

## General Delivery

### From the Board of Directors

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TUG Vice President

Editor's note: Although this issue of *TUGboat* has a cover date of December 2001, we're including this news as of the printing date, June 2003, in the interest of timely communication.

Greetings!

As of June 2003 the T<sub>E</sub>X Users Group has made significant progress working on problems of long standing, yet the changing times have brought us new challenges.

Here are some of the matters that have been effectively addressed.

- The TUG office is now competently run.

In July 1997, the TUG office was moved to its present location in Portland, Oregon, from San Francisco, California. Changes in location were stressful, but far more disruptive were four complete changes in office staff in the period March 1997–September 1998.

A further change was made at the beginning of 2000, when our managing consultant Richard Detwiler hired the current office manager, Robin Laakso. By dint of hard work, volunteer help, and aided by part-time employee Janice Carter, our accounting books are up to date, our member database is correct, and needed reports are being provided to the Board of Directors. In short, the office is well run.

It has long been recognized that the office manager, as the sole person paid to be concerned full time with TUG affairs, is at the heart of TUG. The Board is very pleased with Robin's performance and is committed to supporting her. It is a pleasure to work with her.

- The T<sub>E</sub>X Live and the Dante CTAN CD-ROMs now ship on time.

TUG's software offerings, updated yearly, used to be inserted into *TUGboat*, but are now shipped separately as they become available. The change reflects the fact that TUG members now perceive the CDs as a primary benefit of membership.

- TUG is a key player in T<sub>E</sub>X's Internet presence.

Thanks to a generous donation by Dante e.V. in 1996, TUG reinstated a North American node of the Comprehensive T<sub>E</sub>X Archive Network (CTAN), first

created by TUG member George Greenwade at Sam Houston State University, joining those in the UK ([cam.ctan.org](http://cam.ctan.org)) and Germany ([dante.ctan.org](http://dante.ctan.org)). TUG purchased new hardware for [tug.ctan.org](http://tug.ctan.org), since 2001 run by volunteer and TUG member Jim Hefferon (Saint Michael's College, Colchester, Vermont).

TUG also participates in the creation of T<sub>E</sub>X Live through its host [tug.org](http://tug.org) (run by volunteer and TUG director Kaja Christiansen, University of Århus), as well as substantial efforts by many individual TUG members.

TUG hosts a number of T<sub>E</sub>X-related email lists by means of which volunteers coordinate their efforts in projects such as T<sub>E</sub>X Live, Web2C, LaTeX2HTML, `texd`, `pdftex`. In 2003, the original and still very much living T<sub>E</sub>X list `texhax` moved to [tug.org](http://tug.org). Archives and subscription information reside at <http://tug.org/mailman/listinfo/texhax>.

Finally, TUG supports T<sub>E</sub>X user groups worldwide by selling to them, at cost, the T<sub>E</sub>X Live CD-ROM. TUG provides this service to anyone wishing to purchase the CD in bulk.

In the future, your TUG membership will continue to support these activities with needed hardware purchases. And TUG is pleased to note that TUG members are among the many volunteers who work on CTAN, T<sub>E</sub>X Live, and the many other T<sub>E</sub>X-oriented projects and mailing lists, all devoted to helping T<sub>E</sub>X users.

- TUG membership has recovered from its decline.

TUG members numbered about 1400 in 1997, the culmination of a gradually increasing slide starting about 1990. TUG membership has been stable for the last few years at about 2000.

The cause of the decline is not well understood, but my belief is that the cause of its reversal is the T<sub>E</sub>X Live CD-ROM. TUG shipped T<sub>E</sub>X Live 2 to all members in 1997 and has continued to do so each year since. The Dante CTAN CD-ROM was added as a benefit of membership in 1998.

- *TUGboat* now has a paid Managing Editor.

At its meeting in 2001, the TUG Board of Directors designated Robin Laakso as the *TUGboat* Managing Editor. As such, she assists Editor Barbara Beeton and the *TUGboat* Production Team in producing our journal. The hope is that *TUGboat* operations will benefit from the involvement of a designated managing editor, at the same time being more accountable and visible to the board.

This has proven to be the case, as three issues (counting this one) have shipped since February

2003. Also, there has proven to be a very useful synergy between Robin's work as TUG's office manager, and as *TUGboat's* managing editor.

- TUG's IRS status has changed to 501(C)(3).

Up until recently, TUG's status vis à vis the US Internal Revenue Service had been 501(C)(6). As such TUG was a non-profit, but not considered a charitable organization: donations to TUG were not tax deductible.

Several years ago, TUG President Mimi Jett initiated an attempt to change our IRS status. Working with an attorney, we successfully applied to the IRS for the change; as of February 25, 2003, TUG was granted 501(C)(3) status, retroactive to September 10, 2002, to be reviewed in five years. (Please see <http://tug.org/tax-exempt>.)

The expected benefits are high: as a charitable organization, TUG is now much more likely to receive donations in money or in kind, since such donations would generally be tax-deductible (in the USA). The new status also makes it easier for corporate employees to attend our conferences.

Expect to see more about this in future *TUGboat* columns.

- T<sub>E</sub>X Users Group now supports technical development financially.

A recent initiative by TUG's Technical Council was to propose the formation of a T<sub>E</sub>X Development Fund. Now approved by the TUG Board, the Fund will award stipends to projects that will benefit T<sub>E</sub>X users; see <http://tug.org/tc/devfund/>. The Development Fund awarded its first round of grants in March 2003; a report will be printed in a future *TUGboat*.

### New challenges face TUG

- *TUGboat* articles and conference papers are increasingly difficult to get.

Reports from both *TUGboat* editors and conference program committees agree that it is much more difficult to find the material to publish or present.

*TUGboat* had noted the developing problem as early as 1997. And as recently as 2000, conference papers seemed to be in abundance, but there appears to have been a shift here as well.

Notwithstanding, our efforts at soliciting material have had some success. About half the articles in this issue come from solicitations to authors making CTAN uploads. Volunteers to help with this (and other *TUGboat* work) would be most welcome, please email [tugboat@tug.org](mailto:tugboat@tug.org) if you'd like to help.

- *TUGboat* continues to publish, but about 12 months late.

Over the past five years, *TUGboat's* production schedule has slipped to the point where it now ships about 12 months late. Some attribute the problem to the lack of papers submitted.

The TUG Business Committee recently approved a plan to combine *TUGboat* issues 1 and 2 into one printed issue; the first of these was Volume 21, Number 1/2, mailed out earlier this year. The expected benefit of this decision was to help bring *TUGboat* back on schedule. The TUG Board has recently passed on a motion to reduce the number of *TUGboat* issues from four to three, formalizing this change.

We expect the second and third *TUGboat* issues of 2002 to also be combined into a double issue, and we are now printing conference issues as they are produced (out of sequence). We hope that prompt publication of conference proceedings will be welcomed by our members.

- TUG membership has stagnated.

I noted above that TUG's membership has remained steady at about 2000 for a few years. This is better than a decline, but by comparison to, e.g., the German users group (at about 2200 members), it is certainly nothing to be complacent about.

In many respects, TUG is at an understandable disadvantage relative to some of the other user groups. But I think that TUG can improve its membership numbers. The Board has discussed forming a Membership Committee to do further work along these lines.

Earlier in 2003, we mailed a survey to 2001 members who did not renew in 2002. The results indicated that the biggest reason for non-renewal was lateness of *TUGboat*, which we are addressing as best we can, as indicated above.

- Relations with European T<sub>E</sub>X groups must be reviewed.

Volker Schaa, president of our sister organization in Germany, Dante e.V., wrote in May 2002 and again in October 2002 to the TUG Board of Directors with concerns shared by T<sub>E</sub>X user groups in Europe. He questioned the value of joint memberships and notified us of the European groups' intention to cooperate with each other on T<sub>E</sub>X conferences in future.

Also, Volker tells us that the European user groups have formulated a plan to hold joint conferences in Europe (EuroT<sub>E</sub>X) every year for the next five years. In the recent past, TUG has held conferences in Europe at Dubna (1996), Toruń (1998),

and Oxford (2000). The arrangement in future will probably have to change, given that the EU funding agency will require the conference to be that of a European group, not TUG.

Since fall 2002, we have been in communication with the European (and other) user groups, and have established grounds for cooperation on conference scheduling, technical development, and other matters.

### TUG 2003 elections

Spring 2003 saw the election of a new president, longtime Director Karl Berry, and new members, Samuel Rhoads and Gerree Pecht, to the TUG Board of Directors. More information is at <http://tug.org/election/2003/results.html>.

The TUG Board is the steward of the organization, overseeing operations, addressing problems, implementing solutions, donating labor, expertise, enthusiasm, and support. At all times, we bear in mind the charter of the T<sub>E</sub>X Users Group: to encourage the use of T<sub>E</sub>X (and related programs) and to support T<sub>E</sub>X users.

### TUG 2003 in Hawai'i

The 25th annual TUG Conference and Annual General Meeting will be held July 20–24, 2003, at the Outrigger Waikoloa Beach Resort, Hawai'i. This event is already shaping up to be one of the most memorable conferences we have ever held, with special guest Duane Bibby, other eminent speakers, and exciting talks, all taking place at what must be the most lovely location around, the Kohala Coast of the Big Island of Hawai'i.

Please refer to the conference's web page at <http://tug.org/tug2003> for details and on-line registration form.

Are you interested in presenting your work in T<sub>E</sub>X at one of our conferences? Please see <http://tug.org/tug2004>.

### Your help is needed

Because TUG is an organization of volunteers, all of the benefits to our members come through the actions of people like you. Please consider how you can help the T<sub>E</sub>X community!

- If you use T<sub>E</sub>X in the workplace, perhaps your employer would like to become an institutional member or a sponsor.
- If you use T<sub>E</sub>X professionally, or know others who do so, please remember that TUG provides key support for the creation and manufacture of the T<sub>E</sub>X Live CD-ROM. Encourage people who use T<sub>E</sub>X to look into the benefits of T<sub>E</sub>X Live.

- If you know of or have helped develop an application of T<sub>E</sub>X software, please consider writing a paper for *TUGboat* or presenting a paper at a T<sub>E</sub>X-related conference.
- Consider donating some of your time to helping TUG put on conferences and training classes or publish *TUGboat*.
- If you are writing or producing a book using T<sub>E</sub>X, please mention that fact in the colophon or acknowledgements, to help spread the word.
- For those with a technical bent, please help with the T<sub>E</sub>X Live ([texlive@tug.org](mailto:texlive@tug.org)) and CTAN projects. While not TUG-specific activities, both CTAN and T<sub>E</sub>X Live are run entirely by volunteers, most of them members of T<sub>E</sub>X user groups, and we support them wholeheartedly. T<sub>E</sub>X Live in particular needs help with its installer and its documentation.
- If you have any ideas for encouraging the use of T<sub>E</sub>X or developing TUG membership, please bring them forward.

The TUG board welcomes your input or questions at any time. Please contact us by email at [board@tug.org](mailto:board@tug.org).

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