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Tamara Dowling—Editor

Making Effective Communication a Worldwide Reality

*Share the Light*

# DOUBLE DOZEN

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## New Officers Begin in July

As of July 1, District 24 will welcome its new officers. Please welcome the following individuals as they assume their new roles

### District 24 Positions:

District Governor: Chris Czerwinski, Omaha  
LGET: Connie Klabunde, Omaha  
LGM: Elden Plettner, Nebraska City  
Treasurer: Kendra Beckstead, Grand Island  
Secretary: Ruth Negus, Omaha  
PRO: Pat Hannan, Wahoo

### Division Governors:

Division A: Robert Puhalla  
Division C: Garry Martin  
Division D: Rick Jensen  
Division E: Ellen Hankes

**Welcome New Officers**

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It is also time to thank the people who have made District 24 such a huge success during this past year. Please congratulate and say a huge **THANK YOU** to the following three individuals:

- ✦ Sheila Hoffert for the outstanding job she has done during the past year as our District Governor
- ✦ Chris Czerwinski for excelling as our Lt. Governor of Education and Training
- ✦ Pat Hannan for her tireless efforts as our Lt. Governor of Marketing.

## Club Administration

Have you updated your club's information on the Toastmaster's website? Now is the perfect time to do so. Please visit the website [https://ecommerce.toastmasters.org/timssnet/login/tnt\\_login.cfm](https://ecommerce.toastmasters.org/timssnet/login/tnt_login.cfm) and put in your new officers.

Also, it is **very** important to get your dues paid. Currently, there are 4 clubs that still need to pay dues: Nuclear, Global Domination, Plattsmouth, and Sandhills. Please get those payments in as soon as possible.

## A Word From Our District 24 Governor

June has to be one of the most frenetic months for Toastmasters International. The year is winding down, and people are pushing to meet their club goals and, more importantly, personal achievements. Each district has four critical success factors, and District 24 has met its AC requirements and will easily meet the CC goals. This leaves new clubs and membership payments as the final focus.

There are three potential new clubs in the wings with one demo meeting set. There is a new club forming in Lincoln at Talent Plus, and they are in the process of sending in charter paperwork. If we can pull in these new clubs, we may have a chance of being a Distinguished District again this year. To achieve this, **the district needs the clubs who currently have outstanding April dues to submit their payments, NOW! This is very important!** Those clubs are identified in this newsletter. **Let's push to make this a three-in-a-row distinguished district.** To all of the clubs who have paid their dues, I thank

you, and I encourage all Toastmasters to continuously grow your memberships and spread the word about this great organization.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed working with many of you throughout the district. I want to thank the Area and Division Governors and other district officers for all of their hard work and to the conference chairs and their committees for putting on great district conferences. It has been a distinct honor and pleasure to serve District 24, and I will continue to support the district as Past District Governor.

I wish all of you success in your personal and professional goals, and I ask you to strive towards excellence in your commitment to Toastmasters and stretch to meet the growth experience that the organization provides. Keep your clubs strong by following the DCP goals and support your district leadership in reaching distinguished district.

Sheila Hoffert

### Area/Division Governor Training

The first round of Area and Division Governor training will be held on Saturday, June 16 at 8:30 a.m. at Union Bank in Wahoo, NE. The agenda is as follows:

- 8:30 – Breakfast and Networking
- 9:00 - Welcome from Sheila & Chris
- 9:15 - Quick intro question
- 9:30 – Public Relations
- 9:40 - DCP
- 10:00 - "Clone Floy"
- 15 minute break
- 10:45 - Club Visits and "Best Practices"
- 11:00 - "Hazard Warnings"
- 11:15 - Contests - Rules of the Road
- 11:30 - Wrap Up
- 11:45 - Conclusion

Hope to see you there!

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Will you volunteer?

Anita Lewandowski is looking for volunteers to help with the registration tables and do other duties during the 2007 Region IV Conference. The conference will be held at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, June 21-23, 2007.

If you are able and willing to volunteer, please contact Anita at [lewandowski.anita@principal.com](mailto:lewandowski.anita@principal.com).

You will have a lot of fun and be a tremendous help at the same time!!!!



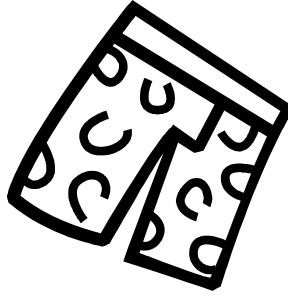
## LGET Letter (by Chris Czerwinski, Lt. Governor of Education and Training)

### Was It Warm Enough for Shorts?

When I first joined a TM club back in 1988, I had been working for a bank for more than 7 years. The attire then was dress slacks, shirt, and tie. I chose to be different; I wore a suit, pressed white shirt, and the most outlandish ties I could find. Toward the end of my relationship with the bank, we were able to wear polo shirts and slacks. Times do change business attire.

I began working for another large IT corporation where we could wear jeans and shorts in the summer. Where I currently work, they allow shorts and t-shirts all year round. So for me, business casual is shorts and a t-shirt.

many of you saw me in shorts, a sports coat and slacks at lunch, and a suit for dinner. Being a little different can be a good thing - rocking the boat does have its advantages and disadvantages.



Now, let's get serious. We have one month left this year, so there is still time for you to complete 3 awards to qualify for the Triple Crown –Wall of Fame. The “wall” was displayed at the District 24 Conferences and will also be proudly displayed at the Region IV conference in June.

It would be great if we can add more awards before the regional conference, so, if you are getting close, let me know, as I would like to include your picture. (3X5 size)

If you attended the district conference, then

Next Month “It’s a Rap” or “Transition Time”.

## Club Officer Lists

Congratulations to these clubs who have already submitted their officer lists to Toastmasters International:

- ✦ Roadtoasters Club
- ✦ West O! Toastmasters
- ✦ Speak – First Club
- ✦ Offutt Club
- ✦ Shelf Talkers Club

- ✦ OPPD Toastmasters Club
- ✦ Lincoln Toastmasters Club
- ✦ TMs at Principal Club
- ✦ Businessmen's Club
- ✦ Noonshiners Club

If your club is not listed, log-in and update your 2007-2008 officer list before June 30 for DCP credit.

## District 24 Goals

District 24 is a terrific organization! Let's kick up the heat, pick up the pace, and watch the numbers of soar!

Categories	To Date	District 24 Goal	Percent of Goal Reached
Competent Communicator	96	93	103%
Advanced Communicator	45	26	173%
Membership Payments	2382	2735	87%
Total Clubs	64	73	88%

**Have you been to the District 24 website recently?**

**Check out:**  
[www.district24toastmasters.com](http://www.district24toastmasters.com)  
**for the current news and upcoming events.**

## Educational Fund

A new educational fund was started and conference attendees donated generously, raising more than \$100 towards supporting the fund. Money will be used for such things as member dues for the prison clubs.

Special thanks to contributors who graciously donated items for the raffle.

More information will become available about future raffles as the fall conference draws closer.

## Speech Ideas

Have you ever experienced writer's block? A common concern, especially with new members, is how they will continue to generate speech topics. They have already given the easy ones: their ice breaker, the funny family events, the vacation with unexpected twists and turns, and, now, they are story-bankrupt! But great stories are sometimes just a click away. Surfing the internet for a story idea can produce a windfall of great topics.



It has been said that a picture paints a thousand words and, to that end, there is a great site full of photos that might help you crash the gate on writer's block. Visit the Stars and Stripes on-line newspaper <http://www.estripes.com/webpages.asp?id=32&nl=2>. The Stars and Stripes goes back many years and was a standard newspaper for GI's during WWII. Now, the paper has opened their vault of terrific photos and offers a photo-of-the-day online. Here are just a few examples:

- ✦ On May 23rd, the photo was taken in Frankfurt, Germany, on October 10, 1949. "William A. Stephens, chief of the CARE mission, presents the 5,000,000th CARE package delivered in Germany to the Kurt Engler family of Frankfurt. The parcel was a gift from Betty Wright Basche of Minneapolis." Who was Mr. Stephens and what was CARE? The time frame was reasonably close to the end of WWII and Germany was in the rebuilding mode. Maybe CARE was a relief effort.
- ✦ On April 29th, the photo archive provided a 1976 photo of Wolfman Jack, a 70's icon for teenagers all over the U.S. The Wolfman was heard daily on about 2,200 radio stations in 40 countries and was in Japan to tape talk shows and commercials for an electronics firm. The Wolfman was a wacky guy for those among us who watched late night television but radio and television has always been filled with wacky people and many could become fun subjects for our speeches.
- ✦ Another fun photo is of a family pet. In August 1955, Mrs. Olga Ruhlow, wife of Sgt. Wilbur Ruhlow, called Stars and Stripes to say that she thought the family dog — a 5½-year-old boxer named Bruno — bore a striking resemblance to a tough first sergeant when dressed in Army togs, and would make a good subject for a photo. Check out the dog at <http://www.stripes.com/photoday/030107photoday.html>.

Club members are extremely creative and could turn any one of these photos into a great story. Happy surfing!

## Advanced Club Forming in Omaha

Are you interested in joining a new Advanced Toastmasters Club in Omaha?

An advanced Toastmasters Club in Omaha is forming and looking for members who want to turn up their skills. To become a member, you must have your CTM or Competent Communicator designation, and you must be member of at least one other Toastmaster Club.

The members plan to meet on the 1st Monday of each month from 6 - 8 p.m. at Denny's Restaurant - 84th & I-80 (near Grover) - east side of road, south of Mangelsens.

In order to form a new club, Toastmasters requires 20 members. There will be some fees involved:

- \$1.50 per member/per meeting fee - for room rental (whether you eat or not)
  - \* Dinner meeting - Members are encouraged to arrive early to order their food before the meeting starts
- Club membership fees of \$27 per member.
- New club charter fee of \$125 will be split between the members. With 20 members the one time cost would be \$6.25 per member.

Why join? Speakers will be given an opportunity to work on longer assignments in advanced manuals. Additionally, this will be an opportunity to polish your skills in another environment. You'll be able to network with other members, and you'll be working with an experienced group of Toastmasters in addition to your primary club.

The meeting format will differ slightly. There will be no table topics, more speakers, and both an oral and round-robin style of evaluation.

For additional information, contact Sheila Nelson at [sheila.nelson@aquila.com](mailto:sheila.nelson@aquila.com) or call her at 402-221-2159 (work).

## TOASTMASTERS DISTRICT 24 FALL CONFERENCE

Save the Date: Friday and Saturday, November 2-3, 2007

Celebrating "Heeere's Toastmasters"  
Holiday Inn Express  
Norfolk, Nebraska

Overnight rooms available at:  
Holiday Inn Express  
920 S. 20th St.  
Norfolk, Nebraska  
(402) 379-1524

Friday Night includes guided tour of Johnny Carson Memorabilia Exhibit

More information will be made available in next month's newsletter.



## Offutt Toastmasters Club Luncheon Celebrated 50 Years (by Chris Mortensen)



Toastmasters Club #2393, the Offutt Club, was established 1 May, 1957. To celebrate its Golden Anniversary, the club members held a luncheon on May 10th at the base's Patriot Club (formerly Officer's Club). The event was filled with club history, many great speeches, and much more.

During the meeting, former member, Randy Prier, recalled the story of how it became the J.C. Brockway club in honor of a Toastmaster and club member who perished while attempting to land on the base runway in the 1970s, and then eventually reverted back to name "the Offutt Club."

The theme of the luncheon was how public speaking and leadership skills can benefit everyone, and local Toastmaster leaders, Jennie Kannedy (right), Pat Hannan and Sheila Hoffert, each spoke to that message. Frank Wilson, a 25-year Toastmasters veteran and club Vice President of Education, gave a personal testimony of how his time with Toastmasters has given him self-confidence in many aspects of his life.



USSTRATCOM's Col Chris Fulton (left), was the featured speaker. He spoke eloquently on the importance for most military members to overcome their introverted nature to be able to effectively communicate with their subordinates, peers, and superiors.

This event showcased the rejuvenation the Offutt Club has been undergoing in the past year. With new leadership and a commitment to excellence, they have made many improvements; creating a club website and newsletter, earning awards for recruitment, and earned a Distinguished Club award for the first time in at least 5 years. With a newfound sense of enthusiasm and success, the Offutt Club is off to a great start on its second half-century of bringing speaking and leadership skills to the Offutt Air Force Base community.

To see more pictures, please visit: <http://members.cox.net/tm2393/photos.htm>



## Spring Conference Photos—April 2007



## GOOD LUCK, JIM!

Good luck to Jim Otto (right) who will represent District 24 in the speech contest at the Region IV Conference in June.

Chris Czerwinski (left), District 24 Lt. Governor of Education and Training, hands Jim his trophy at the Spring Conference, which was held at Mahoney State Park in April.

Good luck, Jim!!!

# Region IV Toastmasters Conference

## Schedule of Events

### Thursday, June 21, 2007

5:00 p.m. Toastmasters International is holding an invitation only focus group. All those not attending the focus group are invited to participate in an All-Region Toastmasters meeting. For a speaking slot or to volunteer for any position at this meeting, please contact [lewandowski.anita@principal.com](mailto:lewandowski.anita@principal.com) and info will be forwarded to the Toastmaster of the event.

### Friday, June 22, 2007

7:30 a.m. Registration desk opens

8:00 a.m. Credentials desk open; TI Book Store opens

8:30 a.m. Opening and Welcome by Nebraska's First Lady, Sally Ganem

Kick off with Craig Valentine, 1999 World Champion of Public Speaking. *Craig is an internationally-known award-winning professional speaker, trainer and CEO of The Communication Factory.*

10:30am Dana LaMon, 1992 World Champion of Public Speaking with "A Meaningful Life"

Noon Lunch with Keynote speaker, Craig Valentine

2:00 p.m. Two educational sessions to consider:

- Speaker, Kim Whiteside with "All your Senses to Connect Emotionally"
- Speaker, Sara Yager with "Can I give you a Hug?"
- DISTRICT TREASURER TRAINING 2-4pm

3:00 p.m. Two educational sessions to consider:

- Speaker, Theo Black with "Visioning"
- Speaker, Colleen Bozarth, "Leadership Effectiveness"

4:00 p.m. Chris Ford, Senior Vice President of Toastmasters International presents, "Toastmasters and You"

5:30pm Cash bar and reception

7pm Lancaster Buffet dinner and Friday Fun Night

- Hospitality room opens after activities wrap up until 9:30pm.



## Saturday, June 23, 2007

- 7:30 a.m. Registration desk opens
- 8:00 a.m. Credentials desk pen; TI Book Store opens
- 8:30 a.m. Opening and Kick off with Dana LaMon, 1992 World Champion of Public Speaking. *Dana has spoken to audiences from southeast Asia to South Africa, including 29 states in the United States.*
- 9:30 a.m. Two educational sessions to consider:
- Speaker, Judy Southwick with "Opening Doors Around the World"
  - Facilitated networking session with Anita Lewandowski and Audra Kelly
  - DISTRICT PUBLIC RELATIONS TRAINING 9:30am-12:30pm
- 10:30 a.m. Two educational sessions to consider:
- Bill Cashell with "Persuasive Speaking"
  - Kim Overton with "Are You Fit to Speak"
- 11:45 a.m. Two educational sessions to consider:
- Tom Albers with "Tell the Toastmasters Story".
  - Helen Jacobe with "Adventure Racing"
- 12:45 p.m. Lunch with Communication & Leadership Award Winner, Congressman Lee Terry. *Before coming to Congress, Lee served two years as president of the Omaha City Council, and two years as Omaha City Council vice president. In business, Lee was a respected Omaha attorney and managing partner of a small law firm specializing in civil cases. In Washington, Lee currently works on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which oversees telecommunications, energy, finance, trade, consumer protection, and business-related legislative issues.*
- 2:30 p.m. Craig Valentine with "The Champion's Edge"
- 4:00 p.m. Business meeting
- 5:30 p.m. Cash bar and reception
- 6:00 p.m. Prime Rib Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Region IV International Speech Contest
- Hospitality room opens after activities wrap up.

## Region IV Conference Registration

**Toastmasters International  
Region IV Conference  
June 22-23, 2007 Lincoln, Nebraska  
Cornhusker Marriott – (402) 474-7474**

Note: You must make your room reservations directly with the [Cornhusker](#) in Lincoln, Nebraska. Prices do not include your room. Listed prices are in US currency. The Toastmasters rate is **\$109.00/night**. Ask for TM block or use code: TMITMIA. General parking at the hotel \$7 daily with validation for guests, partial validation for those attending conference.

**Please complete registration form and send payment to:**  
Toastmasters Region IV 2007 Conference; c/o Deb Jackson  
1321 Sherman Place  
Grand Island, NE 68803  
(Call 308-390-1023 with questions on registration)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ TM designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Club #: \_\_\_\_\_ District #: \_\_\_\_\_ District office held: \_\_\_\_\_

Your telephone or email (if we have questions): \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Packages:</b>	<b>Prices</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Premier Fri/Sat All Inclusive (all events, all meals)	\$165
<input type="checkbox"/> Economy Fri/Sat Fri/Sat Educationals and speech contest only (no meals)	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Premier Friday Friday Educationals, luncheon, buffet/fun night	\$80
<input type="checkbox"/> Economy Friday Friday Educationals only	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Premier Saturday Saturday Educationals, lunch buffet, banquet, speech contest	\$95
<input type="checkbox"/> Value Saturday Saturday Educationals, lunch buffet and speech contest	\$70
<input type="checkbox"/> Economy Saturday Saturday Educationals and speech contest only	\$50
<b>Individual Events:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Buffet and fun night Friday, June 22	\$35
<input type="checkbox"/> Luncheon Saturday, June 23	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> International speech contest Saturday, June 23	\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> President's banquet Saturday, June 23	\$40

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: 2007-2008 Region IV District Governors, LT Gov of Education and Training, and LT Gov of Marketing, please add \$50 to your total for additional meals.

Please call 308-385-7242 with other questions.

# DISTRICT 24 CALENDAR

(all dates subject to change)

June 16	Area/Division Governor Training, 1st round—Union Bank, Wahoo
June 22-23	Region IV Conference - Cornhusker Hotel - Lincoln
June 30	2006/07 Distinguished Club Plan Ends
July 14	TLI—Grand Island
July 28	TLI—Omaha
Aug 4	TLI—Lincoln
Aug 15-18	Toastmasters International Convention, Desert Ridge Resort, AZ
Aug 31	Club officer training completed
Sept 1	Club contests to be completed (Humorous and Evaluation)
Sept 22	Area contests completed
Oct 1	Dues and membership reports due at TI Headquarters
Oct 6	Division Contests completed
Oct 31	Area Governor Reports submitted
Nov 2/3	Fall Conference—Holiday Inn Express—Norfolk
Nov 3	District Council Meeting
Nov 17	Div/Area Governor training, round two, Mahoney
Nov 17	District Executive Committee meeting
Dec 10	Club Semi-annual elections completed

