From the President

Happy holidays, editors! As each year ends, I like to reflect on our accomplishments and our areas for improvement. I detailed these accomplishments and new initiatives for those who attended our annual business meeting, and I present a brief recap here:

- We completed a full year of computer-based testing, which has resulted in the addition of 88 certified editors to our ranks.
- In May, we announced the election of Melanie Fridl Ross as President-Elect. She will assume duties on January 1, 2022.

Continued on page 2
• Our membership committee hosted 6 virtual, members-only events, with discussions on work-life balance, project management, cybersecurity, professional image, freelancing, and use of PerfectIt.
• We updated our policy for using the BELS badge in social media.

If you weren’t able to attend the annual business meeting, you can access the recording here.

We also performed our first membership survey in 2021, which we are using to direct new initiatives. For example, you told us that more engagement with members and more collaborations with other organizations would make a BELS membership more valuable to you. We took those data to heart and are starting a professional development committee in 2022.

And now I need to introduce my “shameless” plug: As the soon-to-be Past President of BELS, I will be heading up the professional development committee and am looking for volunteers to help generate programming. Please contact me through email at info@bels.org if you would like to help.

I am also taking this opportunity to thank the BELS Board members during my presidency. It’s been a pleasure serving with you all. See you in 2022!

Kristina Wasson-Blader, PhD, ELS
BELS President
Holiday Gift Guide for Editors

In case you missed it last year: Are you wondering what to get your favorite, hard-working editor for a holiday gift? Look no further: We’ve rounded up 11 editing- and literary-related items to make gift-giving easier!

Karen Stanwood, ELS
Managing Editor

1

COMING SOON!! BELS merchandise, including sweatshirts, totes, and phone chargers

2

“I’m Silently Correcting Your Grammar” face mask by TeePublic ($12)
https://bit.ly/3IT95oT

3

Punctuation throw pillow by lilcubby on Spoonflower (from $42)
https://bit.ly/36N7MMg

4

“An Apostrophe Does Not Make That Word Plural” T-shirt from Grammatical Art ($15–$25)

5

“Readers Cabernet Sauvignon” wine from J. Bookwalter Winery ($19.98)

6

“Editors’ Blend” tea bags from Murchie’s Fine Tea and Coffee (from $4.95)

Continued on page 6
Holiday Gift Guide for Editors

Continued from page 5

7

“No. 2 Pencil” socks by Foot Traffic on ModSock ($10)

10

“Bookstore” candle from Frostbeard Studio ($19.75)

8

“The Raven” writing gloves from Storiarts ($26)

11

“Oxford Comma Society” spiral notebook from Bookstonian on Etsy ($13.95)
https://etsy.me/32WEiEf

9

Proofreading marks mug from CafePress ($15.99)
https://bit.ly/3nEmFkD
BELS Featured Members

**Michelle R. Rizzo, ELS**
Associate Medical Director
Integrity Continuing Education

Year of ELS certification:
2015

Grammar pet peeve:
using ‘of’ instead of ‘have’
(i.e., ‘should of,’ ‘would of,’
‘could of’)

---

**Aditi Srivastav, ELS**
Curriculum Specialist
Journal of Visualized Experiments

Year of ELS certification:
2020

Grammar pet peeve:
use of ‘imaging was performed
with a confocal microscope’
BELS Featured Members

Keri L. Tabb, ELS
Academic Editor, Expert Research Square
Year of ELS certification: 2019
Grammar pet peeve: use of the Saxon genitive for objects

Michael Gerchufsky, ELS
Senior Editor Razorfish Health
Year of ELS certification: 2010
Grammar pet peeve: I have so many!
The Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS) was founded in 1991 to evaluate the proficiency of manuscript editors in the life sciences and to award credentials similar to those obtainable in other professions.

Potential employers and clients of manuscript editors usually have no objective way to assess the proficiency of editors. For their part, editors are frustrated by the difficulty of demonstrating their ability. That is why both employers and editors so often resort to personal references or ad hoc tests, not always with satisfactory results. The need for an objective test of editorial skill has long been recognized.

To meet that need, BELS developed a process for testing and evaluating proficiency in editing in the life sciences. The Board administers two examinations—one for certification and one for diplomate status. The examinations, written by senior life-science editors assisted by testing experts, focus on the principles and practices of scientific editing in English.

Officers

Kristina Wasson-Blader, PhD, ELS  
President

Melanie Fridl Ross, MSJ, ELS  
President-Elect

Lisa Kisner, ELS, CAE  
Secretary

Christine F. Wogan, MS, ELS  
Treasurer

Board of Directors

Jane Krauhs, PhD, ELS(D)  
Chair, Diplomate Examination Development

Leslie E. Neistadt, ELS  
Chair, Registrar & Examination Administration

Stephen N. Palmer, PhD, ELS  
Chair, Nominations & Elections

Naomi L. Ruff, PhD, ELS  
Chair, Certification Examination Development

Thomas P. Gegeny, MS, ELS  
Chair, Certification Maintenance

Karen Stanwood, ELS  
Chair, Membership & Marketing

Stephen Bublitz, ELS  
Board Member at Large

John D. McDonald, MA, DTM, ELS  
Board Member at Large

Non-voting Board Member

Sheryle Hazard, CAE  
Executive Director