

## President’s Message

By Phil Hayek

Greetings STC Chicago members and supporters! I’m excited and honored to take up the position of chapter president for the upcoming program year. I’d like to begin by offering a tremendous thank-you to Immediate Past President Pete Wagner for his service and leadership. When Pete approached me back in January to occupy the newly vacated vice president position, it was an easy choice to accept, in no small part because of Pete’s generosity and easy-going personality. Working with the rest of the Administrative Council, I knew immediately that I fell in with great company, and I look forward to a very productive program year.

A little about myself: I’m an academic; I returned to Chicago in the Fall of 2017 to teach at UIC after spending 5 years at Virginia Tech, where I earned a PhD in Rhetoric and Writing and taught technical writing courses to engineering students. Before that, I spent 7 years at DePaul University, where I picked up a bachelor’s in English and a master’s in Writing, Rhetoric and Discourse. Over the years, I’ve taught at DePaul, Truman College, and now at UIC, where I’m a lecturer in the newly minted Professional Writing Program in the English department. I look forward to fostering a close relationship between STC Chicago and UIC, much like MK Grueneberg has done with the College of DuPage. I see great potential for cultivating the next generation of STC Chicago members from the throngs of students eager to engage in this incredibly diverse career field.

The upcoming program year for STC Chicago is going to provide many opportunities for members to get involved, and I encourage everyone to visit the STC Chicago website to explore volunteer opportunities, sign up for First Thursday Meet Ups, or register for next month’s eLearning & Technology Showcase, which will

take place in-person at Northern Illinois University’s Naperville campus on Tuesday, August 23. In addition to offering all our wonderful programs, the AC will be searching for a candidate to take up the currently open position of Vice President, and we’d like to encourage any potential candidates to seriously consider joining the team on the AC. I know I’m happy that I did.

With that, I offer another big thanks to the AC and all the volunteers who contribute eagerly and tirelessly to the ongoing success of this illustrious chapter. Ω

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## eLearning Showcase

### Join Us at the eLearning Showcase on August 23

We've got a great selection of sessions for this year's Showcase. The day will start with a keynote presentation by Megan Torrance, CEO of TorranceLearning. Then, you'll choose from four conference tracks and have new opportunities to network with Special Interest Groups (SIGs). You'll learn from industry professionals and get a chance to share what you know. SIGs for five topics are available: The Learning Technologies Landscape, Accessibility, Gamification, Freelancing, and xAPI. See the full [Program Schedule](#) for more information.

### About Our Keynote

*xAPI and a Framework for Learning Data, Analytics & Action*

How can you make strategic use of your learning data to evaluate learning and performance, support business decision-making, and integrate business and learning workflows? What tools and skills will you need?

Megan Torrance will start with an overview of xAPI, the interoperable learning data specification. From there, she will focus on three key elements: a framework for applying data for archival purposes, analytics, and action; a map of your learning data ecosystem; and a process for using data to make decisions regarding design, delivery, and impact.

### Door Prizes and STC Chicago Swag

At the venue, remember to visit the STC Chicago booth in the exhibit area, where you can enter a drawing to win a Fire HD 10 Plus tablet or an STC Chicago swag bag. If you would like to purchase STC Chicago swag online and pick it up at the eLearning Showcase, you can do that, too! Check out our branded merchandise at [STC Chicago Swag](#).

Don't miss this opportunity to network with others and experience what is new in eLearning.

[Register online today!](#) Ω

## Competition to Open Soon

We're excited to get started on this year's STC Chicago Technical Communication Competition. This is our 51<sup>st</sup> competition, and we're looking for a lot of diverse entries this year; will yours be one of them?

Although the name is "competition," each entry is evaluated on its own merit, evaluated against industry standards, and not judged against other entries. This is an opportunity to have other professional technical communicators evaluate your work and provide feedback. Receiving feedback is an important tool for any technical communicator at any level in their career. Receiving recognition for your work is even better and always goes a long way in proving to management teams the importance of what you do.

Now is the time to look at the work you've produced over the past year or so and decide what you are going to enter in the 2022 STC Chicago Technical Communication Competition. The categories for entries are:

- Training Materials
- Informational Materials
- Promotional Materials
- User Support Materials

### When does the competition begin?

STC Chicago is accepting entries August 15 through October 15, 2022. The competition entry fees are listed below and must be made online (companies submitting multiple entries can contact us to arrange payment by check).

### Cost

\$25 - Full-time students  
 \$50 - STC Chicago members  
 \$75 - Other STC members  
 \$100 - Non-STC members

### Who is eligible to enter?

Everyone, STC member or not, is eligible to submit entries to our competition. You can enter work you completed, or you can submit an entry on behalf of a colleague or subordinate (with their permission).

To submit, go to the [Call for Entries](#) page online for the entry form (to be updated by August 15), details, and payment link. We look forward to hearing from you! If you have any questions, please contact us via email to [competition@stc-chicago.com](mailto:competition@stc-chicago.com) Ω

## We Need Judges – We Need YOU

STC Chicago is recruiting judges for our 51<sup>st</sup> annual STC Chicago Technical Communication Competition. As a judge, you have a unique opportunity to review entries from different companies across a variety of industries. The entries you review can be websites, manuals, online help, posters, newsletters, training videos, and more. Past entries have included industries as diverse as aerospace, manufacturing, agricultural, software, and medical associations. Reviewing such diverse work can be educational as well as inspiring. Additionally, you get the opportunity to engage with other judges and benefit from their experience.

Judges are placed in 2- to 3-member teams with a designated team lead. The team members receive 3-5 entries that must be reviewed over a 6-week period. Judging this year will run from **late October** through the **end of November**. For details about the judging process, see the [Call for Judges](#) page on our website.

### How do I sign up?

Send an email to [competition@stc-chicago.com](mailto:competition@stc-chicago.com) with the following information:

- Name
- Email address (one that you can accept/send attachments from – and *preferably a non-work email* so we can reach you on the weekends during the judging period)
- City and state of residence
- Phone number
- Your company name
- Are you entering the competition? Or is anyone from your company entering the competition? If so, please let us know (this is just so we can place you on an appropriate team to avoid conflict of interest in judging materials).
- Have you judged before? (Experience is not necessary – we will provide judge training.)

## Help Wanted: Chapter Volunteer Opportunities

Do you have 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, your ideas and efforts can provide real help to our members and our community and can make our award-winning chapter even better. For the 2022-23 program year, we are seeking volunteers for the following roles, each of which are well within the capabilities of individual members:

- **Interview** – the Get Real! Professional Interview Program offers members and non-members a chance to have a half-hour, one-to-one informational interview with someone in the technical communication field. The committee manager maintains a list of volunteer interviewees and matches requesters with the volunteers.
- **Membership** – the Membership Committee is responsible for planning and conducting an annual membership drive to gain new members, encourage member renewal, and improve the participation of inactive members.
- **Sponsorship** – the Sponsorship Committee identifies sponsors to help fund chapter activities, including program meetings and the Chapter Recognition and Awards Banquet, and ensures that these sponsors are recognized in our publications (*Byline* and *At-a-Glance*) and on our website.
- **Webinars** – the Webinars Committee coordinates the Wednesday Webinar Series, arranging for a topic and speaker for the lunchtime webinar each month and introducing the speaker at the start of the webinar.

If any of these opportunities appeal to you, please contact our incoming president, Phil Hayek, at [president@stc-chicago.com](mailto:president@stc-chicago.com) or our immediate past president, Pete Wagner, at [ipp@stc-chicago.com](mailto:ipp@stc-chicago.com). We look forward to hearing from you soon! Ω

# Virtual Chapter Meeting

## Meeting Recap: Virtual Trivia Night

STC Chicago held our second annual Virtual Trivia Night on June 16, which was moderated by Linda Kelley, the longtime host of our in-person trivia nights. Linda is also our chapter webmaster and a past chapter officer, and this annual game night has proven to be one of our chapter's more popular events.

As the final meeting of our 2021-2022 program year, the event included a brief Annual Business Meeting, at which we acknowledged both the outgoing chapter officers and the incoming officers for the 2022-2023 program year, who were elected by chapter members in April.

Categories of trivia questions included TV, movies, music, literature, sports, science, history, geography, and much more. The point values of questions increased as the night progressed, with an opportunity for extra points on selected questions for contestants who were sure of their answers. The final round allowed contestants to bet points with the possibility of either catching up with a correct answer or losing points on an incorrect one. All answers were submitted by direct messages seen only by the moderator.

Because the event was virtual, everyone competed individually, rather than in teams as at the in-person game nights. Prizes of Amazon electronic gift cards were awarded to the winners: first prize to Anna McDonald, second prize to Dan Dornbrook, and third prize to Trina Grieshaber.

Best of all, the event drew a mixture of longtime and first-time attendees. As answers and point totals were announced, lively conversation (and much laughter) ensued. Whenever in-person events resume, we hope to revive the fun tradition of in-person game nights. Ω

## Thursday Virtual Meetup Schedule

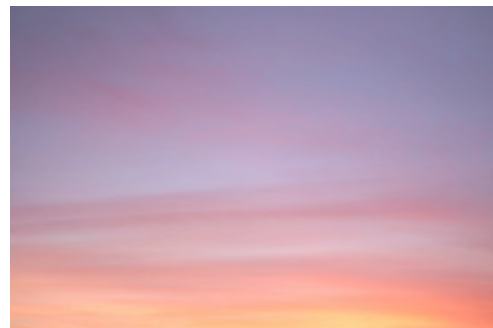
Please join us for the Thursday *Virtual Meetup* on the fourth Thursday each month. We will meet online from Noon – 12:55 PM (CDT). NO agendas, NO presentations, NO speakers, just networking, talking, and socializing. So, grab your lunch or a snack and a drink and join STC Chicago members and non-members alike!

Check out our [Thursday Meetups](#) page for the registration link (it's free, of course, but you need to register to receive the GoTo Meeting link for the current month). Ω



## STC Chicago Wins Apex Award

STC Chicago is proud to announce that we have once again received an Apex Award. We have earned the 2022 Apex Award for Publication Excellence for this newsletter, Byline! Congratulations to Sian Mehl and MK Grueneberg for their work on the submitted issues and to all who have submitted articles. Ω



# Society News



## 2023 Summit Save the Date

STC is excited to announce that they will hold the 70th Anniversary Summit on May 14-17, 2023 in Atlanta, GA! Be on the lookout for registration opening in late 2022 and Call for Proposals opening on August 15. Ω

## Career Planning in a Post-Pandemic World

COVID-19 has disrupted where we work, how we work, and sometimes even why we work. From the Great Resignation to a very competitive candidate market to extensive layoffs, we've seen massive swings in what's happening in employment in the last couple of years.

However, these sizeable shifts have also provided many opportunities for technical communicators. Learn how to stay relevant and adapt your goals in this new world by attending STC's new online seminar, *Career Planning in a Post-Pandemic World*, on October 3 and 4.

Do you have ideas or information you'd like share? STC is soliciting proposals to present on topics relevant to the post-pandemic work landscape, including but not limited to personal branding, career-shift case studies, work-life integration, and remote work tips and tricks. The deadline to submit a proposal is Friday, August 12 at 11:59 PM ET. To submit a proposal, email a Word document to [education@stc.org](mailto:education@stc.org) with the following:

- **Session Title** (max 12 words)
- **Abstract** (max 1100 characters) – Brief description of your session that includes the concepts you will address and/or the problem your session helps solve

- **Key Takeaways** (max 500 characters) – Bulleted list of 3 top takeaways from your session
- **Your Name**
- **Your Email Address**
- **Your Employer**
- **Your Professional Bio** (max 1100 characters)
- **Previous Speaking Experience** Ω

## President's Award

Please join us in congratulating **JoAnn Hackos** and **Char James-Tanny** for receiving the 2022 President's Award! The President's Award honors those who have made distinguished contributions to the profession of technical communication or the Society. The President's Award is awarded solely at the discretion of the president. Ω

## Frank R. Smith Award for Outstanding Journal Article

**Rebekka Andersen** and **JoAnn Hackos** have been awarded the 2022 Frank R. Smith Award for Outstanding Journal Article for their article, "Practicing Technical Communicators' Experiences with and Perspectives on Academic Publishing" in the August 2021 issue of *Technical Communication*. The Frank R. Smith outstanding journal article award recognizes the authors of exceptional articles that appeared in *Technical Communication* during a calendar year. Since 1966, STC has paid tribute to the authors whose contributions have made *Technical Communication* one of the most highly respected journals devoted to the art and science of technical communication. Ω



## STC Chicago 2022-23 Officers

**President** – Phil Hayek, [president@stc-chicago.com](mailto:president@stc-chicago.com)  
**Vice President** – OPEN  
**Secretary** – Dan Dornbrook, [secretary@stc-chicago.com](mailto:secretary@stc-chicago.com)  
**Treasurer** – Rita Hovorka, [treasurer@stc-chicago.com](mailto:treasurer@stc-chicago.com)  
**Immediate Past President** – Pete Wagner, [ipp@stc-chicago.com](mailto:ipp@stc-chicago.com)

## 2022-23 Committee Managers

**Alliance** – Linda Jansak, [chgoalliance@gmail.com](mailto:chgoalliance@gmail.com)  
**Bylaws** – Becky Hall  
**Competition** – MK Grueneberg and Nancy Shanahan, [competition@stc-chicago.com](mailto:competition@stc-chicago.com)  
**eLearning & Technology Showcase** – Linda Jansak, [info@chicagoelearningshowcase.com](mailto:info@chicagoelearningshowcase.com)  
**Historian** – Bill Leavitt  
**Byline Newsletter** – Sian Mehl and Mauricio Dominguez, [byline@stc-chicago.com](mailto:byline@stc-chicago.com)  
**Nominating** – Dan Dornbrook, [nominating@stc-chicago.com](mailto:nominating@stc-chicago.com)  
**Get Real! Professional Interview Program** – \*2022-23 manager wanted\*, [interview@stc-chicago.com](mailto:interview@stc-chicago.com)  
**Membership Drive** – \*2022-23 manager wanted\*, [membership@stc-chicago.com](mailto:membership@stc-chicago.com)  
**Programs** – Dan Dornbrook, [program@stc-chicago.com](mailto:program@stc-chicago.com)  
**Social Media** – Dan Dornbrook  
**Scholarships** – Rita Hovorka, [scholarships@stc-chicago.com](mailto:scholarships@stc-chicago.com)  
**Sponsorship** – \*2022-23 manager wanted\*, [sponsorship@stc-chicago.com](mailto:sponsorship@stc-chicago.com)  
**Student Outreach** – MK Grueneberg  
**Summit 2022** – Linda Jansak, Adam Evans, Francis Bao, [stc2022@stc-chicago.com](mailto:stc2022@stc-chicago.com)  
**Webinar Series** – \*2022-23 manager wanted\*, MK Grueneberg, [webinars@stc-chicago.com](mailto:webinars@stc-chicago.com)  
**Web/Online** – Linda Kelley, [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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**Archives:** The current issue of *Byline* and all archived editions are available on the [STC Chicago website](https://www.stcchicago.org/)



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