



From the President

BY LINDA L. OESTREICH, *STC President*

Make STC What You Need It to Be

Not too many years ago, STC presidents wrote an article every month to be published in *Intercom*. Now, we write short blurbs that are published in *News and Notes*. Part of me misses the requirement to write a monthly *Intercom* column, and part of me is glad for one less thing on my to-do list.

When I was president of the San Diego chapter, I loved to write the articles that were printed in the chapter newsletter, *Signature*, each month. As director-sponsor for Region 5, I wrote articles every month the first year I was in that position. The second year, I missed only a couple of months. Then, the third year, I wrote only two or three articles.

I give presentations at STC annual conferences almost every year, yet I can't remember the last time I actually wrote an article for the conference *Proceedings*.

What has happened? I still keep a journal. I write copious e-mails. I write for work. I read other people's writing. I edit. Could it be that all *that* writing—informal or work-required—has turned me off to writing anything else?

Finding Time

When I began my year as STC president, I told the staff that, even though we do *News and Notes*, I still wanted to write some articles for *Intercom*! Each month they have asked me if that was the month I could write. Each month I said no.

Yet, writing is something that I love to do!

I know that I'm not alone in this. What else are we giving up because of our schedules, our priorities, and our assumption that there's never enough

What are we giving up because of our assumption that there's never enough time to do the things we enjoy?

time to do the things we enjoy?

And how does STC fit into this pattern? Have we given up going to local STC meetings? Are we so overwhelmed by obligations that we don't allow ourselves the luxury of doing things that take a bit more energy, a bit more thought, a bit more money?

Is STC something we love, so we make time for it no matter what? Or is it something that we once loved but haven't given any attention lately because it's just no longer fun?

Putting in the Effort

We can make STC fun. We can make it important. STC has the ability to be whatever we give it time to be. If we sit idly by and hope it will serve us just because we paid dues, we'll always be disappointed. Attitude is the key. We can reap huge benefits in our lives and our careers from our STC connections and membership, but this takes work, time, thought.

As you can see, I finally did stop to write and, as I suspected, I've had fun! Why don't you stop and make STC something you enjoy?

As John, Paul, George, and Ringo said, "In the end, the love you take / is equal to the love you make."

A Few Words at Year's End

The world of STC has both grown and shrunk in the almost thirty years that I've been a member. Coming from a white, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant heritage, I thought Christmas was everyone's holiday. As my world and knowledge have expanded, I realize that December is a special time for many beliefs and celebrations.

No matter what you might or might not be celebrating at this time of year, I want to thank you for your part in STC. At this time of year, take a moment to honor yourself for the lives you touch with your words. The end of the calendar year is a season of fond remembrance and optimistic thoughts for the future. Our world may not be perfect, but in spite of the strife we see all around us, many of the earth's peoples are touching each other with care and hope and love.

Writing words that may be read all over the world gives me joy and emphasizes how small our growing world has become. So, whether you're having summer or winter, whether you're in the east, west, north, or south, I wish you all good things for the year to come. I know it will be a year of surprises and incomparable wonder. May you embrace each moment of it and use your words in good health, bubbling joy, and awesome wonder. 🍷

Discuss this article
online at [stcforum.org/
viewtopic.php?id=1108](http://stcforum.org/viewtopic.php?id=1108)

