
The President's Message



By Jeff Cox

It is always at times like this that I am lost for words. What do I say in my first President's Message? The thing that immediately comes to mind is to give a big congratulations and thanks to Dauphne Maples and Rene Seigh for a wildly successful year, while at the same time thinking, "Why did they have to do such a great job?" and giving me a big case of worry in having to follow in their footsteps. If I can do half as well as they did in leading the Huntsville/North Alabama community, I will be happy.

They did not do it alone, of course. Our council all worked together, each applying their special talents mixed with dedication to accomplishing goals. It could not have been done with-

out all of you. A well-deserved pat on the back is in order.

Where do we go from here? That is a question worth exploring. This STC community belongs to ALL of you, and your suggestions are welcomed and encouraged. If you have an idea or want to help out our STC community, please let one of the council members know. I would especially like to encourage our student members to become involved. The contributions you make (including leadership positions) look excellent on a resume, and one of the people you meet may lead to the first step or next step in your technical communication career.

Workshops hosted by our STC community have been well received and I think it is safe to say those will continue. What do YOU want? Our STC committee is here for your professional development. If there's a piece of software you'd like to learn about, a part of technical communication you'd like to explore more deeply, or an aspect of the career you are curious about, there's an excellent chance others share your interest and

there's someone who can host a workshop or speak at a networking luncheon.

Our STC community is a fun place, and it is my hope that it can be even more so. One of the presenters at the 2006 STC conference emphasized that to be a great club, it has to be a place that people enjoy coming to. What is your concept of this and how can we achieve this goal?

Growth is another area that is important, but growth is more than attaining new members. It is also helping our members achieve their professional goals and strengthening our club. This includes using the resources that we already have—our members. Don't be surprised if you get a call out of the blue, asking for your assistance on a task.

This brings me back to the question "What do YOU want?" A supportive group of technical communicators is a given in the Huntsville/North Alabama Community. Let your council members (*see page 3*) hear from you. We'll take it from there and make this a memorable year.

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