

## May 2006 – Lessons Learned

The Lone Star Community council met on Thursday, May 18, 2006 to discuss what we did well in 2005-2006 and what we can improve for 2006-2007.

### ***Attendees***

- Jim Chambless
- Chris LaPorte
- Kristy Nolan
- Paul Holland
- Maxine Higginbotham
- Patricia and Mark Wessels
- Rob Brown
- Elisa Miller
- Jeanne Foster
- Mike Hiatt
- Susie Lynn Fox
- Doug Dow
- Mel Haughton

### ***What are you looking for in 2006-2007?***

- Jim – increase numbers
- Chris – more visibility for programs, student involvement, atmosphere
- Kristy – know local resources/members better
- Paul – more existing members to attend
- Maxine – more fun, networking, happy hours
- Patricia – enthusiastic people, classy
- Mark – science journalists
- Rob – younger people involvement, value offered, ROI

### ***What are Mel's goals for 2006-2007?***

- **Education:** local connections to get students involved
- **Recognition:** CAA (Chapter Achievement Award) – why value not seen by membership (Paul – change in submission made it easier to apply), ranks community to draw new members (Elisa – recognition of contributors recognized – plaques, certificates, what other members can do, items needed for CAA {put in powerpoint/Technically write/ipic}), (Chris – hold May meeting post-conference, convey value, should be proud), (Rob – making chapter better)
- **Knowledge transfer:** communication and assistance, find new people to get involved and transfer information, job bank
- **Metrics:** documentation of members (attendees, guests, etc.), new jobs, feedback (communication of accomplishments, feedback link)
- **Increase Member Value:** we need to do more things that interest people in STC and in our community. Region 5 will be a nice start.

### ***What we did we do well in 2005-2006?***

- Suzy – January awards presentation w/ presentations
- Jim – perseverance, bunch of new faces (esp. on council), Sept. program (proposal mgmt.), Suzy joined, Mike back, Chris didn't run away

- Rob – Region 5 conference ambassadors, Sherry Michaels program, perseverance, retreat, Come To Jesus meeting
- Chris – reduction in tension on council, financial stability, competition, awards banquet, quality of programs (except 1)
- Jeannie – gathering volunteers, SIN SIG, angel tree, Julie getting info from new people and intro to counterpart
- Mike – May meeting, awards ceremony, new award –Binion (PH – see connection to origins), support of local industries (EM), good publicity (CL), keynote speakers

### ***Where can we improve?***

- Doug – mixing of newbies at tables, Ft. Worth satellite upkeep, deadlines, research feature articles for newsletter
- Kristy – verify quality of speakers, local knowledge/expertise (topic-specific happy hours – EM), (member showcase – CL)
- Paul – update website, share-the-knowledge for issues/best practices, operational reports online, book reviews in newsletter
- Maxine – reach out to community (DAL) – colleges, classes, etc., get name out to others in industry, mailings and more exposure
- Elisa – Region 5 Conference (pop-up ad, technical communicator vs. technical communications professional – JC) and 50 facets (scholarships, volunteers as students), reinvigorate SIGs (local level), possibly at Nerd Books
- Patricia – software programs, e-learning, online programs, reference page, salary survey, knowledge about local companies

### ***What ideas do we have for next year?***

- **Membership moment** – one new and one established bios, prearranged, profiles, mentor membership meeting
- **Membership drive** in October, pair student w/ established member
- Funding program for continuing ed
- Claire Davis – program about competitions, or **meet-and-greet**
- **Lunches** – ipic, so we have activities over the summer
- **Happy hour** – Gloria's on Thursdays
- Keep council meetings short

### ***When are we meeting?***

- Council meets first Thursday of every month
- Program meetings begin again on September 14 with Robert Crump talking about ROI).
- We're not meeting on the first Thursday of July
- Summer planning session (July 8) at either Louellen's or Elisa's at 10:00 a.m. – bbq