

General Delivery

From the President

Karl Berry

TUG board and election

As I write this in May 2005, the postmark deadline for the first TUG election for president in many years is almost here, with Lance Carnes and myself as the candidates. We expect the election results to be known by the time of the Practical T_EX 2005 conference in Chapel Hill, North Carolina this June.

No matter the outcome of the election, I am honored to have served as president these past two years, and am happy that TUG members actually have a choice in this election, instead of the president being selected by “default”. Thanks to Lance for having the interest and inclination to get involved.

As with the last several election cycles, there were fewer candidates for the board than positions available. As president, I therefore appointed the incoming candidates immediately, as is traditional. I would like to welcome our two newest board members: Klaus Höppner and Dave Walden.

Klaus is also the vice-president of DANTE e.V. and so brings a wealth of cross-continental information and initiatives. We’re very happy to have him join us, as the T_EX user groups worldwide work more closely together than ever.

Dave is a long-time worker in computers, including a long stint at Bolt, Beranek, and Newman during the time of primary Internet development, as programmer, technical manager, and ending as general manager. He thus brings enormous management and organizational expertise to TUG, along with plenty of programming and writing skills.

More information about all the board members can be found in the election report elsewhere in this issue of *TUGboat*, and online at <http://tug.org/board.html>.

New TUG initiatives in 2004

First, TUG launched an online publication, *The PracT_EX Journal*, with Lance Carnes as editor-in-chief. Two issues have been published to date and are available now on the TUG web site, at <http://tug.org/pracjourn>. As you might guess from the name, *TPJ* focuses on short, timely, and practical pieces, and thus complements *TUGboat*.

Many people contributed to making *TPJ* a reality; the web pages have the full list of the organiz-

ing board, as well as (of course) the authors, without whom there would be nothing to publish. Still, I’d like to especially thank Lance for his efforts in bringing this to fruition, and Dave Walden, for his extensive work writing the (Perl) program which generates the published web pages.

Second, another new feature on the TUG web site is the Interview Corner. This was conceived by Dave Walden (thanks again, Dave) as a way to record some of the community history, and get to know some of the individuals so important to T_EX and TUG over the years. He’s interviewed many notables already, including Robin Fairbairns, George Grätzer, and Christina Thiele. Dave welcomes feedback on the interviews, suggestions for future interviewees, and also other interviewers. Check out the web pages at <http://tug.org/interviews>.

Lastly, I’m happy to report that TUG and the WinEdt team have begun a program whereby TUG now offers WinEdt licenses at a substantial discount to TUG members, following a similar agreement between WinEdt and DANTE. My thanks to Steve Peter, Klaus Höppner, and the WinEdt folks for the idea and execution of this, and to Robin Laakso in the TUG office for taking on yet another task with enthusiasm. More information and the order form are available at <http://tug.org/winedt>.

TUG futures

TUG’s longstanding activities also continue: *TUGboat*, software, and conferences. With this issue, *TUGboat* will essentially be once again current, after several years of work catching up. The next issues, for the 2005 volume, will (barring disaster) be published in 2005. Barbara Beeton discusses this further in her editorial.

On the software front, work on T_EX Live 2005 is proceeding. We will also distribute an update for proT_EXt, the Windows distribution based on MiK_T_EX which we distributed in 2004 for the first time. Thanks to Thomas Feuerstack and Christian Schenk for making that possible.

And we’ve sponsored Practical T_EX conferences in 2004 and 2005 in the United States, as well as the annual conferences (this year in historic Wuhan, China, <http://tug.org/tug2005>).

Despite these new and ongoing activities, our membership is down around 10% in 2004 (see the financial report in this issue for more details). If you are taking the trouble to read this, you are likely one of TUG’s many long-time supporters — thanks. If TUG is to remain viable over the long term, clearly we must find ways to attract and retain more members; the overwhelming majority (around 80%) of

funding for TUG activities comes from membership dues.

In turn, this presumably means keeping T_EX itself vibrant and growing. TUG is, after all, the T_EX *users* group, an organization of, by, and for T_EX users, not a big for-profit company or government institution handing down pronouncements about how things must be.

So if you have ideas for or interest in promoting or developing T_EX and friends, or have thought of other projects useful to the community that TUG might undertake, please don't hesitate to contact the full board (board@tug.org) or myself. Thanks for your support, and happy T_EXing.

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