conversed with our colleagues, earned credits toward the Core Curriculum, and attended talks. In addition, several AMWA Carolinas members led workshops and gave presentations.

- Jeanine Halva-Neubauer, MA, Supervisor, Editorial Services, Greenville Hospital System, Greenville, SC taught Punctuation for Clarity and Style
- Sandra Manheimer, PhD, ELS, Medical Editor, S&R Communications Group, Durham, NC taught Basic Grammar I
- Nancy D. Taylor, PhD, ELS, Freelance Medical Writer, Greenville, SC taught Basic Grammar II and Usage, Ethics of Authorship and Editorship, and Author-Editor Relationship
- Jennifer King and Tracey Fine presented original nonfiction works at the Creative Readings session

See the current issue of the [AMWA Journal](#) for session reports from the Annual Conference. Hope to see you in Albuquerque for the 2006 Conference in October!



(l-r) Jo Hunt, Jennifer King



Seated (l-r): Joann Hettasch, Tracey Fine, Jenny Walker, Ellen Stoltzfus. Standing: Jennifer Bridgers and husband George. Photos by Pat French.

## Joint STC/AMWA Carolinas Meeting February 9

The Carolinas chapters of AMWA and the Society for Technical Communications (STC) are meeting jointly in February.

Both STC and AMWA members are committed to communicating information clearly and conveniently. Our February meeting will introduce us to another method for communicating with our target audiences: podcasting.

Podcasting is still quite new and there is a lot of misunderstanding about what it is. It has been defined as delivering audio programs on the Internet in a manner convenient for the listener. Another definition calls it multimedia content wrapped in RSS (really simple syndication).

What podcasting is not is easier to define: it's not just music, it's not just for folks who want to rant, it's not just for iPods, it's not just for teenagers, and it's certainly not difficult to get started. Ryan Irelan (<http://www.podcastfreeamerica.com/>) will show us how to subscribe to podcasts that interest us and how to begin creating our own podcasts.

*Introduction to Podcasting* will be held on Thursday, February 9, from 6 to 8 pm. Refreshments and networking will begin at 6 pm, followed by Ryan Irelan's presentation starting at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the SAS Cary Training Facility, which has theater seating, multimedia facilities, and wireless access. This meeting is free to STC Carolina and AMWA members; \$10 for nonmembers.

## Annual Chapter Conference News

The 2006 AMWA Carolinas Spring Conference will be held on April 28, at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill, NC. Four courses will be offered this year:

- Basic Grammar II and Usage (G) with Nancy Taylor
- [Organizing the Biomedical Paper](#) (EW) with Marianne Mallia
- Advanced Writing (ADV) with Marianne Mallia
- Electronic Common Technical Document (PH) with Peggy Boe

A welcoming reception will be held at the Friday Center from 7 to 9 pm on Thursday night before the conference, and all AMWA members are invited to attend, even if you are not taking a course.

Check our [Website](#) often for updates to the schedule, instructions for registration, and other important information.

## Are You Connected?

Did you know that AMWA Carolinas has a [Yahoo! bulletin board](#) and listserve? This board is “a communication and information e-space for the AMWA Carolinas chapter.” Messages are posted about job opportunities, upcoming events, and other topics of interest. This e-group is open to all members of the chapter. To join, send an email to [amwa\\_car-owner@yahoogroups.com](mailto:amwa_car-owner@yahoogroups.com) and include your membership number and ask to be added to the “amwa\_car” group. It’s that easy!

The national AMWA organization also has a [bulletin board](#) and 6 [listservs](#) available to AMWA members. The listservs are arranged in the following categories: Chapters; Pharmaceutical; Freelance; Editing-Writing; Educators; and Public Relations, Advertising, and Marketing. Note: messages are posted and received in the form of individual email messages; plans are in the works to create a digest version and other formats for the messages.

These e-communication options offer many opportunities for information exchange between far-flung AMWA members. Take advantage of them!

### About the AMWA Carolinas Chapter

Jennifer King, PhD • President • [jking@augusteditorial.com](mailto:jking@augusteditorial.com) • 919-598-3182  
Jenny Walker • Immediate past president • [jenny.walker@duke.edu](mailto:jenny.walker@duke.edu) • 919-668-5929  
Tara Hun-Dorris, MMC, ELS • President-elect • [tarahun@nc.rr.com](mailto:tarahun@nc.rr.com) • 919-562-1194  
Carol Bader, MS • Secretary • [cbader@rhoworld.com](mailto:cbader@rhoworld.com) • 919-595-6333  
Tracey Fine, MS, ELS • Treasurer • [finemedpubs@earthlink.net](mailto:finemedpubs@earthlink.net) • 919-967-8287  
Diane Feldman • Listserve manager • [dmfeldman@mindspring.com](mailto:dmfeldman@mindspring.com) • 919-403-3357  
Pat French • Newsletter editor, Web boss • [pat.french@leftlanecomm.com](mailto:pat.french@leftlanecomm.com) • 919-942-5604