This Issue, Highlights

Next Meeting

Date and time: January, 2020
Program: Winter Gathering
Location: TBD

Presidents' Prose

by Kelly Schrank, President

New this year, the President's Prose becomes a blog post! Kelly's November update is posted.

Redact Room

by Ann L. Wiley, Editor

The Council met on October 1, November 20, and December 10, with news added to this issue after each meeting and throughout the remaining weeks of 2019. The 60th anniversary history of the chapter has been posted, with a link from the newsletter archive. The Rochester Chapter invites you to join STC and the chapter, and to volunteer. Experience the rewards of working with the chapter's dedicated team. We always welcome more volunteers to help. And as always, feature articles and other contributions to the newsletter are welcome. Contact the editor.

Meeting Report

Date and time: November 20, 2019 6:00 to 9:00 PM
Program: Annual Tech Comm Showcase and Business Meeting
Location: Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport near the entrance to RIT
Details: The chapter annual meeting took place with networking and dinner, and roundtable presentations allowing each person to experience multiple 20-minute sessions. Presenters were Jan Peartree, Judy Shenouda, Naomi Coufal, Sarah Rowe, Chuck Campbell, Bobbi Werner, and John Freiberger. There were 16 attendees.

Date and time: October 22, 2019 5:30 to 8:30 PM
Program: Fall Kickoff, Western Wingding with Ben Woelk (as a masked man) speaking on the Imposter Syndrome, acoustic music performed by Jim Drew
Location: Route 96 BBQ party room, 200 Phoenix Mills Plaza, 6385 NY-96, Victor, NY 14564, 585-742-2026
Details: In the spirit of October and Halloween, all were invited to wear a Western hat or Western wear. The event featured a fantastic BBQ, a cash bar, and fall games with prizes. Ben explains his presentation: Have you ever felt like you didn't belong in a group of your peers? That you don't belong in your job and aren't the expert others think you are? Then you belong in this presentation! Join us as we discuss impostor syndrome—the feeling of self-doubt despite your own successes. You'll learn to identify the impostor syndrome, why it afflicts experienced professionals, and strategies to combat it.

Council Notes

The Council meets online each month at a time agreed on by the members to review committee reports and identify action items and who will be responsible. The most recent meeting was held on December 10, 2019. Reports are reflected in the Chapter Chronicle.

Date and time of the next Council meeting: January 21, 2020
Contact: Chapter president Kelly Schrank

Chapter Chronicle

Membership

The Rochester chapter had 60 members as of October 1 and 61 members as of November 20, with eight new members since January 1. The 2020 STC membership season is open. Join today and receive 15 months of membership for the price of 12 months. Be sure to renew by December 31. There is a special benefit for all Rochester Chapter members right now. The Rochester Chapter values your membership–every member matters.

The Northeast Ohio chapter has published a spotlight profile of Kelly Schrank.

Education

The 2019-20 Heritage Award college scholarship cycle has begun, with updating the contact list. For more news of interest to students, see Educational Opportunities and Society News.

Mentoring

Bobbi Werner has been updating mentoring documents to be shared with RIT students. Two students are seeking mentors, and several mentors are available to work with students. If you would like to be a mentor or to have a mentor, contact mentoring manager Bobbi Werner.

Employment

Employment manager Laurie Fiaretti posted two jobs in October and six in November. Chapter members may request to receive chapter employment emails with notices of job opportunities. These opportunities include job openings received from employers and recruiters, and job openings that Laurie has found on job boards, using key words for a broad range of technical communication roles including technical writer, technical editor, documentation specialist, editor, and project manager. Laurie also posts job openings on the chapter website.

Website and Social Media

The site is updated and backed up, a new design for the site is being developed, and blog posts are becoming a focus.

Competition

This year the STC Alliance Competition (formerly the Regional Competition) includes the Washington DC-Baltimore Chapter, as well as participants from last year: Atlanta, New England, New York, Philadelphia, South-Central Texas (formerly Houston), and Rochester. Following the kick off of the 2019-20 Competition season with a Joint Virtual TechComm Roadshow event on October 15, the call for entries opened. The deadline for submission of all entries, online and print, is December 6. 2019 at 6:00 PM EST. Submissions are not limited to community members. Be sure to submit your entry and please volunteer to be a judge.

Carolyn Klinger of the Washington DC-Baltimore Chapter has provided an informative article. Please contact Bobbi Werner with any questions. Bobbi is the Rochester Chapter representative and Awards Manager for the competition.

Spectrum 2020

The 61st annual chapter conference, Spectrum 2020, The Expanding Spectrum of Technical Communication, will be held March 21 to 23, 2020 at RIT. The keynote speaker is Kirk St. Amant. Visit the program page for more information. If you would like to volunteer, contact spectrum@stc-rochester.org.

Community Achievement Award and Pacesetter Award

Rochester Chapter applications for the 2020 Community Achievement Award and Pacesetter Award are being prepared, documenting the work of the chapter for 2019. This year, the chapter won the Platinum Community Achievement Award and a Pacesetter Award, and was named Community of the Year.

Educational Opportunities

Visit the STC website to see all of the Society's current educational offerings. STC offers a webinar each Wednesday from 2:00 to 3:00 PM ET. Recorded webinars are available for purchase through STC by members and by non-members (at a higher price).

The Rochester Institute of Technology is offering a 12-hour training course for the STC Certified Professional Technical Communicator (CPTC) exam.
Dates and Times:
8:00-8:30 AM Registration
8:30 AM to 5:30 PM Saturday October 26, 2019
8:30 AM to 5:30 PM Sunday October 27, 2019

RIT is offering a $200.00 discount on registration to members of the Rochester Chapter of STC. You can register for the CPTC course on Eventbrite, where you will find course details. If you're

not a chapter member yet, join STC now and choose the Rochester Chapter as your community. New members who join now receive 16 months of membership for one year's dues. Professional membership is $225 and New Professional membership is $180. Your CPTC course discount can pay for your membership.

Lisa Pietrangeli of 36 Software, a Spectrum 2019 sponsor, is presenting an STC webinar that is free to STC members, October 16 at 2:00 PM ET on Content Mayhem: A Case Study of Theory, Technology, and Continual Content Improvement (scroll down to the link to register).

Society News

STC is delighted to be offering a **$500 scholarship** to assist students who are pursuing an accredited undergraduate or graduate degree or graduate certificate program in some aspect of technical communication. The award is for the 2020-2021 academic year and will be awarded in February 2020. Applications will be accepted through **November 30, 2019**. Students do not have to be STC members to apply. The scholarship winner will receive a free year of STC membership. More information, including a link to the application instructions, is on the scholarship page of the STC website.

The **student honorary societies Sigma Tau Chi (STX) and Alpha Sigma (AS)** recognize student members of the Society who have distinguished themselves as students and have demonstrated promise of future contributions to the Society and the profession.

- Membership in STX is an honor given to students enrolled in a program in technical communication, who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or above, are exemplary in participation in STC, and demonstrate a potential for significant contribution to the profession.
- Membership in AS is an honor given to students enrolled in a program in technical communication who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or above, demonstrate active participation in STC, and have the potential to contribute to the profession.

Membership is awarded only once and honorees retain the membership as long as they are members in good standing of the Society.

For more information, guidelines, and application for this award, refer to the STX/AS page on the STC website.

Membership renewals open on September 1. Join or renew via the STC website. Early registration for the STC Summit is open.

Visit STC's Notebook for the latest STC news.

Resource Reviews

Reviews of resources are published periodically.

Feature Articles

The chapter invites original articles for the blog on this website. The newsletter links to these features and they are archived with each issue. Contact the editor. The September, 2019 feature by Wendy Ross discusses diversity, equity, and inclusion in technical communication.