

**Independent Writers of Chicago** 

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## ACCOUNT ABILITY: FROM BOOKKEEPING TO TAX TIPS, INDEPENDENT WRITERS OF CHICAGO (IWOC) HEAR HOW TO MAKE THE NUMBERS WORK FOR THEM

Figuring out the accounting end of our business sure can be a fuzzy area for us freelancers. We tend to avoid it. Until April 15<sup>th</sup> that is, when the tax man cometh. Then we kick ourselves for not knowing more about the whole blasted subject. Because what we do *is* a business, and how we manage our finances has a direct effect on how we profit and grow. Hear the hints that will de-fuzz it all at the next IWOC meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>, when savvy CPA Mary A. Lynch presents "How to Profit and Grow with Accounting that Works for You."

An accounting and tax expert since 1985, Lynch founded the eponymous Mary A. Lynch & Associates in 2001 with the mission of helping small business owners make the numbers "speak their language." Taking that mission to the IWOC meeting, she'll be covering such talking points as:

- A variety of systems that can be used to do your bookkeeping, both paper and computer
- Best practices for bookkeeping
- How to choose an accountant
- Buying equipment and depreciation of the equipment
- When tax filings are due and what should be filed
- Tax laws that freelance writers need to be aware of
- What business structure is right for a freelance writer
- Identity theft issues

The end game here is to help clarify options to fit you and your goals. In sum: if you want to learn all the basics for working with numbers so that they can work for you, better figure on attending the meeting.

The IWOC meeting will take place Tuesday, **March 8<sup>th</sup>** in **Room 4F** (4<sup>th</sup> fl.) at the Gratz Center, 126 E. Chestnut St. / 115 E. Delaware, Chicago, just west of Michigan Ave., adjacent to Fourth Presbyterian Church. Discounted parking (after 5 pm, with validation) is located at the 900 N. Michigan Ave. garage. Networking at 5 p.m. Main program, 6 p.m. IWOC members admitted free and do not need to register. Nonmembers, \$15. (\$10 if pre-registered at http://www.iwoc.org/calendar. Click on "March 8<sup>th</sup> IWOC Meeting.") Following the meeting, attendees are invited to a nearby restaurant for a buy-your-own dinner to further discuss writing-related topics or to continue networking. For more information, call 800-804-IWOC (800-804-4962) or visit www.iwoc.org.

IWOC is a nonprofit professional association of freelance writers living in the Chicago metropolitan area whose clients range from local to global. Together, IWOC members represent a broad spectrum of writing talents, consultation services, and specialties serving large corporations, small businesses, and not-for-profit organizations.