

Meetings at a glance

—by *Dianne Moscrip, Staff Writer*

October meeting

How high tech!

At the October 15 STC meeting, we connected via computer to Hans Fenstermacher, President of ArchiText Inc., in Boston, Massachusetts. Hans discussed content globalization and localization, which is the idea of writing content for a global audience rather than a local one.

Face it — the Internet has changed the way we write. Would a global audience read our content differently than a local one? Would our writing change? Hans outlined issues around creating content using our current linear content deployment process, and questioned whether this process was working effectively for us.

Should we be more focused on quality, usability, or cost when attempting to improve our documentation processes? Hans then brought us through an editing exercise which demonstrated effective ways to reduce wordiness, improve readability, enhance content structure, and measure your company's return on investment for translation costs.


November meeting

At the November 19 meeting, Kendra Sivertson and Andy Freeman of Freedom 55 Financial offered tips for financial planning in a volatile job market. Specifically, they made recommendations for full-time writers versus contractors. Each position requires slightly different thinking in order to manage your money wisely. For contractors, Andy recommended looking into segregated funds, which are... well, you should probably ask your financial planner.

Andy and Kendra talked about the different types of investments and outlined which ones best suit your age and life goals. They also explained how to choose a financial

planner, made some recommendations on maintaining stable finances, talked about money management and retirement planning, and briefly reviewed income replacement scenarios.

One tip Andy and Kendra recommended was to visit the Mackenzie Financial Web site (www.mackenziefinancial.com) and use the RRSP calculator to figure out how much money you need to save between today and the day you retire. Happy saving!

Call Andy Freeman or Kendra Sivertson at 604-685-6521 for more information. 


Insurance tips

— by *Anne Odell*

From time to time we get inquiries about health and disability insurance for technical communication freelancers and consultants. The STC Eastern Ontario chapter has done a bit of research in this area and has negotiated an insurance package aimed specifically at Canadian STC members. If you are interested in finding out more, here are some resources for you:

"Eastern Ontario Chapter launches insurance plan for Canadian STC members," page 6 of Summer 2002 issue of Canadian SIGnals (www.stcsig.org/canadian/Newsletter.htm)

"New Canadian insurance plan," page 8 of May 2002 issue of Eastern Ontario chapter newsletter Stimulus (www.stceo.org/Stimulus/2002/May2002.pdf)

The Baird Benefits Plus presentation on the G.R. Baird Insurance Web site (www.grbairdfinancial.com/beneflex.htm) 

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