

December Holiday Party

2019 (the 2018-19 program year) was another big year for STC Chicago. We earned the 2019 Platinum Community Achievement Award and a 2019 Apex Award. The 2019-20 program year is well under way and has had a wonderful start with both in-person meetings as well as our popular monthly webinars. We think that deserves a little celebration!!

Please join us on Thursday, December 12, at our annual STC Chicago Holiday Party. We will have dinner and networking at Bar Louie in Schaumburg.

As tradition demands, we will also once again have Lightning Talks. Lightning talks are mini-presentations of 20 slides in 5 minutes on either serious or light topics. The tricky part is that the slides advance automatically, whether the speaker is ready or not! Lightning talks are an exercise in speaker brevity, concentration, and often a lot of laughter ensues. We will have several presenters doing lightning talks and we will also have one brave speaker who will do a Ninja Lightning Talk – he will do his talk with a slide deck he will not see until he starts to speak! If you are interested in giving a Lightning Talk, send your idea to Program@stc-chicago.org

Join us for some fun and networking before the craziness of the holiday season begins. And who knows...Santa may have even left a present or two for you! Check our Website for details and a registration link.



3rd Annual Design Contest

Are you a designer? A graphic artist? A photographer? An artist? Do you have a creative soul? Would you like to share your creative talents? If so, this contest is for you.

In this third annual contest, STC Chicago is looking for a creative new design for the cover of the *STC Chicago 48th Annual Volunteer Recognition & Awards Banquet* program. All art types are welcomed. Entries can be color or B&W. The winning design will be used on the 2019 banquet program cover, with designer credit. The winning designer will receive two complementary tickets to the 2020 banquet.

This year, we would like the artwork to focus on the theme of Technical Communication in Chicago.

There are just a few rules:

- All artwork must be original work, owned by the submitter
- The design must include the words "STC Chicago 48th Annual Recognition & Awards Banquet" somewhere in or over the artwork
- The design must include the banquet date "March 19, 2020"
- The artwork must be designed to fit a 4.25" x 8.5" cover and should be re-sizeable, if necessary, to accommodate borders
- You can enter multiple designs

Please submit your entries as an attachment via email to:

Program@stc-chicago.com

Subject: Banquet Cover Design Contest

All entries must be submitted by December 31, 2019. The winner will be selected and notified in January, 2020.

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Friends of STC Chicago Sponsor

LavaCon 2019

Enhance Your Skills. Find Your Tribe. Make a Difference.

**I AM A
TECHNICAL
WRITER
SO WHILE IT'S POSSIBLE
THAT I COULD BE WRONG,
IT'S HIGHLY UNLIKELY.**

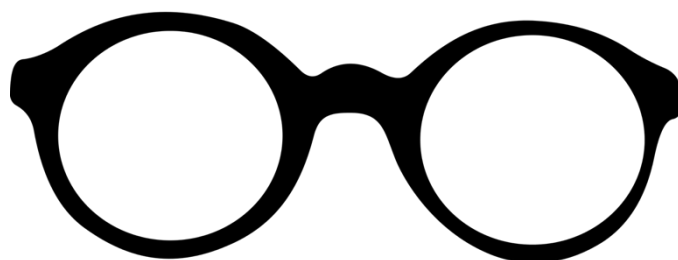
Rev Up Your Career at the 2020 STC Summit

STC's 2020 [Technical Communication Summit & Expo](#) theme is [20/20 Career Vision](#). The education sessions will benefit you no matter where you are in your career.

It's not too early to make your hotel reservations at the [Hyatt Regency Bellevue](#). STC has negotiated a special rate just for Summit attendees. Use this [registration link](#) to make sure you get the STC rate.

[Discounted registration fees](#) are available for STC members. If you're not yet a member of STC, [join today](#). You'll be able to take advantage of the lowest registration rate available for the Summit and receive all of the benefits of STC membership for the remainder of 2019 and all of 2020!

See the STC Website at www.stc.org for full details and a preliminary speaker program



What's on your horizon?

Network | Learn | Grow | Lead



Join or renew membership now at stc.org

Sign up by December 31, 2019, select STC Chicago chapter, and enter chance to win 1 of following:
Mobile device holder + surprise bonus | or | power bank/charger + surprise bonus

Time is running out:

Renew your membership with STC today!

What's on your horizon? Ongoing professional development is key to advancing knowledge, skills and connections throughout the peaks and valleys of a career. Novices and seasoned veterans alike can look to STC Chicago for continued growth, inspiration and leadership opportunities:

- **Network** each month at lunch and evening chapter meetings.
- **Learn** by listening to guest speakers at chapter meetings, attending local chapter and national webinars, and reading national publications.
- **Grow** through taking STC courses, earning the Certified Professional Technical Communicator designation, and attending the annual STC summit.

- **Lead** by volunteering or serving in an administrative capacity within the organization.

Don't miss this opportunity to join or renew your membership with STC Chicago. Sign up by December 31, 2019, at stc.org and select the STC Chicago chapter for your chance to win one of two prizes:

- A mobile device holder and a surprise bonus.
- A power bank/charger and a surprise bonus.

We need YOU to join our team – volunteer today!

Do you have some fresh new ideas for STC Chicago? Are you looking for leadership opportunities? Would you like to make a difference in the Chicagoland technical communication community?

If you said “yes” to any of these things, then we need you in STC Chicago. We are an organization led by a team of volunteers. Whether you have a little time or a lot of time, please reach out to the STC Chicago president (president@stc-chicago.com) or any of our officers (see the full current list at <http://www.stc-chicago.com/we-need-you-to-join-our-team-volunteer-today>), and we can find a place for you.

Please check out the list of committees at <http://www.stc-chicago.com/people/committees> and see where you might be a good fit.

In addition to committee managers and members, we are also starting our search for officers for the 2020-2021 program term. Elections will be held in early April 2020. Check out our *Officer and Committee Manager Handbook* at <http://www.stc-chicago.com/wp-content/uploads/OfficerAndCommMgrHandbook-07-2019.pdf> for details and responsibilities of the various positions.



Chicago Chapter Friend (No Pun Intended) Rides off Into the Sunset...

By Pete Wagner



*Left to right:
Rita Hovorka,
Russ Friend,
Rachel Friend,
Peter Wagner,
MaryKay
Grueneberg
and Dan
Dornbrook.*

At the October Chapter meeting we raised a toast and bid a fond farewell to *Russ Friend*, who has left the land of the working stiffs to enjoy the green pastures of retirement. Russ is a longtime STC member in Chicago who started his writing career with McDonnell Douglas in 1978, after joining STC the previous year as an Associate Member. After winning 1st Place in the St. Louis Chapter competition, he chaired the competition the following year.

The early 1980s brought Russ up to the Chicago area where he did training and technical writing stints of varying lengths for different organizations, including Honeywell, Teradyne and Motorola. His longest tenure was at Siemens Building Technologies in Buffalo Grove, where he worked for almost 15 years alongside current chapter Vice President Rita Hovorka and Treasurer Pete Wagner.

Russ was active in the Chicago Chapter throughout his career. He was Chapter President in 2000/2001, periodically judged in various annual Technical Communication competitions and did training for the Chapter in the late 1980s/1990s. Russ served as Treasurer for the ITCC [International Technical Communication Conference] in 1989. He received the Frank Award and was named STC Associate Fellow in 2005 and was named STC Fellow in 2010.

Russ ended his writing career as Vice President – Senior Documentation Specialist at Northern Trust Corporation in October, just a few days after the October meeting. Thanks Russ for your many years of service to the technical communications field, and for your friendship. This writer will certainly miss you and hopes to see you at the occasional Thursdays luncheon or chapter meeting.

STC Chicago October 2019 Chapter Meeting Summary

by Alex Yant

Members of the Society for Technical Communication (STC) - Chicago gathered on October 17, 2019 to hear STC Chicago member Jessica Behles speak about working in cybersecurity. Behles' talk, titled "Wanna Cyber?: Breaking Into and Succeeding in Cybersecurity as a Technical Communicator," took place at Bar Louie in Printer's Row, with approximately 18 members in attendance.

Ms. Behles, who has worked in cybersecurity since 2013, quickly delved into one of the sector's most pressing issues: the workforce gap. Cybersecurity, a relatively new field, is becoming increasingly complex due to more sophisticated hardware and technical systems. However, this trend has led to advances in malicious programs designed to steal vast amounts of valuable data. From phishing scams to trojan bots, cyber criminals have a large supply of tools to use against unsuspecting victims.

Unfortunately, there are not enough skilled cybersecurity professionals to fill vacancies and stop these attacks. Worldwide, almost three million job openings exist in cybersecurity. Further, the average computer user is not aware of threats posed by cyber criminals, and how to protect themselves. Simply updating a computer's antivirus software and turning on a firewall will not do the trick.

How does a technical writer interested in the field break-in, and become part of the solution? It's easier than you may think. In the first phase of her study, Ms. Behles analyzed 100 technical communication job ads in the cybersecurity industry. Her research involved looking at trends, job descriptions, and barriers to entry. She discovered that while a bachelor's degree is usually required, many openings did not mandate candidates have cybersecurity experience, specialized certifications, or security clearance.

The second phase of her study consisted of in-depth interviews with five technical communicators working in cybersecurity. These professionals had four recommendations for security-minded technical communicators: learn about the field through self-study and attending conferences, write about your learning experiences, try using some of the standard

cybersecurity tools, and maintain your knowledge base over time. Cybersecurity is a rapidly changing industry, but this breakneck pace means continual opportunities for growth and challenge, on top of an exciting career trajectory. For further details, download a copy of Jessica's slide presentation [here](#).

Thursdays @ STC Chicago

Are you a recent graduate? New to STC Chicago? A senior STC member looking for advice or help with a project? Join us on the first Thursday of each month for our informal discussion and networking series, *Thursdays @ STC Chicago*, where practicing technical communicators discuss innovative trends in the field, present their latest projects, and network with colleagues over a meal. Open to all, the events are free and are held at a variety of Chicago-area locations on the first Thursday of every month. Attendees pay for their own food and drinks, but the camaraderie is priceless. Check our Website for monthly locations and dates.

Our next meetings will be held this Thursday, Dec. 5, at three locations from 11:30am-1:00pm.

Northern Location

Half Day Brewing Company
200 Village Green
Lincolnshire, IL 60069

Northwestern Location

Jason's Deli
1530 McConnor Pkwy (off Meacham, just south of 90)
Schaumburg, IL 60173

City Location **new location for December**

****This location changes frequently—watch the website for current location.***

Wells Street Market
205 W. Wacker Dr
Chicago, IL 60603
11:30am-1:00pm

Look for the writers at the tables around Furious Spoon and the door on Wells St.

Wednesday Webinar Series

Introverts and Leadership: The Power of Quiet Influence

Many introverts struggle to succeed in the workplace when asked to “think on their feet” or to make decisions without an array of facts in hand. Much workspace design is moving to open plans, where anyone, much less introverts may struggle with distractions and lack of privacy. Some introverts may look for leadership opportunities but feel stymied when trying to figure out how to move up. Although not every introvert is interested in a formal leadership position (nor have the opportunity in their workplace), every introvert has the ability to become an influencer. Join the presenter as we discuss how to identify our strengths and become influencers when we don’t have positional authority. We’ll discuss strategies that work for us and how to make sure we’re not passed over when leadership opportunities arise.

Over the last year while recording the Hope for the Introvert podcast, I’ve had the privilege of interviewing introverted leaders in several industries about their strategies for success in the workplace. These honest and open discussions have provided practical solutions to many of the challenges we face. Join the presenter as he shares proven strategies for success, leveraging our introvert strengths to excel in the workplace.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Wednesday, December 4
12:00 - 1:00 pm CST

STC Chapter Members - FREE
STC Members - \$5.00
Non-members - \$10.00

About the Speaker

Ben Woelk is Program Manager for the Information Security Office at the Rochester Institute of Technology and is a member and former co-chair of the EDUCAUSE Higher Education Information Security Council Awareness and Training Working Group. He’s currently President of the Society for Technical Communication. Ben is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and a Certified Professional Technical Communicator (CPTC).



A Look into the New Year of Programs

Here is what we have planned for you for the remainder of the 2019-20 program year.

January – “Unleashing the Power of Learning through Infographics” with speakers Steve Harker and Dave Charney, Illumen Group, in Oak Brook

February – “Back to the Basics” with Pam Nelson in Downers Grove

March – STC Chicago 48th Annual Volunteer Recognition and Awards Banquet – Schaumburg

April – tbd – possible downtown location

June – Annual Business Meeting and Trivia Night – Elmhurst

STC Chicago 2019-20 Officers

President

Michael Burke, president@stc-chicago.com

Vice President

Rita Hovorka, vp@stc-chicago.com

Secretary

Dan Dornbrook, secretary@stc-chicago.com

Treasurer

Pete Wagner, treasurer@stc-chicago.com

Immediate Past President

MaryKay Grueneberg, ipp@stc-chicago.com

2019-20 Committee Managers

Alliance – Linda Jansak

Bylaws – Becky Hall

Competition – Elizabeth Burke and Cheri Gerlach,
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eLearning & Technology Showcase – Linda Jansak

Historian – Bill Leavitt

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Webinar Series – Adam Evans

Web/Online – Linda Kelley,
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Byline

Byline is a bi-monthly publication of the STC Chicago chapter of the Society for Technical Communication (STC), a non-profit membership organization serving the needs of technical communication professionals.

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

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Subscriptions: The current issue of Byline and all archived editions are available on the [STC Chicago Website](http://stc-chicago.com).



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