



Making Effective Communication a Worldwide Reality



APRIL 2005 EDITION
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The Double Dozen Newsletter

District 24

SOARING ABOVE THE HORIZON



Dear Fellow Toastmasters of District 24:

I am excited to share the news I recently received from our International Director, Sheri Wood. She told me that District 24 was #1 in our Region in meeting the District goals. I told her the reason for that was a direct result of each member in District 24 setting their personal goals. I know that some of you are new to our district and are working on that first CTM. Some of you have set an ATM or DTM designation as your goals this year. Some of you stepped out of your comfort zone and entered your first speech contest!!!

I have been excited to see the growth in some of you as you took on new leadership roles this year. Our Division and Area Governors are to be commended for the jobs they are doing in helping the members meet their personal goals. The district is constantly looking for new leaders; please let someone from the district leadership team know if you feel like you are ready for a new challenge in this area.

I am also excited for the two new clubs that have chartered in District 24. We welcome West O! Toastmasters in Omaha, who just recently had their Charter Party. I am looking forward to attending the Charter Party for Allied Smooth Talkers Club in Lincoln in the new future. I hope to see the new members become involved in District activities outside your clubs. A BIG thank you to all who played the important roles of club mentors and sponsors to these clubs.

We have some work to do to reach Distinguished District status. I am confident that, with the help of everyone in the district, we WILL reach that status, and I will proudly represent the District at the Golden Gavel Luncheon at the International Convention in Toronto, Canada in August, 2005.

In closing, I want to encourage you to continue to work toward meeting those personal goals. Please don't hesitate to ask for help from your club officers to meet those goals.

Melinda M Haag, DTM
District Governor

The District Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers for the 2005-06 Toastmaster year:

District Governor:	Capiz Greene
Lt. Gov. Education & Training:	Sheila Hoffert
Lt. Gov. Marketing:	Rick Jensen
Div. A Governor:	Sheryl Perkins
Div. C Governor:	Joyce Keel
Div. D Governor:	Dan Buhs
Div. E Governor:	Nousha Sabet

Congratulations

These offices will be elected at the District Business meeting at the Embassy Suites in Omaha, NE on Saturday, April 23, 2005. Additional qualified candidates may be nominated from the floor at the District's Annual Business Meeting.

Submitted by the Nominating Chair, Patt Harper, DTM

BONUS BUCKS

By Pat Hannan, Area Governor, 41/E

Who would have thought that serving as Area Governor would be so much fun? I have had the opportunity to learn so much from each of the five clubs in our area. One of the clubs that I want to highlight in this issue of the Double Dozen is an idea taken from Omaha Club 229, and it might just strike a note of success in your club. It is the bonus bucks program.



Members are awarded bonus bucks for various activities and can use those bucks to bid on prizes at an auction.

Kay Johnson, Club President, brought the idea from a previous club to which had she belonged in Phoenix, Arizona. When the Phoenix Club added bonus bucks to their meetings, they saw a rise in the membership from 9 members to 55 members over 3 years. While the “bucks” certainly were not the biggest draw to the club, it probably was the fun atmosphere that came along with the program.

In the case of Omaha 229, the bonus bucks are earned based on member’s activities.

Activity	Point list
Meeting Attendance	35
Manual Speech	50
Non-Manual Speech	25
“Back Pocket” Speech	50
Completion of CTM, ATM or other designation	250
Volunteering to fill in empty position	15
Mentoring a new club	150
Attending an Area / District Function	75
Participating in Club Speech Contest as a speaker	100
Participating in Club Speech Contest (other)	75
Giving An “Outside” Speech	75
Bringing A Guest	35
Guest Signs Up	50
Use of “word of the day”	10
Win a ribbon	10

RULES: Top 5 point “getters” receive specific recognition prizes at the end-of-the-year party. Balance of points will be turned into “Bucks” to be used for the end-of-the-year auction. If you would like to see 229 in action, you are welcome to visit the club on Monday evenings at 6:00 PM at the Dundee Presbyterian Church. And, as you might have already guessed, 229 is growing like a wild fire!

Generations Speak

(by Kim DeBuhr, Tri-State Toastmasters #8196)

I have been a member of Toastmasters for about six years. I have dragged my husband, children, and, yes, even the dog to conferences and meetings. My two sons especially like to attend the meetings and many times have been given an opportunity to speak. The boys, Ethan and Dutch, would jump at the chance to tell their stories. I am sure if the dog could speak English, she would too.

Dutch, who is now 11 and in the sixth grade, was required to complete several projects relating to a specific area of WWII. The topic Dutch chose was the Hitler Youth. His latest assignment was to write and present a five-minute speech about the Hitler Youth.

Dutch had about 2 minutes completed and asked for my husband and me to listen. He used note cards, made good eye contact, and was very natural. The speech was great but short. It also needed an opening and a closing. This was my opportunity to remind him of all of the things he and I had learned from our Toastmasters travels.

When my other children completed this project, they did not ask for nor want my help. "At last," I thought, "a captive!" Dutch was very receptive to my input; he considered my suggestions and used what he had remembered from Toastmaster speeches to complete his speech.

The students really liked his opening and laughed. Students that wanted to provide feedback did. Dutch was pleased with the feedback he had received. His speech was a success. Here is the opening to that speech.

"BANG, BANG! BANG, BANG! OK, fall over, now you're dead. The children in the Hitler Youth camps didn't have that chance because during PE they used live ammunition...."

Dutch has one more speech to write and present this year for the DARE program. He has tough shoes to fill; the year his older sister was in the sixth grade, she won the speech contest and was honored with presenting it at the DARE graduation.

Being a Toastmaster member has not only made a difference in my life but also my children's. (Now only if the dog....)

Kearney's Loss is Omaha's Gain

Recently, long time club member and Immediate Past President, Bonner Bowden, moved from Kearney to Omaha. Bonner was awarded Club President of the Year at the 2004 Fall Conference in Kearney and was an enthusiastic leader who always shone his energetic and positive light to all he met.

Under his leadership the Kearney Club grew from 3 active members, with 5 on the membership list, to a membership of 21 in October! It was an amazing year for the Kearney Club.

Bonner is a geologist by profession, a past state debate champion in school, and, in his spare "fun" time, writes computer software for train simulator programs where he calculates the specific train characteristics, such as weight, type of motors, track slippage, reaction to going around a curved track, etc. He's one of the brightest people you will meet, but he has a humble spirit that is endearing to all.

Few club members ever knew which direction he might take a table topics question, or what question he might put to you, but it was always entertaining and challenging. The Kearney Club has and will miss him, and we wish him and Julie the best in lucky Omaha.

(Written by Joe Methe, President, Kearney Toastmasters 1799)

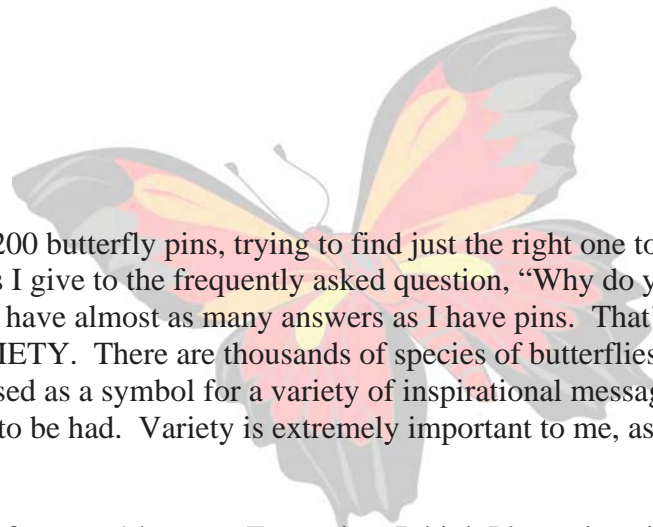


Areas 40, 41, 42, and 43 are collectively working to build up their Division. We are actively working to charter two clubs: Sarpy County Chamber of Commerce, open only to Chamber members, and one at Ameristar Casino, open only employees. Our goal is to get these chartered in April.

We do have several leads and hope to get them included for visits by the International President, Jon Greiner. The Area Governors have been most diligent in keeping their clubs informed on District events and encouraging their participation in events outside the club environment.

Way to go!

From the President From the President



Recently, I was rummaging through my close to 200 butterfly pins, trying to find just the right one to wear that day. It started me thinking about the answers I give to the frequently asked question, “Why do you always wear a butterfly?” It dawned on me that I have almost as many answers as I have pins. That’s when it struck me – probably the REAL reason is VARIETY. There are thousands of species of butterflies, several legends relating to the butterfly, the butterfly is used as a symbol for a variety of inspirational messages, and each one of my pins is unique – with many more to be had. Variety is extremely important to me, as I get bored easily.

It is also variety that has kept me in Toastmasters for over 14 years. Every time I think I have done it all, a new opportunity appears. Whether it is a new manual, a new leadership prospect, or a unique project to tackle, something new shows up. Of course, I continually meet new people and make a plethora of new friends. And every new speech I hear either teaches me something or gives me a new perspective on things.

I hope that each of you explores the variety of opportunities that Toastmasters has to offer. If you think you have seen it all, learned it all, or done it all – NOW is the time to help start a new club, get involved with conferences, run for a club or District office, or browse through the District 24 bookstore. Just like butterflies, Toastmasters offers an array of new prospects to discover. And of course, if you ever come across a unique butterfly pin – just let me know!

Immediate Past District Governor, Patt Harper



60 YEARS!

WOW!!!

West O!

Do you remember May 1, 1945? The Businessmen’s Club 281 members know exactly what happened on that day because they will be celebrating their 60th Club Anniversary. Club 281 members and guests will be celebrating the milestone on May 3, 2005 with a special dinner and entertainment. Current President, Tommie Lee, said, “The anniversary event will recognize the club, current members, and the accomplishments of past members. It is an honor to be a member of a well established club.” Past members and guests from the District, Division, and Area leadership will be invited to recognize the club. Below is more information on the club:

Chartered: May 1, 1945
Businessmen’s Club
Club President: Tommie Lee
Current Membership: 22

“A Community Club”
Weekly meetings at 5:45 – 7:00 PM
Creighton University West Campus
11111 Mill Valley Rd
www.toastmasters281.org

Terracon Consulting Engineers & Scientists is a subsidiary office of Terracon Consultants, Inc., an employee-owned consulting firm of engineers and scientists providing geotechnical, environmental, construction materials, and related services from more than 70 offices nationwide. The West O! Club began because one of its Team Leaders had been active years ago in a Toastmasters club prior to moving to Omaha. The Club meets each Friday, noon - 1 p.m. in their conference room in the company's offices at 2211 South 156th Circle. The club is open to the public, and you may call them at 402-330-2202 to visit.

Sponsors were Jeanie Kannedy and Floy Westermeier from Great Communicators. Mentors are Bonner Bowden and Area Governor Rick Jensen. Visit this club and you will learn that engineers and scientists can be some of the most interesting and entertaining people on earth.

Soar Among the Stars!!!

Toastmasters District 24

Spring Conference 2005

April 22 & 23

The Spring Conference will be a very special event where VIP's abound!!!

EMBASSY SUITES, OLD MARKET --- OMAHA

Jon Greiner, Toastmasters International President
Jim Key, 2003 World Champion of Public Speaking
Hal Daub, Former Omaha Mayor and Congressman,
Communication and Leadership Award Winner

Come listen, learn and share with these communication pros!

You're in for the Best Conference EVER!!!!

Early Registration Fee for entire Conference, breakfast, lunch buffet and dinner: **\$80**
or select just sessions that you can attend.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Club: _____ TM Designation: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail address: _____

___ Entire \$80, ___ Friday night \$20, ___ Sat. morning \$10, ___ Sat. lunch \$20,

___ Sat. Banquet \$35, ___ Sun. Breakfast \$25, featuring special guest, Jim Key

___ Meeting & sessions but no meals, \$15

Make your check payable to:

District 24 Spring Conference 2005, **Mail to:** Sheila Hoffert, LGM, 2204 Coventry Drive, Bellevue, Nebraska 68123

Building Bridges

June 9, 10, & 11, 2005 - Saskatoon

Educational Program

*Experience the Best on a full two day series of
Educational program*



TOASTMASTERS REGION IV CONFERENCE

Saskatoon Saskatchewan • June 9, 10, 11, 2005
www.regioniv.net/conference2005.htm



David Brooks, Keynote
1990 World Champion



Bob Hooey, Keynote
Accredited Speaker



Jon Greiner
International President

The 2005 Region IV conference will provide you great opportunities to learn from the best. We are privileged to have a great line up of speakers for two full days of exciting, educational and inspirational programs. You will have access to:

- **David Brooks** – Saturday Keynote opening session. David is the 1990 World Champion of Public Speaking. This is a must see session. From Austin, Texas - David is in demand around the world
- **Bob Hooey** – Friday Keynote opening session. Bob has earned the Toastmasters Accredited Speaker designation, one of a very small handful of people in Region IV. From Edmonton, Alberta - Bob is a Past District 21 Governor (British Columbia) and now resides in District 42
- **Jon Greiner** – President Toastmasters International. From Dunlap, Illinois - President Greiner will be a key trainer for District senior Leadership at the Conference, as well as presenting a general session on Friday afternoon at the conference

There are 15 additional education sessions for everyone covering diverse topics such as: personal growth, speaking, leadership, professional speaking, and club success.

Allied Smooth Talkers

The Allied Smooth Talkers club started their endeavors in the Toastmasters organization on November 3rd, 2004. As Allied associates, group members have been inspired and challenged to make themselves better in many ways, including communication. Each member has made a commitment to grow in the area of speaking and communicating in order to ultimately improve their already premier service to Allied customers. The group is made up of Allied associates throughout Lincoln (Cotner, 52nd & R and Old Cheney locations). There are 24 charter members, and the group meets every-other Wednesday at 12:00-1:00 at the Allied Building, 5201 R Street.

Proxies – Your Toastmaster Voice

Floy Westermeier, Division E Governor

What is a Proxy?

Proxies are your Club's voice in the decision making process about how our organization is managed. They are exchanged for ballots, and when voted, make your voice heard. The regional proxy certificate is used in June at the regional conference to select an International Director candidate from the region. The proxy certificates for the Annual Business Meeting are used to elect Officers and members of the Board of Directors at the Toastmasters International (TI) convention in August. The Officers and Directors develop policies and procedures for the operation of Toastmasters, plan for the strategic development of our organization, and in general conduct the affairs of the organization for its membership. Proxy certificates and ballots are also used at the convention to vote on changes to the Toastmasters International by-laws, District constitutions, and/or club constitutions. Each club's proxy equals two votes.

How do I get proxy

The official Toastmasters International proxy certificates are mailed **to club presidents of record** about March 31st. Each proxy mailing will contain two proxies that look like post cards. One is stamped "R" for Regional Conference and the other is stamped "A" for the Annual Meeting at the International Conference. Generally clubs mail these proxy forms to the District Governor (DG) after the club has discussed any issues to be voted upon.

Even if someone from your club plans to attend the meetings, mail your proxies to your District Governor whom TI charges with accountability. District Governors are given appointments to exchange proxies for ballots: the individual Toastmaster must stand in long lines waiting a turn. Once the District Governor has completed the exchange, he or she will return your ballot(s) to you. These ballots are the Club's voice at the Regional and International business meetings

If the club wants their proxy voted a certain way, that information should be written on the proxy. Officer candidates for the Annual Business Meeting are usually written in section 3 of the Proxy A.

A Club may designate a Toastmaster who is not a member of their club to carry and vote their proxy at both the Regional conference and Annual convention. If no voting directions are given, the person casting the ballot decides how to vote in the best interests of the club.- **Your club has no voice in our organization if it does not turn its proxy in. Use your voice to help shape the future of Toastmasters!**

Our Club didn't get a Proxy!

If the club president has not received the proxy mailing by the end of the first week of April, s/he should first check to see if it was sent to the former president. Toastmasters International uses the officer list last reported to them when sending information to the clubs. Clubs should always ensure club officer lists are current at WHQ. **Only the District Governor may request a duplicate proxy only once from Toastmasters International and it must be mailed to the current Club President.**

What is a District Proxy?

The District Governor will send a separate mailing to Club Presidents, Vice Presidents Education, and District Officers or publish a proxy form in the District newsletter prior to the Spring District Conference. These paper proxies are not to be confused with the ones Toastmasters International sends for the regional conference and international convention. At the District Conference, only a club member may represent the Club. District Officers may only vote their own ballots. Designated club representatives must have a proxy form signed by the Club President and/or Vice President of Education. All proxies must be exchanged for ballots. **The Spring Conference is your Officer Election time!**

NOTE: It is important that there be **club representation from every club** at the business meeting in order to **meet quorum and validate actions** voted upon. Without quorum, all motions will have to be voted upon by clubs through the mail or in a second meeting. **None of the proxies - District, Regional, or International - are worth the paper they're printed on unless your club dues are paid in full prior to the time the proxy needs to be used!**

Your club's vote is important!

Here is how it works!

CLUB PRESIDENTS AND VP's OF EDUCATION!!!!

Do you need this???

If you are a club president or vice president of Education and plan to attend the council meeting and vote, you do not need a proxy to obtain a ballot at the credential desk.

However, any club member may vote if they are carrying a proxy from the club President or VP of Education, in the event that those two officers cannot attend the conference. If you will be voting in place of the club President or VP of Education, you must present this signed proxy at the credentials table the day of the conference to obtain your ballot(s).

Toastmasters District 24 Proxy Certificate

Spring District Council Meeting – 11:00 a.m.
April 23, 2005
Omaha, Nebraska

Date: _____

Delegate's Name: _____ Club Name & Number: _____

I, the undersigned, hereby assign my proxy to the above named club member to act as an official delegate of our club at the 2005 Spring Council Meeting at the Embassy Suites, Omaha, Nebraska.

The Delegate may cast one (1) ____ or (2) ____ official club votes.

As authorized by: _____
(Signature and printed name of Club President or Vice President of Education)

This proxy must be hand carried to the District Business Meeting by a member of your club.

The District 24 Annual Business Meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 23, 2005 at the Embassy Suites, Omaha, Nebraska. It is your right as a member of Toastmasters to attend the business meeting.

There is **NO CHARGE** if you are only attending the business meeting portion of the conference.



DISTRICT CALENDAR 2005

(dates subject to change)

Apr 9	Division Contests Completed
Apr 22-23	District Spring Conference, Embassy Suites – Old Market – Omaha, NE
April 23	District Executive Council Meeting
Apr 30	Area Governor Reports Submitted to District Governor
May 1-8	Club Elections Held, Officer Lists to TI Headquarters
May 14	District Picnic (Pot Luck) All Clubs Invited
May 21	District Executive Council Meeting
June 9-11	Region IV Conference – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
June 18	Area/Division Governor training – 1 st Round (Mahoney)
June 30	Club officer lists for all clubs due at TI Headquarters
June 30	2004 – 2005 Distinguished Club Program ends
July 9	TLI Lincoln
July 9	TLI Omaha
July 30	TLI Grand Island
Aug 24-27	Toastmasters International Convention – Toronto, Canada
Aug 27	Club contests to be completed (Humorous and Table Topics)
Aug 30	Club officer training completed
Sept 1-4	Area contest completed
Sept 24	Division contests completed
Oct 1	Dues and Membership reports due at TI Headquarters
Oct 14-15	Fall Conference, Grand Island
Oct 14	District Council Meeting
Oct 31	Area Governor Reports submitted to District Governor
Nov 12	Div/Area Governor training, 2 nd Round
Nov 12	District Executive Committee meeting
Dec 10	Club Semi-annual elections completed



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