

Memo to Members

September 2008

We're Back in Action

By Kelli Pharo

Orlando Chapter President



Happy New Year STC Orlando! It's September, and even though it's hot and muggy out, good things are happening. Kids are heading back to school, preseason football is kicking off, and Philadelphia is coming to Orlando. What? Philadelphia in Orlando? That's right. I haven't lost my mind. I'm talking about Washlines XIV. It's our traditional first chapter meeting of the new chapter year, when those of us who attended the annual STC summit bring back a taste of what we experienced and share it with the rest of you. You can read more about it in Dan Voss's article. As an annual participant myself, in both the Summit and Washlines, I'm very excited this year to be able to share a little

of what I learned in Philly last May. I hope you'll join us. I'm looking forward to a great year, and this is a great way to get it started.

I'm especially pleased to welcome all our new members this year. I hope that you find what you're looking for in STC and in our chapter. If you need help with something or have some suggestions on how we can improve things to better meet your needs, please let us know. And if you'd like some information on how you can volunteer in our chapter, just get in contact with me or another member of our administrative council - we'd love to have the help!

Finally, I'd like to say thank you to Dalton Hooper, who will be turning over the reins of MtM to our new editor this month. Dalton has done a fabulous job editing and producing our newsletter this past year. But we're keeping him plenty busy as our new VP and programs manager this year. So thank you, Dalton. You are much appreciated.

Cheers to a great year!

Kelli

“CREATING AND SUPPORTING A FORUM FOR COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE IN THE PROFESSION OF TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION.”



The View from Number Two

by Dalton Hooper

Orlando Chapter Vice President



We have a new *Memo to Members* editor, beginning with this issue — Tiana Sliger. Some of you may remember Tiana as one of our two 2008 Melissa Pellegrin Memorial Scholarship recipients. When I put out the call that we were in need of someone to take over the newsletter responsibilities, so I could devote full-time efforts to the Vice Presidential duties, Tiana promptly stepped up to the plate! Welcome Tiana!

If you have visited the chapter website recently (www.stc-orlando.com), you may have noticed several speaker vacancies in our *Meetings* section. I am currently in communication with several interesting speakers and expect to nail down the schedule within the next couple of weeks. Watch the website for updates.

Washlines XIV promises to be as great as ever. I didn't get to attend this year's STC Conference, so I am especially looking forward to catching up on some of what I missed. If you are new to our chapter and not really sure what "Washlines" is all about, read on in this issue of *Memo to Members* for the details.

The last time I checked, we still had a couple of vacancies left on our Administrative Council. If you have been secretly wanting to take on a leadership position, but were waiting for someone else to come forward first, that time has passed — We're holding the position open just for YOU!!

September 16: Ring in the New Year at the Liberty Bell!

Come to Washlines XIV: Our Annual Mini-Conference, Colonial Style ...

“I’d Rather Be in Philadelphia”

By Dan Voss

W.C. Fields’ famous expression will take on a new meaning as the Orlando STC Chapter of Excellence kicks off its 2008-2009 chapter year with a colonial spin on its traditional *Washlines* meeting. Chapter members who attended the international conference in Philadelphia will share what they learned with their colleagues in a lively progression format.

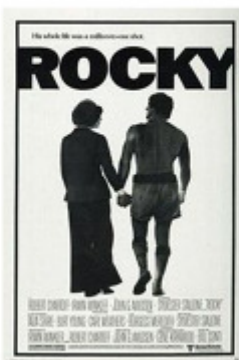
So mark your calendars and be sure to be in the City of Brotherly Love (a.k.a., Winter Park Civic Center) Tuesday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m. to get your STC year off to a rousing start.

Following a brief business meeting that will include a sneak preview of next year’s 56th annual international STC conference in Atlanta, nine chapter members who attended the 55th annual international STC conference in Philadelphia in June will bring you a full-blown mini-conference in a unique format that is 50% progression, 50% colonial nostalgia—and 110% fun.

The format is designed to simulate a realistic conference experience—including the sometimes vexing challenge of selecting the selections you attend from a staggering array of fascinating and informational alternatives.

Eight colonially themed or otherwise Philadelphia-esque progression tables will offer you the opportunity to choose from 25 mini-presentations covering 14 subject areas within technical communication (see box).

Go a Round with Rocky Balvossa!

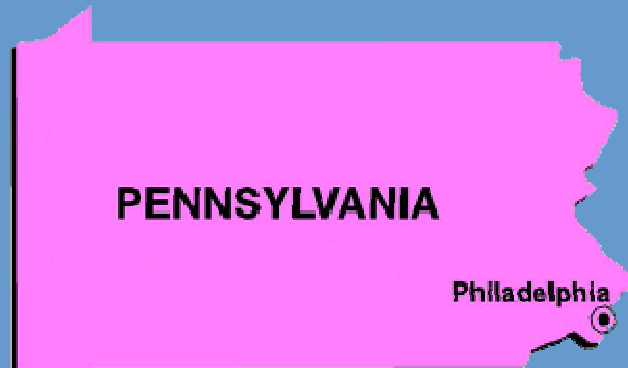


The complete program will be available as a printed handout at the event, or you can [click here](#) to print your own copy beforehand. A word of warning, however—choose *early* (with first and second choices for each rotation), because the mini-conference, just like the real thing, will fly past you at a dizzying pace.

Five or six venues will be open in each of three 25-minute rotations; two or three will be closed, thereby allowing the table hosts to take a break and attend one rotation at another venue so they can acquire as well as share conference information.

In addition to choosing which three venues you are going to visit, you will also be faced with a smorgasbord of choices at many of the tables. The number of topics at the venues ranges from 1 to 6, and the level of possible treatment varies from brief summaries to in-depth presentations, based on the number of topics on the menu as well as the audience’s preferences. Each rotation at each venue will be different, but all with well-prepared material and some with valuable handouts to boot.

Since they all face upcoming elections in their constituencies, the “Colonial Congress” (a.k.a., your table hosts) will be competing vigorously for your vote by offering not only information, experience, and handouts, but also a wide range of trinkets, goodies, and other bribes to lure you unabashedly to their venues just like the true politicians they are.



Topics at <i>Washlines XIV</i>			
Instructional Design	Virtual Communication	Information Visualization	Visual Intelligence
STC Body of Knowledge	Salary Statistics for Technical	Professional Certification	Time Management
Podcasts	Ethics	On-Screen Editing	Integrated Communication
Teaching Adults Across Disciplines (Andragogy vs Pedagogy)	Engaging Diverse Audiences with Wikis, Screencasts, and Blogs	International Collaboration in Technical Communication	... and more!

Join us at the

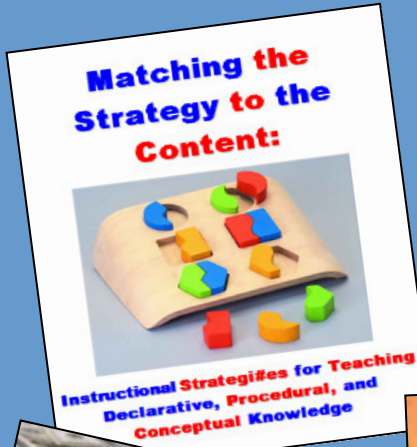
Winter Park Civic Center ([map](#)), Tuesday, September 16, 2008

6:30 — 7:00 p.m.

Snacks and networking.

7:00 — 9:00 p.m.

**Washlines XIV,
followed by door prizes!**



From The Editor's Desk...

by Tiana Sliger, Orlando Chapter Newsletter Editor

Hello! I am very excited to be taking over Dalton's role as editor of this newsletter. Dalton has done an amazing job this past year and I look forward to seeing what great things our new leadership team has in store for the upcoming chapter year.

I joined STC and began attending the monthly meetings in January when I became a Technical Communication major at UCF. I am always impressed with the quality of speakers, the enthusiasm and dedication from our leaders and members, and the amount of resources available through this award-winning chapter.

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