



SuperScript

Volume 15, Issue 12 | October 2007

SuperScript is the official newsletter of the Alberta Community of the Society for Technical Communication and is published 10 times a year. The editors welcome submissions and advertising that will be of interest to our members. If you have an idea for an article or if you have an advertising enquiry, please contact us.



President's Message

Our STC year is well underway. So far we have held a program evening, hosted a wine and cheese networking event, and exhibited at the Calgary Technologies Inc. Tech Showcase and Open House. Rosalinda Hernandez, our new program coordinator, has scheduled November's program evening. [Read more ...](#)

~ Lucille Worone, President

November Program: Growing Your Influence in the Workplace

Establishing teams is one of today's most common business practices in project management. In small manageable teams, it has become easier to contribute by developing and applying personal influence—but how does one go about doing this? [Read more ...](#)

~ Rosalinda Hernandez, Programs

STC International Chapter Funding Changes

The STC International Board of Directors passed a new chapter funding model at its August meeting. There are two major changes to this model: the amount of the per-member rebate is now a fixed amount, and members must belong to at least one chapter or SIG. [Read more ...](#)

~ Lucille Worone, President

Calgary Technologies Inc. 8th Annual Tech Showcase and Open House

STC Alberta was among the 35 technology exhibitors at the Calgary Technologies Inc. 8th Annual Tech Showcase and Open House on October 18th. An estimated 400 guests toured the exhibits, and many stopped by to see what the Society for Technical Communication was all about. Wendy Ogden, Sherry Willetts, and Lucille Worone fielded the questions and explained why technology companies need us. Surprisingly, many of the visitors had never heard of technical communication. [Read more ...](#)

~ Lucille Worone, President

Edmonton Planning Meeting

They say two heads are better than one. But what about five? On October 1, five Edmonton STC members gathered at Tesoro Caffé Bar for a brainstorming session. [Read more ...](#)

~ *Melissa Di Natale, Edmonton Liaison*

Wine and Cheese Networking Event

On September 27, twenty-five STC members and interested guests convened in the Fireside Room at Mount Royal College for the first STC Alberta event of the year. [Read more ...](#)

~ *Lucille Worone, President*

Online Resources

Check out this [general online help site](#) for technical communicators. The site contains a long list of online resources.

~ *Wendy Ogden, STC member*

Next Month

The next SuperScript deadline is **November 16**. Please forward submissions to newsletter@stc-alberta.org. Anything you think might be of interest to the STC community is welcome.

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The Alberta Chapter newsletter, *SuperScript*, is published ten times a year, with double issues in December/January and July/August. *SuperScript* presents feature articles from inside the Chapter and out, program and events calendar, profiles, tips and tricks to improve your skills, and important contact information. [Contact our SuperScript Editors](#), with any comments, stories, technical tips, book reviews, advertisements, or questions. [>> Previous editions](#).

STC Alberta News and Updates — October 2007

President's Message

Lucille Worone, President, STC Alberta

Our STC year is well underway. So far we have held a program evening, hosted a [wine and cheese networking event](#), and exhibited at the [Calgary Technologies Inc. Tech Showcase and Open House](#). Rosalinda Hernandez, our new program coordinator, has scheduled [November's program evening](#). In [Edmonton](#), our new liaison, Melissa Di Natale, held a planning meeting with several interested members in the capital city.

STC International has changed the way it funds geographical communities (chapters). "Pass through" funding will provide a more predictable income stream, and increased funding for larger chapters such as STC Alberta. For more information, read the [complete article](#).

I am pleased to announce that Nicole Foss (the technical writer formerly known as Nicole Nowak) has accepted the position of New Heights Seminar Manager. She is already busy contacting prospective speakers, so we will soon be able to announce the seminar details. We expect that New Heights will be scheduled in February or March 2008.

Our administrative council has a few available opportunities to become more actively involved in STC Alberta. See the [contacts page](#) for more details. One new feature this year is the on-call list of volunteers who are unable to commit to a year-long council position, but are willing to help at one or two events during the year.

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STC International Chapter Funding Changes

Lucille Worone, President

The STC International Board of Directors passed a new chapter funding model at its August meeting. There are two major changes to this model: the amount of the per-member rebate is now a fixed amount, and members must belong to at least one chapter or SIG.

Formerly, the per-member rebate amount was decided by the STC International Board of Directors each year. This rebate is the portion of annual membership dues that STC International sends to chapters to fund local activities. The rebate amount was typically \$24 per member for the first 100 members, \$16 per member for the next 100 members and \$8 per member for each member over 201. For chapters with more than 200 members, such as STC Alberta, there was little financial incentive to recruit new

members. The former funding scheme made it difficult to predict funding, as the per-member rebate amount varied each year. The new rebate will be \$25 per member, regardless of the number of members already registered in the chapter. This amount will not vary from year to year. This new policy should result in additional revenue and a more predictable income stream for our chapter.

The second change was designed to help increase community involvement. When you renew, you must decide whether to join one chapter and one SIG or no chapter and up to three SIGs. The limited membership option, where members did not belong to a chapter or SIG, is not available this year.

For more information, please refer to the article posted on the [STC International website](#). While on the topic of annual dues, STC International is in the process of implementing a new membership registration management system, and online membership registration and renewal will not be available until early November. However, prospective members may [download the PDF form](#). After completing it, they may either mail or fax it to the STC head office.

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Calgary Technologies Inc. 8th Annual Tech Showcase and Open House

Lucille Worone, President

STC Alberta was among the 35 technology exhibitors at the Calgary Technologies Inc. 8th Annual Tech Showcase and Open House on October 18th. An estimated 400 guests toured the exhibits, and many stopped by to see what the Society for Technical Communication was all about.

Wendy Ogden, Sherry Willetts, and Lucille Worone fielded the questions and explained why technology companies need us. Surprisingly, many of the visitors had never heard of technical communication, though almost all of them recognized our value. Many visitors were interested in how to find a contract or staff technical writer, and took our brochures for future reference.

All in all, it was a rewarding afternoon spent introducing our diverse field to a receptive target audience, while helping to raise the visibility of STC Alberta. Thanks to my fellow volunteer hosts, Wendy Ogden and Sherry Willetts for taking the time out of their demanding schedules to attend.

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Wine and Cheese Networking Event

Lucille Worone, President

On September 27, twenty-five STC members and interested guests convened in the



Left to right: Lucille Worone with Linda Chadwick, an STC member from the Missouri State University chapter and future Calgary resident, stopped by to say hello and help promote technical communication.

Fireside Room at Mount Royal College for the first STC Alberta event of the year.

During the first part of the evening, we broke into smaller groups to discuss such topics as “describe the ‘aha’ moment that led you to the technical communication profession,” and “what is the biggest challenge facing you as a technical communicator this year, and how can STC Alberta help with that challenge.” The latter part of the evening was unstructured to allow people to mingle.

The highlight of the evening was the draw for a Starbucks gift certificate. To be eligible, members (and members-to-be) signed up for the on-call volunteer list. Wendy Ogden was the lucky winner from the six members and six members-to-be who signed up. Wendy was quick to keep her promise—a few weeks later, she helped host the STC booth at the Calgary Technologies Inc. Open House.



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2007 / 2008 Programs

Our evening programs offer STC members the opportunity to learn the latest information regarding the theory and practice of technical communication. Take in seminars on topics such as communications theory, Web design, project management, and single-source documentation, led by technical communications experts from our own local community.

November 15 : Growing Your Influence in the Workplace

Establishing teams is one of today's most common business practices in project management. In small manageable teams, it has become easier to contribute by developing and applying personal influence— but how does one go about doing this?

This seminar provides a framework that translates the concept of influence into something that is manageable and actionable by anyone, irrespective of education, experience or role. Participants will be exposed to the concept that influence has a currency that can be earned, grown and when appropriate, spent. A number of different mechanisms for accumulating this currency will be explored and participants will be given the opportunity to identify the ones that are most relevant to them.

By the end of the seminar, all participants will have had the opportunity to consider the steps necessary to help them to grow their influence in their workplace.

Presenter

Gord Aker is a Professional Engineer, experienced leader and life/leadership coach. In 2005 he founded Coaching West to pursue his passion of assisting young professionals and leaders achieve the success they deserve through a unique mixture of coaching, mentoring and organizational tutoring. Gord is a graduate of the Coaches Training Institute and has degrees in both Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering. He resides in Calgary with his wife and two children.

For additional information, please visit www.coachingwest.com

When:	Thursday November 15, 2007
Time:	Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Program goes from 7:00-9:00 pm
Where:	Calgary Technologies Inc. (CTI) (aka Alastair Ross Technology Center), 3553- 31 Street NW Calgary Alberta
Directions:	CTI is located in University Research Park. Parking is free anytime after 5:00 p.m. and there are plenty of spots. Visitor parking is marked, and is close to the front door. If you're taking the LRT, get off at the Brentwood station; the CTI is across the parking lot.

Program Fees:

- STC Alberta Members: \$10.00
- Student Members: Free
- Non-members: \$15.00

Note: When space is limited, preference is given to STC members.

Contact and Registration

- For more information on programs, e-mail the [program coordinator](#).
- E-mail registration@stc-alberta.org or [register online](#).



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The distance between Edmonton and Calgary makes it impossible for most STC members in the Edmonton area to attend many chapter meetings. Consequently, some years ago, the Edmonton members decided to form a subgroup within the chapter.

The Edmonton group meets about six times a year (approximately every two months between September and May). We sometimes meet to discuss technical communication issues, sometimes to conduct technical communication workshops, oftentimes to just chat. If you're an Edmonton area STC member, then consider coming out to our meetings.

For more information about the Edmonton group within the Alberta Chapter STC contact the [Edmonton Liaison](#).

News & Events

Edmonton Planning Meeting - October 1

They say two heads are better than one. But what about five? On October 1, five Edmonton STC members gathered at Tesoro Caffé Bar for a brainstorming session, proving that the more brains, and perhaps coffee, the better. Members enjoyed delicious pasta dishes and specialty coffees while discussing goals and events for the year. Many innovative ideas were shared, and various practical and creative events were planned, including educational and networking events. We are all excited for these upcoming events.



From left to right: Roy van de Kamp, Melissa Di Natale, Elaine Elrod, and Serena Beck. Missing: Jenny Nelson.



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Other Technical Writing Resources

This page is for Web pages and other resources that are related to technical writing in general and that don't fit onto the other pages in this site.

- [Careers](#)
- [Miscellaneous resources](#)
- [Other resources lists](#)

Careers

- [Monster.ca](#), Canadian version of the job site
- [Technical Communicator.com](#), jobs just for technical writers and related fields
- [Workopolis](#), another Canadian job site

Miscellaneous Resources

- [The Editorial Eye](#), "The *Eye* is a resource for

[Top](#)

writers, editors, designers, project managers, communications specialists, and everyone else who cares about contemporary publishing practices".

- [InfoDesign](#), information about information design
- [RhetNet A CyberJournal](#) about writing and rhetoric
- [The Slot](#), a spot for copy editors, by Bill Walsh. The [Sharp Points](#) articles are particularly good
- [Technical Editors Eyrie](#), produced by Jean Weber, a website for technical editors to "share knowledge, experiences and resources, and demonstrate to writers, managers and others the wide range of knowledge and skills technical editors have to offer"
- [User Interface Design](#) at [www.smalltalk.org](#)
- **03/17/02** [Worst Manual Contest](#), how not to do it!
- [Writer's Block](#) quarterly newsletter about

technical writing
and documentation
issues

- [Writers Write](#),
resources for
freelance writers,
editors, and
publishers

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Other Resource Lists

- [About.com
FreelanceWriting](#),
formerly the Guide
to Technical Writing
- **03/17/02** [EServer
Technical
Communications
Library](#), a database-
driven site that bills
itself as " the most
comprehensive TC
web portal, built for
stu"dents,
professionals and
enthusiasts of
technical,
professional and
scientific
communication."
Their billing is
probably correct.
As well as being
comprehensive,
they provide
ratings and
descriptions of
resources.
Recommended.
- [Gary Conroy's
Technical Writing
Site](#). Conroy was

the guide for the Technical Writing site on About.com before they closed it. There is a lot of useful content here, as well as links to other sites and resources.

Recommended.

- [Desgning Onlnine Documentation Course Resources](#) and [Online-Help Development Resources](#), large list of resources for an online documenation course given at Austin Community College by David A. McMurrey
- [Editor's and Writers' Toolkit](#), large resource list for "anyone who writes, edits, or checks facts", by Kathleen McFadden
- [Indispensable Writing Resources Page](#), compiled by [Dr. Randall Hansen](#)
- [The Journalistic Resources Page](#), Links to free on-line resources designed to serve scholars, journalists and other professionals.
- [Nelson H. F. Beebe's Home Page](#), contains an

extensive list of bibliography collections on the Net, as well as links to HTML/SGML tools, Postscript fonts, digital libraries, and other similar topics.

- [Online Reference and Reading Sites](#), resources for web publishing and international technical communications, compiled by Nancy Hoft
- [Resources for Technical Writers and Trainers](#), an online magazine "designed to help technical writers, trainers, and courseware developers do their jobs better"
- [The Tech Writer's Assistant](#). Aimed at individuals new to the field, the site covers a broad range of topics, including the kinds of jobs tech writers do, the types of documents they create, the skills they need to be successful, and more
- **07/20/01** [Technical Communication Resources for Technical Communicators](#), by

Stephanie Copp,
an instructor at
George Brown
College in Toronto,
contains resource
material and links

- [Technical Communication: What, Why, and How](#), maintained by Joe Chew
- [TECHWR-L](#) home page of the techwr-l mailing list, maintained by Eric and Deborah Ray of Raycomm. This is another content-rich site, with much of the content coming from discussions on the techwr-l mailing list.
Recommended.
- [Text and Subtext](#), Carl Stieren's Resources for Technical Communicators
- [Virtual Library](#) Writers' Resources on the Web

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SuperScript Archives

Previous issues of *SuperScript* are linked below. Most issues are in Adobe PDF format. To read PDF files, download the free [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#).

2007	2006	2005-2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept • July / Aug • Jun • Apr • Mar • Feb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec • Nov • Oct • Sep • July / Aug • Jun • May 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec / Jan • Nov • Oct • Sep • July / Aug • Apr • Mar • Feb
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2000-2001	1999-2000	
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STC Alberta Activities

Check out our [Programs](#), [Workshops](#), [Coffee Nights](#), [Administrative Meetings](#), and [Social Events](#) for an opportunity to meet & greet, learn a tool or skill, or further develop your technical and writing expertise.

The calendar shown below outlines upcoming Alberta Chapter events. These events, unless otherwise stated, are held in Calgary. Please see our [Edmonton](#) page for a listing of "Upcoming Events" in that city.

2008 Upcoming Events

January

Calgary Program: [Portfolios and Interview Strategies: How to Ace a Tech Comm Job Interview](#)

Throughout the year, STC Alberta presents a wide variety of opportunities to learn, share and to become involved in the field of technical communication. Through workshops, social events and regular meetings we endeavour to:

- Present the latest information regarding theory and practice of technical communication
- Provide opportunities to learn and experiment with new tools and techniques
- Open up opportunities to network by meeting and exchanging ideas with fellow STC members
- Provide on-the-job training and opportunities to share your skills through our mentoring program.

Register in advance for all Programs and Workshops through our [online registration page](#).

Note: When space is limited, preference is given to current STC members.



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2006-2007 Executive

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Vice President - v.president@stc-alberta.org
Available

Secretary - secretary@stc-alberta.org
Available

Treasurer - treasurer@stc-alberta.org
Ken Schatzke

Past President - pastpresident@stc-alberta.org
Ruth Maryniuk

2006-2007 Appointed Council Positions

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Melissa Di Natale

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Dr. Glenn Ruhl

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Nicole Foss

Programs - programs@stc-alberta.org

Rosalinda Hernandez

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Paula Tannahill

Registration - registration@stc-alberta.org

Available

Salary Survey - salarysurvey@stc-alberta.org

Mai-Ann Sprung

Special Events/AGM - events@stc-alberta.org

Available

SuperScript Newsletter - newsletter@stc-alberta.org

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University of Calgary Liaison - ucliaison@stc-alberta.org

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Available



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technical communication
CAREER CENTER
job seekers and employers

STC SOCIETY FOR TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION

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and Check Out...
Your New Member Services!

LOG IN

[password reminder](#)



• [55th Annual Technical Summit](#)
Hope to see everyone in Philly!



• [Tieline](#)
Have you read our online leadership newsletter? Missed any issues?



• [Intercom Magazine](#)
- Preview the Latest Intercom



• [LCR Leadership Community Resource](#)
(STC members only)

Why Join STC?

STC has the resources you need to help you do your job better... and move your career forward.

STC offers **resources** for every stage of your career:

» [Entry-Level](#) » [Experienced](#) » [Expert](#)

JOIN TODAY!

Corporate Value Program and Partnerships



For more details about joining the Corporate Value Program see

What's New on the STC Web Site?

XML

- [Live Web Seminar: "Upgrade Your Career Using STC's Salary Database" Dec. 5](#)
- [Instructional Design and Learning SIG to Present Web Seminar](#)
- [Referendum Approves New Bylaws for STC](#)
- [Students in Florida and Ireland Team Up for Technical Communication Project](#)
- [November 2007 Intercom Posted](#)
- [The Business of Technical Communication--October 2007](#)
- [STC's Journal, Technical Communication, Seeks Submissions on Virtual Worlds](#)
- [Watch for More Details about the TransAlpine Chapter STC's Annual Conference](#)
- [Watch for More Details about the Manitoba Chapter](#)

STC's [CVP Page](#).

[STC's Annual Conference](#)

- [Watch for More Details about the Rochester Chapter STC's Annual Conference](#)

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Renew your dues now!

Society for Technical Communication

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Society Office Open 9am-5pm (US Eastern Time, GMT-5)

