

# Taking the “Dis” Out of “Disabilities”: Special Needs SIG Seeks Support

Just a reminder as the STC membership renewal process creeps up on its February 28 deadline ... the Society’s newest SIG, the Special Needs SIG, is still looking for new members to support them in their twin mission to assist technical communicators with disabilities in the practice of our profession and to provide all technical communicators with information that will help them make our communication products more accessible to users with disabilities. A detailed mission statement is available at the Web site.

The SNSIG has already made significant progress: a comprehensive Web site (see <http://www.stcsig.org/sn/index.shtml>); an online newsletter (first edition is posted at <http://www.stcsig.org/sn/newsletter.shtml>); and extensive support to the 49<sup>th</sup> STC Conference, including publication of *Guidelines for Persons with Special Needs* and an *Addendum* thereto, a successful progression, and several articles in the *Proceedings* (conference materials available at <http://www.stc-orlando.org/prodev/49notes/SNC.asp>).

But there is much yet to do, and to accomplish it, the SNSIG needs more people. It is looking both for Active members, to join their initiatives; and Patrons, whose affiliation will help the SIG secure the budget it needs to fulfill its objectives.

If you wish to support the Special Needs SIG, you have two options: (1) If you have not yet submitted your STC membership renewal, simply check the SNSIG box when you do. (2) If you have already submitted your STC membership renewal, download the SIG sign-up form from [http://www.stc.org/PDF\\_Files/sigform.pdf](http://www.stc.org/PDF_Files/sigform.pdf) and submit it directly to the Society Office. In either case, in order to be added to the SNSIG’s newsletter and/or listserv without delay, contact [daniel.w.voss@lmco.com](mailto:daniel.w.voss@lmco.com) or [jvinegar@myranch.com](mailto:jvinegar@myranch.com).



## Kudos for Handbook Effort

The Society extends its heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to the revision of the *Special Interest Group Handbook*. In 2001, the handbook was updated and re-designed by students of Thomas Barker, advisor for the Texas Tech University student chapter: Gillian Anderson, Dan Lu, Russell Willerton, and Susan Youngblood. Thanks to their hard work, the latest edition of the handbook features a more readable layout and many other improvements.

Last year, the handbook project was accepted into the Pro Bono Program of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the American Society of Indexers, which matches qualified beginning indexers with non-profit organizations that need indexes. Experienced indexers serve as reviewers to ensure the quality of the final index. The program benefits non-profits by providing free indexing work, and allows ASI members to gain experience on real projects. Through the hard work of ASI members Melody Englund, who prepared the index, and Cheryl Landes, who mentored and assisted Melody, the *Special Interest Group Handbook* now features a professional-quality index. Many thanks to Melody and Cheryl for a job well done, and to ASI’s Pacific Northwest chapter for providing such a useful program.

A PDF version of the *Special Interest Group Handbook* is available online at [www.stc.org/admin\\_docs.asp](http://www.stc.org/admin_docs.asp). For more information on ASI, visit [www.asindexing.org](http://www.asindexing.org). For information on ASI’s Pacific Northwest chapter and its Pro Bono Program, visit [www.indexw.com/pnwasi](http://www.indexw.com/pnwasi).