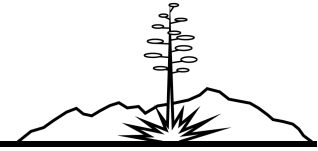


THE BORDER LINE



News from the Society for Technical Communication, Southern Arizona Chapter
May 2001, Volume 5, Number 9

What a pleasure

By Barbara Fraps
Southern Arizona chapter president

This past year as your chapter president has been very rewarding for me personally. It has been a pleasure to work with so many committed professionals and find ways to help our membership learn more about technical communication.

Being president of a volunteer organization can be very scary. You worry that you'll have to know and do everything yourself. That isn't the case with the Southern Arizona chapter of STC. Starting with the first planning meeting in June 2000, it was obvious that there were many people willing to give of their time and knowledge. That meeting was filled with energy, expertise, good ideas, and lots of "I'll do that" comments.

For the first time, the planning team identified an entire year of meeting topics and organizers before the first chapter meeting. I left that planning meeting tired but very excited. I knew that the presidency of this chapter wasn't going to be an individual effort. In fact, my effort has seemed rather small compared with the whole.

Throughout the year, I have been impressed with our membership's willingness to help and their professionalism. Some could help a little and some a lot, but every bit of help was significant and appreciated.

Continued on next page ...

Join us May 17

What employers look for: a panel of managers

The May meeting of the Southern Arizona chapter of STC features a panel with first-hand knowledge of what employers are seeking.

Our three panel members will discuss their companies, their experiences hiring technical communicators, and the market in Southern Arizona.

The panel consists of:

- Twila Strauss, district manager for HL Yoh
- Jan Patterson, director of technical publications for Sunquest Information Systems Inc.
- Barbara Fraps, documentation manager for Global Atmospheric Inc.

Come learn how to present your skills and experience to meet the needs of local employers!

Meeting details

When	Thursday, May 17
Where	Viscount Suite Hotel, 4855 East Broadway
Registration	5:30 p.m.
Dinner	6:00 p.m.
Program	7:00 p.m.
Cost	\$16 members, \$18 nonmembers \$5 program only

To register or to get more information, contact Anna Mary Mackey at ammackey@leshercomm.com. RSVP by 4 p.m., May 14. Specify your choice of spinach, broccoli, or chicken crepes.

No-shows will be billed, and walk-ins are always welcome but aren't guaranteed a meal!

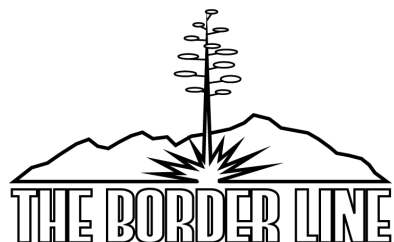
So long, farewell, until fall

May is the last month of the program year for the Southern Arizona chapter. Traditionally, program plans are made during the summer for the following program year, and programs resume in the fall.

May 17 is the last program until fall, and *The Border Line* will resume publication at that time unless special announcements are needed.

To stay in touch with the chapter, contact Brenda Huettner at bphuettner@aol.com or check www.stc-saz.org.

The mission of the Southern Arizona chapter of the Society for Technical Communication is to elevate the technical communication professions, increase public awareness of these professions, and serve as a resource to members.



About the newsletter

The Border Line is the official publication of the Southern Arizona chapter of the Society for Technical Communication.

Contributions are welcome. Send mail to stb@rightfax.com, or phone 320-7029. Include your name and telephone number.

For the publication of your first article, you'll be attending the Southern Arizona STC program of your choice as a guest of the chapter (workshops excluded).

Your submission should be factual, original, not previously published, and relevant to the field of technical communication; for example, describing tools, techniques, or tips for communicators.

The newsletter editor determines the submissions that are appropriate for publication. We reserve the right to edit your text to conform to the style guidelines and space restrictions of the newsletter.

The deadline for time-sensitive submissions is the first Friday of each month.

Electronic version via e-mail

To save paper, printing, and postage costs, *The Border Line* is available via e-mail in PDF format.

To sign up for this service, send a message to stb@rightfax.com.

Southern Arizona STC final event until fall

May 17	What Employers Look For, and How to Present Your Skills and Experience
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For up-to-date meeting information, go to <http://www.stc-saz.org/>

Phoenix STC upcoming events

May 8	Dine and Whine, with three topics and facilitators
May 21	XML Publishing with FrameMaker
June 12	Chapter awards and honors dinner with Jim Morgan presenting When Pride Is Good

For up-to-date meeting information, go to <http://www.stc-phoenix.com/>

A pleasure, continued ...

Some of our members seem interested only in what the chapter can give them. That's okay; that is the chapter's purpose. However, the chapter exists and functions because other members know that by giving they'll get much more.

When I just went to meetings, I felt like an outsider. I left the meetings with more knowledge, but feeling alone. By being involved, I've had the pleasure of getting to know our members on a more personal level. I've also experienced the sadness at their personal losses throughout the year. For me, it has strengthened my bond to the chapter and its members.

My sincere thanks and appreciation go to the council, planning team, and committee members who made my job enjoyable and gave us such a good year. They are **Brenda Huettner, Helen Marty, Ed Hoornaert, Debbie Crawford, Dirk Arnold, Sarah Bonati, Bryan Croddy, Leslie Dupont, Chet Hedden, Beth Kane, Anna Mary Mackey, Pat Markey, Judy McCabe, Bill Rost, Dave Carlson, Richard House, Elaine Knights, and Larry Hammer.**

I also want to thank those who attended our chapter meetings and the workshop. You are our reason for being a chapter. I hope you will transfer your help and support to our new president, Brenda Huettner. She has many good ideas for helping us improve as individuals and as a chapter.

New chapter leaders take office

By Sarah Bonati, nominating committee chair

The election for the chapter administrative council is concluded, and new officers are in place for the coming year.

President Brenda Huettner has been a technical writer and a member of STC for 16 years. In 2000-2001 she served as chapter vice president and previously served on the publicity, survey, and planning committees. Since its inception, Brenda has also been active in the STC management special interest group and is currently its newsletter editor. Brenda has been a speaker at many regional conferences and has given presentations to the STC annual conference since 1995. Currently, she is a contract employee.

"My goal for the upcoming year is to get more member participation by increasing our services such as additional workshops, Web-based or e-mail offerings, and local special interest groups. It will be important for us to build on the many things we've accomplished this year, like the success of our monthly programs and the liaison we're forming with the University of Arizona. I also hope to start other types of outreach programs, such as a speaker's bureau, joint events with the Phoenix chapter, or possibly a new satellite chapter."

Vice president Helen Marty works as a technical writer for Sunquest Information Systems, Inc. She is responsible for documenting software applications, creating both hard copy and online information products. Before Sunquest, Helen worked at IBM Corporation where she was a technical editor/writer. Helen is graduate of the University of Arizona with a B.A. in English. Helen has been a member of the STC since 1992. She is in her second year as copyeditor for *The Border Line* and her third year as chapter treasurer. Helen served as the facilities coordinator for two years

and was a member of the program planning committee for one year. She has also served as a volunteer for the Phoenix chapter publications competition.

"As vice president, I want to establish a formal recognition program for the Southern Arizona chapter. Last year, I was instrumental in recognizing contributing members with something other than a certificate. I would like society recognition for our eligible members, our chapter, and our newsletter. I also want to continue the momentum our chapter has established for getting excellent speakers and informative workshops."

Secretary Larry Jorgensen has been a member of STC and IEEE's communications group off and on since 1975. He wrote electronic maintenance and operations manuals, "chasing ones and zeros around the flip flops," for many years. He was introduced to software while writing Minute Man Guidance System manuals at Rockwell International. He has been writing user guides ever since, presently for Sunquest Information Systems, Inc.

Treasurer Carrie Cooper has over seven years' experience in technical communication. She holds a bachelor of arts, Summa Cum Laude, in English and technical writing from the University of Arizona. A member of STC since 2000, she recently received an award of merit for her style guide in the Phoenix chapter's technical publications competition. She is most pleased when sentences sound right, information is clear, and numbers are accurate. Carrie uses an Excel spreadsheet to balance her checkbook to the penny and has been known to bring pie charts to financial planners.

Member news

By Judy McCabe, membership manager

Barbara Merwald has attained the grade of senior member. The grade of senior member is reached after five years of Society membership.

In February of this year, membership in the Southern Arizona chapter reached an all-time high of 78. Compared with the current count of 66, one might feel somewhat depressed. But not so ... because, when compared with our count of 50 in April of last year, we've netted 16 new members. That's exhilarating!



Learn about XML publishing with FrameMaker at upcoming Phoenix chapter SIG meeting

Scott Hamlow, Adobe applications engineer, will provide an overview of FrameMaker and XML publishing at the next FrameMaker User Network and Adobe Acrobat SIG ("FUN SIG").

Topics include:

- The separation of content and presentation made possible with XML and Adobe FrameMaker
- XML database creation and next-generation XML applications
- XML import capabilities of Adobe FrameMaker
- Device-independent publishing of XML content to PDAs, Web phones, and more
- A variety of XML tools
- Complete authoring and XML publishing solutions

The meeting will be Monday, May 21, 1-4 p.m., at the Airport Courtyard by Marriott, 2621 S. 47th Street in Phoenix. The major cross streets are

Highway 143 and University. Check the meeting board in the lobby for the exact room.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend by sending e-mail to carl@pdftrain.com.

The meeting is sponsored by Digipub Solutions Corporation.

About the FUN SIG

The Phoenix STC Adobe FrameMaker and Acrobat Special Interest Group explores the creation of documents with FrameMaker and FrameMaker+SGML and the distribution of information with Adobe Acrobat.

Panel discussions, speakers, demonstrations, and in-depth presentations on new tools are used to disseminate information. The meetings are open to new and experienced users of both products, and members are encouraged to share their experiences with others.

See inside for details

Farewell until fall ...

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