

General Delivery

From the President

Mimi Jett

Greetings, fellow TUG members!

As this is the first issue of 2000, originally scheduled for March 30, I was going to write an “April Fools” piece to follow Richard Kinch’s joke last year that Dr. Knuth had sold the rights to \TeX to Microsoft. Amazingly, Richard’s article was picked up and reprinted all over the world. Many took it seriously, possibly because of the outstanding journalistic style, or maybe it was the fear of your worst nightmare coming true. In any case, it was a good joke and I applaud Richard Kinch for sharing his humor. My little joke was to be about a brand new LUG called TUNA (\TeX Users of North America). Conversations about TUG being an umbrella organization for worldwide LUGs have gone on as long as I can remember. Some people think we need a separate organization for the USA and Canada, so this was a great opportunity to have some fun with it. But seriously, TUG is for everyone, wherever they live. Finding enough volunteers to staff another organization would be difficult, not to mention expensive. More importantly, there is no need. I personally feel that we are doing a good job for all of our members in more than 60 countries.

Now that we are well into the year 2000, I am not going to pretend it is March 30 even though that is the target publication date for this issue. We are extremely late, not due to any shortcomings of our Editor or Production Manager, but simply because we need an ample supply of good articles to publish. For some reason, the flow of new material has slowed down, making it difficult to publish a meaningful journal with scarce new content. Please, if you have been thinking of contributing, or have something interesting to share with the \TeX community, make it a priority to write the article (or book review, or hints & tips, or whatever) and forward it to our Editor, Barbara Beeton (bnb@ams.org). If only 5% of our members contribute, we will have enough new material to carry us for a year.

In this issue you will find the latest \TeX Live CD containing more \TeX and related tools than you will find anywhere else. This distribution is a benefit

of membership, we hope you find it useful and valuable. There is a one-page introduction, followed by a listing of the CTAN Catalogue, by Graham Williams, indicating which items are present on the CD, and which you will have to look for on CTAN. Please let us know what you think. Send your comments to board@tug.org.

Another benefit we are working on providing is training. This is easily the most requested service we can offer. Our goal is to provide regularly scheduled seminars, probably twice each year in America as well as in Europe. Working with the LUGs around the world, we are developing a prospectus of courses which will be taught by seasoned professionals. From basic introduction to advanced programming and even working with MathML, TUG will provide a series that every user can learn from. If you have ideas, enthusiasm, or time to help, please contact our Office Manager, Robin Laakso, (office@tug.org) or our Program Chair, Susan DeMeritt, (sue@ccrwest.org).

Since I have already admitted that it isn’t March any more, I will forgo inviting you to the annual conference in Oxford. It was an impressive meeting, with great presentations and stellar organization. But I am getting ahead of myself here; you will have to wait a little bit for the proceedings issue, which will be coming soon. Also coming soon will be the next issue of *TUGboat* which will contain the 3-CD set of the CTAN archives. This is yet another benefit of membership that you will certainly enjoy.

Finally, a note of thanks to all of our members, past and present. Last year at the meeting in Vancouver, we set a goal of “2000 members by 2000” which was accomplished late in 1999. By joining TUG and contributing to our publications and projects, you are contributing to a worldwide consortium and expanding knowledge base dedicated to mathematics and science and other disciplines that can benefit from capable publishing tools. Thank you, members!

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