

Byline



Bi-Monthly Newsletter for STC Chicago Members

President's Message

Spring Is Here

By Adam Evans



I ate lunch outside last week! And anyone who just spent the last six months in the Chicago-land area knows what a big deal that is. The weather is getting nicer—despite that recent tornado—and the city is coming alive again.

Likewise, STC Chicago is a flurry of activity. We have quite the spring line-up with a little something for everyone!

On April 30 we have a networking event with the Chicago Alliance. This is the first Alliance event where all organizations are participating, so you won't want to miss it. Register now and join us downtown on the 66th floor of Willis Tower.

Then, on May 14, we're hosting a Summit preview where Mary Linderman and Andrei Essaoulov will present their presentation "Building Your First Website for API Documentation." We're also combining this with our annual business meeting where we'll "pass

the gavel" to the new officers. This meeting takes place in Greektown at The Parthenon restaurant (free valet parking included!).

Finally, in June, don't forget about the Summit itself. This year's Summit takes place in Columbus, Ohio, on June 21-24. Come refresh your knowledge and skills by attending the leading technical communication conference in the country.

We have a lot going on in STC Chicago, and as my presidency winds down, I'm reflective on what an accomplished year we've had. I'm also looking to the future where I'm eager to help the chapter continue to offer excellent programming and services to its members.

I hope to see you at an upcoming event, and enjoy Spring! Ω

Congratulations to STC Chicago on being named a 2015 STC Community of Distinction!

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Find us online!



May Program: Survival Strategies: Building Your First Website for API Documentation (and Annual Business Meeting)

As a preview to the STC Summit 2015, Mary Linderman and Andrei Essaoulov will present highlights from their session on building your first website for Application Programming Interface (API) documentation. Taking a case study approach, they'll discuss how you can leverage minimal resources to create documentation that provides useful information to support the adoption of your API by third-party developers. You'll learn simple strategies for identifying key content, optimizing code samples, and undertaking usability testing so that you can begin your website development.

We will also introduce our incoming 2015-2016 officers and pass the gavel to our new leadership.

Registration includes a Greek buffet dinner serving all dietary needs. STC Chicago is happy to offer this final meeting of the 2014-15 program year at a reduced rate.

Thursday, May 14

6:30 - 8:30 PM

The Parthenon

314 S Halsted St, Chicago, IL 60661

\$5 Members | \$10 Non-members | \$2 Students

Register now!

The Parthenon offers **free valet parking**, and it's within walking distance of Union Station, Ogilvie Transportation Center, and the UIC-Halsted Blue Line Station.

Mary Linderman is an API Technical Writer working for kCura in Chicago. With over 10 years of technical writing experience, she has gained insights about writing API documentation while working on the development and maintenance Relativity Developers Web site. Mary worked on the initial development of the Web site, which provides third-party developers with API documentation. Mary's article "Lessons Learned as a Novice API Writer" appeared in the September 2014 issue of *Intercom*. She received her Masters degree in English from the University of Chicago.

Andrei Essaoulov is an API Technical Writer who joined kCura to support the ongoing development and enhancement of the API documentation hosted on the Relativity Developers Web site. Since 1999, he has worked as a technical writer for companies like SPSS, IBM, and kCura. He received his Masters degree in English from Illinois State University. Ω

April Program: Meet the Alliance

...to Enrich Your Professional Network, Build Alliances, and Share Leads

This interactive, informative and engaging program will transform the way you network. You'll walk away with fresh ideas and a renewed commitment to expanding your business by honoring the network you already have and building new alliances in Chicago.

This event is open to all professionals in the field of design, planning, speaking, or training, and anyone working to improve Human Performance. You do not have to be a member of the Metropolitan Club or belong to any Chicago Alliance member organizations to attend.

The Chicago Alliance represents one of the strongest commitments to collaboration among Chicago-area human-performance organizations in 20 years. Comprising the local chapters of ten Chicago-area professional organizations, the Alliance sparks innovative partnerships and networking initiatives among its members and supports the sharing of best practices, leads, and latest updates about the field of human development and performance.

Thursday, April 30

6:30 - 8:30 PM

**The Metropolitan Club on the 66th Floor of Willis Tower
233 S Wacker Dr, Chicago, IL 60606**

\$40 Alliance Members (after April 24)

\$60 Non-members (after April 24)

6:30 - Networking, heavy hors d'oeuvres, cash bar

7:00 - 8:00 Program

8:00 - 8:30 Networking

Register now! Ω

MaryKay Grueneberg Receives 2015 Robert G. Frank Award

A Robert G. Frank Award recipient usually has been a member of STC Chicago for 10 years or more and has played an active role for all or most of these years. Robert Frank was a dedicated chapter leader who worked beyond reasonable expectations to make it successful. Much of his professional life was spent in support of the long-term success of STC Chicago. The Robert G. Frank Award is intended to honor Robert Frank by recognizing STC members who characterize the dedication he displayed. The award is determined by a special committee made up of previous Frank Award recipients.

This year's honoree, MaryKay Grueneberg, has been a member of the Chicago Chapter for 19 years. As a technical writer since 1983, MaryKay has won numerous STC awards for work in the field.

MaryKay served as STC Chicago program manager from July 2011 to December 2012, participated on the sponsorship committee, and served as a sub-committee manager for the 2012 STC Summit when it was in Chicago. She's been involved in the chapter's annual competition for the past 13 years, serving as a judge, a member of the Senior Review Panel, co-manager, and manager. She also played a key role in the reorganization and restructuring of the competition and banquet.

MaryKay served on the STC Chicago Administrative Council as secretary for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 terms and as president for the 2010-11 term. Recently, she served on the Society's Community Affairs Committee in support of STC outreach efforts, and she received the Distinguished Chapter Service Award in 2012.

As a lead judge for the 2014 STC International Summit Awards (ISA), MaryKay's proactive leadership skills guided the team to complete their assessments with quality comments ahead of schedule.

MaryKay has a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and Journalism and a Master of Arts degree in Communications from Northern Illinois University, as well as a Master's Certificate in Non-Profit Management from IIT. She is an Information Developer / Technical Writer III at SAP Labs (formerly Syclo) in Hoffman Estates.

When you read comments on LinkedIn, you'll find that many people say MaryKay has a sense of humor, pays attention to detail, and keeps working on task to meet tight deadlines.

Congratulations to MaryKay Grueneberg, our newest Frank Award winner! Ω

Are You REALLY a Member?

Did you know that you may not be a current member of the Chicago Chapter, even though you live and work the Chicago area and are a current STC member?

Many STC members assume that renewing their membership automatically includes membership in their local chapter, but unless you actively "opt in" to chapter membership when joining STC or renewing, you are not added to the chapter member list, and you may be missing out on the benefits of chapter membership. These benefits include being able to vote in chapter elections and being notified of chapter events and activities.

You can verify your current membership status at www.stc.org—and you can add the chapter of your choice to your membership at any time for the same \$10 charge.

Here's how:

1. Log in at <https://access.stc.org/PROD/iCommerce/MemberHome.aspx>.
2. Select the **My Communities** tab.
3. Select **Add Communities**.
4. Check the check boxes for the chapters and special interest groups (SIGs) that you want to join. Chapters are listed on the left, in alphabetical order, so look for Chicago in that list.
5. Select **Continue** to proceed with checkout.

It's that easy! If you have any questions or encounter any difficulties, you can contact Stacey O'Donnell at membership@stc.org or 703-552-4114 for assistance.

Please visit www.stc.org today and make sure that you are getting the full benefits of your STC chapter. Ω

Chapter Award Recipients

By Adam Evans

Distinguished Chapter Service Award

Cheri Noble

The Distinguished Chapter Service Award acknowledges the work of chapter members who provide exemplary service to the Society through their dedication to the chapter and its activities.

This year's Distinguished Chapter Service Award goes to someone who has dedicated many years of service to STC Chicago. She's served as Secretary, Vice President, President, and Immediate Past President in recent years. She's assisted with the Competition committee and Program committee, which are huge, year-long commitments. And she's helped facilitate countless events and programs as called upon. She's been a huge help to me personally this year as President, always available via phone or email to answer a question or provide guidance. Furthermore, she's kind, considerate, and friendly, which makes her very easy to do business with, a quality I greatly admire.

When I discovered she hasn't received the DCSA yet—an award you can win only once—it was clear who would receive this honor from STC Chicago. I'm proud to announce that this year's winner of the DCSA is Cheri Noble. Her citation reads:

For your exemplary service in numerous committees and positions in STC Chicago, for your collaboration skills, and for having a positive attitude while serving.

President's Award

Linda Jansak

The STC Chicago President's Award was established in 1993 to recognize significant volunteer contributions of chapter members. Recipients are selected by the chapter president of the current year. (Me.)

This year's President's Award recipient has been a long-time STC Chicago member and volunteer. She's an excellent "face" of the chapter, often pushing us to look at the latest and greatest technology, methods, and practices. I personally look up to her as an innovator in our space.

However, she's receiving the President's Award this year specifically for her contributions to the eLearning & Technology Showcase and our 60th Anniversary Gala. Linda Jansak represents STC Chicago in pioneering the eLearning Showcase and making it one of the most successful eLearning events in the Midwest. Additionally, she led the charge in our 60th Anniversary Gala in January, making most of the arrangements. While the Gala was the effort of a committee, I can confidently say that Linda shouldered much of the planning. I'm proud to announce that this year's winner of the STC Chicago President's Award is Linda Jansak. Her citation reads:

For her leadership and dedication to STC Chicago in planning its 60th Anniversary Gala, and for her continued role in the Chicago eLearning & Technology Showcase.

Chapter Star Award

Cynthia Laughlin

The Chapter Star Award was established in 2011 to acknowledge a chapter member for outstanding service and volunteer efforts for a single major event.

This year's Chapter Star Award recipient is being recognized for her commitment to our chapter competition, not only this year, but also the past several years. As someone who helped with the competition last year, I can personally attest to the level of commitment and amount of time it takes to pull off a successful competition. For several years, Cynthia Laughlin has strategically run our chapter competition, often introducing changes to make things run more efficiently. Not only does she manage this year-long effort, but she also became Chapter Secretary in 2014. Her ongoing dedication has not gone unnoticed, and for that reason, I'm happy to award her the 2014 Chapter Star Award. Her citation reads:

For another successful year leading the competition committee, and for taking on a new role as chapter secretary.

Volunteer of the Year

Josée Martens

The Volunteer of the Year Award was established in 2010 to acknowledge ongoing dedication to the chapter through volunteer efforts and commitment to the technical communication profession. The current Chapter President and Vice President select the recipient of this award.

This year's Volunteer of the Year Award recipient is someone who has juggled multiple commitments to the chapter for several years and yet has helped us innovate by introducing a new program in 2014. Her ongoing commitment to our scholarship program is appreciated, but when she introduced our new Get Real! Interview program this year—a program that matches students or individuals new to the profession with senior technical communicators for one-on-one interviews—it became clear she deserved our Volunteer of the Year award. Josée Martens shows continued dedication to our chapter, while also volunteering for other organizations, and I'm happy to announce she's this year's winner of the STC Chicago Volunteer of the Year award. Her citation reads:

For her ongoing dedication and innovation with the student scholarship program, and for being innovative by implementing the new Get Real! Interview program.

Above and Beyond Award

Jess Daugherty

The Above and Beyond Award began in 2012 to recognize an individual who accepts the responsibilities for a unique and challenging chapter experience. In the role, the individual contributes an extraordinary effort and substantial personal time to ensure the successful completion of the experience. There isn't a recipient each year, and there hasn't been a winner since 2012.

However, this year's Above and Beyond Award recipient is someone who stepped up to the plate when no one else would. When I became President last year, I had to relinquish my role as PR/Marketing Manager, which left a role to be filled. I spoke with several individuals and advertised the position, but there seemed to be no takers. After several conversations, Jessica Daugherty agreed to become the chapter's PR/Marketing manager.

Taking on this role blindly requires time to learn the tools and processes. Jessica dedicated the time to function independently, often doing battle with Constant Contact, PayPal, and our social media accounts to ensure things ran smoothly. The PR/Marketing role also requires constant communication and correspondence with attendees—some of you may have corresponded with her about processing payments or registration issues. There's always something that requires her attention, and she's never let the ball drop.

Additionally, Jessica is responsible for the monthly At-a-Glance newsletter, which also requires a sizeable amount of time to compile and ensure quality. I'm personally grateful for Jess' volunteerism, and I'm even more thankful that she's agreed to a second year as our PR/Marketing manager. She's also helped me with various chapter tasks because she just so happens to sit next to me at work.

I'm happy to award the Above and Beyond Award this year to Jessica Daugherty. Her citation reads:

For going above and beyond her duties as PR/Marketing manager to assist with chapter responsibilities, and for always being responsive, cordial, and friendly. Ω

Competition Award Winners

Best in Show

Argonne Diversity and Inclusion Communications Initiative

Diana D. Anderson

Argonne Photo, Video and Design Team

Argonne Writing Team

Distinguished

Argonne National Laboratory Site Environmental Report

Communications, Education, & Public Affairs

Environment, Safety, & Quality Assurance

Facilities Management & Services

APS Science 2013

Richard Fenner

2013 ALCF Science Highlights

Jim Collins

Sana Sandler

ALCF Communications Team

PowerShark EQR Training Videos

Mary Whalen

Gary Kravis

L600AWK, 600 A Enclosure Installation Instructions

Randolf S. Dean

Argonne Diversity and Inclusion Communications Initiative

Diana D. Anderson

Argonne Photo, Video and Design Team
Argonne Writing Team

**9th US-China Electric Vehicle and Battery
Technology Workshop**
Katherine Obmascik
Renee H. Carlson

System Documentation for RxClaim – Plan Menu
Steve Vandermyde
Cheri Noble

HP Insight Online Reporting Guide
Lynda O’Leary
Wayne Craun
Neil Keefe

Excellence

NEAMS Update
Larisa Blyudaya
Bryan J. Schmidt

Argonne Now
Louise Lerner
Sana Sandler

Life Science Innovations from Argonne
Renee H. Carlson
Else M. Tennesen

EVlink Electric Vehicle Charging Solutions
Michelle Felser

NUFO Exhibition
Michelle M. Nelson
Susan Strasser
Jim Corsolini

VERIFI: The Virtual Engine Research Institute and Fuels Initiative at ANL
Renee H. Carlson
Renée M. Nault
Suzanne Williams

APX 7000L Data over Broadband
Joan James

Shutter and Shutter Padlock
Marsha Jennerjohn

PowerPact H- and J-Frame Circuit Breakers and Switches
Marsha Jennerjohn

PowerShark EQR User Guide
Mary Whalen

Merit

Metro Self Storage Online PPM
Mary Whalen

Revisiting the Lecture
James J. Goldsmith

DDC-201 Connecting KMC Controllers
Ann Linley

RxClaim Implementation Training – Participant Guide
LaTanya Blakley, Melinda Harwig,
Kimberly Gilligan, Jeremy Boldt,
Ashleigh Brewer, Donna Burch

Earth’s Mysteries and the Advanced Photon Source; Fighting Disease with the Advanced Photon Source
Richard Fenner
Katherine Obmascik

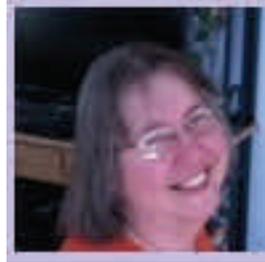
Introduction to PowerCampus
Rebecca C. Hall

ProxySG First Steps Guide
Rebecca Altman, John Ertel,
Irene Yen, Paul Adamson,
Howard Kim, Chris Freeman,
Lance Moore, Darren Deadmond,
Brandi Starks

Installation Manual for BMW Charging Station
Michelle Felser

See photos from the awards
banquet on our [Facebook page!](#)

Member Spotlight: Elizabeth Burke



Elizabeth Burke is the newly elected Vice President of STC Chicago for 2015-16. She is the Manager of Corporate Compliance Technical Documentation and Training Development at Enterprise Recovery systems. She also served as President of STC Chicago in 2011-12.

What are you working on now?

Building a structured documentation product and a documentation team for our company. My mini team is responsible for all compliance documentation and development of training materials. Our company has operated for 25 years and has only just started to build a formal documentation product and team. Considering we undergo client audits and have had several since the start of the year, the last few months have been more than interesting and definitely a challenge!

When and how did you first get involved with STC?

I volunteered to be a judge for the Chicago chapter Technical Communication competition around 2000 and never imagined that I would be a chapter officer many years later, much less serve a second term as an officer.

What's your tech comm philosophy?

As technical writers our first job is serving as an advocate of the audience. We must continuously write from the perspective of our users and provide answers to questions that the audience has not asked yet—which doesn't always match what the stakeholders think should be in the documentation. I've witnessed on more than one occasion that what developers think the users need as information and what the users actually need as information...doesn't always match.

What's your favorite work moment?

Actually I have two...that moment when someone who always thought documentation was an optional part of the product realizes the value and starts promoting documentation as a required component of the product. And the second just happened recently...I mentioned earlier that my current role is developing documentation for our company. We had a significant compliance audit in January, the most intense and thorough to date, and when I was interviewed by the client

audit team they commented that the documentation was some of the best they had seen. I maintained my professional cool and thanked them and waited to "fall off my chair" until after I left the room.

Name your three favorite books

Adult Elizabeth favorites: *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, *Hope for the Flowers* by Trina Paulus, and *Flowers in the Attic* by V.C. Andrews.

Young Elizabeth favorites: *Encyclopedia Brown* by Donald Sobol, *Mr. Pudge* by Ruth Christoffer Carlsen, *Mrs. Piggle Wiggle* by Betty MacDonald.

What's your favorite place to visit?

I've visited the redwood forest in California and it was spectacular. Also, with family in Tennessee I've visited during the fall, and the countryside color cannot be described adequately...it is breathtaking,

What would be your ideal vacation?

I would like to take an Alaskan cruise. Everyone I know who's taken the cruise has only the best things to say about it.

What do you like to do on weekends?

Way too much for a weekend...sleep in, spend time with family and friends, shop, catch up on all of my favorite shows I missed during the week, play games.

What's your favorite play?

My daughter and I had the best time at Cinderella last December. The sets were beautiful. The costumes were fabulous. And the actors were brilliant! Ω

Call for Speakers and Volunteers!

The 8th annual Chicago eLearning and Technology Showcase will be held on August 18 at Northwestern University School of Law, in downtown Chicago.

Get more information about submitting an application to be a speaker.

Get more information about volunteering to help with this event. Ω

2015 is STC Chicago's 60th year as a chapter of the Society for Technical Communication. Thank you to our generous sponsors!



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STC Chicago Chapter Leaders | 2014-2015

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Cheri Noble, ipp@stc-chicago.com

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MaryKay Grueneberg, Carla Martinek, Steve Napora, Donna Wampach,
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Alliance

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Bylaws

Dan Dornbrook

Competition

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eLearning & Technology Showcase

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Historian

Bill Leavitt

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Elizabeth Burke

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STC mission statement: Creating and supporting a forum for communities of practice in the profession of technical communication.

News guidelines: Send articles to byline@stc-chicago.com. Preferred format is a Microsoft® Word document file via email. We reserve the right to edit for style and space.

Advertising: We encourage advertising that follows STC guidelines and promotes services to STC Chicago members.

Half page (7.5"x4.5"): \$300 (1 issue)

Whole page (7.5"x9"): \$500 (1 issue)

Discounts for multiple issues

The advertisement and payment must be received by the 20th of the month before the next published issue of the newsletter.

(Byline is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December.) We will not run your ad until payment is received.

Submit ad files in electronic copy only in .tif, .gif, or .jpg format to byline@stc-chicago.com.

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