

LASTC

The Technograph

Newsletter of the Los Angeles Chapter, Society for Technical Communication

December 2007



Creating and supporting a forum for communities of practice in the profession of technical communication.

LASTC Members

LASTC welcomes into our chapter the following new members.

September:

Gail D. Baragar

October:

Sheryl S. Delrosario

Shane Glaseman

Inside

[Join the Team and Celebrate LASTC](#) 1

[LASTC Culver City Lunchtime Forum](#) 2

[LASTC LAX Lunchtime Forum](#) 2

[LASTC Dinner Meeting](#) 3

[Pictures From October Dinner Meeting](#) 4

Join the Team and Celebrate LASTC

Holiday season is approaching, and it's time to celebrate. While we're at it, let's celebrate LASTC! How? By joining in chapter activities.

Lunchtime Forums

We have good news for all of you who work in the LAX area: The LAX Lunchtime Forum is back! Don't miss the meeting scheduled for January 22. More good news: Our Culver City Lunchtime Forum is still going strong and the next meeting is on December 17.

For those who don't work in the LAX or Culver City areas, how about starting your own Lunchtime Forum? It's easy! All you have to do is choose a date and a location. Let me know when and where you want to meet and I'll make sure we get the publicity out. Our hardworking webmaster, Denise Cusano, will post the information on the chapter website. Kerry Tani, PR manager *extraordinaire*, will send the e-mail announcements to our membership and include it in our e-newsletter. It's all a matter of teamwork.

Speaking of teamwork, would you like to join the A-list team of LASTC volunteers? All it takes is a few hours a month and you get to network with the leaders of the local technical communication community. Not to mention enjoy free pizza!

Dinner Meetings and More

Our dinner meeting on October 9 was a big success. We all learned some practical tips on single sourcing from Nicky Bleiel, a senior information developer at ComponentOne. The excellent food and good company made it a fun evening, the first of several we have planned. Stay tuned for the next dinner meeting in February.

Is there a topic you would like to discuss with a group of peers? A communication technique or technology you would like to learn more about? Let us know, and we'll try to make it happen. LASTC is your source for career development and networking opportunities.

If you would like to volunteer, **contact Karen Bergen, president@lastc.org or 310-535-6558.**

Chapter Officers

2007-2008

President (acting):

Karen Bergen

president@lastc.org

Vice-President, Programs:

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programs@lastc.org

**Vice-President,
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Open

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Treasurer:

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Denise Cusano

webmaster@lastc.org

Immediate Past**President:**

Li-At Ruttenberg

**STC Leader and Former
Region 8 Director:**

Beau Cain

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LASTC Culver City Lunchtime Forum

The next LASTC Culver City Lunchtime Forum is set for Monday, December 17, 12 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Come and share your ideas, experiences, and questions, or just come prepared to learn.

Where: Golden China Restaurant, 9018 Venice Boulevard, Culver City, CA 90232; telephone: 310-559-0116

Directions: The Golden China Restaurant is located on the south side of Venice Boulevard, east of Culver and west of Robertson. Take Venice Boulevard eastbound from the San Diego Freeway (405). Continue about two miles (beyond Overland Boulevard and Motor Avenue). The restaurant is in a strip mall on your right.

Parking: Free parking in front of the restaurant and in the parking lot across the street.

Technical communicators of all levels and specialties are welcome. We'd love to know if you plan to attend, but reservations are not required.

RSVP to Karen Bergen, president@lastc.org or 310-535-6558.

LASTC LAX Lunchtime Forum

The next LASTC LAX Lunchtime Forum is set for Tuesday, January 22, 12:15 p.m.

Come and share your ideas, experiences, and questions, or just come prepared to learn.

Where: Capistrano's Restaurant, 1440 E. Imperial Avenue, El Segundo, CA 90245; telephone: 310-640-1070; <http://www.capistranos.com/>

Directions: The Embassy Suites Hotel is located two miles south of Los Angeles International Airport.

From the San Diego Freeway (405), take the Imperial Highway exit. Go west (toward the ocean) past Sepulveda Boulevard. Turn left on California Street and immediately left again on E. Imperial Avenue. The Embassy Suites Hotel is on the right.

Parking: Free parking.

Technical communicators of all levels and specialties are welcome. **RSVP to Cynthia Canino, cynthia.canino@justsystems.com or 310-535-6558.**

Help Wanted

Program Development Volunteer

Requirements:

- Enthusiasm
- Initiative
- Willing to make cold calls to interesting people to speak at LASTC chapter meetings
- Maximum commitment: 10 hours/month

Rewards:

- Involvement in an excellent volunteer organization
- Support from people who have done this before
- Great for professional growth and for resume

Meeting Coordinator Volunteer

Requirements:

- Enthusiasm
- Initiative
- Research sites for monthly chapter meetings
- Coordinate with Program Development to book meetings
- Maximum commitment: 8 hours/month

Rewards:

- Involvement in an excellent organization
- Support from people who have done this before
- Great for professional growth and for resume

Public Relations Volunteer

Requirements:

- Enthusiasm
- Initiative
- Willing to write up copy for chapter meetings and other events
- Maximum commitment: 10 hours/month

Desired:

- Creative opportunity to develop copy for web sites and other publications

Rewards:

- Involvement in an excellent organization
- Support from people who have done this before
- Great for professional growth and for resume

Want more information? Ready to volunteer? Contact Karen Bergen, LASTC President and Volunteer Coordinator.

LASTC Dinner Meeting

The next LASTC dinner meeting is set for Tuesday, February 12.

Topic: Why Some Tech Writers Seem to Always Get the Job, Even in Tough Times: What Recruiters Rarely Tell You

This presentation will be useful, informative, and entertaining for all technical writers, not only for those looking work. Dr. Adrienne Escoe, president of Escoe Bliss Communication, Inc., the parent company of Escoe Bliss Professional Staffing, will present practical tips for getting hired, staying hired, and advancing in your career.

Hear the real scoop from a recruiting insider. Discover the characteristics that hiring managers seek beyond technical skills, from the hidden features of your résumé to your body language to your conversations with interviewers (yes, learn how to transform question-and-answer sessions into conversations). As time permits, you will have a chance to practice some of the tips presented.

Join us for an informal pre-meeting get-together to network with colleagues and friends. If you are new to STC, this is a great time to meet members and learn more about STC. Meet us in the bar at 5:30 p.m.

Location:**Truxton's American Bistro**

8611 Truxton Avenue (at Manchester)

Los Angeles 90045 (near LAX)

310-417-8789

<http://www.truxtonsamericanbistro.com>

Parking:

Free parking on the street, in the parking lot behind the restaurant, or in the large parking lot in the adjoining mini-mall.

Schedule:

5:30 p.m.: Pre-meeting meet-and-greet

6:00 p.m.: Networking and check-in

6:30 p.m.: Dinner

7:00 p.m.: Business meeting

7:15 p.m.: Presentation

Cost:

LASTC members: \$25

STC members: \$30

Nonmembers: \$35

See <http://lastc.org/thismonth.html> for additional program details and reservation information.

LASTC CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Society for Technical
Communication

Los Angeles Chapter
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Los Angeles, CA 90009

Pictures From Our October Dinner Meeting



From Left: Karen Bergen, Nicky Bleiel



From Left: Karen Bergen, Beau Cain