

The Value of Technical Communicators

Technical communicators develop and design instructional and informational tools needed to ensure safe, appropriate, and effective use of science and technology, intellectual property, and manufactured products and services.

We combine multimedia knowledge and strong communication skills with technical expertise to educate across the entire spectrum of user abilities, experiences, and visual and auditory capabilities. For more information, see http://www.stc.org/story/tc_tw.asp.

We Have Many Job Descriptions

Technical communicators have many titles and job descriptions, including:

- Technical writer or editor
- Content or information developer
- Technical illustrator or graphic artist
- Technical translator
- Documentation specialist
- Documentation manager
- Information architect
- Trainer or e-learning developer
- Usability specialist
- Web designer
- Teacher or professor of technical communication

We Work Just About Everywhere

Technical communicators work in every industry, producing manuals, online help, multimedia, training, and other information products.

Our Field Changes Constantly

To be successful, technical communicators must continuously update their skills and knowledge.

STC offers opportunities to learn at meetings, conferences, email discussions, blogs, and special interest groups (SIGs).

I continue to belong to STC because there is so much in this changing profession to learn and share. Throughout my 20 + year career as a technical communicator, STC has been invaluable to me. It has helped me stay employed through rough times and good times. Most important, the people, now and over the years, have been a real blessing to me with their professionalism and friendship. *Donn DeBoard*

The Value of STC Membership

Joining STC makes you part of the world's largest community of technical communicators, with members in more than 50 countries.



STC Conference Expo

As an STC member, you will find friends, a mentor, or even your next employer. Here is a partial listing of what STC offers to members:

- Annual Technical Communication Summit, the world's largest gathering of technical communicators
- Opportunity to join relevant special interest groups (SIGs) for a virtual community experience
- Live Web seminars on timely topics
- Salary survey
- Monthly magazine, *Intercom*, and professional journal, *Technical Communication*
- *Much more*

A few months ago, my boss asked for some ideas on the use of wikis for collaborating with users to create and update documentation. I used STC publications and notes from STC Summit sessions to give him some feedback. *Esther Ashbaugh*

As an STC member, you support efforts to increase awareness and ensure accurate perception of the value you add as a professional. The following STC activities benefit all technical communicators:

- Work with government agencies to redefine technical communication beyond writing and editing
- Efforts to create a technical communication Body of Knowledge (BOK)

To join our community or to learn more, visit www.stcPMC.org



Society for
Technical
Communication

Philadelphia Metro Chapter



Your
Professional
Home



Around May 2006, I was transitioning from being a network administrator to technical writing. When I looked online for organizations to jump start my career, I found STC and the Philadelphia Metro Chapter.

I decided to go the upcoming meeting to see if this was the organization for me. The meeting was great – it just happened to be about networking. I had a chance to introduce myself to other members, who offered tenured advice. When I asked a few members if they would critique my resume, they gladly said “yes!”

After sending my resume with the suggested changes, I received a call about a contract with my current employer. After about 1 1/2 years I was hired full-time as a Technical Writing Administrator, a position they created for me. Had it not been for STC, I might still be in my old career. Thanks, STC! *Tony DeRose*

To join our community, visit
www.stcPMC.org

The Value of Your STC Chapter

STC provides a local and international community for technical communicators.



Monthly Chapter Meetings

Attending monthly chapter meetings helps you keep pace with today's technologies and connect with other professionals.



Networking before a chapter meeting

In 2000, I decided to re-enter the technical communication field. I had really lost touch with technology changes. STC was the first place I went because I knew how incredibly important networking was and hoped to re-educate myself without taking classes that would not help me. At one meeting, I met Gloria Reisman. Gloria believed in me and pitched my qualities to a Bethlehem company that needed a technical editor. They hired me on an open-ended contract. That job provided experience editing technical documents in FrameMaker. (I had done Classroom in a Book at home while Gloria was finding me a job.) The FrameMaker experience led to a full-time position at a medical device company, which paved the way to my current job. *Jo Ellen Darling*

Annual Philadelphia Metro Conference

Our members plan and present an award-winning two-day local conference every year.

Workshops

Our chapter regularly hosts affordable workshops from notable speakers, including Jean-Luc Doumont, Jane Smith, Jack Molisani, and many others.

Informal Networking Groups

Local groups meet regularly for dinner and to share ideas and experiences and to network. If you like, you can start a group in your area.

Awards and Recognition

Entering an STC competition provides you and your company with invaluable feedback from professional technical communicators who evaluate your work.

You can show your boss the value of your work and advance your career. If you win at the local level, you can enter the International competition.

Website



The STC Philadelphia Metro website

www.stcpmc.org provides the following and more:

- Information about meetings and other chapter activities, with online registration and payment
- Calendar of chapter and related events
- Recognition of member accomplishments
- For members *only*, job listings and speaker handouts

Members also have exclusive access to many features on the STC website www.stc.org, including a 14-day advance look at jobs listed there.

Newsletter

The award-winning *News & Views* provides articles, describes chapter, STC, and related learning opportunities, and contains other valuable information.

Student Scholarship

Your membership supports a scholarship and Philadelphia Metro conference registration awarded annually to a deserving area student.

**We talk. We listen.
We work together.
We help each other.**

Areas Served

Most of our members live and work in Southern New Jersey, southeast Pennsylvania, or Delaware. Many also belong to other STC chapters or SIGs. Members of other STC chapters and related organizations are welcome at many of our activities.

I joined STC in Atlanta in 1996, went to chapter meetings, and made friends. One of my best friends now is a woman I met at an Atlanta STC meeting. When I moved to New York in 1998, I went to NY Metro chapter meetings. It was great to have a connection! I made many friends and even reconnected with members from Atlanta who had moved to NY.

When I moved to Silicon Valley for a short time in 2000, I went to meetings there. When I moved back to NY, I found work again through my NY Metro STC contacts and their job board. When I moved to Philadelphia in 2004, one of the first things I did was to go to a chapter meeting. I met Barrie Byron and others and the rest is history. Everywhere I've been, I had an instant connection with friendly people and many job leads because of my STC membership. *Nancy DeMaria*

Top 10 Reasons to Join STC

- Keep up with the latest methods and ideas at meetings, workshops, or conferences
- Receive valuable publications
- Publish your work in an STC publication
- Join SIGs to learn more about areas of interest
- Develop your leadership ability
- Polish your presentation skills
- Access job listings and member directories
- Use the salary survey to negotiate fair compensation
- Receive local or society-level recognition and awards
- Join a local and worldwide community of friends who will support you throughout your career



To join our community, visit
www.stcpmc.org