



Newsbrief

Monthly Publication of the Mid-South Chapter

SOCIETY FOR
TECHNICAL
COMMUNICATION

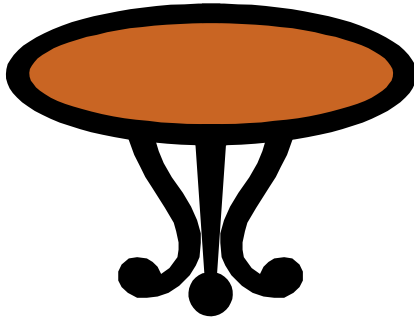
Volume 20, Number 5

May 2002

Conference Roundtable Discussion

by Nell Johnson

During STC's 49th Annual Conference — held May 5th through 8th in Nashville, TN, we learned that, besides one of our members winning the Jay Gould award (Mary Sue MacNealy) and one a Distinguished Chapter award (Jackie Walters), the Mid-South chapter also won a Chapter of Merit award! Nina Pinsley, David Armbruster, and Mike Albers all gave wonderful presentations, and one of our newest members, Leanne Logan — a transfer from Southwestern Ontario, became an Associate Fellow!



Congratulations Mid-South!

Join the Mid-South chapter on Monday, May 13th, at the Pig-N-Whistle Barbecue Restaurant on Winchester Road, for a roundtable discussion of the 49th Annual Conference. During the meeting, we will also hold an installation ceremony for the chapter officers elected for the 2002-2003 year.

The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. A barbecue buffet dinner will be offered at a cost of \$10.00/person, which includes tax and gratuity.

Meeting Notes

by Alison Joyner Masilak

If you've been a Memphian for more than a few years, you're probably familiar with the work done at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. St. Jude, the largest center of its kind in the world, conducts research into childhood catastrophic diseases. With scores of research papers and grant applications to be edited, St. Jude's Department of Scientific Editing employs

several technical communicators, including Julia Cay Jones who spoke at the April meeting, which drew 27 attendees.

Julia gave us an overview of the types of research studies done at St. Jude and provided some impressive numbers about the hospital's work, including that, to date, St. Jude has treated around 18,000 children from the U.S. and 60 foreign countries. She also showed impressive statistics on current survival rates of several childhood diseases comparing very favorably with rates from 40 years ago, when St. Jude first opened its doors.

Jones says the mission of the Department of Scientific Editing is to help investigators write effective articles. Jones and the other scientific editors serve as "author's editors," by helping researchers polish their articles before they are submitted to peer-reviewed biomedical journals.

Their services include editing for style, making sure that sentences are clear and consistent, checking technical content, confirming that statistics and arithmetic are correct, that figures match up to their text references, and whatever else is needed for the project at hand.

The Department of Scientific Editing also:

- Edits grant applications
- Prepares the annual "Scientific Report"
- Prepares the St. Jude "Rounds" quarterly newsletter
- Maintains the department's intranet site
- Conducts biomedical writing workshops

2002-2003 Election Results

The Society for Technical Communication is pleased to announce the results of its 2002-2003 election.

President

Edward J. See, a senior member with the New York Metro chapter, assumes the office of president after a year of service as first vice president.

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First Vice President

Thea Teich, a senior member with the Southwestern Ohio chapter, assumes the office of first vice president after a year of service as second vice president.

Second Vice President

Andrea L. Ames, an associate fellow with the Silicon Valley chapter, has been elected second vice president.

Secretary

Andrew Malcolm, a fellow with the Rochester chapter, has been elected secretary.

Director-Sponsor, Region 1

Jonathan W. Baker, a senior member with the Boston chapter, has been elected director-sponsor of Region 1.

Director-Sponsor, Region 5

Linda L. Oestreich, a fellow with the Houston chapter, has been elected director-sponsor of Region 5.

Director-Sponsor, Region 7

Rahel Anne Bailie, a senior member with the Canada West Coast chapter, has been elected director-sponsor of Region 7.

Nominating Committee

M. Katherine Brown (Kit), a senior member with the Snake River chapter, has been elected to serve a two-year term on the nominating committee.

Nominating Committee

Nan J. Fritz, an associate fellow with the Boston chapter, has been elected to serve a two-year term on the nominating committee.

Newsletter Editor

by Scott Thompson

[Editor's note: This article is the fourth in a series of articles explaining the various positions that make up the Mid-South chapter's administrative council. These articles are intended to aid our membership in understanding the role that the council plays in the organization, the community, and the STC at large.]

Based on my experience with the Mid-South chapter as well as others, an STC chapter's newsletter is the most important piece of communication that the chapter

The Society for Technical Communication (STC) is an individual membership organization dedicated to advancing the arts and sciences of technical communication. It is the largest organization of its type in the world. The Society's 25,000 members include technical writers, editors, graphic designers, videographers, multimedia artists, Web and Intranet page information designers, translators, and others whose work involves making technical information available to those who need it.

Membership in STC offers opportunities to learn new job skills, network with other technical communicators, and broaden your professional horizons. To learn more about what the STC has to offer, visit:

<http://www.stc.org/>



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Designing the future of technical communication

Society President Judith Glick-Smith
Region 3 Director-Sponsor..... Rob Houser

Mid-South Chapter

A sharing community creating opportunity

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produces because it reaches the members of the chapter on a regular basis. For many members, the newsletter is their primary link with their chapter. Serving as the editor of a chapter newsletter, consequently, places you in one of the most visible positions of the chapter. With each issue, members will evaluate your skills as an editor and a manager. And, trust me, they will let you know when you make mistakes, and may or may not let you know when you do a good job.

A chapter newsletter has a variety of purposes. One of its most crucial purposes is to create a sense of community between the members of a chapter and the STC — at the chapter, regional, and international levels alike. The Society-wide publications from the STC office (e.g., *Intercom*, *Technical Communication* journal) are very important, but, as I previously mentioned, members tend to relate better to a newsletter and find it more accessible. After all, members may contribute to the newsletter themselves or may know the people who write for it. They may even know you.

Chapter newsletters also have a number of goals. Our goals for *Newsbrief*, the Mid-South chapter's newsletter, are pretty straightforward:

- Involving members and visitors more fully in professional development and service.
- Fostering a sense of community among chapter members and visitors.
- Providing a link between professors and students at local universities and professionals within local industry.
- Promoting the benefits of chapter membership to attract new members.

So, with respect to all this, what exactly does the newsletter editor do? Well, you:

- Write, edit, produce, and distribute an informative (and sometimes entertaining) newsletter to the chapter membership.
- Work with the president to communicate chapter plans, objectives, goals, and progress.
- Provide the opportunity for chapter members to assist with writing, editing, and producing the newsletter, and provide opportunities for input from other members. And, specifically for this reason, solicit member involvement in the newsletter.
- Assume joint responsibility for the quality, accuracy, and content of the newsletter (i.e., content is approved by the chapter president before publication).
- Understand and comply with standard guidelines for the ethical and responsible reporting of information.
- Generate support for production costs from local businesses and industries.
- Submit news about chapter meetings, conferences, or other items of interest to the STC membership to the *Intercom* and *Tieline* editors.
- Exchange newsletters with other chapters.
- Assist in gathering and preparing material for the STC newsletter competition, at the chapter president's request.
- Publish columns written by the director-sponsor as appropriate.

All said, the success of any given chapter newsletter is up to the chapter that produces it. But, as the newsletter editor, you play a major role in the process. And I'm a firm believer in what I once read in an article by J. Suzanna Laurent, Director-Sponsor Region 5: "what you get out of anything is in direct proportion to what you put into it."

As a relative newcomer to Memphis and the Mid-South chapter, editing the Mid-South chapter's newsletter over the last year has given me the opportunity to learn more about the region and, more importantly, to get a taste of what it has to offer in terms of the Technical Communication's profession. I hope whomever volunteers to do the newsletter next year finds it as challenging as I did. Are you up to the challenge? Give one of our chapter officers a call and let them know.

Newsbrief

Newsbrief is the monthly publication of the Mid-South chapter of the Society for Technical Communication, a nonprofit organization. Nine issues of *Newsbrief* are published each year (September through May). We create the publication to:

- Involve members and visitors more fully in professional development and service.
- Foster a sense of community among chapter members and visitors.
- Provide a link between professors and students at local universities and professionals within local industry.
- Promote the benefits of chapter membership to attract new members.

Submissions

If you would like to contribute an article to *Newsbrief*, submit:

- The text portion of the article as a text (TXT) or Microsoft Word (DOC) file, or as text incorporated within the body of an e-mail;
- Photos as Joint Photographer's Interest Group (JPG) files; and
- Line art as Graphics Interchange Format (GIF) or Windows Meta-File (WMF) files.

Of course, we are more than willing to accept images (photos and line art alike) as Tagged Image File Format (TIFF) files, since these files are ideal for print. If you choose to submit a TIFF, however, please set the file resolution to 150 dots per inch (dpi) or higher.

To ensure that we publish articles in a timely fashion, we ask that you submit your articles by the tenth of each month for the coming month's issue. Send all submissions to the editor of *Newsbrief*.

Copyright

Newsbrief invites writers to submit articles that they wish to be considered for publication. Please note, however, that, by submitting an article, you implicitly grant a license to *Newsbrief* to run your article and for other STC publications to reprint it without permission. You as the writer nonetheless hold the copyright. When you submit an article, please let the editor know if this article has run elsewhere, and if it has been submitted for consideration to other publications.

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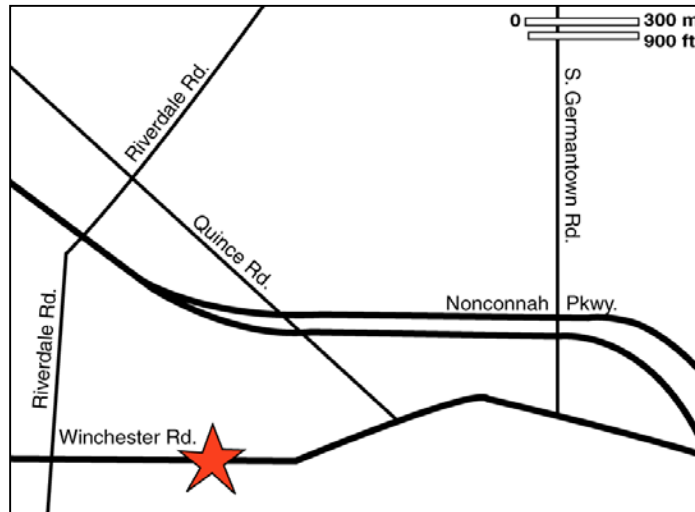
Articles published by *Newsbrief* may be reprinted in other STC publications if (1) credit is given to the author as well as the Mid-South chapter, and (2) a copy of the reprint is sent to the *Newsbrief* editor.

Editor

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Meeting Reminder

What: May (dinner) meeting
When: Monday, May 13th, 6:00 p.m.
Program: 49th Annual Conference
Roundtable Discussion
Where: Pig-N-Whistle
7144 Winchester Road
(901) 754-4400
Menu: Barbecue buffet (not just
barbecue!), dessert, and drink
(tea and water)
Cost: \$10.00, including tax and
gratuity



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