



## Bi-Monthly Newsletter for STC Chicago Members

### President's Message

by Elizabeth Gecas

I first attended a STC Chicago meeting when I was just starting out fresh out of college and Elizabeth Burke was my manager. She was then serving as the vice president of the STC Chicago chapter and invited me to participate. This opened the door for me to see what a fine organization STC Chicago is, and how STC Chicago builds a community of writers out of individual members. As vice president under Elizabeth and as president this past year, it has become increasingly clear that STC Chicago is a fellowship of like-minded people. We can look to each other for support, ideas, friendship, and inspiration.

STC Chicago also brings opportunity. Through our scholarship program, we encourage academic advancement. Reading submissions has shown me how many gifted writers are out there, and how the STC Chicago chapter is certain to gain membership over time.

I acknowledge that I am young in this career and have a distance to travel before I have the experience and impressive skill sets of you, who welcomed me as President. As I have served in this role, I have seen how different technical writers bring a wide variety of skills and knowledge to the chapter. All have been forthcoming in their opinions and advice, and suggestions.

It has been a great honor to serve as the president of the STC Chicago chapter. Next year MaryKay Grueneberg will surely serve with distinction. As the vice president this past year, she wore many hats. Maybe the most hats a person can wear in this chapter. She managed Competition, Nominating, Programs, and Sponsorship. She also had a hand in Social Media and Webmaster, thus clearly

demonstrating the reliability she will bring next year to the STC Chicago chapter.

It is with amazement that I realize my term has flown by. I greatly appreciate the experiences and lessons of this past term. I gratefully consider you all treasured colleagues and I thank you for the opportunity you gave to me. Ω



### June 13, 2018 – Celebration, Business Meeting, and Trivia!

Our June meeting is all about introducing our 2018-2019 chapter officers, celebrating our community's success, fun, and trivia! You can socialize, relax, and best of all, it's *free* to STC Chicago members.

We will take time to celebrate the past year and look forward to the year to come with new officers as well as a few new committee managers. We hope you plan to come meet the officers and introduce yourself to a member you've never met.

Check out the end of this article for some sample trivia questions. Share laughs as you answer the questions with friends.

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## Congratulations!

**Please** join us in congratulating our fellow technical communicators.

STC Chicago has plenty to celebrate! See the photos scattered throughout this issue.



*Is there something you or a fellow colleague is celebrating in a technical communication career? Share the news with us and we will include it in a future issue of Byline. Ω*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The 2018 Chicago eLearning & Technology Showcase will be held on Tuesday, August 14 at the Northern Illinois University Conference Center in Naperville. Follow the event on Twitter or Facebook for upcoming announcements about registration, keynote, and speakers. Hope to see you in August!



*continued from page 1*

### Date and Time

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

6:00 – 7:00 pm – Dinner and networking

7:00 – 8:00 pm – Brief business meeting and trivia

### Location

[Manny's Ale House](#)

683 St Charles Rd

Elmhurst, IL 60126

### Cost

STC Chicago Members – No charge

Non-members – \$10

STC Members and Students – \$5

### Dinner Menu

This meeting includes a soft beverage and buffet dinner. *Cash bar is also available.*

- ✚ Greek salad
- ✚ Veggie pizza
- ✚ BBQ chicken pizza
- ✚ Beef sliders
- ✚ Chicken marinara
- ✚ Chocolate chip cookies

### Sample Trivia Questions

- ✚ How many individual tunnels make up the Chunnel?
- ✚ Is a dunnoek a bird, a lizard, or a fish?
- ✚ In the Tom Petty song "Learning to Fly," what is he learning to fly without?
- ✚ What color are the stars on the official flag of China?

*Want the answers? Join us at the June meeting!*

## Would You Like More Downtown Meetings?

Do you work or live in downtown Chicago and find it hard to commute out to the suburbs for the STC Chicago monthly meetings? If so, please consider helping us to help you.

We are in need of help finding downtown venues. If we can secure venues, we would love to plan more meetings downtown. We have just a few requirements:

- ✚ There should be a private room that can accommodate 15-25 people
- ✚ The room should be available to us from 6p-8:30p
- ✚ The room should be quiet enough to hear a speaker and should have somewhere to project a presentation (screen or flat, plain wall)
- ✚ Rental cost should be \$100 or less
- ✚ Should be walking distance from the train stations
- ✚ Food should be available or allowed (either a restaurant or an office or university building that allows food to be brought in)

Do you know of a location that fits these requirements? Do you work at a university or office that would allow use of a large conference room?

If so... please send us an email to [program@stc-chicago.com](mailto:program@stc-chicago.com) (BUT...please don't just send us a list of "try here" or "maybe you can check out" places -- only send us venues that you have already vetted).  
Ω



## Welcome to Our New Officers

Thank you to all the members who voted in the recent election. We had a 25% voter rate again this year. As a result of the election, STC Chicago welcomes the following officers for the 2018-19 program year:

- ✚ Immediate Past President – Elizabeth Gecas
- ✚ President – MaryKay Grueneberg
- ✚ Vice President – Michael Burke (by appointment)
- ✚ Secretary – Dan Dornbrook
- ✚ Treasurer – Pete Wagner

The official hand-off to the new Administrative Council officers takes place at our June meeting. Please plan to attend! Ω



## Scholarships

Each year STC Chicago accepts applications for our Scholarship award program. Historically, our scholarships focused on the collegiate or technical program student. For the first time this year, we offered a scholarship for high school seniors considering a career in Technical Communications. STC Chicago is proud to announce this year's winners of our Scholarship award.

**Sasha Straight**, pursuing a Master's degree at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

**Ava Roelle**, Senior at York High School in Elmhurst, Illinois.

*Congratulations to both of our winners!*

For information about our Scholarship program, check out our website. Information for next year's scholarship will be posted in August



## STC Program Meeting Recaps

### *April: From Moment-of-Need to Moment-of-WOW: Fostering Proficiency and Self-Sufficiency through On-Demand Performance Support*

What a meeting for those who attended our April meeting. Not only was the meeting engaging and informative, we got a chance to participate by responding to interactive questions tallied using technology.

Our Speaker, Beth Wolfe, shared how we as technical communicators can lead the change at our place of employment. Beth explained how traditional classroom or online instruction fails the user when they return to their duties. Employees can spend hours to days in a classroom but do not get the tools and information needed to perform daily tasks. Using performance support can change all of that. By sharing with employees the skills to find needed information, employees become self-sufficient. Additionally, employees are better prepared to adapt to unique challenges that may not be covered in traditional job training programs.

Beth also coached us that while we may not be able to change our company practices overnight, introducing company stakeholders is the first step. Beth suggested to make a change, develop and share a small prototype. It may be a project that will help you as an individual, but share your product with others and the word will spread. Maybe you develop something for yourself and let others see your success. Sometimes that's all it takes. Ω



## Call for 2018 Competition Judges

We are recruiting judges for the annual STC Chicago Technical Writing Competition. Judges have a unique opportunity to review entries from different categories and industries. Entries can be websites, manuals, help documentation, posters, newsletters, etc. Past entries have come from industries as diverse as aerospace, manufacturing, agricultural, software, and medical associations. Reviewing such different work can be educational as well as inspiring. You also get to interact with other judges and benefit from their experience.

### How does judging work?

Judges are placed in 3-member teams with a designated team lead. The team members receive 3-5 entries that must be reviewed over an 8-week period. Judging this year will run from November 4 through December 30. Each judge reviews the entries using a 4-page form that highlights different elements of technical communication. Responses are shared within the team and modified if necessary as the team comes to consensus on award status of the entry.

### Where do I sign up?

A link to judge applications will be posted on our website by September 1. If you have any questions, please contact our Competition Committee via email at [competition@stcchicago.com](mailto:competition@stcchicago.com). Ω



## STC Chicago Accolades



## STC Chicago 2017-18 Officers

### President

Elizabeth Gecas, [president@stc-chicago.com](mailto:president@stc-chicago.com)

### Vice President

MaryKay Grueneberg, [vp@stc-chicago.com](mailto:vp@stc-chicago.com)

### Secretary

Dan Dornbrook, [secretary@stc-chicago.com](mailto:secretary@stc-chicago.com)

### Treasurer

Pete Wagner, [treasurer@stc-chicago.com](mailto:treasurer@stc-chicago.com)

### Immediate Past President

Elizabeth L. Burke, [ipp@stc-chicago.com](mailto:ipp@stc-chicago.com)

## 2017-18 Committee Managers

**Alliance** – Linda Jansak

**Bylaws** – Dan Dornbrook

**Competition** – MaryKay Grueneberg,  
[competition@stc-chicago.com](mailto:competition@stc-chicago.com)

**eLearning & Technology Showcase** – Linda Jansak

**Historian** – Bill Leavitt

**Byline Newsletter** – Elizabeth L. Burke,  
[byline@stc-chicago.com](mailto:byline@stc-chicago.com)

**Nominating** – MaryKay Grueneberg,  
[nominating@stc-chicago.com](mailto:nominating@stc-chicago.com)

**Get Real! Professional Interview Program** –  
Josée Martens,  
[interview@stc-chicago.com](mailto:interview@stc-chicago.com)

**Programs** – MaryKay Grueneberg,  
[program@stc-chicago.com](mailto:program@stc-chicago.com)

**Social Media** – Open

**Scholarships** – Elizabeth L. Burke,  
[scholarships@stc-chicago.com](mailto:scholarships@stc-chicago.com)

**Sponsorship** – Francis Bao,  
[sponsorship@stc-chicago.com](mailto:sponsorship@stc-chicago.com)

**Web/Online** – MK Grueneberg,  
[web@stc-chicago.com](mailto:web@stc-chicago.com)

## 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](#).



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