

The Phoenix Chapter

Fun SIG

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Purpose: The Phoenix Chapter Fun SIG was formed to add a variety of social activities to the chapter calendar for members to enjoy! The group's goal is first and foremost to "have fun." This SIG also coordinates with the Program Committee to recognize some fun opportunities at chapter meetings.

Schedule: The SIG has several get-togethers planned around festivals. The SIG also coordinates with the Program and Arrangements Managers to highlight opportunities for fun at chapter meetings.

Online Information SIG

Inactive

Purpose: The Online Information SIG gathers to share the latest information and methods to develop quality online communication.

FrameMaker SIG

Inactive

Purpose: The Phoenix Adobe Special Interest group explores the creation of documents with FrameMaker and FrameMaker+SGML. Panel discussions, speakers, demonstrations, and in-depth presentations on new tools are used to disseminate information. The meetings are open to new and experienced users, and members are encouraged to share their experiences with others.

Acrobat SIG

Inactive

The Phoenix Acrobat Special Interest Group explores the distribution of information with Adobe Acrobat. Panel discussions, speakers, demonstrations, and in-depth presentations on new tools are used to disseminate information. The meetings are open to new and experienced users, and members are encouraged to share their experiences with others.

Trends in Tools and Technology SIG

Inactive

Purpose: The Trends in Tools and Technology SIG serves as a forum for members interested in increasing their knowledge of emerging trends in the industry. The SIG is especially interested in presenting information that answers:

- Where is the field going? How/what are tools being used today? How will they be used in the future?
- What can we do to keep our skills up to date?

Scope: Speakers present information and project experiences or lead discussions on emerging technologies in technical communication, including such areas as information design, project management, multimedia, and interactive learning.

A SUGGESTION:

Hold SIG meetings before or after chapter meetings.

Start a New Chapter SIG



Many areas of special interest for technical communicators exist in our field. Although the Society-level SIGs are numerous (21), chapters typically have only a few SIGs, if any. The Phoenix Chapter encourages members with special interests, who want more information exchange on those interests, to establish a chapter SIG.

The criteria for establishing and maintaining a Phoenix Chapter Special Interest Group follow:

- Determine the name of the SIG and the scope of the topics covered.
- Create a statement of purpose that includes encouraging the sharing of information on the SIG's topic. Note that presentations are not mandatory for a SIG. Networking with topics of the evening is often sufficient.
- Designate a SIG manager and any other positions that may be useful.
- Be approved by the Phoenix Chapter administrative council.
- Announce meetings and schedules to the chapter (versus only to SIG members). Notification can be made through any format such as chapter meetings, the chapter Web site, the chapter newsletter, e-mail distribution, and so on.
- Meet at least three times per year with at least three members.
- Be open to all members and interested nonmembers.
- Report the activities and attendance to the chapter president (each meeting).

Society SIGs Versus Chapter SIGs

Society SIGs at the international level may have hundreds of members, and many publish a newsletter, host an electronic newsgroup, and sponsor events and sessions at STC's annual conferences. Chapter SIGs usually have fewer members, but, because their members live in the same area, they can meet regularly and address members' local needs.



If a group of chapter members, who are interested in a specific area of technical communication, has unique needs that are not being addressed, then consider starting a chapter SIG!



There is no formal relationship between Society SIGs and chapter SIGs. Some Society SIGs actively communicate with their associated chapter SIGs; others do not.



Chapter SIGs provide a great opportunity for chapter members to share information on a common interest, and may encourage non-STC members to join the Society. Remember that a healthy SIG should adapt to meet its members' needs.

Society SIGs

Chapter SIGs do not need to be named the same as Society-level SIGs, nor do they have to have the same focus. The purpose of the list below is to give you some ideas of what members have been interested in.

- AccessAbility
- Canadian Issues
- Consulting and Independent Contracting
- Education and Research
- Emerging Technology
- Environmental, Safety, and Health Communication
- Illustrators and Visual Designers
- Indexing
- Information Design
- Instructional Design & Learning
- International Technical Communication
- Lone Writer
- Management
- Marketing Communication
- Online Information
- Policies and Procedures
- Quality
- Scientific Communication
- Single Sourcing
- Technical Editing
- Usability

Special Interest Groups of the Phoenix Chapter



The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) of STC and the Phoenix Chapter are composed of STC members with common experiences and interests who share their skills and knowledge with each other and with other STC members. Some of these interests are based on the type of work members do. In other cases, the interests pertain to the nature of members' employment situation. The Phoenix Chapter SIG presentations are open to nonmembers.

