

STC/SM Chapter Election: 2011-2012 Term Slate of Candidates

It's time for the start of a new chapter term and installation of chapter officers for the term: time to vote for your representatives to serve in the STC/SM council, as well as the Nominations Committee! Chapter members are receiving an official ballot and brief survey in the mail to fill out and return. Although it provides information about the candidates, please take a few minutes to review this document for detailed information.

Voting in the STC/SM 2011 Chapter Election

Your membership in the STC/SM chapter entitles you to a vote in the election. Please note the following about the election.

- Visit < <http://stc-sm.org/elections.htm> > to view the slate of candidates, with more information about the five candidates up for a vote.
- After receiving your ballot in the mail, please return the ballot in the SASE included with the ballot. The ballots are mailed to the chapter's PO Box.
- Completed ballots must be postmarked no later than **Wednesday, June 8, 2011**. Results will be announced and officers installed prior to July 1, 2011.
- Contact Mark Lockwood at < nominations@stc-sm.org > for more information.

Candidates for the STC/SM 2011 Chapter Election

The ballot includes six elected positions, consisting of nominations for the chapter officers (except the Immediate Past President), and two Nominations Committee positions (one Nominations position is open).

Each candidate answered seven questions, giving members information about the candidates' experiences with STC and technical communications.

- Years in STC
- Years in Technical Communication
- Why are you interested in this office?
- STC & related work experience
- What else would you like members to know about you?
- Education

Click the following links to view the respective candidate's responses to the questions.

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PRESIDENT

Maryann Bowen



Years in STC:

Sixteen

Years in Technical Communication:

Over Twenty-five

Current position and employer:

Technical communications consultant / independent contractor, specializing in software user assistance

Why are you interested in this office?

In the past two years, the council has initiated some valuable new member services and has made significant progress toward our goals to:

- provide high-quality professional development opportunities and services to our members;
- involve more of our members in chapter activities and operations; and
- explore new ways to provide maximum value for membership.

I welcome the opportunity to see these initiatives through to completion and to begin others, in order to promote the technical communication profession and to assure that the benefits I have realized from association with STC and STC/SM will continue to be available to future members.

STC & related work experience:

I currently serve as STC/SM President and was recently named an STC Associate Fellow. I was the 2009-10 STC/SM Vice President; in previous years I have served on the Nominations committee, volunteered as a program greeter and program speaker, and have written articles for the chapter newsletter. At the Society level, I have presented at the annual conference, reviewed session proposals for conferences, and coordinated peer reviews of manuscripts submitted to *Technical Communication*. In 2002 I had the privilege of traveling to China as part of a People to People International delegation of professional and technical communicators (all STC members) led by George Hayhoe, then editor of *Technical Communication*. I have served on the joint advisory board for the Eastern Michigan University and Washtenaw Community College Technical / Professional Writing programs since 2001. I belong to two SIGs: Consulting and Independent Contracting, and Instructional Design and Learning.

I have spent much of my career in the financial and automotive industries, both as an employee and as a contractor. I've done many different kinds of technical communications work, but most of my experience has involved user assistance or education -- producing various types of software user documentation and help systems, and developing and delivering user training.

What else would you like members to know about you?

I volunteer with Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Council and my church and play oboe and English horn in Ann Arbor Concert Band. I am also interested in literature, travel, and fiber arts.

Education:

BS in Music Education from Eastern Nazarene College, Quincy, MA

VICE PRESIDENT

Jill Money



Years in STC:

4

Years in Technical Communication:

18

Current position and employer:

Supervisor, Provider Contracting Operations, Blue Care Network of Michigan

Why are you interested in this office?

I'd like to hold the Vice President position in the chapter in order to continue with the work that the group has been involved in moving the chapter forward. I think our chapter provides value by creating a place for technical communicators to gather, share their knowledge, network and seek job opportunities in the communications professions. I'd like to continue to reach out and network with other professional organizations and find new ways to add value for our members.

STC & related work experience:

I have been the Professional Liaison for STC-SM since 2007/2008.

I've worked in the area of Technical Communications for 18 years in the healthcare industry. I've held positions in training, analysis, consulting, communications and leadership, mainly in the areas of Practice Management Software Applications, Health Information Technology and Government Compliance such as the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA).

There has been an explosion in technology and changes to the way we communicate in the past 20 years, and I enjoy learning from and sharing my knowledge and experience with my communications and technology peers.

I've written and designed texts and user documentation tailored to the audience such as internal and external correspondence, user manuals, newsletters, web design, presentations, conceptual design documents and business requirements.

What else would you like members to know about you?

I enjoy working in a collaborative environment where sharing ideas, knowledge and experience are the means to an end toward success in work, play and professional development.

Education:

I graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science in English Language and Literature (Technical Communications) with a minor in Psychology. I received a departmental honors award upon graduation from the Technical Communications department.

SECRETARY

Tom Glennan



Years in STC:

Five

Years in Technical Communication:

Five

Current position and employer:

Freelance/contract technical writer;
Principal Member, Technical Writing
Solutions LLC, Rochester Hills, Michigan

Why are you interested in this office?

A wise, old high school chemistry teacher once admonished me that "you only get out of something what you put into it." At the time, he was referring to an upcoming chemistry project, but I've found that this bit of advice applies to just about all aspects of my life, including my profession and the organizations that I belong to. In the short time that I have belonged to STC, I have found that it has much to offer, both on the local and global level, and I believe that the more I contribute to and participate in STC and its success (such as by being an officer), the more that I will benefit from it. I also want to give back to STC and its members as a show of appreciation and support for all that it offers. Furthermore, being a (relatively) new STC member, I believe that participation in the operation of STC and my STC chapters is one of the best ways to grow professionally. And finally, being a chapter officer will provide me many opportunities to meet and share ideas with the chapter membership.

STC & related work experience:

I currently hold the office of Secretary in STC/SM and am ready to serve a second year. Although I am an active member in the southeast Michigan and northeast Ohio STC chapters, and I also frequently attend meetings of the southwest Ohio chapter, this is my first elected position as an officer of any STC chapter.

I recently retired from General Motors where I worked for 40 years in various engineering and engineering management assignments, many of which involved technical writing responsibilities (engineering reports, engineering processes and standards, technical records, and research papers). I am also currently teaching technical and professional communication courses as an adjunct professor at Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, Michigan. I launched my freelance technical writing company, Technical Writing Solutions LLC, in January, 2009 and my company webpage (www.twsinfo.com) one year later (January, 2010).

Education:

Master of Science in Technical and Professional Communication (MSTPC),
Lawrence Technological University,
Southfield, Michigan (2009)

Master of Business Administration (MBA),
Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan
(1993)

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical
Engineering, General Motors Institute
(now Kettering University, Flint, Michigan
(1974)

What else would you like members to know about you?

While an engineer at General Motors, I found that I was a bit of an anomaly – I liked writing, which is usually anathema to engineers (just an observation, no stereotyping intended). I therefore spent a large part of my career eagerly completing technical writing assignments that were a part of my job, as well as volunteering for other that weren't. When I decided five or six years ago to retire early from GM (before 62), I chose a "second career" as a freelance technical writer as my goal. I've always enjoyed learning about new technologies or their applications, and explaining it to others in ways so they understand, so the choice seemed a natural fit. Now that I'm also teaching technical and professional communication, as well as serving clients with my technical writing and editing needs, I'm really enjoying myself. I am also active in the Detroit chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), where I am the assistant editor of the chapter newsletter and Assistant Vice Chairman for Communications on the chapter's Operations Board. I also serve as a volunteer at the Walter P. Chrysler Museum in Auburn Hills.

On a personal level, my wife of 37 years and I have two grown and married children, and four grandchildren. We enjoy summers and weekends at our cottage in northern Michigan, and traveling. I tend to read more than watch TV (although I'm a sucker for House Hunters International), and I tend to read business books and biographies. We are active in our church in Rochester Hills and participate in many community activities as well.

TREASURER

**Barry
Matthews**



Years in STC:

Ten

Years in Technical Communication:

Eleven

Current position and employer:

Sr Technical Writer, Thomson Reuters
(Dexter, MI)

Why are you interested in this office?

The programs that I have attended in the past have provided me with valuable insights into how others in the larger community approach their work. With this broader perspective and an appreciation for the work that others in the STC/SM chapter have provided in the past, I feel that is the right time for me to re-engage with the community in a more meaningful way.

STC & related work experience

In 2003-04, I served the STC/SM chapter as Membership Manager. I have worked in the technical communications field for 10+ years. Prior to that, I was a supervisor in the IT department of a large financial firm in Toronto.

I currently work with a team of writers in the Tax and Accounting development division of Thomson Reuters that produces hardcopy documentation and online user assistance for our accounting software products. As a senior technical writer, I am responsible for the following:

- Developing, maintaining, and enhancing quality documentation for our accounting products.
- Assisting my peers in taking advantage of the latest tech advancements by researching, discussing, testing, and troubleshooting related UA enhancements.
- Contributing to miscellaneous projects by providing general technical assistance and mentoring others.

What else would you like members to know about you?

I have a son who is currently studying public history at Western. My wife Rachel is a self-employed real estate appraiser.

Education:

BA in English from the University of Waterloo, Ontario.

NOMINATIONS

Andrea Frazier



Years in STC:

Ten

Years in Technical Communication:

Twelve

Current position and employer:

Sr Technical Writer, Thomson Reuters

Why are you interested in this office?

Our chapter depends on volunteers to provide local programs and activities to its members. Without volunteers, our chapter would cease to exist. Although our membership has fluctuated over the years, we still have a solid base of active members. Many of our most dedicated chapter volunteers - those who have contributed their time and energy to STC/SM - have retired or changed careers over the last decade, so it's vital that we enlist new members whose leadership skills and talents can keep our STC community active and growing.

STC & related work experience

I have worked at Thomson Reuters as a technical writer since October 1999. Before that, I had an internship at Pfizer (formerly Parke-Davis). I joined STC in 2001 and began volunteering on the STC/SM council in 2004. I have served as Education Liaison (2004-2007), Vice-President (2007-08), President (2008-2009), and participated on the chapter scholarship committee from 2008-present.

Education:

Bachelor of Science in Technical Communication, Eastern Michigan University, 1999

Bachelor of Science in Biological Science, Michigan State University, 1989.