



SOCIETY FOR
TECHNICAL
COMMUNICATION

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STC Election Special

Middle Tennessee Chapter

April 2003

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Beth Tanner Runs for Region 3 Director-Sponsor

Paper ballots, online votes due by April 15

By Debra Smith



Tanner

Beth Tanner is seeking the office of Director-Sponsor (DS). The successful election of our member-candidates would provide an opportunity for our chapter to have a direct

say in the organization and how it evolves in the next years to meet the needs of our changing profession. In a recent interview with Beth, she shared some of her thoughts about the DS position and why she is seeking office.

The Director-Sponsor is a member of the national Board of Directors and is each chapter's direct link to national as their voice on the board. From Beth's perspective, one of the reasons the DS position is so important over the next few years is because our profession continues to evolve—in some ways we are becoming more specialized practitioners and at the same time these specializations continue to cross over into areas of expertise shared with professionals outside our traditional boundaries. For example, instructional designers and web developers are often members of other societies, but those job functions are part of what we as technical communicators are involved in daily. How this overlap among professional societies plays out over the next few years will greatly impact STC in terms of what it offers members.

Rita Johnson Runs for Nominating Committee

Rita Johnson, our current chapter president, seeks a seat on the STC's Nominating Committee, which searches for candidates for Society office. Rita has been active in multiple STC chapters over the years. She has gotten to know many STC members throughout the country. She would be an asset when the committee is seeking new ideas and people to be involved in the society. Having someone on the committee from our chapter and region will provide greater opportunity for our other members to contribute on a national level.



Johnson

Debra Smith

According to Beth, the national office is offering more services to members both directly and through an improved national website. Even so, the DS is national's direct link to chapters. The DS is then responsible for informing chapters about important national issues that chapters might want to comment on. Even with more direct communication available between national and local chapters, there will always be a need for personal

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Local Board Named

The nominating committee, consisting of Nancy Garrett, Laura Liles, and Mike Mini, announces the following slate of officers for the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the STC.

- Co-Presidents: Christina Dunn, Laura Vaughn
- Vice President: Ed Gregory
- Secretary: Debra Smith
- Treasurer: Stacie Baker
- Director, Competitions: Laura Liles
- Director, Membership: Pat Cosky
- Director, Periodicals: Pam Livingston
- Director, Publicity: Virginia Pryor
- Web Master: Ed Gregory

Later this month you will have an opportunity to vote 'yes' or 'no' for the nominees online. If a candidate receives fewer affirmative than negative votes, the office will be declared vacant.

Nancy Garrett

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CONTACT the STC office: 901 N. Stuart St., Suite 904 Arlington, VA 22203-1822 Phone: (703) 522-4114 Fax: (703) 522-2075 Website: www.stc.org

communication—to articulate and clarify ideas and concerns that will enable members to direct the work of the society so that it evolves in appropriate ways to support us.

Beth also feels that the DS has the opportunity to bring some connections between chapters in the region—linking chapter leadership and chapter interests within a region. This is more important than ever in our current economic marketplace. Some of the chapters in our area are suffering from slowed economic activity—others aren't. More and more technical communicators are employed by small and medium size businesses and by consulting firms. The ability to share perspectives, tactics, and strategies among “close” colleagues can offer some opportunities and support that otherwise doesn't exist. “We all benefit personally and professionally when our contributions are recognized and strong—we can help each other if we are connected to each other more directly than most chapters in our region are now,” says Tanner.

Although most of you know Beth, it is important to understand why her background makes her a good candidate for the Region 3 Director-Sponsor position. Beth established Tanner Corporate Services in 1985 and feels this experience has helped her to “think outside of the box” long before that was a catch phrase. She also has practice at “selling” the skills of technical Communicators and adapting those skills to fit the marketplace. Beth was one of the founding members of MTC and has served our local chapter on all levels. She has served on many committees at the society level and is an associate fellow of STC. She believes in STC and feels she has received benefits from being a part of a strong professional organization. Her “big picture” perspective is grounded in practical business application. ❖

How to Vote

All STC members who paid their dues by February 28, 2003 are eligible to vote. You should have received the officer slate, candidate biographies, and voting instructions via email or “snail mail” in March.

You can find information about all the candidates, and vote online, at: www.intelliscaninc.com/stc.htm

If you want a PDF file or fax copy of information on the candidates, call the Society office at (703)522-4114.

The election closes **April 15**, so be sure you have your say in STC's future.

Competition Judging Held December 7

By Holly Quick—MTC Technical Publications Competition Co-Manager



Quick

Consensus judging for this year's Technical Publications Competition was held Saturday, December 7, 2002 at Tanner Corporate Services. Three teams, each

comprising three judges, met for 1½ hours to determine award levels for the six entries sent by the Northeast Ohio Chapter (NEO).

NEO's entries included a quick reference troubleshooting guide, a software guide, a combination hardware and software manual, two training manuals, and informational literature.

One month prior to Consensus Judging, the Middle Tennessee Chapter (MTC) provided judges with assigned NEO entries, along with a packet of instructions for individual judging. Each judge evaluated two documents

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according to appropriate STC technical publications standards.

Consensus judging brought team members together to determine a single assessment for each entry. In all, MTC judges awarded two documents a Distinguished Award, one document an Excellence Award, and two documents a Merit Award. One of the documents receiving a Distinguished Award was also judged Best of Show.

The Chapter would like to express its gratitude to the individuals who served as judges for this year's competition:

- Pat Cosky
- Pam Livingston
- Jonathan Meadows
- Judith Meyer
- Amy Oldham
- Emily Parker
- Amy Scruggs
- Beth Tanner
- Melissa Weber

The Chapter would also like to recognize the three managers of this year's competition: Melissa Weber, Jennifer Lambe, and Holly Quick. ❖

Like Butter?

Saying that he felt, in the immortal words of J.R.R. Tolkien's beloved Hobbit Bilbo Baggins, "like butter scraped over too much bread," VP for Employment **Bill Smith** resigned his post late last fall. We thank Bill for his outstanding service during the previous year-and-a-half.



Smith

"I still hope to see everyone at meetings," says Bill.

George Cassidy

Future Technical Communicator?



Crowder

William Jedidiah Crowder, Ed Gregory's third grandchild and first grandson, was born October 23, 2002, to Lela Gregory Crowder and Drew Crowder. Jed, who came in at 7 pounds, 4.5 ounces and 20.5 inches long. His cousins, Lauren Elise Estrada, daughter of Alena Ballinger Estrada and Elias Estrada, and Brianna Nicole Carroll, daughter of Lorien Gregory Carroll and Sean Carroll, were born a week apart just over two years earlier. More photos at <http://www.gregorynet.net/grandbabies>

Member News

by Ed Gregory—VP for Membership

Professional association membership is a precious commodity in a tight economy, so it is especially good news to be able to announce new members for the Middle Tennessee Chapter of the STC.

For starters, **Terrence McCarthy**, of TMAC-Knowledge Solutions, reinstated his membership in January.

In February, four new members signed on: **Ken P. Devine**, **Candice P. Francisco**, **Scott T. Laneston**, and **F. Clark Williams**. Additionally, **Kate O'Neill** - an STC member since 1999 - transferred to our chapter.

In March, **Teagen R. Geneviene**, of Old Hickory, joined the STC and our chapter.

In other membership news, two of our fellow technical communicators reached Senior Member status since our last newsletter was published. They are **Mike Mini**, who joined December 16, 1997, and **Jennifer Wendell**, a member since February 23, 1998. ❖

Officers

President
Rita Johnson

Secretary
Jonathan Meadows

Treasurer
Laura Vaughn

**VP for Membership/
VP for Online Services/
Webmaster**
Ed Gregory

VP for Publicity
Pat Cosky

VP for Employment
N/A

**VP for
Periodicals/Newsletter
Editor**
George Cassidy

Competition Officers

Jennifer Lambe

Holly Quick

Melissa Weber