

# VOICES



**Voices** is the official publication of District 25, serving Toastmasters throughout North Central Texas.

**Inside this Issue:**

Lessons from the Square Watermelon	2
Turn Guests into Speakers	3
Great Publicity Opportunity	4
March Club Anniversaries	4
Welcome New Members	5
Welcome New Clubs!	5
Afterburners Raids Weatherford	6
Dear Gabby	7
Back Issues of D25 Newsletter	7
District 25 Spring Conference	8
Conference Session Highlights	9
District 25 Trailblazers	10
Welcome to the Speakers Exchange	11
Free Advanced Manuals	11
Dues Are Due	11
January Education Completions	12
Countdown to Success	13
Marketing Workshop - March 15	13
District 25 Calendar	14
Clubs with five or more DCP Goals	14
Are You The One?	15
Spice Up Your Meetings	16
EFW Membership Kick-Off	16
Death By Public Speaking	17
Successful Clubs	17
Top 10 Reason to Attend the Spring Conference	18
District 25 Banner Parade	19

## Leadership Open House and Outstanding District Web site

*Maurice Taitt, DTM - District 25 Governor*

Calling all aspiring District 25 Leaders!!!

If you have an interest in serving your District in the 2008-2009 District year, you will not want to miss the Open House we are having at Ryan Plaza in Arlington on Saturday, March 15. Current District leaders will be there to answer all your questions about any office in which you might have interest. Visit [www.d25toastmasters.org/leadership](http://www.d25toastmasters.org/leadership) for further details.



Speaking of our district Web site, someone from another district approached me at last year's Toastmasters International Convention in Phoenix and told me that they though our district Web site was the best district Web site they had seen.

Did you know that, on the Web site, you can:

- ✦ View the entire 2007-2008 District Calendar of events.
  - ✦ Find a club, whose meeting time fits your schedule.
  - ✦ Send an e-mail to any District Officer.
  - ✦ View the Spring 2008 Area & Division Tall Tales and International Speech Contest schedule.
  - ✦ Submit an Outstanding Officer nomination for the 7/1/07 thru 12/31/07 term.
  - ✦ Register and view the at-a-glance schedule for the Spring 2008 District Conference.
- And much, much more.

Have you taken time to click on the Resources tab to view?

- ✦ Division & Area Governor Resources
  - ✦ Club Resources
  - ✦ Membership and Marketing Resources
  - ✦ Contest Resources
- And much, much more.

Make a point of viewing the Web site regularly since this is the primary medium in which the latest news is published about current events in our District.

### Governors Star of Excellence Awards

How close is your club to achieving Distinguished Status or better?

Clubs achieving **Distinguished** or better by April 30, 2008 will:  
be recognized during the Awards Luncheon at the District Spring Conference  
be recognized during the banner parade at the District Spring Conference.  
be published in the May 2008 Newsletter

Clubs achieving **Select Distinguished** by April 30, 2008 will:  
Receive all of the above plus a \$20 Gift Certificate to the Toastmasters Store

Clubs achieving **Presidents Distinguished** by April 30, 2008 will:  
Receive all of the above plus one ticket for the Awards Dinner in August 2008





## Lessons from the Square Watermelon

*Peggy Holloway, DTM – Lieutenant Governor Education and Training*

Have you heard the story about the Japanese grocery stores and round watermelons? Japanese stores are much smaller than US stores and the watermelons, big and round in shape, wasted a lot of shelf space. The Japanese farmers took on the problem and it wasn't long before they found a solution that not only helped the store owners, but the consumers as well. What they did was place the watermelons into a square box while they were growing and the watermelon took on the shape of the box.

The end result was a square watermelon that was a perfect fit for the store shelf, was more cost effective to ship, and took less space in the consumer's refrigerator. **So, what does this have to do with Toastmasters?** Actually, there are a few lessons that you can take away from this story that can help you in all parts of your life, including Toastmasters.

**First, reshape your norm.** Your normal involvement in Toastmasters activities may have taken on the aura of the round watermelon and you likely haven't considered if there are other ways for you to get involved in Toastmasters. Consider contests and conferences, for example. Did you ever contemplate that attending an area, division or district conference could actually help you become a better speaker or leader? When was the last time you attended your area contest as a participant, contestant, or audience member? What about your division and district conference? Just like the farmers were able to change the shape of the watermelon by changing the environment in which it grew, we can change ourselves if we are willing to go outside our normal environment.

**Next, reshape your habits.** It's been said if you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always gotten. The farmers would have always gotten round watermelons had they not changed what they were doing. If you have a habit of only participating in events within your club, you may be missing out on many opportunities available in the Toastmasters program, thus your growth and achievements are limited to what you can get at the club level. It was at my first area contest that I realized that Toastmasters was bigger than my club. When I attended my first district conference, I met people who mentored me and gave me an opportunity to take on a leadership role within the district. We all have a habit of going to our club meetings regularly and that's a great habit to have. But I challenge you to add district events to your Toastmaster habits. It's a great habit to have and it's contagious too.

**Finally, reshape your thinking.** When I first read the question, I, like most people, thought they were being asked how to genetically alter the water melon to fit on the shelf. Most people would assume that watermelons grow round and there was nothing that could be done about it. Many toastmasters have a certain mindset about district events. You might think these events are only for the leaders and contestants. Perhaps you assume that if you're not competing or don't have a part to play, there is no reason for you to be there. Not true. Not only will you hear speeches and attend sessions that will help you improve your skills, but you also provide an audience for the contestants and the presenters. Furthermore, we are always looking for volunteers and the conferences are for you, the member.

The square fruit, even though it solved many problems for the farmers, grocers and consumers, turned out to be too expensive for some consumers and appealed mainly to the wealthy and fashion-conscious of Japan's two major cities. The same thing happens with the Toastmasters program. We all know it's a great program that helps a lot of people, but some say it takes too much time and money to go outside of the club and some events only appeal to a small segment of the district's membership. The program is designed for all members and if we look hard enough we can find a place where each one of us can grow. For some, it may be in the club only, for others, reshaping our norm, our thinking, and our habits to include other events may be the answer we need to extend our Commitment to Excellence.

### 2008 Speech Contest Rulebook Available Online!

Hot off the press! Toastmasters International has released the 2008 Speech Contest Rulebook. If you are a Club President, a copy has been sent to you in the U.S. Mail. Others that would like to download their own copy of the 2008 Contest Rulebook, visit this link online: [www.toastmasters.org/rules2008.aspx](http://www.toastmasters.org/rules2008.aspx)



## Turn Guests into Speakers

*David McCallister, DTM - Lt. Governor Marketing 2007-2008*

**Make sure every club meeting is a showcase for guests!** When a guest walks into your club meeting, what do they see? Take a minute and think about this seriously. Do the guests see people arriving late, running around setting up the room and banner at the scheduled start time? Are the guests ignored, or hurriedly told to sit anywhere they like, while someone yells that they need one more evaluator for the hand-written agenda?

Or, do they walk into a professional on-time meeting, with a complete and printed agenda (including speech titles), welcomed and given a guest welcome packet (with a membership application), and seated next to another member who can explain things along the way?

If you have good club meetings, your guests will want to join. If the meetings are disorganized, your guests won't see the value in Toastmasters, and they'll either go to another club, or won't join at all. Your club meetings are your best marketing tool, once people show up.

Throw a good meeting, and most of your guests will join – maybe not at that meeting, but they'll come back for another meeting (just to make sure you're consistently good!), and they will join.

**How many of the guests at your meeting convert into members?** Is it less than half? Then look even more closely at your meeting quality. If most guests sign up, congratulations – but don't stop there, aim to sign up every guest. Something in the Toastmasters program intrigued them enough to take time to visit your club. Find out what it is, ask them!

Keep track of your guests – have a guestbook, make sure you get their contact information. Better yet, ensure that every guest receives a guest packet or visitors kit and you have them complete a Visitors Card (more important than a guest book entry). Add their e-mail address to your club's group list (where agendas and meeting recaps are distributed), even though they're not a paid member. It'll keep them informed about what's going on, even if they can't come back to the very next meeting.

Don't worry that they're not paid members – the Toastmasters program isn't being given away, they're not going to learn to be a better communicator or leader just by reading your club group e-mails! The important point is to keep in touch with them. Keep one-time guests on your mailing list until they ask to quit, or the mail starts bouncing. You never know when their personal situation might change and enable them to pursue Toastmasters again.

**Do you follow up with guests after the meeting?** Ask them what they thought about the meeting. Ask them what their communications and leadership skill improvement goals are. Ask them if they'll return. Ask them to fill out a membership application and join!

A few days before the next meeting, call them (both guests and new members!) and personally ask them to come. Don't just send a broadcast e-mail, don't even send a one-on-one e-mail, CALL them. It'll indicate a true personal interest. If you have time, consider sending a hand-written note to their office or home address. If you invest time in the individual, chances are your return will be ten-fold.

Lastly, make sure every new member is assigned a mentor immediately – which could be the topic of a different column.

In summary, a good strong meeting with manual speeches and interesting table topics are the best PR tool you have. Guests will see the value in the Toastmasters program and will sign up. Be prepared with guest welcome packets explaining how to become a member, including a membership application and a clear explanation of how much it costs (like a table of the 12 months with the cost for each month).

Make every meeting a strong meeting and your club will GROW!



## Great Publicity Opportunity

*Dodi Foster, DTM - District 25 Public Relations Officer*

How many of you are using your club or area contest as a publicity opportunity? A speech contest provides an interesting educational program for Toastmasters and the general public. It can create community awareness of the opportunities of our communication and leadership program. Put contest flyers everywhere you can — on bulletin boards, in store windows, anywhere you can get permission to leave flyers out. Invite the public. Provide complete directions and instructions on your flyer. Especially if guests need to RSVP. If you have a small local paper, send the information to them, or write a short article for them to publish. It can be a great membership building tool for your club. And of course be sure to have membership applications and promotional material available at the contest.

## MARCH CLUB ANNIVERSARIES



1009806 Achieving Talented Communicators  
 6191 Afterburners  
 7277 Baylor Orators Toastmasters  
 771978 Connection Communicators  
 4369 Dino-Speakers  
 988129 Eagle 1  
 1020492 Eagle 2  
 7694 EDS-Trinity  
 7351 Fish Pond  
 4137 Lewisville Toastmasters  
 5922 Nissan Toastmasters  
 5286 Plane Talk  
 1415 Plymouth Park  
 4538 Power Communicators  
 4225 Shining Stars  
 768318 Speaking With Class  
 2047 Toast of the Southwest  
 2348 Waco Tale Twisters  
 1002109 Waco Wordsmiths

## READY...SET...GROW...AGAIN!!!!

The CLUB adding the MOST new, dual, and reinstated members\* from February 1 through March 31, 2008 will receive their own set of electronic timing lights!

and. . .

Each club with five or more new members will receive:  
 exclusive recognition at the 2008 Spring Conference  
 a prestigious TALK UP TOASTMASTERS! Ribbon for their club banner  
 a personal club visit from a Top 3 District Officer of their choice

plus...

Each individual that sponsors five or more new members will receive:  
 a prestigious Governors Award Ribbon  
 a "Committed to Excellence" lapel pin  
 a gift certificate good for \$25 at the Toastmasters Store

\*Clubs must add a minimum of five to qualify for this promotion.  
 For more information visit [www.d25toastmasters.org/readyssetgrow](http://www.d25toastmasters.org/readyssetgrow)



## Welcome to Toastmasters! New Members from February 2008

Wyetta Johnson	AAFCU Flying Toasters	Ashley Horstman	Longhorn Toastmasters
Maggie Carpenter	Airport Toastmaster	Dick Kulka	Masters of Speaking
Pablo Contreras	Airport Toastmaster	Teresa Boone	Mid Cities Evening Toastmasters
Thomas Prescott	Airport Toastmaster	Keshia Lee	Pro A.M. Toastmasters
Kyle Boyd	Arlington Nooners Toastmasters	Sreekanth Chadave	Quicksilver Express Toastmasters
Trameka Jewett	Arlington Nooners Toastmasters	Robinson Michelle	Solana Classic
Bethany Smith	Baylor Orators Toastmasters	Thomas Pierce	Southlake
Cynthia Cummings	Bell Helicopter	Smarak Bhuyan	Speak With Success
Annie Hammons	Big T Toastmasters	Nina Faver	Speak With Success
Homarjun Agrahari	BNSF Expressed Toastmasters	Savita Guerrant	Speak With Success
Vijaykumar Patil	BNSF Expressed Toastmasters	Elizabeth Kupec	Speak With Success
Nathan Rike	Christian Speakers	Rubi Perez	Speak With Success
Donna Bush	Citi Mustangs	Melissa Seida	Speak With Success
Deekshitulu Dokka	Denton Toastmasters	Mary Roth	Speaker's Exchange
Sandra Gonzales	Denton Toastmasters	Susan Mecca	Speaking With Class
Sonya Kwon	Denton Toastmasters	Adrienne Jones	Star-Telegram
Sung-Won Min	Denton Toastmasters	Laurene McLaughlin	Star-Telegram
Mark Routledge	Denton Toastmasters	Rick Valentine	Star-Telegram
Kayla House	Energizers Toastmasters	April Johnson	Toastmasters Anonymous
Perla Arellano	Expressionaires	Lori Shocron	Toastmasters Anonymous
L. Tidwell	FAA Toastmasters	Kenneth Cannizzo	Top Notch Toastmasters - TNT
Karen Finn	Keller Communicators	Robert Daniel	Top Notch Toastmasters - TNT
Tory Hanlen	Keller Communicators	Carol Christensen	Unique Toastmasters At Vista Ridge
Eric Kuang	Lakeside	Thomas Daffinrud	Unique Toastmasters At Vista Ridge
Maria Fe Thomas	Las Colinas Communicators	Matt Geers	Unique Toastmasters At Vista Ridge
Phillip Peterson	LM AeroSpeakers	Bret Talley	Unique Toastmasters At Vista Ridge
Carolyn Martinez	Lonestar Toastmasters	Tavares Duckett	VHA Toastmasters

**Total Number of New Members in District 25 since July 1, 2007: 887** (through Feb 29, 2008)

## Welcome New Clubs to District 25 Toastmasters!

Chrysler Financial Toastmasters  
Club 1126301 - Division A - Area 11  
Chrysler Financial Corporation  
6th Fl Training Room  
909 Hidden Ridge Dr  
Irving, Texas, 75038-3822  
1st/3rd/5th Thursdays @ 12pm  
Membership open only to employees

Mariana Britton	Marc Koffi
Diniki Brown	Leticia Medellin
Gerry Brown	Esperanza Meza
Cynthia Espinosa	Beatrice Ngondo
Tamara Evans	Esther Ombura
Bohanon Fells	Raun Shephard
Christina Green	Kenyatta Tillman
Alexander Gruener	Dana Tucker
Margaret Henry	Ricardo Williams
Sandra Henson	Wynetta Woddard
Amy Johnson	

DFWAE Toatsmasters  
Club 1129074 - Division C - Area 33  
IEC Fort Worth  
Tarrant County Chapter  
5809 E Berry St  
Fort Worth, Texas, 76119-1802  
Thursdays @ 12pm  
Membership open to anyone

Rick Bousquet	Tonja Jenkins
Cathy Breden	Cate Lisak
Charles Carrington	Patrice Pruitt-Story
Tracy Dalrymple	Judy Pulice
Patricia Ellis	Ellen Satlof
George Funchess	Olen Story
Marcie Funchess	Sandra Strevel
Merlin Guilbeau	Gloria Thompson
Michael Hagin	Teresa Villareal
Brittnye Hartfield	Geoeffery Williams

**Total Number of New Clubs in District 25 since July 1, 2007: 13** (through Feb 29, 2008)



## Afterburners Raiders Join Up with Weatherford

Nine members of Afterburner Toastmasters loaded up and headed west to do a banner raid/Joint meeting with Weatherford Toastmasters. Both clubs provided speakers and meeting opportunities. Afterburners received a warm welcome and Weatherford Toastmasters graciously provided refreshments for the meeting. Joint meetings and banner raids are a great way to meet new people and share ideas. It was also an opportunity for the speakers from each club to receive fresh and new evaluations. Many thanks to Bonne Strom from Weatherford and George Arndt from Afterburners for working together to make it a successful and fun evening for all.



Afterburners and Weatherford Toastmasters members

### CLUB RAIDER



The objective of a Banner Raid is to provide a FUN experience for both clubs involved. Visiting Club members often take many great ideas back to their home clubs, which in turn promotes healthy, strong, creative Toastmasters clubs throughout our District. The Raiding Club brings five or more members to the meeting, and the Target Club's banner will be forfeited to the Raiders. The Target Club may retrieve their banner by going through the same process. If they bring ten club members to retrieve their banner, they can also steal the other club's banner! Raiding clubs that take photos will be placed in the District 25 Newsletter. **Program June 30, 2008.**

### FIVE STAR CLUB



Pay semi-annual club dues on time during both periods (by Oct 10, 2006 and Apr 10, 2007)  
Add 4 new members and 4 more new members – PLUS  
End the year with 20 or Net 5 members.

Get a Ribbon for your Club Banner and more! **Ends June 30, 2008.**



### BEST CLUB NEWSLETTER CONTEST (January 1 – April 15, 2008)

Does your club have the best club newsletter ever written? Then you need to receive recognition for it! Save your best three issues to submit by April 15, 2008. Your club will receive recognition at the District 25 Spring Conference, and a \$30.00 gift certificate to use at the Toastmaster Store!

### BEST CLUB WEB SITE CONTEST (January 1 – April 15, 2008)

Register your club Web site with the district public relations officer by April 15, 2008. Send club name and URL. Your club will receive recognition at the District 25 Spring Conference, and a \$30.00 gift certificate to use at the Toastmaster Store!



### Some Helpful Guidelines for Submitting Articles for Voices:

- It's usually best to use the inverted pyramid style. Write the material from most significant to least significant so the editor (or the reader) can cut it off at any point (or any time) and know that the most important part has been covered.
- Try to stay under 500 words (but don't worry about it).
- If possible, include pictures, along with information about who is in the picture and what is going on.
- If formatting is important, use Word, but plain email is fine too.
- If there are more than a couple of pictures, compress them and attach the compressed file.

Now get those articles in! **Deadline for submittals is the 25th of the month.** All articles are subject to editing.

## DEAR GABBY



### Dear Gabby,

During contests I notice we have not only judges, but a chief judge. Is the chief judge a better trained judge? Does the chief judge cast the deciding vote? What do they do, and how do you get to be one?

- *Judgment Call*

### Dear Called to question,

A chief judge is there to insure the contest is fair for all contestants. Chief judges do go through advanced training to qualify for the position. They must be a trained judge, and ideally have judged several times and at all levels of competition. Training is not on how to be a better judge, but on contest rules set forth by Toastmasters International.

The chief judge is responsible for selecting the proper number of judges for the level of competition, and making sure they are qualified to judge. That the judges have been trained on the most recent rule changes, and are not from the same club, or area, or better yet, the same division as the contestants.

Ideally, there is a different chief judge and panel of judges for each contest at all levels. As the contests advance to higher levels, more experienced chief judges and judges should be utilized.

The chief judge provides the all the contest forms to insure they are the most recent versions, briefs the judges on the rules before the contest. During the contest the chief judge makes sure all the rules are followed, and that the playing field is equal for all contestants. After the contest, the chief judge oversees the ballot counting. Contrary to popular belief, the chief judge does not cast a ballot. At least three ballot counters insure that the correct winners are selected, and that the correct winners are announced.

The chief judge is a leadership position of great responsibility and integrity. They insure that each contestant has a fair chance to compete. Without trained chief judges and judges, we would not be able to provide the members the opportunity to sharpen their skills through competition and give those not competing the chance to learn by observing proficient speakers from outside their club.

Ms. Gabby thanks all for their submissions. Keep sending those questions and comments, and remember, if you can't see the bright side of life, polish the dull side. Do you have a question about a meeting role, speech content or topic choice? Need ideas on attracting new members to your club? Are you contemplating starting your leadership track? If so, Gabby is here to help! Dear Gabby will provide down to earth-practical answers to all Toastmaster related questions. Like a good neighbor, disinterested friend, or "a second mother" she calls it as she sees it. All questions submitted will be answered. Check monthly to see if your questions and answers will be published in the District Newsletter.

Email your questions to [deargabby@d25toastmasters.org](mailto:deargabby@d25toastmasters.org) or visit online [www.d25toastmasters.org/deargabby](http://www.d25toastmasters.org/deargabby)

DID YOU  
KNOW



### Back Issues of the District 25 Newsletters Now Available Online

We have climbed in the basement and dusted off the boxes in search of past issues of the District 25 newsletter. Did you know that you can now view and print these issues of the District 25 Newsletter? Did you also know that there are some great articles, ideas, and resources just waiting to be discovered?

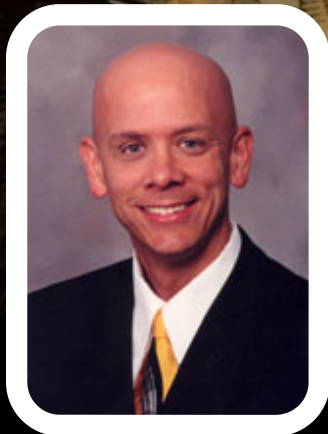
A special thank you to our District 25 Historian, Distinguished Toastmaster **Brenda Daniels** for helping us preserve our district heritage. All issues through 2001 are now available. Issues from 2000-1997 should be available by the end of February. Check back weekly to see what new issues have been added.

For more information, visit [www.d25toastmasters.org/newsletter](http://www.d25toastmasters.org/newsletter)

# District 25 Toastmasters Spring Conference



## MAY 2-3, 2008



**Jim Key**  
2003 World Champion  
of Public Speaking



**Ebby Halliday**  
2008 Communication and  
Leadership Award Recipient

Basic Registration \$25  
Special Day Pass \$50  
Full Registration \$100

- Tall Tales Speech Contest
- Education Sessions
- Division Idol - Season 3
- Annual Business Meeting
- District Officer Elections
- District Leadership Breakfast
- District Awards Luncheon
- DTM Ceremony
- International Speech Contest
- ...and so much more!

Register at any Area or Division Speech Contest and receive a special gift\* and VIP invitation for special conference events.  
\* While Supplies Last

Marriott Solana  
5 Village Circle  
Westlake, Texas 76262

Special Room Rate  
\$99 per night  
Group Code: D25D25A

**For more information or to register online**  
visit: [www.d25toastmasters.org/conference](http://www.d25toastmasters.org/conference)



## Spring 2008 Conference Education Session Highlights


**Why Toastmasters are Dedicated to the Distinguished Club Plan** - Max E. Rasquinha

As leaders, we lead by example. A strong leader will accept challenges while encouraging the rest of the club members to do the same. As the club works together towards the DCP goals, an atmosphere of teamwork is created. The benefit is that each member grows due to their presentation experiences. Meeting the membership goals infuses the club with new ideas and fresh perspective. Come see what it takes to be a "winning club."


**POSITIVE PR—The Inside Scoop** - Jeff Crilley

All of us would like to take our PR game to the next level. And who better to help us do that than a media insider? Emmy Award winning TV reporter Jeff Crilley will share the secrets to getting good news stories that even many seasoned PR pros don't know.


**I am Their Leader, Which Way Did They Go?**  
Alene Haynes

Are you a leader that is being led by your followers? This session provides helpful tips on being a positive firm follower while motivating your group to do their tasks more effectively.


**How to Be a Mastermind Mentor** - Kay Ray

Business and personal leaders alike are consistent in their message. To achieve greatness working as a mastermind mentoring group is more powerful than working alone. Rediscover where leadership truly lies and what it takes to step into it with greater clarity and support while being able to better harness the energy of a congruent, focused group.


**All the World's a Stage: Discovering the Rewards of Being Front and Center** - Mark Bilgere

Facing the challenges of public speaking can lead to more than just overcoming stage fright. Your willingness to be on stage leads to increased confidence, leadership opportunities, professional success and even extra income. Join

Mark Bilgere for an entertaining presentation on his experiences as a public and professional speaker.


**Your Attitude is Affecting Your Image**  
Cathrine Hatcher

One of the biggest things that affect our attitude are our thoughts. According to the National Science Foundation, the average person thinks about 1000 individual thoughts per hour. Many of our subconscious activities and thoughts happen as a result of habits we have developed over time. Your thoughts determine your attitude which in turn affects your actions and your overall Image. All thoughts produce consequences. As presenters, our thoughts that are producing our attitudes are also coloring the way we present. Cathrine will show you how to manage not only your attitude, but also how it affects the way you present, whether you're presenting to one or many.


**How to Write and Deliver a Winning Speech**  
Shannon Hills

Congratulations! You've won your club contest, Area, and maybe even Division - Wow! But what's the key to advancing to District, Region, and the grand daddy of them all, the World Championship of Public Speaking? Join Shannon Hills as she will share with you the philosophy she developed on the road to the 2007 World Championship of Public Speaking: Just Do You!, and you can too.


**Leadership for a Volunteer Organization** - Ron Fory

This presentation is oriented to the difficulties of leading in a volunteer organization, and the considerations for a leader who seeks to excel in that environment. We'll discuss pitfalls and how to avoid them, tactics and techniques, and the satisfaction gained by developing volunteers with your capabilities.


**Inject Discipline into Your Core** - Ronnie Mack

Successful club environments are where members learn, grow and have fun. It is important that our members never lose sight of their goals and responsibilities to the club. It is equally important for clubs to provide a positive environment for their members to achieve their personal goals. When we nurture our members, they will flourish as they develop new skills, harvest many successes and share their positive experience with others.


**Invest in Yourself. Give a Speech Outside Your Club** - Ron Clark

Discover the basics and benefits of speaking. Learn what it takes to become an advanced speaker. Find out how to ask your boss for a raise. Discover "What is next." Attend his session to find out why Ron loves to say, "Invest in Yourself, Give a Speech Outside Your Club."


**Empower Yourself and Your Team** - Barb Craft

Discover the "Five Core Critical Components" you need to empower yourself and your team! Learn how to activate these sound principles and ensure you bring them to maximum potential. You will walk away with proven strategies to use right away to experience bringing your objectives into reality, resulting in priceless advantages for you and your team.


**Bayonet Leadership** - Tim Swearingen

With the evolution of the Toastmasters program placing greater importance on leadership development, there is a greater need to sharpen our "leadership bayonet" with effective and proven servant leadership concepts. This session is designed to answer the question, "How do you motivate a team to follow you when you have no real power or authority?" Join us as we sharpen your leadership skills and explore the qualities effective leaders display.



Do you have experience designing Web sites? Can you create forms using php technology? Are you familiar with Adobe Dreamweaver? If so, we need your help! Please contact District 25 Lt. Governor Marketing David McCallister so you can find out more about what is involved in working on the District 25 Web site.

Contact David via email [davidmccallister@d25toastmasters.org](mailto:davidmccallister@d25toastmasters.org)

It's that time of year again – time to Talk Up Toastmasters! During this membership building contest, encourage your club's members to invite as many guests as possible to your club's meetings. Consider conducting a special guest meeting – where during a regular meeting, you could also specifically discuss the benefits Toastmasters members receive as they participate. Perhaps invite and include other members' testimonials.



Add five new, dual or reinstated members to your club between **February 1 and March 31** and receive a special Talk Up Toastmasters ribbon to display on your club's banner. In addition, your club will be eligible to select one item from *The Successful Club Series*, *The Better Speaker Series*, or *The Leadership Excellence Series*, free of charge. Start thinking today of who will benefit from the Toastmasters experience and invite them to your meeting. You never know: you could help change their lives!

## District 25 Membership Trailblazers and Pacesetters

The following members of District 25 have encouraged new members to join Toastmasters since July 1, 2007. (report through 1/31/08)

The following clubs have added 9 or more new, dual, or reinstated members since July 1, 2007.

### 3 or more new members

- Gregory L. Brannon, CC
- Adrian Castillo, CTM, CL
- Zachary J. Frohlich
- Sandra M. Garcia
- Sara L. Gibbons, CTM
- Jeff Johnson, DTM
- Sharon Klimski
- Derek L Newman
- Mark Novak, DTM
- Michael Segaloff, ATMB
- Matthew J. Stevens, CC, CL
- Bonne K. Stroman, ACB,CL
- Felicia N. Turner

### 4 or more new members

- Bob Harper, CTM
- Sally Linn, CL
- Wekulo Namasaka
- Robert Richardson, DTM
- Greg Solomon, ATMB

### 5 or more new members

- Sara M. Beall, ATMS
- Betty Miller, ATMB, CL
- Roxana Vanesa Wroblewski

### 6 or more new members

- Brandi Forman
- Joe W. Nave, ATMS, CL

### 7 or more new members

- Ruby M. Ditto, ATMS, CL
- Peggy J. Holloway, DTM

### 8 or more new members

- Michael A. Dick, DTM

### 9 or more new members

- Shawn Kornegay, CTM, CL

### Top Performers - 10 or more new members

- Randy Terrell, DTM      12 New members
- David McCallister, DTM      14 New Members
- Earl Hill, DTM      17 New Members

### PACESETTER CLUBS—MEMBERSHIP

- 17 \* Caremark Advance Articulators #1630
- 17 \* Las Colinas Communicators #8055
- 15 \* Denton Toastmasters #3055
- 14 \* Airport Toastmasters #5537
- 13 \* North TX #420
- 13 \* BNSF Toastmasters #2975
- 12 \* Top Notch Toastmasters - TNT #825
- 12 \* Shining Stars #4225
- 12 \* Masters of Speaking #6040
- 12 \* Unique Toastmasters At Vista Ridge Club #7274
- 11 \* Speak with Success #633
- 11 \* Arlington Nooners Toastmasters #7514
- 11 \* Marine Creek Toastmasters #733879
- 10 \* Burlison Toastmasters #706449
- 10 \* TCU Toastmasters #5555
- 9 \* Lakeside #3692
- 9 \* Southlake Evening #4236
- 9 \* Speaker's Exchange #633836
- 9 \* Longhorn Toastmasters #3178
- 9 \* Southlake Toastmasters #4987
- 9 \* LM Aerospeakers #9916

\*Each Club will be awarded the Blue Pacesetter Award Ribbon for adding 9 or more new, dual, or reinstated members since July 1, 2007

## Distinguished District Program 2007-2008

As of February 29, 2008

Paid Clubs to Date	135	Membership Payments to Date	2919	CCs to Date	103	ACs to Date	61
Goals for June 30	131	Goal for June 30	4906	Goal for June 30	168	Goal for June 30	48
<b>District is ahead 4</b>		<b>District is behind 1987</b>		<b>District is behind 65</b>		<b>District is ahead 13</b>	

## PET Reemerges as Speakers Exchange

During its re-organizational meeting on February 10, 2008, the members of the former P.E.T. Club voted unanimously to re-name their club Speakers Exchange, while maintaining its Advanced Club designation in Division C. The club which includes current members of the District 25 Speakers Bureau, relocated to southwest Fort Worth after attempts to continue meeting in Grand Prairie in late 2007 proved unworkable. The club meets on the second Sunday of each month from 2-3:30 p.m. at Franklin Park Residential Community in southwest Fort Worth. Speakers Bureau Chair and Club President Abel Goddard expressed a commitment to building its membership and having the club become a district-wide success.

One of the new club's goals is to collaborate with its sister advanced club, TV Toastmasters, in order to produce professional-quality tapes of its members' presentations. The club's 90-minute meeting format allows time for presentations to extend from 45 minutes to 1 hour.

"It will provide the district with a forum for advanced Toastmasters who are interested in focusing their skills toward a professional level as well as for accomplished area speakers to deliver presentations at club meetings in a supportive setting consistent with Toastmasters International," stated Goddard.

## FREE Advanced Communicator Manuals...Up to four Total

District 25 Education & Training has gone



We are giving away Advanced Communicator Manuals...FREE!!!

For every Competent Communicator (CC) completed from January 1, 2008 - April 30, 2008 we will send out your choice of any two Advanced Communicator Manuals...FREE! If this is your very first CC, you will get four manuals; two from Toastmasters International and two from District 25. Upon submission of each (CC) award, the member will be contacted to select their two free manuals. Did you know that even though you may have already completed your CTM or CC before July 1, 2007 you can complete another one? Consider working towards a second or third CC award...remember that only one CC award may be awarded per member per club during the 2007-2008 year. Members in more than one club and earn one CC per club in which they are a member in good standing. What are you waiting for? You might be only a few speeches away from FREE MANU-



Deadline for DCP credit is April 1st!

Remember that dues can be paid online on the TI Web site starting Friday March 7, 2008. Did you know that you only need a minimum of six members to pay online? Clubs that wait to pay until they receive dues from every member risk the chance of missing the deadline and losing out on receiving DCP Credit. Visit the members section of the Toastmasters Web site and select the Club Business Tab on the bottom left corner of the screen, then enter your club number and password. Your password came with your semi annual dues report. Once onsite checkout the other activities you can do as well. Also, don't forget that clubs paying their dues ON TIME during both semi annual dues periods will receive credit for the Five Star Club Award!

### Education Completions for February 2008

#### Congratulations to our fellow Competent Communicators

Club	Division	Area	Award	Date	Member	Club
676840	C	34	CC	2/14/2008	Amardor, Genaro	Samaritan Toastmasters
5558	A	12	CC	2/28/2008	Cunningham, Diane E.	Sheppard Communicators
5496	A	11	CC	2/3/2008	Foster, Dodi D.	Cowtown Toastmasters
1020492	E	54	CC	2/27/2008	Glenn, Christopher	Eagle 2
5537	F	63	CC	2/27/2008	Harvey, Rebecca J.	Airport Toastmaster
799727	B	21	CC	2/1/2008	Hubbell, Jeff	Texas Toasters
3692	E	51	CC	2/27/2008	Jacob, Thomas	Lakeside
6402	C	33	CC	2/29/2008	Jones, Parris K.	Do-Gooder Hill Toastmasters
4355	A	13	CC	2/8/2008	Kornblum, Stephen L.	Fighter Enterprise Toastmasters
9595	D	45	CC	2/4/2008	McCallister, David E.	Toastmasters Anonymous
621025	A	15	CC	2/15/2008	Potts, Brenda J	Keller Communicators
6402	C	33	CC	2/26/2008	Redder, Russell L.	Do-Gooder Hill Toastmasters
6402	C	33	CC	2/26/2008	Redder, Russell L.	Do-Gooder Hill Toastmasters
4370	F	63	CC	2/26/2008	Smith, Reed Kelley	Flagship Speakers Toastmasters
1415	B	21	CC	2/17/2008	Taitt, Maurice Eugene	Plymouth Park
2971	C	33	CC	2/21/2008	Tillman, David M.	Reveille
706449	D	44	CC	2/19/2008	Whisonant, Ashley	Burleson Toastmasters

#### Congratulations to our fellow Advanced Communicators

Club	Division	Area	Award	Date	Member	Club
7277	D	43	ACB	2/26/2008	Adamson, Amber Tianne	Baylor Orators Toastmasters
586017	C	35	ACB	2/25/2008	Francis, Laquetta	Dream Chasers Toastmasters
420	E	51	ACB	2/20/2008	Sayed Ali, Jameela	North TX
825	D	45	ACS	2/15/2008	Brown, Dawn Renee	Top Notch Toastmasters - TNT
7277	D	43	ACG	2/13/2008	Corley, Denise	Baylor Orators Toastmasters

#### Congratulations to our fellow Competent Leaders

Club	Division	Area	Award	Date	Member	Club
4370	F	63	OCL	2/22/2008	Berwick, Jody Lynne	Flagship Speakers Toastmasters
879088	A	14	CL	2/21/2008	Bratton, James	BNSF Expressed Toastmasters
638381	D	42	CL	2/6/2008	Feltman, Mary L.	Hewitt Fastenators
8055	B	25	OCL	2/7/2008	Hill, Virginia H.	Las Colinas Communicators
3692	E	51	CL	2/26/2008	Jiang, Yong	Lakeside
825	D	45	CL	2/15/2008	Quick, Pat	Top Notch Toastmasters - TNT
593906	B	23	CL	2/22/2008	Russell, Scott	Skymasters
3006	B	25	CL	2/5/2008	Samuelson, Gary M.	Oration Plus Toastmasters
420	E	51	OCL	2/7/2008	Schenk, Helen L.	North TX
349	A	11	OCL	2/22/2008	Vaughan, Suzette E	Plus-Two

#### Congratulations to our fellow Advanced Leaders

Club	Division	Area	Award	Date	Member	Club
825	D	45	ALB	2/27/2008	Brown, Dawn Renee	Top Notch Toastmasters - TNT
5590	D	41	ALB	2/6/2008	Leeth, Marina Nina	Big T Toastmasters
5496	A	11	ALB	2/18/2008	McCallister, David E.	Cowtown Toastmasters
621025	A	15	ALS	2/28/2008	Hendrick, Toni	Keller Communicators
6572	C	32	ALS	2/22/2008	Terrell, Randy	Texas Wesleyan Spellbinders

#### Congratulations to our fellow Distinguished Toastmasters

Club	Division	Area	Award	Date	Member	Club
621025	A	15	DTM	2/28/2008	Hendrick, Toni	Keller Communicators





## Countdown to Success

*D. Kirkland, CC/CL - Division D Governor 2007-2008*

It is good to have a target for your goals. Toastmasters tend to aim at completing educational goals by the end of June each year so that accomplishments can count toward Distinguished Club Plan goals. We have four months to finish our plans, so let us make the most of it! Maybe a little "Goal Setting 101" instructions could help.

**State the Problem:** You may need to do a little soul searching to figure out what may be holding you back from completing your educational level. I personally have two or three more presentations left to complete my Advanced Communicator Bronze. Maybe part of my problem is that I haven't reviewed my previous accomplishments recently enough to remember exactly how many projects I have left. I also know that I have resisted the preparation time of researching a true story for the Storytelling manual. It also takes a lot of time and effort to find good dramatic literature in order to find a cutting for the projects I have left in the Interpretation of Literature manual. So, my problem may be linked to motivation and time commitment.

**State Your Goal:** A goal statement should be specific and measurable. You will need to know when you have accomplished the goal. Based on my own statement of problems, my goal statements could be: I want to preview and prepare the final projects in my Storytelling and Interpretation of Literature manuals by the end of March so that I can present one a month in April, May, and June. Wow, I feel better already just knowing there is enough time to reach my goal!

**State Your Procedure:** It may not be enough to state the general goal since there are a number of things that have to be done to accomplish the goal. I have built in two types of deadlines. One date is for the preparation of my projects. The other dates are each for the presentations themselves. In order to accomplish the first deadline, I will need to: **1) Find my manuals**—I know generally where they are, but they have been shifted each time I come home from a conference, class, or contest. This could take a couple of hours just to organize the piles that are on the couch and floor in my home office. I will have to stay focused on finding the manuals because there are a lot of other things that could draw away my attention. **2) Read the final projects and list the requirements for each**—this will give me an idea of which ones I can do first and which ones will take more time. **3) Schedule my projects with my Toastmasters VP-Education**— by setting my deadlines for presentation, I can prioritize my work and plant that commitment in my mind. **4) Gather preliminary research for my projects**— by taking the first steps in gathering literature options I can start to get familiar with each presentation. **5) Focus on each project to complete the preparations by the end of March**— I will have a little time over my spring break to finish these plans. **6) Practice the delivery of each project during the two weeks prior to each scheduled presentation date**— I may need to overlap the practicing since some of the projects will require some memorization. **7) Present each project with confidence**— Since my projects will be well-researched, planned and practiced, I expect to feel confident each time.

**Test of Achieving Goal:** Each time I give a presentation, I will be achieving part of the goal, but I also need to celebrate the interim goals within my procedure stated above. The momentum of achievement can affect my motivation to continue. I will picture the ultimate goal of earning my ACB by the end of June. My club is good about celebrating educational accomplishments with the presentation of a label for our name badges. I look forward to getting that memento as I help my club to achieve its DCP goals.

I know you have Toastmaster goals as well as other sets of goals in your life. I hope you can apply these four goal statement categories to your own goal setting process. Thanks for letting me be transparent with my own process in this newsletter article. Excuse me now while I go sort one of those stacks on my couch.

## Marketing Workshop

Learn how to attract, recruit, and retain members for your club. Also leave with valuable materials, handouts, and resources to help build and sustain your club membership.

**Saturday, March 15, 2008 @ 12:00 p.m.**

Texas Health Resources Pavilion 601 Ryan Plaza Drive - Arlington, TX 76011

Open to all members - Seating is Limited! Attendees are asked to pre-register to ensure enough materials are available.

For more information or to register online, visit [www.d25toastmasters.org/marketing/workshop](http://www.d25toastmasters.org/marketing/workshop)

## District 25 Calendar of Events

### March 2008

- 1-31 Hold Area and Division Council Meetings
- 7 First Day to pay club dues renewals online (minimum 6)
- 9 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 15 District Executive Committee Meeting & District Staff Training  
District Leadership Open House for 2008-2009 Year  
Marketing Workshop - Ryan Plaza, Arlington, Texas
- 31 Last day to submit Semi-Annual Club Dues ONLINE & receive credit towards 2007-2008 DCP Goal

### April 2008

- 1-30 Hold Area and Division Council Meetings
- 11 Division F Tall Tales and International Speech Contest
- 12 Division E Tall Tales and International Speech Contest  
Division D Tall Tales and International Speech Contest
- 14 District Steering Committee Meeting
- 18 Division B Tall Tales and International Speech Contest
- 19 Division C Tall Tales and International Speech Contest  
Division A Tall Tales and International Speech Contest
- 21 Deadline for submitting Outstanding Officer Nominations to District Awards  
Chair: [ernestinapinones@d25toastmasters.org](mailto:ernestinapinones@d25toastmasters.org)
- 30 Last day for Area Visits

### May 2008

- 1-31 Hold Area and Division Council Meetings
- 2-3 District 25 Spring Conference
- 17 2008-2009 Area/Division Governor Training
- 31 Last day to submit Area Visit Report ONLINE for Distinguished Area Credit

### Voices Staff

#### Newsletter Editor

Shawn Kornegay, CTM/CL  
[shawnkornegay@d25toastmasters.org](mailto:shawnkornegay@d25toastmasters.org)

#### Publisher

Maurice Taitt, DTM  
[mauricetaitt@d25toastmasters.org](mailto:mauricetaitt@d25toastmasters.org)

#### Public Relations Officer

Dodi Foster, DTM  
[dodifoster@d25toastmasters.org](mailto:dodifoster@d25toastmasters.org)

#### Photographer

Mark Novak, DTM  
[marknovak@d25toastmasters.org](mailto:marknovak@d25toastmasters.org)

Voices is published monthly and is available to the members of District 25 Toastmasters and clubs. Subscription available for one year at the price of \$36 for those wishing to receive their newsletter delivered via postal mail. Back issues are available online at [www.d25toastmasters.org/newsletter](http://www.d25toastmasters.org/newsletter).

## Congratulations to Clubs with five or more DCP Goals!

As of 2/29/08

### Five or more DCP Goals

Plymouth Park #1415  
Mid Cities Noon Time #2476  
Oration Plus #3006  
TCU Toastmasters #5555  
Big T #5590  
Motorola #5718  
Top of Texas Toastmasters #5788  
Talk Blue Toastmasters #6017  
Texas Wesleyan Spellbinders #6572  
Dream Chasers #586017  
Heart of Texas Bridge Gappers #676842  
Cleburne Toastmasters #710987

### Six or more DCP Goals

Wichita Falls #305  
Speak With Success #633  
BNSF Toastmasters #2975  
Longhorn Toastmasters #3178  
Shining Stars #4225  
Afterburners #6191  
Bell Helicopter #6810  
Baylor Orators #7277  
Pro A.M. Toastmasters #7407  
Keller Communicators #621025  
BNSF Expressed #879088

### Seven or more DCP Goals

Plus-Two #349  
Top Notch Toastmasters #825  
Lakeside #3692  
Southlake Evening Toastmasters #4236  
Flagship Speakers Toastmasters #4370  
Southlake #4987  
Toastmasters Anonymous #9595

### Eight or more DCP Goals

North TX #420  
Airport Toastmaster #5537  
Masters of Speaking #6040  
Las Colinas Communicators #8055  
Star-Telegram #897575

### Top Performers - Nine or more DCP Goals

Cowtown Toastmasters #5496  
Arlington Nooners Toastmasters #7514  
Denton Toastmasters #3055



### Find a Mistake?

It is our policy to include something for everyone. Since some people like to find errors, we regularly include a few in our publications to meet this need.

Let us know by sending an email to:  
[newsletter@d25toastmasters.org](mailto:newsletter@d25toastmasters.org)

## Committed To Excellence Award

Members earning a Competent Communicator Award (CC)  
**AND** Any Leadership Award (OCL, CL, ALB, ALS, or DTM)  
**AND** Sponsor 3 New, Dual, or Reinstated Members  
 From January 1, 2008 - April 30, 2008



### RECEIVE:

- A Gold Committed to Excellence Lapel Pin
- A \$20 Gift Certificate to the Toastmasters Store
- Individual Recognition during the Awards Lunch at the Spring 2008 Conference
- Recognition during the Awards Dinner and program in August 2008
- Recognition In the May 2008 District Newsletter
- Recognition In the Hall of Fame on the District 25 Web site

To be eligible for this award, all Education Awards and members sponsored must be processed from January 1, 2008 through April 30, 2008.

## Are You The One?

Do you remember when you first joined Toastmasters? Did you have any idea what the timer was supposed to do or why you kept getting clicked or dinged for saying an "Ah" or "Um"?

How about when you gave your first speech or when you worked through the complex manual?

Who helped you? Who was your mentor? Did they help you ascertain how the Toastmasters program works?

Now, imagine an entire room full of brand new Toastmasters. Are you the one to step up and volunteer serving the members of a new club as their club mentor? Do you have a passion to see others reach for success? If so, consider volunteering to serve as a club mentor for a newly chartered club. Within the next four weeks, at least five new clubs will be chartered and each one will need a mentor to help guide them along for the next six months or so.

Up to two mentors may be assigned to each club. Consider finding a buddy in your club to help mentor the club together.

Not only do you receive credit towards your Advanced Leader Silver award, you also get the opportunity to meet new people and be a part of their success.

Each club that will be chartering meets at 12pm. A few clubs meet in Irving along 114, one meets in Westlake near the Marriott Solana, and another meets in North Richland Hills off of Hwy 26.

## Are you the one?

If so, or for more information about the club mentor program and serving in that role, please contact District 25 Lt. Governor Marketing David McCallister, DTM: [davidmccallister@d25toastmasters.org](mailto:davidmccallister@d25toastmasters.org)

## Pinpalooza is Here! Free Membership Pins!



District 25 Marketing has gone crazy! We are giving away new member pins ... FREE!!!

For every new, dual, or reinstated member added to any Toastmasters Club in District 25 from January 1, 2008 through March 31, 2008, we will provide the new member pin. So if your club adds 3 members, we will send you 3 new member pins. Add 6 members, we will send you 6 new member pins. Add 20 members, we will send you 20 new member pins.

## District 25 Marketing Presents...



**District 25 Toastmasters Membership Contest**  
**Sponsor new members - Win Free Airline Tickets!**

**Third Quarter runs Jan 1 - Mar 31, 2008**

for details, visit [www.d25toastmasters.org/skyisthelimit](http://www.d25toastmasters.org/skyisthelimit)





## Spice Up Your Meetings - Absolutely Awesome - Division A

*Diana Patton, ACB/ALS - Division A Governor 2007-2008*

Do your meetings need a little spicing up? Could they use a little more polish and professionalism? One thing that really helps is to have introductions for the speakers at your meeting. If you are not already doing this, assign the responsibility to the Toastmaster or another person to ensure it becomes part of each week's meeting. Don't just use the canned introductions that you might keep on file. Spice it up a bit and have the speaker provide information. Don't forget to read objectives of project from manual right before the speaker presents their speech.

Below is article created by Cindy Warmbrodt-Breeman and Rick Sharon of the Keller Communicator Club and should be very helpful regarding speaker introductions. The complete article with examples can be found: [http://keller.freetoasthost.org/files/Keller\\_Newsletter\\_2008\\_02\\_07.pdf](http://keller.freetoasthost.org/files/Keller_Newsletter_2008_02_07.pdf)

### INTRODUCTIONS

The why, the how

Introductions are an important part of every speaking presentation. Think about it, whether you are at a business seminar, a club luncheon, or attending a church service, if there is a featured speaker - someone is responsible for introducing them to the audience. That someone is the Master of Ceremonies (MC) for the event. At Toastmasters club meetings, it is the Toastmaster.

In the professional speaking world introductions are always provided to the MC by the speaker. This is because only the speaker knows exactly who they are, why they are there to speak and what they want to convey to the audience. A good MC can "wing it" when necessary but this is something that comes with experience. When the MC is put in this position they will always ask the featured speaker a few questions to help them create a simple introduction. Based on the experience level of the MC, this impromptu introduction may turn out great *or* it may turn out awful. A professional speaker always wants their introduction to be great so they ensure that this happens by writing their own intro for the MC.

The same is true within the Toastmasters environment. All speakers should be providing the meeting Toastmaster with an introduction so that the audience has a clue about what they are going to hear from the speaker. The Toastmaster announces the speaker (states who is speaking), calls for the evaluator to state the speakers objectives (the blue box on the first page of the project), THEN the Toastmaster *introduces* the speaker.

The purpose of an introduction is to inform the audience of the following things:

1. What is the subject
2. Why this subject
3. Why this speaker
4. Why this audience
5. Why now

An introduction has an opening, body and conclusion and for the Toastmasters environment it should be about 30 - 60 seconds long. As club members progress into the advanced manuals the intros may become longer because many of these manuals are focusing on specific and more involved skills.

The opening relates to the topic - you want it to grab their attention. Opening an intro with a question is a good way to do this - capture the audience and make them think "*yeah, I do wonder about that*". The body gives a few specifics that indicate the premise of the topic or subject matter that the speaker is presenting. The conclusion is the transition to welcoming the speaker to the lectern.

## EFW Club has 2008 membership kick-off meeting

*Norma Webster, VP-Public Relations EFW Toastmasters*

EFW Toastmaster Club held their 2008 kick off meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> 2008, which was a great success. Diana Patton, Division A Governor, was able to attend. Following the meeting, we took some excellent pictures of some of the club members in attendance near our Toastmaster board which displays our ribbons, meeting time and location as well as toastmaster information which is updated periodically.

*Pictured l-r (Greg Renner-Secretary and Treasurer, Todd Mueller, Norma Webster-VP Public Relations and Sergeant at Arms, Darryl Muckelroy, Eric Bresie-VP Education, Ronnen Paytan, Esther Lockart).*







## Death By Public Speaking

*Linda Morrison, ACS/ALS - Division C Governor 2007-2008*

What is scarier to most Americans than spiders, heights or even death? There has not been a horror movie about it, but more than 75 % of Americans surveyed report they have it. Even comedian Jerry Seinfeld jokes about it saying that at a funeral most people would rather be in the casket than delivering the eulogy.

So why do we have empty seats every week in our Toastmasters clubs? Our clubs should be bursting at the seams. Why do we have a membership problem? Why aren't 75% of all Americans in Toastmasters getting over their fear of public speaking? Where are they?

I remember before I came to Toastmasters, I had a fear of public speaking. It started at a young age. In my home, the children always were asked to say grace at our family get togethers. All the children lived in fear they would be the one called that year. Not participating met a whippin' for sure, but participating meant ridicule by other children for stuttering or stumbling over the words. Later on, when I started going to school, I had an accident on the playground because I was not obeying the merry-go-round rules. As my punishment, I was sent to every room in my elementary school on my crutches to show and tell everyone why there are playground rules. From then on out, I avoided any speech classes and debate classes and lived in fear of oral reports of any kind.

In my 40's someone told me about Toastmasters and my life changed. Most members join Toastmasters because someone invites them. People can't join if they don't know it exists. There are 1000's of people waiting to join Toastmasters who just have not gotten around to it. They only need a little push.

So prevent death by public speaking. Invite someone to Toastmasters today.



## Successful Clubs

*Ana Garza, ACS/ALS - Division E Governor 2007-2008*

"Our club would be successful if only our division governor, area governor, or even the district governor would step in and take over."

I hear this comment from struggling clubs and I reply that we can offer assistance to your club if you are struggling, but the ultimate responsibility for a club and its growth lies with the individual members of that particular club. A club coach can help guide, but the work still belongs to the club members and officers.

What do successful clubs do that encourage membership, educational achievements, and club recognition such as DCP? The key factor in a strong, successful club is the club leadership and their commitment to the club and its members. Do your club officers hold regular executive planning sessions to evaluate membership and educational goals? Do your club officers attend Toastmaster Leadership Summits to learn and practice skills that are vital to maintaining healthy clubs?

Another key factor in healthy clubs is the member participation and involvement. Analyze your actions, behavior, and involvement at your next meeting. If the sergeant at arms is late or unavailable, are you the one who steps up to set up the room? When was the last time you helped greet and mentor a guest or new member? As contest season approaches, lots of Toastmasters jump at the opportunity to compete, but few members step up to help the area governor with the contest. If your club sends a contestant, make sure you also send volunteers to help and also to support your club. When was the last time you attended a district conference? In order for your club to grow, you need to grow as a Toastmaster. Step up and take control of your club's future success.

## Top reasons to book your passage on a “Voyage of Discovery”! District 25 Spring 2008 Conference

### **DTM Ceremony!**



This is the highest distinction any Toastmaster can achieve. Come and celebrate the culmination of years of hard work and dedication as we honor those who've reached this goal.

### **International Speech Contest on Saturday afternoon!**



Last year, District 25 sent a contestant all the way to International. Will you be there to see it happen again? Don't forget the Tall Tales Contest on Friday evening.

### **Spectacular Speakers!**



In the contests and in the classrooms, you'll hear some of the best speakers anywhere, including World Champion Jim Key.

### **Candidates Forum!**



In an election year, every voter has the responsibility to educate him or herself about the candidates. Come and learn about next year's District leadership!

### **Outgoing District Governor Maurice Taitt will speak on Saturday evening!**



This was the year we were “Committed to Excellence,” and Maurice led us by example. Help yourself to an extra portion of inspiration as we bid farewell to the world traveler who never thought he'd actually be a Toastmaster. We might even hear someone sing “I'm so excited!”

### **Vote your club's proxy. It DOES matter!**



Business meeting will be held Saturday afternoon—no charge!

**Volunteer to help at the conference.** It's a great way to meet others and see the ins and outs of the conference.

### **Exchange ideas for your clubs!**



The conference is a great opportunity to meet members who may have overcome the exact problem your club is wrestling with. Bring your problems and see what solutions you might find.

### **Revitalize yourself!**



At the conference, you'll find people who are EXCITED to be a Toastmaster! Their enthusiasm can help renew your commitment to complete whatever manual you're working on. Or maybe you'll find the perfect High Performance Leadership (HPL) project idea. Get out of neutral and get moving on your own Voyage of Discovery.

And the best reason to go to the Spring Conference .....

### **You deserve it!**



Get ready to set sail on your personal “Voyage of Discovery”.

## Register now for the District 25 Spring 2008 Conference!

## District 25 Spring Conference Banner Parade - Friday May 2, 2008

Bring Your Club Banner to the conference.

This is your chance to shine – to show off your club!

Let us know you are there. The Banner Parade opens the Conference on Friday Evening. It's an impressive sight — like the opening day on the Olympics with all the Flags. It is your time to be proud and strut your stuff — we need every club there to be in the Banner Parade — so come on out and feel a part of our history by being at this conference and being in the Banner Parade!

Wave your Banner and show your pride as you march in with your Club Banner! Join in our Banner Parade which starts our Opening Ceremonies.

Then listen and be inspired by our Friday Keynote Speaker. This event will get you off to an energizing start for the rest of the conference!

## Wave Your Banner and Show Your Pride! Bring Your Club Banner to the Spring Conference

Remember all Banners get hung up in the main room after the Parade so we get to look at them throughout the Conference and get inspiration from the older clubs with all the beautiful ribbons for accomplishments over the years.

**Tip:** get someone who is coming to the conference to remember to take the Banner at the last meeting before the conference, then after the conference pick it up.

**\*Clubs Participating in the Banner Parade will receive a special ribbon to attach to your club banner. Clubs will receive the ribbon at the Conference.**

For more Information and to Register Your Club online visit

**[www.d25toastmasters.org/bannerparade](http://www.d25toastmasters.org/bannerparade)**

or contact District 25 Sergeant at Arms, Mary Feltman, DTM  
[maryfeltman@d25toastmasters.org](mailto:maryfeltman@d25toastmasters.org)