Thanks to George Hayhoe (Technical Communication journal editor) and our own STC/SM listserv, I just made more work for myself!

I had already written my first column for this newsletter while camping with my family up north. The draft was warm and fuzzy and focused on thanking all of our new volunteers for the upcoming year (and I DO thank all of you!). All I had to do was type it and submit it. But, upon my return to the office, I scrapped the whole thing when our usually quiet STC/SM listserv came alive with the topic of finding jobs. This recent thread focused on the topics of preventing technical writing jobs from going overseas, dealing with long periods of unemployment, and figuring out ways that we can make area businesses aware of our existence.

Fellow chapter member, Maryann Bowen, brought George Hayhoe’s editorial to the listserv’s attention (Technical Communication, August 2003, Vol. 50 Nbr. 3, p. 313). Hot off the presses, I hadn’t had a chance to read it yet. Sure enough, George’s editorial focused on how technical writers and the STC both suffer from a lack of visibility (i.e., we share the same power grid . . . and there’s been a major blackout!). He outlined some actions the society has already undertaken to try to stem the visibility problem and he also suggested some new areas of focus. I don’t want to spoil it for you; I hope you’ll read the article, because the lack of visibility that George is writing about from his Society-level post is the same problem we suffer from here in Southeastern Michigan. Not surprisingly, I believe it’s this lack of visibility that, more

Continued on page 3
“Creating and supporting a forum for communities of practice in the profession of technical communication.”

www.stc.org

TECH comments

The newsletter of the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the Society for Technical Communication

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TECH comments is published bimonthly, six times a year. Publication dates are the first of September, November, January, March, May, and July. Deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month preceding publication.

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Deadline:
October 10

November-December issue of TECH comments

E-mail submissions to
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STC/SM Leadership 2003-2004

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than anything else, impacts a technical writer’s ability to find a job.

Many took the time to comment on the listserv about the state of the economy, the lack of jobs, and the number of technical writing jobs being outsourced offshore. Believe me, I’m not pretending these problems don’t exist. Since starting my business in 1997, I never experienced a year as slow as this past year. Still, I found the most useful posts to this recent thread were those that included solid suggestions for what we could do to make things better. These suggestions included things like forming job clubs, sharing job leads, learning from what other chapters have done, finding ways to network with employers (and not just the traditional employers), even holding special chapter events for networking with potential employers.

My contribution to this thread mentioned that we have a new Professional Liaison in our chapter. Lynnette Pryce is very enthusiastic about focusing on this role. In addition to focusing on improving mentorship and internship opportunities, she’s also committed to increasing the visibility of our chapter and our members to companies in Southeastern Michigan. I encourage you to keep thinking about ways we can accomplish these goals and to contact Lynnette (profliaison@stc-sm.org) with your ideas. But don’t just stop there. Make sure you let Lynnette know how she can count on you to help implement some of these ideas!

Call for Proposal

The fourth annual Computers and Writing Research Network (CWRN) wants proposals for research projects and works-in-progress. The CWRN, an all-day, pre-conference workshop at the annual Computers and Writing Conference (May 2004 at Purdue University), welcomes submissions at any stage—from projects in the beginning stages to those ready for publication. Roundtable discussions will group researchers and discussion leaders to offer suggestions for developing research projects, pursuing suitable venues for publication, or locating other kinds of feedback. For more information see www2.gasou.edu/facstaff/jwalker/cfp/cw2003/grn.html or e-mail Janice Walker at jwalker@gasou.edu

From the VP and Programs Manager

Natalie Roelant
Vice President and Programs Committee Manager

Hi everyone! I hope you had a great summer break and are now as excited as I am to begin a new STC/SM program season. My name is Natalie Roelant and I am your program committee manager and chapter vice president for the 2003/2004 year.

Before I begin discussing our upcoming season, please allow me to introduce the many hardworking volunteers on your programs committee. Please extend with me a warm welcome to our two new members: Dunrie Greiling and Sharon McDonnell.

Dunrie will be working alongside me as the assistant programs committee manager. Throughout the year, she will experience the many responsibilities of the program manager and assume the role next year.

Sharon is back on the team and has accepted the position of program flyer coordinator. She will be responsible for creating and coordinating our monthly reminder mailing.

Back in their previous roles from last year are Lynnette Pryce, Shannon Sobota, and Mary Jo David. Lynnette will continue in the role of program greeter and maintain our nametag supply. Shannon will once again manage all incoming reservations and maintain the pre-registration list, and Mary Jo will continue to secure our program locations.

I am confident that the continuity of our returning members merged with the fresh ideas of our new team members will enhance the synergy the programs committee has always had.

A Year of Tools and Knowledge

This year the programs committee is making every effort possible to ensure that you leave a program with a new tool or knowledge to put into your toolbox. All of us carry our own personal “toolbox” wherever we go. And, similar to a traditional toolbox, there is always room for one more screwdriver or socket wrench.

That is why our goal this year is to examine the program’s content for tools that you can

See “Letter from the Vice President” on page 4
immediately apply. Remember, Knowledge is Power. Programs that do not have a fundamental tool will focus on broadening your knowledge on a new subject or helping you explore new ways to use your personal tools.

The Benefits of Membership in the STC/SM Chapter

I know I speak for the entire team when I say how much I hope you will be able to join us at the first two monthly programs described on page 6. I am also pleased to announce some new benefits of active membership in STC-SM.

Save with the Passport Savings Plan

First, we are offering a special Passport Savings Plan to all registered members of STC/SM. After you attend four programs, your fifth program is on us! You may use your Passport for any of the remaining programs available in the 2003/2004 program year, with the exception of our June awards dinner. We have seven standard programs a year (not including the June program). You must use your Passport during the 2003/2004 year and it is not transferable. You must attend the meeting to have your Passport validated.

Your Passport will automatically become validated by Shannon and Lynnette’s registration lists. Your receipt or canceled check can be used should any discrepancies arise.

Two-for Member Fees

Second, we are also offering our members a great way to save money by inviting a non-member guest to any of the seven standard programs this year. When you pre-pay for a non-STC/SM member, your program attendance fee is waived! To take advantage of this offer, send in the non-member program fee of $20.00 along with the name of your non-member guest when you pre-register—and leave your fee off the registration form. Very simple and very economical.

These two offers are not extended to our non-member guests, which is why they are called benefits of membership. A member of the registration team will be on hand at our programs to answer your questions on the other benefits of membership in the STC.

Fee Changes

I wish I could keep the good news going. However, it has been decided to increase the Student member fees by $5.00 per meeting for each of our seven standard programs, effective immediately. The student fee is now $10.00 per meeting. We have held the cost of general members at $15.00 and non-member guests at $20.00.

Also effective immediately, there will be a $5.00 surcharge for attendees who do not pre-register for a meeting. We understand that mailings can run late, so we will accept your pre-registration by phone or e-mail until 12 noon on the published registration deadline. There are exceptions to this rule. For example, because of security restrictions with AAA, we must have a solidified head count submitted prior to our meeting date. The program fliers and announcements will identify when a pre-registration restriction exists. We are hoping that this surcharge will help us control the waste we experience by trying to guess how many members to expect at a program. Your assistance in pre-registering is greatly appreciated.

Well, this was long this month. If you made it this far, I am honored that you took the time out of your schedule to visit with me and learn about the upcoming programs and exciting program membership benefits.

If you have a particular interest in a program or would like to make a suggestion to help us provide a great year of showcased topics, please don’t hesitate to drop me an e-mail at nroelani@comcast.net.

Let’s have a great year together!

A Place to Look for Money

(From the Consulting and Independent Contracting listserv, with permission.)

“The Economic Development Division of my city supports small businesses by offering a business training/scholarship program. Check with your local city, county, and state economic development offices to see if they have a similar program.

“I’m going to receive half of my conference fee for the Region 7 conference and course fee for a FrameUsers conference course. They don’t reimburse any travel expenses, but with the cost of some conferences and classes over $1,000 these days, getting half back ain’t half bad.”
Announcing

STC-SM 50th Anniversary Mystery Photo Contest

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Society for Technical Communication, our president spent all of last year rummaging through the chapter archives, which are kept in a storage facility in a galaxy far, far away. Who can forget “Tales from the Crypt”?

While there, Mary Jo found a lot of great photos from days gone by, and we thought you might enjoy seeing some of them. If you were around back then, you will recognize the persons in the photos when we were all much younger (if so, read on). If you’re among the younger of our members, you’ll probably be thinking, “Did people really allow themselves to be seen in public looking like that?” (If so, just wait thirty years.)

Each issue of the newsletter for the 2003-2004 program year will contain two mystery photos—one of the old-timers and one of a more current member. The first person to correctly identify everyone in a mystery photo will win a “mystery” prize. If no one can correctly identify everyone in a photo, then the person who correctly identifies the most people in a photo will win.

Contest duration: Until someone wins or until the next issue of the newsletter is published, whichever comes first. One prize per member, per contest year. Winners limited to current members only, and will be announced in the next issue of the newsletter.

To enter the contest, e-mail Mary Jo David with your answers (president@stc-sm.org), or phone and leave a voicemail (734-392-0019). Ties will be broken by the date stamp on the message.

Here are your first two Mystery Photos. Good Luck!

Mystery Photo #1

Mystery Photo #2
An Exciting Start to the New Season

by Natalie Roelant, Program Committee Manager

September Program Meeting
Our first meeting of the year is scheduled for Tuesday, September 23 at Lawrence Technological University. We will begin with a very short introduction of our new board members and quickly turn the floor over to our guest speakers, Mr. Kent Jennings and Ms. Barb Aylesworth. Both Kent and Barb are certified PMP members of the Project Management Institute (PMI) and have solid experience and expertise in managing documentation and web-based writing solutions. They will come prepared to share with us some exciting project management techniques for managing our own writing projects. This is sure to be a solid tool for every STC/SM member’s toolbox.

October Program Meeting
We follow in October with an Adobe FrameMaker tools and techniques meeting presented by Ms. Kay Ethier. Kay is a representative of Bright Path Solutions, an Adobe Solutions Network partner. We have not formally finalized our program topic yet, but I can tell you that part of the meeting will focus on the abilities of FrameMaker for large and medium sized document projects. The other half will study a common issue FrameMaker users have and how to overcome this issue. Our October meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 23 at the AAA Dearborn headquarters. This program is for everyone. If you are not a current FrameMaker user you will learn why FrameMaker is favored by many. For our current users, we will offer some slick techniques to make FrameMaker work for you.

Networking Lunches

STC/SM members gather for lunch each month to meet other technical communicators for professional networking and job sharing information. All interested technical communicators are welcome to attend in addition to STC/SM members. RSVPs are appreciated in order to secure sufficient table space.

Ann Arbor/Washtenaw County
Gatherings start at 11:30 a.m., but arrivals are welcome at any time. Contact Kathy Carter at 734-475-5865 (bluehoo@comcast.net) for more information or to be added to the e-mail reminder list. Kathy Carter and Doug Howell will be hosting nine lunches over the course of the coming year. Note that dates and locations are subject to last-minute change.

Oakland and Wayne County Area
Lunches take place on the scheduled day beginning at 11:45 a.m. and ending not later than 1:00 p.m. If you would like to host a lunch (send out reminders, call the restaurant, welcome people to the table), contact Lynnette Pryce at 248-737-7300 ext. 22004. For more information or to reserve a spot, e-mail Lynnette at lynnette.pryce@compuware.com by 5:00 p.m. the day before.

Lansing Area
We are considering having networking lunches for members, or potential members, who live or work in the Lansing area. If you are interested, please contact Shannon Everhart 800.248.0892 ext.242, or Susan O’Doherty 517.333.0322

2003-2004 Schedules were still being worked on at press time! More information will be posted on the chapter web site as soon as it becomes available. Go to www.stc-sm.org and click on Network Lunches for details of when and where.
And The Winner Is . . .
Kathleen Belanger!

Remember the chapter logo contest last spring? Well, your chapter leaders are excited to report that we have a new logo, designed by Kathleen Belanger. Kathy is a new member of the chapter web team, and will be helping with the redesign efforts as well as getting us started by designing the new logo. For her efforts, the chapter awarded Kathy a $25 gift certificate and an etched glass plaque whose design included her new logo.

You can't help but have noticed the new logo (above) on the first page of this newsletter, and coming soon (drum roll!) you will also be seeing an updated and improved Web site bearing the new logo and incorporating its colors as well.

Thanks, Kathy, for the great new logo!

Call for Nominations

By Mary Jo David

If you know of someone you would like nominated for Distinguished Chapter Service Award (November deadline) or for Associate Fellow consideration (October deadline), please let me know ASAP. (Please keep reading below for some guidelines before you reply.)

Most recently, Sally Paul was awarded with the Distinguished Chapter Service Award this past year. As for Associate Fellow, our chapter is currently represented by Kathleen Young. (Nancy Hoffman, Chris Juillet, and Stephanie Rosenbaum are the members of our chapter who have gone on to attain the title of STC Fellow.)

Distinguished Chapter Service

The STC is accepting nominations for the Distinguished Chapter Service Award (nominations due to the Society by November 30). As you consider whether you know of someone you’d like to see nominated for the DCSA, please keep the following in mind from the guidelines available on the web at: www.stc.org/PDF_Files/Ad-62-02.pdf

All chapter members are eligible for this award, with the exception of current voting members of the chapter administrative council. Chapters also occasionally wish to recognize former chapter members who relocate and therefore relinquish their membership in the chapter. Such former chapter members are also eligible, provided they are still members of the Society. . . . chapters are encouraged to consider at least two basic criteria—consistency of service over the time of chapter membership, and variety of service...

Each chapter may make at least one recommendation each year. Chapters with more than 100 members may make as many recommendations each year as they feel are appropriate as long as the total recommended represents no more than one percent of the total chapter membership as of June 30.

Associate Fellow

Nominations for Associate Fellow are due to the Society office by October 17, 2003. Following is an excerpt (from: www.stc.org/afellows_nominating.asp) that describes some of the qualities for people being considered for the rank of Associate Fellow. Obviously, this is a rank that is awarded only after much serious consideration on the part of the Society-level committee responsible.

To be considered for this rank, a member must have been active in the field of technical communication for at least fifteen years and a member of the Society for at least ten years. Candidates must also have done one of the following: (1) made significant contributions to the field of technical communication; (2) done original work that contributed to the advancement of technical communication; or (3) made significant contributions to the Society. Please note that a candidate needs to qualify in only one of the last three criteria.
My Not-So-Gentle Reminder

By Carol Zollinger
Northeast Ohio Chapter, STC

Each time I go to the annual conference, I go with expectations. I’ll learn a lot. I’ll find at least one fabulous session that, by itself, was worth coming for. I’ll stay up nearly all night, at least once, talking to friends that I see only once a year. (Which of course makes it exceedingly difficult to get up for the following morning’s session, but is definitely worth it.) I’ve never been disappointed in the past, and I wasn’t this year, either.

This year, however, is the first year I noticed a theme that seemed to be directed specifically at me. Either all of the presenters have been spying on me and decided to teach me a lesson, or I was feeling guilty about something, because I got nailed to the wall. The guilt thing seems more likely, but it’s just so much easier to maintain righteous indignation if it’s someone else’s fault, so I have decided that they were spying on me.

I went to a session about estimating time for projects. They talked about metrics, and project management techniques, and networking within client companies. Then I went to a session where a panel of experienced technical communicators dispensed advice, told us funny stories, and answered any nosy questions we came up with about their careers. And told us to network. Then I went to a progression for independent contractors and consultants. They talked about job boards and marketing and networking contracts and networking. Oh, and networking. Then I looked at my schedule and I saw that I myself had conspired against me and scheduled me for a networking luncheon. What was I thinking?

Besides, I said to myself, I know I have to network! Everybody knows you have to network. This is not a new concept. And after I chewed on this for a while, I sat myself down and gave myself a good talking to. (If only my mother knew that I do this for myself, she could stop intervening. But I digress.)

Young lady, I said, you have not attended one chapter meeting since you relocated from the Hoosier chapter in September. That’s eight months! I don’t care that it takes awhile to get to the meetings, or that you were too busy, that you were too tired, or that you just didn’t feel like facing a crowd of people that night. There is just no excuse! No, don’t even try to argue with me. No excuse! (Do you see how my mother is with me even when she’s not? I’m digressing again, aren’t I?)

And ultimately, there is no excuse. We all know why. You build relationships. Those relationships lead to more relationships. These relationships lead to new ideas, new jobs, new ways to handle the stressors of your job, and new information about software and other tools. The list goes on and on.

My new resolve after the annual conference got me to the May meeting of the Northeast Ohio Chapter, though the gentle reminders from some very excellent chapter leaders may have helped. And do you know, networking isn’t even so bad? I actually enjoyed myself! It’s kind of like exercising. Takes me forever to drag my lazy self out to do it, and when I’m doing it I think, “Well, you know, this is kind of nice. Why did I wait so long?” (Please note that running is an exception to this rule. Running has always been at least as bad as I thought it would be.)

The problem, of course, is that the metaphor keeps working. Like exercising, no one can do your networking for you. STC can help by providing great program meetings, networking luncheons, an annual conference every year, and, if you are very lucky, your own personal reminder system via friends in the chapter. But nobody can actually show up for you. We all have to show up ourselves. And again, like exercising, it’s not enough to just show up. We have to talk to people, listen, and share information. We all have experiences or information that somebody else can use. Chances are, somebody else at this very moment has the information that you could use.

I don’t really like to think of myself as thick, but I had to be hit over the head with the intellectual equivalent of a two by four to remember what I needed to be doing. Hopefully, by sharing my own reminder, I’ll prevent some of you from needing your own. So, I hope to be meeting all of you, or seeing you again, at chapter events in the upcoming months. And if I myself am not there like I said I would be, you have my permission to drag out the two by four again, and apply it liberally.

See you soon!

Carol’s article first appeared in the July/August 2003 issue of Lines and Letters, the Northeast Ohio Chapter newsletter.
Technical Communicators Across the World

Maryann B. Bowen

In October, 2002, I was honored to be part of a Professional Communications delegation to China, sponsored by People to People International. George Hayhoe, editor of Technical Communication, led the delegation of 15 technical communicators (and four guests), drawn from the membership of STC and the Professional Communications Society (PCS) of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). In keeping with its recent commitment to foster commercial and technical development, the Chinese government had requested that representatives of each of the professional societies of IEEE meet with their counterparts in Chinese industries and universities. Under the auspices of People to People, our delegation met with professional groups in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guilin. During the two weeks of our visit, we also had several days devoted to travel, sightseeing, and cultural experiences. (Of course we visited the Forbidden City and climbed the Great Wall!)

The delegation included technical communicators of all varieties – writers, editors, graphics specialists, instructional designers, etc. It was also about evenly divided between educators and practitioners, including those who wear both hats. Nearly all members of the professional groups we met with in Beijing, Shanghai, and Guilin had university affiliations, though some also worked for Chinese or multinational companies or news media. The two exceptions were a company in Beijing that provides translation and localization services, and a consulting company in Shanghai (owned by an American expatriate who has done business in China for over ten years) that helps non-Chinese, especially U.S., businesses establish ventures in China.

We found that we had much more in common with our Chinese counterparts than most of us had expected. However, we also found much that is different. For instance,

Continued on page 10

Sally Paul Wins Distinguished Chapter Service Award for 2003

The Society for Technical Communication has long recognized the importance of the hard work and commitment of its chapter members. Without their energy and enthusiasm, the Society would cease to be the largest, most effective, and most prestigious organization of technical communicators in the world.

In 1988, the Society initiated the distinguished chapter service award, designed to recognize exemplary dedication to the chapter and its activities. The first awards were presented in 1989. The winners for 2003 were listed in the April issue of Intercom and on the STC web site, and include our own Sally Paul, Manager of the Technical Communications department at Creative Solutions in Dexter. Sally served the STC/SM chapter as treasurer for three years, and during that time did lots of cleanup and organization of monthly reports and processes, and thoroughly documented the Treasurer’s job. She was nominated by our chapter’s Executive Committee in appreciation for this work, and received the award at our annual Volunteer Celebration dinner last June.

Congratulations and Thank You, Sally!

Congratulations on page 10

New Senior Members

Doug Howell
Sally Paul
Sharon McDonnell
Rene Plautz
Brian Musgrave
Across the World
Continued from page 9

technical communication is not yet a recognized profession in China, and the universities do not yet offer degree or certificate programs in technical communications or professional communications. The educators and students with whom we met were drawn from schools of journalism or science and engineering. They see their role primarily as explaining developments in science and technology to the public. Members of the IEEE delegation seemed the most aware of the need for such products as software user manuals, help systems, and the other types of documentation that technical communicators in the West routinely create. They were the furthest along in developing the coursework, internships, and other mechanisms that will eventually build the profession, but as one of them noted (with what we considered extraordinary patience), “Perhaps in another forty or fifty years, we’ll be where you are today.”

[Editor’s Note: Debbie Wiles, who was a member of the delegation, has an article in the August 2003 issue of Technical Communication presenting the research she did on that trip. She included pictures of the delegation, too, so if you look closely, you will see Maryann in China.]

Publications Competition

It’s that time again! Time for the annual SWO-STC Technical Publications, Technical Art, and Online Communications competitions.

Have you or your company produced technical communication products that you think are worthy of awards? Would you like your work to be recognized by your peers? If so, then consider entering Southwestern Ohio’s competition. The entry deadline for this year’s competitions is October 10th, 2003.

For entry form and instructions, visit www.stc-swo.org/competitions.htm
Guest Director-Sponsor Letter

STC Board Decisions at the Annual Conference meeting

By Linda Oestreich
Region 5 Director-Sponsor

Wow! What a conference, and what a board meeting to launch it! The official STC board meeting was called to order on Saturday morning, May 17, in Dallas. The general topics of discussion included the upcoming retirement of Bill Stolgitis and the selection of Peter Herbst as his successor, realignment of the membership dues and rebate structure, chapter loans and grants, and the state of the Society in relation to our changing world.

At the beginning of the day, Ed See, our now Immediate Past President, shared his thoughts about the past year and extended his heartfelt thanks to the board for successfully navigating a tough year that included budgetary reductions, low conference attendance, and the selection of a new executive director for the Society.

Board Actions
The board took the following actions:

- Voted to give each STC chapter a membership rebate of $30 per member for the first 150 chapter members; $20 per person for each member over 150; and $13.50 per student member.
- Set new membership dues of $140 for regular memberships, $56 (40% of regular dues) for student memberships, and $70 (50% of regular dues) for retired members.
- Approved a $3,000 loan to the Alberta Chapter for the 2003 Region 7 Conference.
- Approved the formation of a special committee to consult, develop, and suggest to the board a transformation of STC's operational model that can move the Society to better support the many communities of practice within STC, enable growth, and stabilize revenue.
- Selected the winners of Chapter of Distinction Awards and Chapter Pacesetter Awards.

Other Topics Discussed
The STC board also discussed the following items:

- The intent to leave currently effective processes and entities alone, yet seek to strengthen the Society's emphasis on local communities, be they local chapters, special interest groups, or other communities of practice that exist in local communities. The board plans to determine how to do this through input from members and potential members in technical communication throughout the world.
- Tactics to increase STC membership at the national and chapter levels and to raise attendance at the Annual Conference and STC regional conferences.
- Formation of a group to communicate board issues to chapters to keep them better informed and "in the loop" of decisions made at the board level.
- Ways to notify chapters of sensitive issues such as increases in dues. The board decided that chapters already understand the issues of the times and trust Society leadership to make the proper budget cuts and expense reductions, along with other changes, to ensure a strong Society.

APEX Awards

The APEX awards are based on excellence in graphic design, editorial content, and overall communication effectiveness. The APEX competition has been conducted annually since 1989 by Communications Concepts, Inc., the Springfield, Virginia, publisher of Writing That Works: The Business Communications Report.

STC took four awards in this year's APEX 2003 publications competition.

Russ Bombardieri, STC's webmaster, won a Grand Award for STC's Web site in the "Web and Intranet Sites" category.


Intercom received an Award of Excellence in the "Magazines and Journals – Printed Four Color" subcategory.

APEX 2003 received close to 5,000 total entries in eleven major categories. Of these, 100 (about 2 percent) won Grand Awards, and 1,541 (about 31 percent) won Awards of Excellence.
Lanette’s Lines

Here We Go Again!

A new program year begins for STC and for TECH comments. Last year the newsletter staff and I were just getting our feet wet. This year the fun begins!

For this first issue I took a careful look at the requirements for the annual STC newsletter competition, and made lots of changes as a result. For one thing, we’ll be publishing an issue during the summer next year, in order to meet the minimum required number of issues (6) for next year’s competition.

Another big change is an official masthead on page 2, along with the Society mission statement and logo. The logo also appears on the front page of this issue.

Letters to the Editor is one of 14 content items the judges look for, so feel free! Or if you have comments about TECH comments that are not necessarily for publication, please email me at newsletter@stc-sm.org. I really want to know what you think!

Students, keep us in mind as a place to hone your writing skills and get published.

Lanette’s Wish List

First and foremost, an assistant editor or co-editor! I’m thinking, with an assistant or co-editor maybe we could go to monthly publication. On a monthly publication schedule, the job would not be as big and the information could be more timely. Then after we work together for a year or two, and win an award in the Society newsletter competition, I could pass the baton and move on to serve the chapter in other ways. Please give it some consideration. This is not the last you’ll hear on this subject!

Also needed: a photographer, and someone to take over compiling the list of conferences, seminars, meetings, and other networking opportunities. Rosemary Hampton did an amazing job of that last year, but has resigned due to moving out of town.

Oops, I’m out of space already! See you at the program meetings September 23 and October 23.

Job Posting

The following was posted to the listserv on August 31, 2003. Chris Pellar-Kosbar, our Employment Referral Service (ERS) and Listserv Manager, is doing a great job with both of these related tasks, and would like to remind you to reply to the contact listed in the posting instead of just hitting the Reply button in your email software. “Reply” sends a message back to Chris, who is not in a position to give you an interview!

If you’re looking for jobs or contracts, don’t forget the Society web site at www.stc.org/jobsdatabase.asp

Contact name: Peggy Jacobson
Company name: TCCI
Phone number: 206-284-5868
E-mail address: peggyj@tccink.com
Title of position: Technical Writer
Type of position: Permanent
Job location: Ann Arbor, MI
Skills required: Auto, Degreed, Glass, Librarian, Patent, R&D, Techwrit—BS in Engineering ideal. Some experience with R & D patent filing. 4 Yr. degree a must. Engineering a plus. 3-10 years experience.

Job description: Some experience working with R&D engineers on Patent Administration, research Patents, File Patent Papers, know how & where to file; may work with Patent Attorney for short training period. When not busy at this will do some Technical Writing. This is for a R&D center for company producing automotive glass & some of the new technologies related to on glass visual systems, embedded antennas & so forth.

Salary: over $50K/year

Thank You to All Contributors to this issue of TECH comments!

Maryann Bowen
Kathy Carter
Mary Jo David
Linda Gallagher (CIC-SIG)
Rosemary Hampton
Linda Oestrech (Region 5 Director-Sponsor)
Christine Pellar-Kosbar
Natalie Roelant
Carol Zollinger (Northeast Ohio Chapter)
Networking and Learning Opportunities

September 10
STC Telephone Seminar: Paper Prototyping
Location: Your Site
Carolyn Snyder
www.stc.org/seminars.asp

September 10
“Best Practices in Evaluation”
Ann Arbor & Detroit ASTD chapters
(248) 332-9922

September 18-20
American Medical Writers Association 63rd Annual Conference
Miami, Florida
www.chemistry.org

September 21-24
“The Shape of Knowledge,” International Conference of the Professional Communication Society of IEEE
Orlando, Florida
ieeepcs.org/2003, or Sherry Steward at ssteward@ieee.org

Tuesday, September 23
September Program Meeting
Lawrence Technological University
“Project Management Techniques”
Kent Jennings and Barb Aylesworth of the Project Management Institute

September 24
STC Telephone Seminar: Proving Our Worth to Clients and Employers
Location: Your Site
Bonni Graham
www.stc.org/seminars.asp

September 22-26
“Innovation: Making It Happen,” 5th Annual Best Practices Conference and Forum
Seattle, Washington
gretchen.marks@comtech-serv.com
303-232-7586

October 2-4
STC Region 7 Conference
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
www.region7conference.com

October 4
“Leading with Authenticity”
Columbus, Ohio
Sponsored by the Central Ohio Chapter
www.centralohiostc.org

October 6-7
Documentation & Training 2003
Boston University
Keynotes by David Pogue, Vincent Flanders; 32 sessions by 27 speakers over 2 days
www.doctrain.com

October 9-12
STC Region 5 Conference
Austin, Texas
www.stcaustin.org/confregion5

October 19-21
STC Region 6 Conference
Bettendorf, Iowa
www.stcregion.org/region6

Thursday, October 23
October Program Meeting
AAA Dearborn
“Framemaker Tools and Techniques”
Kay Ethier of BrightPath Solutions

May 9-12, 2004
STC 51st Annual Conference
Baltimore, MD
www.stc.org/51stConf/index.asp

. . . and don’t forget the Networking Lunches!
www.stc-sm.org, click on Network Lunches for details