

Edition

The newsletter for members of the Editors' Association of Canada, Toronto branch

September 2003

Setting EAC's Long-Term Goals

Program Report

How does one get the attention of a roomful of editors? Tell them they have the opportunity to be involved with change and have a say in how that change can benefit an organization they value highly.



Arranged in workgroups, attendees of the Long-Term Goal-Setting meeting listen intently to inspirational comments from assistant program chair Ken Weinberg (standing).

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On May 26, the EAC Toronto branch opened its meeting to member interactivity, as the National Long-Term Goal-Setting Session got underway.

“Steer this ship to new horizons,” advised assistant program chair Ken Weinberg, before the meeting began. And that seemed to be the main intention of editors at the meeting, which was held at the Women’s Art Association meeting room.

Members broke up into groups of five or six, and made thoughtful suggestions for changes and improvements regarding the organization’s future, including national promotion of the organization, improvement of communication between branches, the establishment of a national French-language branch, and a mentoring program for new editors.

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seemingly endless suggestions, was highly beneficial for the evening's progress. Each group came up with many ideas, and some group lists had nearly 25 suggestions. After coffee and sandwiches, it was time to do what the members do best—edit—in order to cut the lists down to about 10 items. Every editor got three votes to go toward his or her top picks for future EAC goals, and many items were chosen unanimously.

A List of Ideas Emerges

After the vote, there were approximately 30 items to be handed up to the national executive for consideration. The following is a list of some of the issues, concerns, and suggestions that arose during the evening:

- Implement certification



- Work to increase editing fees
- Raise the level of respect for editors, editing, and EAC
- Promote fair and prompt payment for editors
- Offer more mid-career professional development
- Offer more services for experienced, in-house editors
- Improve inter-branch communication and between EAC and other associations
- Increase networking opportunities within and outside

the organization

- Diversify the Canadian voice in editing by encouraging editors in other media and languages to join EAC
- Bring in outsiders to get to know EAC and its members
- Establish more branches and better support the “twigs”
- Better serve editors who work for non-traditional publishers
- Develop Canadian copy editing and proofreading textbooks
- Improve benefits and discounts for editors
- Do a show-and-tell exercise, like an internal trade fair
- Launch a national and branch ad campaign to raise awareness of EAC
- Help editors to better deal with industry changes
- Provide a grievance process (member to member, member to EAC, etc.)
- Provide more assistance for editors looking for work

Voices Have Been Heard

As the meeting's end drew near, Oelrichs was enthusiastically applauded and there was a sense of satisfaction (and relief) in the room. It will take time to finalize the contents of the list, but Toronto branch members—and those of other branches taking part in the same exercise—should rest assured that their voices have been heard.

“It all depends on what happens next,” said Oelrichs. **E**

Nathan Taylor is a member of the EAC Toronto branch.

Setting Goals *from page 1*

Jon Oelrichs, facilitator for the evening, said it is vital that EAC members make their voices heard.

“It’s really important that the issues raised here are conveyed to the national executive and that there is an appropriate response,” he said.

Those hopeful responses are currently in the works, including establishing e-forums and special interest groups, doing fundraising for the association, having standard business cards for EAC members, and organizing more group activities like the one that took place at the May meeting.

Facilitator Kept Things Rolling

Having a trained facilitator weaving through the crowded room, overseeing and overhearing an array of