



BWA Testimonials

What Our Members Like about
Being Part of the BWA
Community





Phil Tobias

I've found lots of work through BWA. I've found work by replying to BWA job postings, and I've also been contacted by people searching the online database directory.

One of my current clients is due to a BWA job posting. I've been providing technical and marketing writing, along with graphics and Web publishing, to this company for over a year. They use me an average of 15-20 hours a week, and have turned out to be an excellent client.





Phil Tobias (cont'd)

Prior to that, I found a full-time position through another BWA- exclusive job posting. I was with that company for about four years. In that position, I again provided technical and marketing communications, graphic design and Web publishing, along with multimedia e-learning development. Until the management and department direction changed, they were a very good employer.

I also recall doing some brief desktop publishing consulting as a result of a BWA job posting. And I think some assorted copywriting work has come my way, directly or indirectly, thanks to BWA.



Phil Tobias (cont'd)

If I had to quickly add it all up, I'd guess I've earned somewhere around \$250,000, thanks to BWA. That's one reason I've tried to pass along various job leads when I see them - to try and help others benefit.



Donna Druchunas

I got two jobs through BWA last year that netted me over \$10,000.

One job was from the client calling from a listing in the directory.

The other job was one I got through a posting I saw on this Yahoo group. Both of my jobs were tech writing. One was part time for a month or so and the other was full time for about 8 weeks. I did not get any more work from either company, but one may call me back when they do the next upgrade to their software.



Donna Druchunas (cont'd)

I also got a referral from one of these companies that got me another contract that netted \$4,000. So for my \$50 investment last year, I made over \$14,000 in income. Definitely a good deal!



Lucy Glover

I've had a contract with NCAR for about a year and a half. They found me in the directory and were looking for someone with experience working with aircraft to write a manual. I designed and programmed an air traffic control system as a software engineer, so they hired me.



Rita Braun

I received a call from a nonprofit; they needed a white paper writer. I had only edited white papers, not written them. I must have said something to keep them interested, and they asked me to send them a quote for a two-part project. I was awarded the smaller first part, then after a time, was awarded the second part--seems like their first pick had a conflict. Anyway, I've completed a two-part project for them for a total of about \$6,700. I've applied for a third project with a new department. I'll find out soon whether I get it.



Bill Holtsnider

I have certainly received jobs as well as many other benefits from being a BWA member.

When I first moved to Colorado over ten years ago, I went to my first BWA meeting after a month. I immediately got a contract job that lasted over a year. The specific contract was the result of another writer hearing my introduction and getting me an interview at the company she was working at.

The initial contract – which I believe was for three months – extended to over a year.



Bill Holtsnider (cont'd)

I have since received various other, smaller contracts through BWA. I have also helped the group at various times throughout those years, including helping publish the directories, bring food for the presentations, track stats for the website and now manage a few of the pages on the bwa.org site.

While BWA has generated cash for me, and I send my dues in faithfully each year, I think BWA's importance is more than its dollar value. Professionals should congregate to trade ideas and experiences – they should actively share the world they work in.



Bill Holtsnider (cont'd)

Some professionals meet annually in warm climates, have week-long meeting agendas filled with arcane (to the outside world) topics and hire speakers from the big-name circuit. BWA meets bi-monthly at the top of a mountain where the wind blows hard a lot of the time and brings in presenters with writing-specific material.

I think every working professional should share both their expertise and their questions with others in their field. I think the Boulder Writers Alliance allows that to happen for professional writers very well.



Marilyn Brown

I got a job at StorageSoft about five years ago because of a referral from Sue Anderson, whom I met at BWA . I also got several contracts through BWA postings or member referrals in the 90s. Most of those contracts were long-term.



Linda G. Gallagher

I suspect there are others, but in March 2004, I responded to a BWA job posting, got the project, and have done two follow-on projects, and am about to do a fourth. This is contract work, of course.

The work started out as only online help development, but ended up being single sourcing a printed user guide and help, plus creating a getting started poster. I brought another BWA member into the project for the graphic work.



Nan Schweiger

I was contacted by Proof Positive last year for a contract at Raytheon. It brought me thousands of dollars and wonderful ramifications, mostly new contacts and friends.



Heidi Hall

I am always glad when I attend the BWA meetings because I always learn something new and meet someone new. I have been a member since September 2005 and thoroughly enjoyed the 2005 BWA Expo where I gained much new knowledge and many new acquaintances.

I believe it is absolutely crucial to be a member of BWA if you are in this industry and live in this area. Not only is BWA a terrific resource for employers and employees/contractors, but it is also a great venue for sharing information (application tricks are invaluable), networking, and learning new skills and products.





Heidi Hall (cont'd)

My advice to writers new to the field or new to our area is always, "Join BWA. They provide the networking and support you will need."



Patricia Werner

Quite frankly the job I got through the BWA loop changed my life. It was a VOLT position and it put me at StorageTek on an 18 month contract. I got to do things I wanted to do but had done little of in the past. I learned new software. My professional life expanded. They offered me full time, but I offered to go out on a P.O. at the end of my contract and now I work at home for them. Additionally, another client called me out of the blue from the BWA directory. I bid on a job for this client and got it.

So thanks to the BWA loop and directory, I have been employed for the last 2 years and 8 months!!!





Leah Naess

I have responded to emails requesting a technical writer and have received short-term contracts for writing user guides, technical procedures, and online help.

Specifically:

I am on a contract now that began in early September and I am just finishing it. I'd say it's about 6 months (not always full-time which is good for me) and it involved writing a user guide and online help. I work from home, which is my preference, and the quality of the technical support I get is unsurpassed. The pay is also good.



Leah Naess (cont'd)

Last year I was employed as a contractor on a part-time basis to write technical procedures for 4 months. After that, I worked on another contract for that company full-time for a little over 2 months to write an online help system. They just hired me again for one week in February to update that help system. I work from home and the quality of the technical support I get is fantastic. The pay is good.

In 2004, I was employed for 2 months as a contractor to edit and format a training manual and I got the job through the email list. The company was very unorganized, but it paid well. Another benefit I receive from BWA is having my Web site linked to the organization page.



Leah Naess (cont'd)

It usually gets me an interview, and then when I get the interview, I usually get the job if I want it. So I feel it gives me some credibility. I have interviewed for several instructional design positions that were advertised through the email list.

I enjoy the programs that I attend, and feel that I benefit a great deal through my membership. I've never had a technical issue to discuss with the group, but enjoy the questions people ask and always save the discussions and answers for future reference. If I did have a problem, I would ask the group for suggestions. That is a great benefit for someone like me who works alone most of the time.