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2008 AMWA Annual Conference

AMWA's 2008 Annual Conference, held in Louisville, Kentucky, brought several notable changes and plenty of classics to the annual event.

What was new this year?

- AMWA went **GREEN**: Open session handouts were available as print-on-demand files. Recycling bins were available for paper and ID badges. The organizers even supplied "green" plastic water bottles for attendees' use.
- AMWA went "**CYBER**": For the first time, AMWA offered a free "cybercafe"—online workstations for attendees to check their e-mail.
- AMWA went **HEALTHY**: An interactive health awareness booth was available, with free body mass index and blood pressure screenings.

As always, the conference featured workshops, open sessions, awards lunches, breakfast roundtables, poster presentations, and of course, networking opportunities!

Numbers put it better than words: The 937 attendees enjoyed 63 general, specialty, and science fundamentals workshops; 19 advanced workshops; 15 noncredit workshops; 72 roundtables; and 39 open sessions.

Louisville, most famous for the Kentucky Derby and baseball bats, served as the backdrop for the conference, and the beautiful Galt House hotel served as the meeting space. Several attendees were heard to marvel at the hotel's large indoor aviaries, and those who ventured forth into the cold (and one day, rain) were able to enjoy the Ohio River, the Louisville Slugger Museum, or the Muhammad Ali Center, all within walking distance of the hotel.

The 2009 Annual Conference will be held in Dallas—AMWA Southwest's own territory—so if you didn't make it to the 2008 conference (and even if you did), be sure to mark next year's conference on your calendar (October 22-24, 2009)!

Don't Forget!

John P. McGovern
Award Banquet and Lecture
Honoring Lawrence K. Altman, MD

Saturday, January 17, 2009
6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

Registration deadline:
January 9, 2009

For more details, visit our
website.

AMWA Southwest Yahoo Group Prize Drawing

Not a member of the AMWA Southwest Yahoo Group? Wondering what's in it for you? How about free registration for the 2009 Annual Conference in Dallas? AMWA Southwest is giving away free registration for the conference to one lucky Yahoo Group member! (Note: The free registration does not include workshop fees.) All you need to join is an internet connection and a Yahoo ID. Check out the group at groups.yahoo.com/group/amwasouthwest/.

Here are some other great reasons to join your AMWA Southwest community Yahoo group:

- Extend your professional networking throughout the chapter.
- Get news about AMWA Southwest and related events, meetings, conferences, job postings, a calendar, and more.
- Read the chapter newsletter online.
- Be a part of AMWA social networking no matter where you are.

12 Days of ~~Christmas~~ Editing

On the ___ day of Christmas, my author gave to me:

- 12** misplaced commas
- 11** dangling modifiers
- 10** unclear referents
- 9** incorrect apostrophes
- 8** missing articles
- 7** subject-verb disagreements
- 6** uncited references
- 5** amusing homonyms
- 4** undefined abbreviations
- 3** missing purpose statements
- 2** inactive verbs



...
and a grant proposal due in 2 days!



What Can AMWA Southwest Do For You?

Many of our members find it difficult to attend regular chapter functions. Thus, we are investigating creative ways to encourage more participation. We would like your input on the use of webinars. Please respond to the questions below and send your answers and comments to Kristina Wasson-Blader at kwb@kwbhealthcom.com.

1. Would you participate in a webinar?
2. What are the best times for you? (Monday-Friday or Saturday and Sunday; morning, afternoon, or evening)
3. What topics would you like to see covered in a webinar?
Some suggestions:
 - a. Basic science
 - b. Basic medical therapeutical areas
 - c. Pharmaceutical submission topics
 - d. Pharmaceutical safety topics
 - e. Small business topics
 - f. Basic grammar and punctuation
 - g. Statistics
 - h. Medical communication topics
 - i. Specific software use, tips, or tricks
 - j. Website creation
 - k. Other (specify) _____
4. Would you be willing to teach (or conduct or facilitate) a webinar?
If yes, note subject and approximate length.
5. If webinars don't appeal to you, do you have other suggestions for encouraging wider participation?

AMWA Needs Your Help with the 2009 Annual Conference

Lois Baker, an open sessions coordinator for the 2009 Annual Conference in Dallas, is seeking assistance from AMWA Southwest members in putting together Public Relations/Advertising/Marketing sessions. She needs

- Committee members to help organize sessions
- Presenters to lead sessions
- Session topic ideas

Two PRAM open sessions will be given. A suggested topic is "PR blunders and how you would have/should have handled them better," but she would like our ideas for others. She is particularly interested in finding Southwest Chapter members to serve as committee members or presenters to minimize their travel time and expenses. If you would like to be a member of this committee or present an open session at the conference, please e-mail Lois Baker at ljbaker@buffalo.edu.