

AMWA NEWS

2022 President’s Award Recipient: Kelly Byram, MS, MBA, ELS

Katrina R. Burton, BS / 2021–2022 AMWA President

The recipient of the President’s Award is selected by the AMWA President, and each year this award is bestowed upon a member of AMWA who has made distinctive contributions to the association at the chapter or national level.

I am delighted to recognize Kelly Byram, MS, MBA, ELS, as the 2022 AMWA President’s Award recipient. Kelly, a writer, editor, and founder of Duke City Consulting, LLC, received the award in November at this year’s Medical Writing & Communication Conference in Denver, Colorado. Since Kelly joined AMWA, she has served at both the chapter and national levels. She is the immediate past President of the Southwest Chapter that spans Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. In 2017, she volunteered to serve as an At-Large-Director for New Mexico, hosting networking events in Albuquerque and Santa Fe and has served in that role many years. In this role, she recognized the work taking place at the chapter leadership level, so when she was asked to take on a chapter officer role, she didn’t hesitate.

Kelly took the chapter to new heights as Assistant Program Chair, introducing the chapter to new and regular programming events with a variety of talented guest presenters. She then served as Program Chair, President-Elect, and President. At the same time, Kelly was sharing her expertise at the national level leading several roundtables and open sessions at the annual conference and writing articles for the *AMWA Journal*. Kelly also served as co-chair of the Southwest Chapter’s John P. McGovern Award committee, and as a member of the chapter’s nominating committee. She regularly serves on panels and presents on various topics of interest including writing, editing, technology, and career spaces. Ongoing volunteer work for the chapter includes technical assistance projects, such as migrating the chapter website and designing and implementing surveys. She also manages the integration of technologies to support the chapter’s operations and programming efforts. She was a key part of helping the chapter migrate to the virtual environment during the pandemic and has helped chapter leadership continue to



deliver important educational content. Her most recent role was serving on this year’s Annual Conference Committee helping to pull together an amazing program for the 2022 Medical Writing & Communication Conference.

It’s been a wonderful experience seeing Kelly lead the chapter, share her expertise with AMWA members, and venture into the national realm of volunteerism for the organization. When I asked Kelly about why she volunteers, here is what she had to say (email communication, 27 July 2022).

“Volunteering helps members build their networks and refine their skills, and it provides opportunities to build new skills. From another perspective, as we move through our careers it’s important to give back to the community by contributing our time, experience, and expertise, and volunteering provides opportunities to do that. On its own, membership in AMWA provides ample benefits and, if you take advantage of all AMWA has to offer, you will grow in your practice of the profession. Volunteering amplifies those benefits.”

It is an honor to present Kelly with this well-deserved honor. Please join me in congratulating Kelly on her contributions to AMWA and for being this year’s President’s Award recipient.