

Society for Technical Communication (STC) Huntsville/North Alabama (NA)

STC-NA helps volunteers grow their careers.

Next Meeting

What: “Getting Things Rolling: Starting Your Technical Writing Business” by Bart Leahy

When: February 4, 2021

Presentation Time: 6:00 pm Central (If possible, please log in 10 minutes before the presentation.)

Where: Zoom Online/Virtual Meeting

How: Please RSVP for this virtual event by February 3, 5:00 pm Central, to STC-NA_RSVP_Speaker_Meeting@Outlook.com with your Name and Org Affiliation (STC-NA, UAH, or Friend). You will receive a confirmation email within a day that contains information on accessing the meeting online.

2/4/2021 – “Getting Things Rolling: Starting Your Technical Writing Business” by Bart Leahy

Date: Thursday, February 4, 2021

Time:

- **Arrive between 5:50-6:00 pm Central to test your sound/video.**
- **Starts at 6:00 pm Central**

Location: Zoom Online Meeting [Please **RSVP** by Wednesday, 2/3, at 5 pm Central to the email address above. You will receive the Zoom invitation within a day of responding.]

Description: Bart Leahy will cover some of the basics of solo entrepreneurship, including *identifying your target customer(s) and work, establishing your rates and fees, marketing to your customers, managing your business, and taking things to the next level.*



Bart has enjoyed a diverse career. Over the past 20 years, he has worked for organizations as diverse as the Walt Disney Company, Department of Defense, NASA Marshall Spaceflight Center, Nissan North America, Bryce Space & Technology, Spaceflight Insider, and the Science Cheerleaders. Now a freelance technical writer supporting corporate customers, he provides advice for students and young professionals on his blog, *Heroic Technical Writing*. In 2020, he crystallized his online advice into a paperback and Kindle book: *Heroic Technical Writing: Making a Difference in the Workplace and Your Life*. He has a Bachelor’s Degree in English from Northern Illinois University and a Master’s Degree in Technical Writing from the University of Central Florida.

Congratulations to Candice Lanius, Dr. Ryan Weber, Jackie Spiegle, Joy Robinson, and Robin Potts for publishing, *Drawing on Personas: How User Personas Affect Creativity*, in the *Technical Communication Journal of the Society for Technical Communication* (November 2020, Volume 67, Number 4).

Update – Rocket City Technical Communication Conference

Normally, the Rocket City Technical Communication Conference is held in the Spring, but it has been postponed indefinitely until such time that it is safe for groups to learn in a conference environment. Dr. Ryan Weber, who is the coordinator/organizer of the conference at UAH, noted that a virtual conference is being considered. He and STC-NA understand that attendees benefit when networking with other professional communicators in person. For that reason, both on location and virtual conference options are being considered. Stay tuned...

**STC-NA needs meeting TOPIC IDEAS and VOLUNTEERS – short-term or long-term accepted!
If you want to build a skill, let us know what it is. We will find a way to help.**

We hope to see you at an STC-NA meeting in the future and would love to learn from you what meeting topics are critical to helping you grow your career. As networking in person has been difficult for many, we hope that you will consider networking as a volunteer for our chapter. For more information, send an email to STC-NA_RSVP_Speaker_Meeting@Outlook.com. And, remember, STC-NA partners with volunteers to help them build their careers!

It's not too late to renew your STC membership. Click this link: [Membership Levels and Benefits | Society for Technical Communication \(stc.org\)](#).

About STC-NA

About the Society for Technical Communication (STC) Huntsville/North Alabama (NA) Chapter

The Huntsville/North Alabama Chapter of the Society for Technical Communication (STC) has been a leading professional resource for area technical communicators since 1959. We hold Fall, Winter and Spring meetings to help technical communicators and other professionals network. **We hope you can join us!**

2020-2021 STC-NA Volunteer Officers

We strive to serve the North Alabama technical communication community by providing opportunities for learning, networking, and volunteering. If you have an interest in STC-NA and/or in building your community by volunteering, then please respond to this email. **We look forward to hearing from you...**

Tech Comm Profiles

Students at the University of Alabama in Huntsville produced profiles of local technical writers as a way to learn more about the technical writing field and Huntsville opportunities. The profiles capture a day in the life of these writers, the challenges and benefits of their jobs, and their advice for entering the field. Thanks goes to KaiLian, Erin, Constance, Joseph, and Leon for recognizing local tech writers! [Read more.](#)

Society for Technical Communication (STC)-Huntsville/North Alabama (NA) 2021 Chapter Officers



Heather McCain is the STC-NA President and has held the role since January 2020. She previously served as Secretary for STC-NA in 2018 and 2019. Heather became a professional technical communicator and an STC member in 1996. Despite breaks in her membership, Heather has been a volunteer for most of her membership across three chapters. Past roles held include president, secretary, membership manager, newsletter editor, online meeting coordinator, and webmaster. Heather currently works as a contract technical writer in the Birmingham area.



Eric Brittingham is the Secretary/Treasurer of the STC-H/NA chapter and works as a Principal User Assistance Consultant with Hexagon PPM (formerly Intergraph) developing documentation and training for the company's engineering and construction information management software products. Before 2007, he lived in northern Delaware and was a member of the Philadelphia Metro chapter, working as an instructional designer, business analyst, solution analyst, and documentation writer for various corporations. He currently lives in Madison County, Alabama.



Julie Blair is the current Membership Chair of the STC North Alabama Chapter. A member since 2011, she has held multiple offices and roles in the chapter. In her service to STC, Julie attended three Summits. She has presented at the STC mini-con, which she never misses. Under her Presidency, the Chapter flourished with professional development and networking opportunities. Julie has met with tech comm college students and others interested in tech comm for the last 10 years. Twice, Julie earned a Team IBM coin. Julie has experience in both software and hardware writing.



Beverly Watson is the current STC-NA Chapter Webmaster. She has been a member of the Society for Technical Communication since 2011 and has served as Chapter Secretary and President for STC-NA. Beverly has over 25 years of professional experience in the aerospace and defense industries. She currently works as a technical editor in North Alabama.



Ryan Weber is an Associate Professor of English and the Director of Business and Technical Writing at The University of Alabama in Huntsville. His research has appeared in *Technical Communication*, *Technical Communication Quarterly*, *IEEE: Transactions on Professional Communication*, and other publications. He edits the Student Perspectives column for the STC Monthly Magazine *Intercom* and also hosts the podcast 10-Minute Tech Comm.