



Welcome
to the

Society for Technical Communication

**Northeast
Ohio
Chapter**

About STC International

STC is an individual membership organization dedicated to advancing the arts and sciences of technical communication. It is the largest organization of its type in the world. Its 19,000 members include:

- Technical writers and editors
- Content developers
- Documentation specialists
- Technical illustrators
- Instructional designers
- Academics
- Information architects
- Usability and human factors professionals
- Visual designers
- Web designers and developers
- Translators
- Marketing and public relations professionals
- Anyone whose work communicates technical information

Your membership in the Northeast Ohio STC chapter includes membership in STC international. See the list of membership benefits at www.stc.org.

About the Northeast Ohio Chapter

The Northeast Ohio Chapter, commonly called NEO STC, serves the Cleveland, Akron-Canton, Youngstown, Ashtabula, and northwest Pennsylvania areas—through over 165 members.

Chapter mission

We support and enhance the technical communication profession in northeast Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania as follows:

- Provide a community that facilitates interaction among local technical communicators.
- Help members to access educational, developmental, and networking opportunities.
- Promote our profession to the region's business, academic, scientific, and professional communities.
- Be the region's resource for information about technical communication and all its specialties.

Chapter awards

- Chapter of Excellence Award four years in a row, 2001-2004.
- Chapter Pacesetter Award, 2004.
- More. See www.neostc.org/official/awards.htm.

Northeast Ohio Chapter Benefits

Professional development meetings

The monthly meetings commonly feature expert speakers, panels, or workshops that enhance your knowledge of technical communication techniques—or augment associated skills, such as networking and professional promotion.



The chapter usually meets in a centrally located hotel. The full-meeting fee includes dinner. For a smaller fee, you may skip the meal and attend only the presentation.

The meetings allow you to network with other technical



communicators in our area. You can learn from others' professional experiences, hear about employment opportunities, and make new friends!

Our Consulting and Independent Contracting Special Interest Group (CIC-SIG) gathers informally before each chapter meeting. Feel free to join them if you share their special interest—or even if you simply arrive early.

Other networking opportunities

Lunchtime networking. The chapter schedules monthly networking luncheons at various northeast Ohio restaurants. The informal, no-agenda, “Dutch treat” luncheons provide additional opportunities to meet and exchange information with fellow chapter members.

E-mail networking. Have a general technical communication question? Post it on www.neostc.org/official/listserv.htm, our electronic discussion list, to get help from other chapter members.

Online employment resources

Besides providing networking opportunities, the chapter Web site enables a technical communication job seekers to:

- See summaries of and links to dozens of area job listings at www.neostc.org/jobs/openings.php. NEO STC volunteers periodically search for all jobs that may interest our members and post them in one convenient place.
- Post their resumes for employer or client viewing at www.neostc.org/jobs/resume.htm.
- Use the links at www.neostc.org/jobs to find out more about contract consultants, job placement services, and job-search engines.

Competitions

Proud of a printed or online publication? Show it off by entering our annual competition. All entries compete for local awards. Outstanding entries compete for STC International awards.



Want to know the qualities of award-winning publications? Offer to help judge the competitions—and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow judges.

Career-enhancing service opportunities

Want to be published? Write an article for our Web newsletter—*Lines & Letters*. We welcome book, software, and Web site reviews, helpful tips, or other articles. E-mail them to newsletter@neostc.org. Also consider contributing to STC International's *Intercom* or *Technical Communication* journals.

Are you a whiz at writing, designing, organizing events, or developing Web pages? Do you have educational contacts? Simply want the chance to help your community? The chapter provides many opportunities to volunteer time and talent while enhancing your career. Opportunities range from short, single tasks to year-long committee roles—in many cases resulting in additions to your portfolio. To volunteer, e-mail any board or committee member; find their e-mail addresses at www.neostc.org/official/officers.htm.

Informal mentoring

Chapter members help each other by sharing expertise. Want to try something new? Another member with applicable experience likely can point you in the right direction. Especially beneficial to new graduates, job seekers, and independent consultants.

Likewise, if you're an expert on a technical writing technique or tool—such as a software application—and don't mind sharing a few tips, why not write an article for our newsletter? Or let the chapter know about your expertise, so that you can help others.

Seminars

Each year, STC International transmits several excellent telephone/Web seminars, for which each participating site pays a fee. When our chapter sponsors one of the seminars at a locally hosted site, individual members may participate *at no cost*. For forthcoming chapter-sponsored seminars, check the chapter calendar at www.neostc.org/calendar. For details about all forthcoming Web seminars (some of which the chapter does not sponsor), check <http://stc.webex.com>.

Other activities

For more information about current chapter activities, please see our current events calendar at www.neostc.org/calendar.

Member Comments

“I joined STC and NEO STC as a student... Not only did the journals, publications, and newsletters keep me up-to-date on advances in technical communication, but attending meetings enabled me to network with local professionals... This has helped me grow my technical communication business.” —*Lori Klepfer*

“I have found more than once that membership in NEO STC helped me find job leads. Attending conferences and reading literature provided through STC helps me stay current with trends and techniques in the field.”
—*Jeanette Evans*

“...STC helps me keep in touch with this field, to see how others are doing things. It gives me great new ideas to try and helps me improve myself personally and professionally.” —*Tricia Spayer*

“STC membership has helped me in jobs I've had, in times after lay-offs, and when I've done freelance work... this community of technical communicators is available when I need help or advice.” —*Jessica Hendricks*

“When I relocated back to Cleveland I knew that all I had to do was attend an STC meeting, and I could do some networking to find a job.” —*June Muhic*

“STC meetings and seminars have helped to improve my professional skills and provided invaluable contacts within the industry.” —*Bob Young*

“STC is more than just a professional organization. It's a community of writing professionals who share my passion for creating usable and comprehensible technical documentation... More than once, I've come across job leads before they were even published in the local job resources.” —*Heidi Emhoff Fronheiser*

“Between the contacts you can make at meetings, the information available on our Web site, and the opportunity to develop leadership skills, NEO STC is a fantastic professional resource.” —*Kim Lindsey*

How Do I Join?

Simply choose NEO STC as your chapter when joining STC International. To join STC International, visit www.stc.org/join.asp.

Contact Information

Feel free to e-mail any board or committee member with questions. Our e-mail addresses are listed at www.neostc.org/official/officers.htm. We'd love to hear from you!

For more information about STC International, visit www.stc.org.

This brochure is available online as a PDF file. Look for it at www.neostc.org/brochure.pdf.

We encourage you to share the PDF link with fellow technical communication professionals and others in related fields.

