



**Society for  
Technical  
Communication**

November 2008

# Memo to Members



"Creating and supporting a forum for communities of practice in the profession of technical communication."

## Inside this issue:

If You Missed Our Last Meeting...	2
Get Active, Get Recognized	2
Please Join Us	3
From the Editor's Desk	5
Meeting information	5

## Bringing You Value

By Kelli Pharo, Orlando Chapter President



Did you know that each month our Chapter Administrative Council (AdCo) meets to discuss our monthly programs, our various scholarship and award programs, our budget, our peer recognition program, membership issues, our bylaws and procedures, the various awards we're pursuing, and a number of other topics? Our AdCo members take their roles very serious and try diligently to stay on budget, aboveboard, on task, and ahead of the game. And one of our main goals in all that we do is to bring value to our membership.

One of our annual events, that we believe is one of our greatest member values, is our winter workshop. We are currently planning our 2009 workshop. And it's important to us that we offer you the training that will benefit you most. So help us out with that, won't you?

Soon you'll be receiving an email asking for your feedback on the specifics of the 2009 winter workshop. Please take a moment to give us your honest opinions, so that we can put together a slam-dunk program.

And if you've been waiting for an opportunity to get involved in chapter leadership, perhaps this is your time. These types of programs are a group effort. From securing a speaker and reserving the room, to collecting funds and ordering food—there's a job for anyone who cares to help. You can always reach me at [president@stc-orlando.org](mailto:president@stc-orlando.org) to inquire about how you can help.

I look forward to seeing you at our November meeting, and remember to keep your eyes open for our winter workshop survey email. I hope to hear from you soon!

Kelli

## If You Missed Our Last Meeting...

by Cindy Skawinski, Orlando Chapter Secretary



... you missed an inspiring discussion of leadership led by Dr. Stephanie A. Parson. Dr. Parson's strategy for successful leadership begins with leading yourself. By determining how you can serve others, you are preparing yourself to lead teams and then organizations.

Dr. Parson also had some advice for employees that perform well but aren't moving up to leadership roles: exceptional performance is expected from a potential leader. Focusing on fitting the company image and gaining exposure in front of key people will lead to promotional opportunities.

To learn more about Dr. Parson, her company, Crowned Grace, and her leadership advice, visit [www.crownedgrace.com](http://www.crownedgrace.com).



## Get Active, Get Recognized

by W.C. Wiese

Congratulations to the class of 2008, our "dark blue" active members! During our end-of-the-chapter-year celebration in June, Membership Manager David Coverston recognized these individuals for their active participation in the chapter during the preceding year: Daniel Beck, Ashley Carney, David Coverston, Alex Garcia, Dan Heath, Erika Higgins, Dalton Hooper, Jon Kessler, W.C. Wiese, and Mark Wray.

In all, there are maybe 150 Orlando Chapter Active Member shirts in all the world. How can you get one?

For 8 years, the Orlando Chapter has recognized members who are consistent in their attendance and help make the chapter a success. These distinctive leadership shirts cannot be bought, only earned. They set our membership apart at STC conferences and in the workplace. (After years of envy, several other chapters have copied us and begun their own active membership programs in the past 2 years.)

As the points table shows, you earn points every month you attend a meeting, put on the program, attend an Administrative Council meeting, or serve as a judge or mentor.

Do This	Get Points
Attend Chapter Meeting or Event	1/meeting
Serve on Council Committee or as Officer	0.5/month Plus 0.5 for attending Admin Council Meeting
Prepare and Present a Program at Meeting	2
Visit Class or Other Chapter as Representative of Orlando Chapter	1
Serve as a Mentor	1/month
Serve as Competition Judge	1/month
Become a New Member	2
Sponsor a New Member	2

You must earn 14 points to earn a 2008 Active Member shirt.

These special shirts let our members celebrate chapter pride in the workplace whenever they choose to wear it. They send a positive message to employers, clients, and co-workers: *I am committed to my profession and committed to self-development. I am a member of STC!*

Will you be an active member? We'll keep score in upcoming issues of *Memo to Members!*



*Please join us for a celebration of community,  
collaboration, and communication!*

This month, your Orlando Chapter STC is giving thanks to our local non-profit organizations, their technical communicators, and all of the work that they do to make our community great. We hope that you can join us for this special event:

**“Giving Thanks: Writing for Non-profit Organizations”**

**Tuesday, November 18th, 2008**

**6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

**Winter Park Civic Center**

We will have special guest speakers from non-profit organizations throughout Central Florida who will share their experiences, expertise, and insights. We have asked them to discuss the ways that technical communicators are employed within their organizations and to bring some of their favorite projects, current job openings in their organization, as well as volunteer and service learning opportunities.

You won't want to miss this great networking event, and the chance to learn about the many exciting opportunities available for technical communicators in our community. Please RSVP to [vicepresident@stc-orlando.org](mailto:vicepresident@stc-orlando.org) to reserve your place. Cost: \$5 students, \$8 STC members, \$15 nonmember guests.

**Giving Back:**

Also this month, we are hosting a food drive to support **Second Harvest of Central Florida**. Bring three or more non-perishable items to the meeting and you will receive an extra raffle ticket for our door prize drawing!

**Sharing with Others:**

Bring a friend! First-time meeting attendees can receive free admission. Visit the [“On the House”](#) section of the [Orlando STC website](#) for details.

**Join in the Spirit:**

Do you work or volunteer as a technical communicator for a non-profit organization? If so, you are welcome to join our panel of presenters this month! Contact [jen.selix@gmail.com](mailto:jen.selix@gmail.com) for more info.



## From the Editor's Desk

By Tiana Sliger, *Memo to Members* Managing Editor



Hello again! Make sure you check out the points system chart on page 3 for information on how to become one of our active "blue shirt" members. 14 points qualifies you as a 2008 Active Member.

As the holidays are approaching, I want to wish everyone an early Happy Thanksgiving, safe travels, and lots of delicious food.

Hope to see you all at our monthly meeting Tuesday!

Tiana

**Join us at the  
Winter Park Civic Center ([map](#)), Tuesday, November 18, 2008**

**6:30 — 7:00 p.m.**

**Snacks and networking.**

**7:00 — 9:00 p.m.**

**Guest Speakers from non-profit organizations throughout Central Florida**

**"Giving Thanks: Writing for Non-profit Organizations ,"**

**followed by door prizes!**

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### Shop our CafePress Store!

Click on the button below to go to CafePress.com. A percentage of your purchase is rebated to the Orlando Chapter STC.

### Sponsor A Meeting!

Your company name and logo can appear here. Just sponsor one of our upcoming chapter meetings. Sponsorships start as low as \$125 and include such benefits as, free admission for up to 10 employees, expo space during our meeting networking hour, and a click-through on our chapter website. For more information, contact Dalton

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