

TECH

STC
Society for Technical Communication

Orlando Chapter
Volume 5, Number 2
September/October 2000

R E N D S

Administrative Council News

by Paula O'Brien

September 11, 2000

Meeting Called to Order: 6:30PM

Attendees: Marty Goodwin, Ann Vogt, W.C. Wiese, and Paula O'Brien

Committee Reports

Bylaws—Bill Paskert agreed to handle this for another year.

Education—Meeting on September 18, 2000 to discuss goals and budget for the year. The meeting will be held at the Library in Orlando. Group will create focus groups such as, Professional development, Instructional Outreach, Publicity, and Technical Writing Competition.

Employment—Diane Heald is pulling jobs from the listserve to post on the jobs page of the website.

Membership—We have a volunteer to convert the membership information into an Access database.

Nominating—This committee needs one manager and one member. Marty is working on this.

Programs—Portfolio building, ethics in communication, Adobe workshop, Cold Fusion presentation, PDF technology, RoboHELP presentation, Christmas party, installation dinner, and other program ideas were discussed.

Publicity—None.

Ongoing Business

Treasurer's Report—Treasurer's report submitted and discussed. Bank papers were also signed.

Member Surveys—A survey was presented at the last Orlando Chapter meeting. Results

will be distributed at the next Administration Council meeting.

Listserve—None

New Business

Chapter Meetings—A new meeting format was discussed. Meetings should include a networking and business card exchange segment, announcements from the President and Vice President, the meeting presentation, and a closing. During the networking segment and after the meeting, a bookstore will be open for all STC members, as well as information stations presenting information about local businesses, such as insurance companies and stock services.

Note that no actual selling of services will take place at the meetings, and the businesses are providing information only.

Meetings will also include a job posting bulletin board with current positions posted.

Winter Park Civic Center Country Club will be the setting for our STC Orlando Chapter meetings. This building is next door to the Civic Center.

Next Meeting Date

Monday, October 9, 2000 at the Orlando Public Library beginning at 6:30PM.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:45PM



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"Patio Grill II"

Education Committee Takes a Licking To Kick Off High School Writing Contest

Address, collate, fold, stuff, lick 'm, stick 'm. Address, collate, fold, stuff, lick 'm, stick 'm. Address, collate, fold, stuff, lick 'm, stick 'm. That's a glimpse of the Education Committee turning a production line into a rhythm at the now-traditional venue—Patio Grill in Longwood—in early August.

Committee members stuffed envelopes, not faces, for two hours to produce almost 300 packets announcing this year's 5th Annual Florida High School Technical Writing Competition. In early September, the packets, which included the judging criteria, a brochure, and an entry form, were mailed to high school and ninth grade center English and science teachers in Brevard, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Volusia counties.

Education Committee members who enjoyed the work and camaraderie included Debra Chamberlin, Marty Goodwin, Dick Hughes, Doug Kerr, Linda Emerine, Jon Kessler, Gail Lippincott, Mike Murray, Etta Jean Smith, Cari Wood, and Dan Voss. Dan Jones could not attend the meeting but did do his share. You can rest assured with Joltin' Jon Kessler in charge of the project, there were no slackers.

When all envelopes were licked, stamped, and sorted, several members stayed for dinner with Gail—her last hurrah before she departed on her great Texas adventure. Thanks, Gail, for all your help over the years. We shall miss you!





Above:

Education Committee manager, Dan Voss oversees activity by the productive half of this deadly duo on the assembly line for the high school writing competition mailouts-new Education Committee member Debra Chamberlin.

Right:

New Education Committee member Cari Woods and veteran Doug Kerr join forces in the lick'm, stick'm brigade that readied 300 plus mailouts for the 5th Annual Florida High School Technical Writing Competition.

Thanks to Dan Voss for the wonderful photos.

Additional information regarding the 5th Annual Florida High School Technical Writing Competition is available from Dan Voss, Marty Goodwin, or the Web site for *STC* stc@stc-va.org.



Region 3 News

Distinguished Chapter Service Awards

by Rob Houser, Director-Sponsor Region 3

Do you have someone in your chapter who has been a strong contributor to chapter leadership either through an elected position or other important volunteer position? Have you recognized this person officially? If not, the Distinguished Chapter Service Award (DCSA) may be a good way to do it.

The DCSA is a Society-level award that recognizes a member's exemplary contributions to the Society through his/her chapter. The qualifications for this award are broad. The official guidelines recommend that you consider length of membership, variety of service, and consistency of service over time. One important restriction is that a nominee cannot be a current member of the executive council (i.e., an elected officer).

Chapters with fewer than 100 members may make one recommendation per year (two with special permission from your director-sponsor). Chapters with more than 100 members may nominate up to 1 percent of their membership.

To nominate someone for DCSA, send email to your chapter president with the person's name, include a brief paragraph explaining why the member should be nominated for the award, and provide an inscription to be used on the award. If possible, also include the contact information for the nominee, including the number of years they have been a member of STC and the Chapter.

Nominations are made by each chapter's executive council and are approved by the Society Board of Directors at the Winter board meeting in January. All nominations must be received by the Director-Sponsor before November 30.

For details about the DCSA, go to the Society Web site (www.stc-va.org), click Honors and Awards, and open the Guidelines for Distinguished Chapter Service Award.

Don't miss this great opportunity to recognize your strongest contributors!



CICSIG News

Consulting and Independent Contracting Special Interest Group (CICSIG)

The Consulting and Independent Contracting Special Interest Group (CICSIG) serves as a focal point for information about practicing technical communication as an independent contractor, consultant, or freelancer. The CICSIG helps both new and seasoned independents practice their trade more effectively.

Our meetings, during which we exchange tips, leads and ask our peers for help, are held once a month at the downtown branch of the Orlando Public Library. Our remaining meetings for 2000 will be on September 19, October 25, and November 16.

For additional information, contact Barbara Odom at bcodom@aol.com.





on Language



by Mary Kendig

“When It Rains, It Pours”

I don't quite know what made me think of doing a column on clichés this time out, but I have a strong suspicion that it was all of the recent political convention coverage and subsequent tacky political ads on television. I suddenly found myself searching for Web sites on the subject of clichés, and much to my amazement, there are hundreds of such sites out there! Some people have actually made a career (or at least a hobby) of trying to capture the thousands of clichés we speakers of English use, some of us more often than we should. I found the following story about clichés to be most humorous, and I thought you might like it, too. It cleverly sums up how many of us have probably felt at times. I've condensed it a little because of space considerations. It's from the “Steve's Cliches” Web site: <http://www.phy.duke.edu/~stevel/cliches/cliches.html>.

They're Coming to Take Me Away, Ha-Ha!

by Geoffrey M. Miller © 1997 Miller Creative Services. All rights reserved.

(Geoffrey Miller publishes a weekly humor column in southwest Pennsylvania called “Out There.”)

The guy on the witness stand was sitting there, so smug with his clerical collar and a big bruise on his forehead. I knew it wouldn't matter what I said when I got up there. I was dead meat.

“Counselor,” the judge called to my attorney, “Do you have any questions for this witness? If not, please have your client take the stand.”

“I have no questions, your honor,” he replied. Then he turned to me and whispered his instructions. “Do you believe in miracles, Mr. Miller? I hope so, because that's what it's going to take.”

“Mr. Miller,” asked the judge, “Can you offer the court any reasonable explanation for why you struck the Reverend Dunkleberger?”

“Well, sir,” I replied, trying to sound humble and desperate. “I was having a very bad day.”

“You were having a bad day, so you hit a minister?”

“No, your honor. He said something, and then I hit him.” The judge raised his eyebrow in a way that made me feel I should explain things a little further.

It was the clichés. They are my one and only pet peeve. That's why it had been a very bad day.

It started at work. Our new manager was one of those people who used every acronym, corporate-babble, and motivational-speaker slogan that had ever been uttered. He “does lunch.” He “runs things up the flagpole.” He believes we should “straighten up and fly right” and “give a hundred and ten percent,” because if “nothing's ventured, nothing's gained,” “FYI,” “ASAP,” and “PDQ.”

By five o'clock, I was twitching and foaming at the mouth. That was before I discovered that my car wouldn't start. As I stood in the parking lot with the hood up and the snow coming down, a guy pulled up in his Beemer.

"Problem with the old car?" he asked. "Cars are just like women, I always say. "Can't live with 'em, can't live without 'em!"

I respectfully declined his offer of a ride, knowing that he'd never make it home alive.

"Are you sure?" he asked again. "He who hesitates is lost, ya know."

He left. After banging my head against the fender for a few minutes, I turned toward the corner store to call a tow truck. Behind the counter was the perkier, chattier clerk I had ever met. My request for coffee and change was met with a hearty "Okey-dokey!"

Asking if the guy could recommend a repair shop turned out to be a mistake.

"I feel for ya, buddy," he chimed. "If it's not one thing, it's another. But there's no use crying over spilled milk. When life gives you lemons, make lemonade!"

"Ever been attacked with a Slim-Jim?" I wondered under my breath.

"So what about the repair shop?" I asked.

"Oh, yeah. There's a shop about two blocks down. Those guys are straight as an arrow. Honest as the day is long. If it's broke, they'll make it right as rain, and you can take that to the bank. Trouble is, they close at five. You'll have to try that shop across the street, but hey, beggars can't be choosers."

Across the street, I was informed that the tow truck was out on a job and would be back in 45 minutes. I decided to take the bus. The attendant didn't seem to care.

"To each his own," he declared. "Have a nice day."

"I'll give you a nice day, you . . .," I muttered to myself as I trudged down the street.

"So you were agitated and mumbling to yourself as you approached the bus stop, is that correct?" asked the judge. I had become so engrossed in telling my story that I had forgotten where I was.

"Yes, sir."

"And Reverend Dunkleberger was there when you arrived, is that correct?" I concurred. "What exactly did he say to you?"

"He asked if it was cold enough for me."

"And then?" prompted his honor.

"And then I hit him upside the head with my briefcase."

"The court finds you guilty and orders you to pay a fine and restitution," said the judge. "Oh, and Mr. Miller — have a nice day!"

Moral of story: If you dare use a cliché, remember to duck out of the way!



Coming Up...

STC Contacts:

National Web site <http://stc@stc-va.org> or www.stc.va.org.

National President, Mark Haniga, email: onwritetrk@aol.com

National Communications Director Maurice P. Martin, (703) 522-4114 ext. 208, email: maurice@stc-va.org

Region 3 Director Rob Houser, (404) 797-9350, email: rob@userfirst.net

Orlando Chapter Web site for upcoming events, employment opportunities. <http://stcorg/region3/orl/www>

Orlando Chapter Immediate Past President, Lori Corbett, (352) 323-8144, email: stcmember@aol.com

Orlando Chapter President, Martin S. Goodwin, (407) 302-2739, email: msgoodwin@aol.com

Orlando Chapter Vice President, Ann Vogt, (407) 296-0349, email: avogt@cfl.rr.com

Orlando Chapter Secretary, Paula O'Brien, (407) 321-1384, email: jorpobrien@worldnet.att.net

Orlando Chapter Treasurer, W. C. Wiese, (407) 356-4792, email: william.c.wiese@lmco.com

Orlando Chapter Committee Volunteer, Ann Vogt, (407) 296-0349, email: avogt@cfl.rr.com

STC Events:

STC Annual Convergence Chicago, Illinois, May 13-16, 2001

STC Annual Convergence Nashville, Tennessee, May 5-8, 2002

STC Annual Convergence Dallas, Texas, May 18-21, 2003

STC Annual Convergence Baltimore, Maryland, May 9-12, 2004

STC Annual Convergence Seattle, Washington, May 8-11, 2005

November Meeting see <http://stcorg/region3/orl/www> for information.

December Christmas Meeting see <http://stcorg/region3/orl/www> for information.

CICSIG Contact, Barbara Odom, email: bcodom@aol.com. Meeting held at Public Library Downtown Orlando.

Tech Trends Submission Deadline November 30, 2000 to Betty Jasper, email: bjasper@star-system.com

TECH TRENDS

Orlando Chapter

P.O. Box 1343

Orlando, FL 32802-1343

<http://stc.org/region3/orl/www/>

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You may reprint original material appearing in *Tech Trends* if you acknowledge the author and source and send the editor a copy of the publication.

Tech Trends .pdf files available at <http://stc.org/region3/orl/www/>.

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