

Grace Darling, MS, ELS  
*Editor*

Susan E. Aiello, DVM, ELS  
*Design and Page Layout*

Karen L. Klein, ELS  
*Proofreader*

Shirley Peterson, MS, ELS  
*Newsletter Staff Contributor*

Kendall W. Sterling, ELS  
*News Reporter*

DIRECT ALL NEWSLETTER  
CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
GRACE DARLING  
411 NORTH WASHINGTON,  
SUITE 6900, LB15  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75246

214-824-0154  
214-824-0463 FAX

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Thanks to *Gil Croome, Shirley Peterson, Karen Klein, Barbara Reschke, and Judy Fauls* for their suggestions of items to include in the newsletter. Don't be discouraged if your piece is not in this issue; copyright permission is still pending, the copy was not written on time, or we just ran out of room. Look for it in a future issue.

## Organizational Structure of BELS

- **Executive Council**

Norman Grossblatt, *Director*  
Gillian Brown, *Executive Secretary*  
Martha Brookes, *Treasurer*  
Gilbert Croome  
Susan Eastwood

Carol Kakalec  
Walter Pagel  
Frances Porcher  
Bobbie Reitt  
Martha Tacker

Ann Donaldson, *Assistant to the Executive Secretary*

- **Budget and Finance Committee** - Chaired by Martha Brookes (Treasurer), committee member Shirley Peterson (Assistant Treasurer)

**The committee shall:**

- prepare a budget for the forthcoming year
- make financial recommendations to the Executive Committee.

- **Nominations and Election Committee** - Chaired by Gil Croome (Secretary for Nominations), committee member Bill Carman

**The committee shall:**

- solicit nominations for officers and councilors from BELS active members
- evaluate candidates and confirm their willingness to serve
- nominate officers and councilors
- organize and carry out elections of officers and councilors
- supervise functions necessary to perpetuate BELS

- **Certification Examination Development Committee** - Chaired by Walter Pagel (Secretary for Certification Examination Development), committee members Grace Darling, Carol Kakalec, Della Mundy, Karen Phillips, and Chris Wogan

**The committee shall:**

- continually review and update the examinations, evaluation materials, and preparatory materials for certification
- continually evaluate the specifications and guidelines for rating candidates for certification
- evaluate the need for additional examinations and questions
  - in consultation with the Executive Council, oversee the creation and validation of new examination materials
  - survey BELS members for new examination materials

[Note: Any member of BELS can, and is expected to, submit material for developing questions.]

- **Diplomate Examination Development Committee** - Chaired by Susan Eastwood (Secretary for Diplomate Examination Development), committee member Martha Brookes

*The committee shall:*

- continually review and update the examinations, evaluation materials, and preparatory materials for diplomate status
- continually evaluate the specifications and guidelines for rating candidates for diplomate status
- evaluate the need for additional examinations and questions
- in consultation with the Executive Council, oversee the creation and validation of new examination materials
- survey members for new examination materials

- **Examination Administration Committee** - Chaired by Bobbie Reitt (Secretary for Examination Administration), committee member Claudette Reed Upton

*The committee shall:*

- assign examiners
- produce or order adequate preparatory and examination materials
- oversee the scheduling, location, and administration of certification examinations
- receive and review applications and determine and notify applicants of eligibility
- arrange for proctoring of certification examinations
- receive certification examination scores and notify candidates of certification or rejection
- receive portfolios from diplomate candidates and distribute them to examiners
- assess the need for additional examiners, presenting data and recommendations to the Executive Council

- **Subcommittee on Public and Member Relations** - Chaired by Karen Phillips, subcommittee members Susan Aiello, Grace Darling (Newsletter Editor), Karen Klein, and Kendall Sterling

- **Appeals Committee** - Chaired by Martha Tacker (Secretary for Appeals), committee members Jonathan Briggs, Gillian Brown, Frances Porcher, and Elizabeth Rockwell

*The committee shall:*

- receive, hear, and recommend to the Executive Council disposition of appeals regarding eligibility, candidacy, certification, or diplomate status
- receive, hear, and decide appeals of decisions for removal of councilors from office
- receive, hear, and decide cases for rescinding certification or diplomate status

**From the Diplomate Examination Development Committee:**

The procedures for achieving Diplomate status are being pilot-tested and should be in place by early 1994. The Diplomate "exam" will probably consist of a portfolio review and a proctored test and look like this: The portfolio will contain previous editorial work, including "before" and "after" copy and tabular and graphic material. In addition, the applicant is to submit two short essays on subjects related to the editing profession. The topic of one essay is taken from a prepared list, the other may be of the applicant's own choice.

Some time after the portfolio has been reviewed and approved, there will be a 3-hour written test one morning in which the applicant will be asked to shorten an abstract and edit a short scientific text. That afternoon the applicant will be asked to read a paper and make notes on its organization, content, style, deficiencies and strengths, and suggestions for improvement. During the final hour, the applicant will go over these points with the examiners as if discussing them with the author.

Details regarding application submissions, fees, guidelines for portfolio preparation, and testing arrangements will be available in a few months. Only BELS members can apply for Diplomate status - one more reason to become certified. Good luck!

## Name the Newsletter!

The following were submitted as potential names of the BELS Newsletter, and I would welcome further ideas and your help in choosing one:

The Tintinnabulation of BELS  
 The Chimes  
 The BELlowS  
 The Clapper  
 BELS Canon  
 BELS Letter

BELLEs Lettres  
 The Ringing BELS  
 The DeciBELS  
 The Peal  
 The Tolling BELS  
 In Harmony



### Reminders

**radiation** - electromagnetic waves given off from some source

**irradiation** - treatment by ionizing radiation.

Some materials are radioactive and can be used in radiotherapy. Patients are irradiated or subjected to therapeutic irradiation.

osseo- [L. from *os, ossa*] = bone

osteo- [G. from *osteon*] = bone

These combining forms can be used interchangeably; take care not to mix derivations when attaching the second member of the compound. Thus,

osteochondral [*osteo-* + Gr. *chondros* cartilage]

osseocartilaginous [*osseo-* + L. *cartilago* cartilage]

### News From Members

**Bill Carman**, ELS, has been appointed to a new position in the restructured Public Information Program of the International Development Research Centre. Bill's new position - Senior Science Writer/Editor, IDRC Books - will combine the roles of acquisitions editor and freelance supervisor.

**Gil Croome**, ELS(D), is leaving the International Development Research Centre after 12 years of service in a number of capacities. Beginning in August, Gil embarked on a new and exciting journey as a freelance editor (Dead Line Editing). We all wish Gil much success in his new career so that he may continue to finance his close involvement with BELS!

### New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Board of Editors in the Life Sciences:



Janice Anderson  
 Denise Felton Bryant  
 Cynthia B. Chapman  
 Mary P. Collet  
 Sandra Segna Ernst  
 Judy Fauls  
 Faith McLellan  
 Lora T. Messing  
 Carol I. Pyle  
 Sara Wuest Staples  
 G. Lynn Starr  
 Audrey D. St. Jean  
 Catherine Gontrum Tibbitts  
 Retta West Whinnery

### 1993/1994 BELS Examination Schedule

Cities and dates of future examinations for BELS certification are as follows:

October 27, 1993	—	Atlanta, GA
March 12, 1994*	—	San Francisco, CA
March 12, 1994*	—	Washington, DC/Baltimore, MD
April 23, 1994	—	Budapest, Hungary
May 14, 1994	—	Quebec City, Ontario, Canada
June 11, 1994	—	New York, NY
June 11, 1994	—	Chicago, IL
June 11, 1994	—	New Orleans, LA
November 2, 1994	—	Phoenix, AZ
November 2, 1994	—	London, England

Tests will be held 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. except those marked with an asterisk, which will be held 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. Registration deadline is 2 weeks before the scheduled date of the examination.

**Some Thoughts About Authorship**

Excerpted with permission from "Authorship: The Listing," by Eugene H. Courtiss, M.D., which appeared in *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* 89:538, 1992.

A manuscript should be considered a creative achievement to which every author should have contributed substantially. Generally, this is by contributing intellectually, which includes, but is not limited to, critical suggestions and advice, data analysis, and writing. Some writers believe that the contributions attributed to each author should be indicated in the transmittal letter to the journal editor or in a footnote.

Authorship should not be a courtesy (honorary authorship), a gift (gratuitous authorship), or a reward for being a member of a team (cronyism). Authorship should not be [awarded] for providing advice, [for providing] technical assistance, solely for collecting data, or to support one's chief, a house officer, or a junior associate, all of whom can be acknowledged. Unjustified authorship dilutes the value of authorship.

Because articles are often known by the first-named author, the order of authorship is important. Some writers suggest that the first author should have contributed the most and is ultimately responsible for the reliability of the information. Others feel that the first author should be the progenitor of the work and thus responsible for the idea, experimental design, data collection, and conclusions. The senior and perhaps key collaborators should determine whose name is first, and this decision should be reached early. Subsequent authors should be listed in relation to the relative importance of their participation and scientific contributions. [The order in which the authors' names are listed] may be determined alphabetically if all contribute equally, but this approach dodges the issue. Some suggest listing the name of the chief first, last, or even third.

All authors should review the final version of the manuscript. Finally, and most important, all authors must be publicly accountable for the content and integrity of the paper and should be able to defend it and produce data if so requested.

**1993 Meetings**

**Sept 9 - 11** Second International Congress on Peer Review in Biomedical Publication. Fairmont Hotel, Chicago, IL.

**Sept 26 - 29** Association of Earth Science Editors (AESE) Annual Meeting. Concourse Hotel, Madison, WI.

**Oct 15 - 16** *Transitions in Communication*, offered by the Michigan chapters of the Society for Technical Communication. Kalamazoo, MI.

**Oct 27 - 30** American Medical Writers Association 53rd Annual Conference. Colony Square Hotel, Atlanta, GA.

**Nov 12 - 14** *Communication from the Edge*, the 1993 Society for Technical Communication Region 7 Conference. Seattle, WA.

PORT WASHINGTON  
10/1/93

**Corrections and Clarifications**

*Karen Phillips's* piece on the BELS program that appeared on the first issue of this newsletter was reprinted from the September 1992 issue of *European Science Editing*, the official journal of the European Association of Science Editors, by permission of Maeve O'Connor, Secretary and Editor. I regret the omission of an appropriate credit line with the article.

-Grace Darling, Editor



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WASHINGTON

Selected Readings in Plastic Surgery  
411 North Washington, Ste. 6900, LB15  
Dallas, Texas 75246