

# Year II and Growing: A Report from STC's Special Needs Committee Session MG2X: A Panel Presentation and Progression

Mark Hanigan  
Andy Malcolm

Gloria Reece  
Fabien Vais

Dan Voss



***48<sup>th</sup> International STC Conference  
Chicago, IL  
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# Agenda

- **Panel Presentations**

- Overview
- A Look Back
- A Look Ahead

Mark Hanigan

Dan Voss for Judy Skinner

Dan Voss

- **Progressions**

- Deafness: An Introduction
- Designing Web Pages for the Visually Impaired
- Dealing with Special Mobility Needs: A Lesson in Patience and Coping
- The Ethics of Special Needs: It's a Matter of Fairness

Andy Malcolm

Gloria Reece

Fabien Vais

Dan Voss

**Note: Handouts available for session and at each table**



**A Look Back...**



# SNC Accomplishments Since Inception

- Recruited members to achieve “critical mass”
- Designed, published, distributed, updated, and republished brochure
- Established and maintained a Web site
- Communicated within the Society: committee members have submitted articles to *Intercom*, chapter newsletters, and PIC newsletters
- Published in journal of another professional society (American Translators Association *Chronicle*)

Continued...



# SNC Accomplishments Since Inception

- Mailed brochures and surveys to chapter presidents: completed December 2000  
Note: Results of this survey were meager and inconclusive. SNC will be conducting a follow-up online survey based from our Web site.
- Established subcommittee to study issue of possible redundancy between our database and our Web site  
Chair: Cynthia Lockley, with Gloria Reece, Karen Steele, Fabien Vais, and Connie Kiernan
- Established subcommittee to interface with CAC to be an advocate for assisting people with disabilities at conferences  
Chair: George Hoerter, with Judy Skinner and Dan Voss



# SNC Plans

- **Submit grant proposal for turnkey presentation on special needs**
  - Plan to submit proposal in October '01
  - Goal is to roll out multimedia presentation at May 2003 conference in Dallas
  - Chair: Gail Lippincott, with Gloria Reece, Steve Madison, and Sue Lowing
  - Status: On track
- **Submit grant proposal for research into telecommuting**
  - Plan to submit proposal in February '02
  - Research underway
  - Chair: Jodie Gilmore, with Cynthia Lockley, Linda Bell, Anke Harris, and Dan Voss
  - Status: On track

Continued...



# SNC Plans

- **Explore acquiring a Web analysis tool to study traffic on our site**
  - Status: Not started
- **Consider getting a listserv set up for committee**
  - Status: Not started
- **Continue to pursue objectives and sub-objectives in STC Strategic Plan... details under “Look-Ahead” report**



# SNC Roster

Dan Voss, Mgr	Orlando Chapter	daniel.w.voss@lmco.com
Judy Skinner, Mgr Emeritus	Lone Star Chapter	jnskinn@attglobal.net
Jodie Gilmore	Willamette Valley Chapter	kgilmor@pacifier.com
Mark Hanigan	Suncoast Chapter	stcboard@aol.com
Anke Harris	UK Chapter	ankeharris@compuserve.com
George Hoerter	Rocky Mountain Chapter	ghoerter@worldnet.att.net
Connie Kiernan	Washington, D. C. Chapter	connie.kiernan@att.net
Gail Lippincott	Lone Star Chapter	rglsolutions2@earthlink.net
Cynthia Lockley	Washington, D. C. Chapter	lockley@lockley.net
Suzanne Lowing	New Jersey Chapter	slowing@aol.com
Andrew Malcolm	Rochester Chapter	a0mnce@rit.edu
Helen Marty	Southern Arizona Chapter	helen.marty@sunquest.com
Gloria Reece	Atlanta Chapter	gareece@bellsouth.net
Karen Steele	Lone Star Chapter	ksteele@metasolve.com
Fabien Vais	Montreal Chapter	phantoms@total.net
Carolyn Watt	Toronto Chapter	cwatt@carolynwatt.com
Steve Madison	Chicago Chapter	stevegm54@aol.com
Lori Gillen	Boston Chapter	lori.gillen@iMcKesson.com





# A Word from Judy...

***As outgoing manager, I want to thank the Society for the opportunity to establish the Special Needs Committee and be its first manager. The committee is strong, and I believe it will become even stronger in the coming year.***



***A Look Ahead...***



# Main STC Strategic Plan for 2000-2005

- **Objective 5: Provide information and resources to support communicators with special needs\* as well as to better serve end-users with special needs.**

**\* Special needs are defined as physical or mental disabilities that impair a technical communicator's ability to practice the profession or impair an end user's ability to receive the information in technical communication products.**

***The SNC has strong support from Society leadership.***



# Strategy 1: Finding Information

- **Objective 5.1: Research and define the relationship of special needs to the practice of technical communication, considering both practitioners and end-users.**
- 5.1.1: Research, compile, and report demographic data on the prevalence of specific disabilities in the STC membership, in the profession, and in the end-user community. Professional Development (Special Needs), Office/01-02
- 5.1.2: Using the outcome of this research, develop specific recommendations to guide the STC's strategic planning and activities in the area of special needs. Professional Development (Special Needs), Administration/01-02
- 5.1.3: For each disability, identify methodologies and technologies that can help technical communicators with that need gain employment and practice their craft. Professional Development (Special Needs)/01-02

*Continued...*



# Strategy 1: Finding Information

- **Objective 5.1: Research and define the relationship of special needs to the practice of technical communications, considering both practitioners and end-users.**
- 5.1.4: For each disability, identify methodologies and technologies that technical communicators can use to make information more accessible to users with that need. Professional Development (Special Needs)/03-04
- 5.1.5: Study the potential use of methods, such as telecommuting, for enhancing the employability of technical communicators with disabilities that limit travel. Professional Development (Special Needs)/02-03

***Information + Strategic Focus = Knowledge***



## Strategy 2: Sharing Information

- **Strategy 5.2: Heighten awareness of, and make information available about, special needs in technical communication.**

- 5.2.1: Develop and maintain online repositories, such as a database and an online forum, where technical communicators can obtain resources pertaining to special needs. Professional Development (Special Needs)/01-02
  - URL = [www.stcregion.org/special\\_needs/index.shtml](http://www.stcregion.org/special_needs/index.shtml)
- 5.2.2: Publish articles in internal forums such as *Intercom*, SIG newsletters, and chapter newsletters. Professional Development (Special Needs)/00-01
- 5.2.3: Provide guidance to STC leaders concerning the ethics and management of special needs through articles in *Tieline*. Professional Development (Special Needs)/00-01

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## Strategy 2: Sharing Information

- **Strategy 5.2: Heighten awareness of, and make information available about, special needs in technical communication.**
- 5.2.4: Publish articles in professional trade journals and in the journals and newsletters of other professional associations.  
Professional Development (Special Needs)/02-03
- 5.2.5: Develop presentations for regional and international STC conferences.  
Professional Development, Conferences/00-01
- 5.2.6: Encourage chapters to hold meetings devoted to the topic of special needs; develop a turnkey graphical or multimedia presentation and identify qualified speakers. Professional Development, Chapter Affairs/01-02

***Knowledge + Sharing = Progress***



# The Story of the Starfish



*Help Us Make a Difference.*