



Toastmasters T.L.C.

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Tamara Dowling—Editor
Tamara.Dowling@nmhs.org

DOUBLE DOZEN

Key Contacts

Chris Czerwinski—District 24 Governor
governor@district24toastmasters.com

Connie Klabunde—Lt. Gov. Education
lget@district24toastmasters.com

Elden Plettner—Lt. Gov. Marketing
lqm@district24toastmasters.com

Sheila Hoffer—Awards Chairperson
awards@district24toastmasters.org

Pat Hannan—Public Relations Officer
pro@district24toastmasters.com

Randy Prier—DCP Outreach Chairman
rprier@cox.net

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Toastmasters International Conference

In just a few weeks, members of District 24 will be heading off to sunny Phoenix, Arizona. When many of us think of Phoenix, we think of a warm winter get away location. During the summer months, most of us just think about the temperature in that desert climate. But Chris, Connie and Sheila along with a few other district members are thinking about the International Conference where they will listen to the next World Champion of Public Speaking.

Contestants from around the globe have competed in club, area, division, and regional contests to make it to the world stage. This year's conference is being held August 15 - 18 at the luxurious J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort and Spa.

It is not too late to join them. More information can be found on-line at: <http://www.toastmasters.org/artisan/detail.asp?CategoryID=1&SubCategoryID=13&ArticleID=494&Page=1>

Welcome Toasters +

District 24 welcomes our newest Toastmasters Club, Toasters +. Toasters + was chartered June 26. Marilyn K. Champoux and Lisa Zentz will serve as club mentors helping this new crop of Toastmasters grow into what promises to be another outstanding organization.

Talent Plus, a privately held company in Lincoln, Nebraska was founded in 1989. They are a premier global human resources consulting firm. Talent Plus has more than 135 employees, and we hope that each will be able to participate in the Toastmasters experience.

To learn more about Talent Plus, you can find them on the web at: <http://www.talentplus.com/>

Welcome!!!

A Word From Our District 24 Governor—Chris Czerwinski

I'll be heading to Phoenix in August for the Toastmasters International Conference. I look forward to hearing the International Speech Contest and helping select the new International Directors plus the Third VP Candidate, and making many new Toastmaster friends.

The first quarter looks promising as we may have 3 – 5 new clubs we are working with to help get them chartered. Don't forget if you want to help start a club to contact our LGM, Elden Plettner at lgm@district24toastmasters.com

More on TLC (Teamwork, Leadership, and Communication) - Communication:

Listening is an integral part of communication. A good listener understands that missing the point can lead to confusion. A good listener tries to keep his or her mind open and attentive to what is being said.

Let's set the scenario. You've been selected to evaluate one of your clubs most, experienced speakers. You are a fairly new club member and have given just a couple speeches; you're nervous; and you don't think you can give an effective evaluation. The speaker hands you an advanced manual as he or she is introduced. What are you going to do? Do you quickly scan project and read the

objectives? Or, do you just sit back and focus your attention on the speaker?

Focus grasshopper and listen. Use the experience you have gained as a Toastmaster and ask yourself questions like: "What points is the speaker trying to make and how is he or she reinforcing those points? Are they easily understood? Would I have done anything differently? How does the speaker "Work the room?"

Remained focused and listen, making mental notes to yourself, and jot down a few reminders. Then, communicate what worked well for you, didn't work well, and what could have been done differently. Remember this evaluation is from your personal viewpoint. Later on you can be more specific in your written evaluation by answering the questions in the evaluation.

Remember a great evaluation not only helps the speaker but the audience as well. And by listening and being focused you've help yourself be a better communicator. That's a small part of what Toastmasters is all about.

If you have any comments, suggestions, or questions let me know. I can be reached by email governor@district24toastmasters.com or in person at the upcoming TLIs.

Former District 24 Toastmaster Heads to Phoenix



Bryant Pergerson and Lance Miller, 2005 World Champion of Public Speaking

Bryant Pergerson, a former member of TriState Toastmasters at Cooper Nuclear Power Plant, won the Region II International Speech Contest in San Diego this year and is moving on to the big show, the World Champion of Public Speakers in Phoenix, AZ!

A big thank you to JohnMichael DeBartolo for sharing this success story with us. Some of you may remember Bryant when he won the District Humorous contest a few years back with a true story of his experience as a bone marrow donor.

Good luck, Bryant!

LGET Letter by Connie Klabunde

Anticipation—Trepidation—Excitement—Terror

These can all describe this time of year in the Toastmaster calendar. It is contest time!!!

Some of us approach contest time with:

Anticipation – the opportunity to present a speech above and beyond the normal club setting. Anticipating the judges responses and the end result

Trepidation – the thought of competing is too much. You are so uncomfortable you refuse to make eye contact or to listen to any of the details and planning as it relates to the contest.

Excitement – Wow! This is a fun idea. There is nothing better than competing and trying to place in the contest. You can not wait to see or hear the judge's results.

Terror – find me the hole in the floor so I can crawl in.

For those who approach contests with anticipation and excitement, no additional encouragement is needed at this time for you to compete. I would like to encourage the reluctant out there to compete. We all joined Toastmasters to learn and to grow. What can a speech contest teach you?

Originality – one of the key qualities to a competitive speech is its originality. You have the ideas and thoughts you would like to share. To develop and polish the thoughts into a contest speech takes time and will polish your writing skills. You develop your thoughts and ideas into concise descriptive words to fit exactly into the time frame provided.

Practice – to prepare for a contest takes on a different intensity to your practice routine. Let's admit it; sometimes we present our manual speeches with very little practice. To compete will require more practice. I recommend a process I call "chunking". Practice the opening, the closing, one point, then another. Chunk the speech up and practice each separately. Once the chunks are polished, practice with the correct flow to get the time and delivery polished.

Timing – we are very lenient with the timing the manual speeches. Run over a minute or two, it may get mentioned in you evaluation, but you still receive credit for the speech in your manual. During the contest, your timing must be within 30 seconds or you will be disqualified. It may be your best delivery ever, but a few seconds can steal the reward you deserve.

These are just a few of the lessons you can learn by challenging yourself in the contest.

Stretch and grow. Compete in the contest.

**WE WANT YOU TO
COMPETE!!!!**



Membership Contest - Smedley Award, by Pat Hannan

When Ralph Smedley started Toastmasters, he could not have known that the organization would reach out and touch so many. In his honor, can your club add five new, dual, or reinstated members between August 1 and September 30?

By doing so you'll qualify to receive a Smedley Award ribbon to display on your club's banner. The club also will earn a choice of one module from *The Better Speaker Series*, *The Successful Club Series*, or *The Leadership Excellence Series*. Clubs are automatically entered when they submit their membership applications to Toastmasters.

Remember, the deadline is September 30, 2007.

Contest Season, by Pat Hannan

It is contest season and, as always, you can count on members stepping up to the plate and giving it their all. This fall District 24 is serving up two terrific contest opportunities: Humorous Speech Contest and the Evaluation Contest. Members will progress from their club contest to area level followed by division contests and finishing up in Norfolk, NE in November at the District Conference and contests.

Good contests require great planning. Each club Vice President of Education is tasked with the responsibility to run the club contest. That is often completed by appointing a well organized contest chair to manage the details.

While the rules might seem a bit daunting, they become easier to understand if you refer back to the rules. Each club received a pamphlet outlining the rules of the road for contests, but a few of along the line, may have misplaced that item. But, don't worry! TI has provided the 2007 Contest Rule Book online: <http://www.toastmasters.org/fupload/media/IntlSpeechContestRules.pdf> Evaluation rules begin on page 15 and the Humorous Contest Rules on page 20.

A change in the way that District 24 contests have been conducted in the past can be found on page 15, paragraph 2B. In those areas with 4 assigned clubs or less eight

weeks prior to the area contest, the district has the option to allow the two highest placed available contestants from each club to compete in the area contest. In those divisions with four assigned areas or less, districts have the option to allow the 2 highest placed available contestants from each area to complete. In districts with four assigned divisions or less, districts have the option to allow the 2 highest placed available contestants from each division to participate in the district contest. Please refer directly to the rules in the "Speech Contest Rulebook 2007" for additional information.

The best planning in the world does not help without contestants and volunteers to staff the many roles for the contest. Would you be willing to serve? Volunteering to help another club, area, or division is a great way to check out members that you might not normally have the opportunity to hear. Compete and challenge your club members to compete as well. For those of you unable to compete, volunteer. It is truly a rewarding experience!



Reach for Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM), by Elden Plettner

Did you know that, by sponsoring or mentoring a new club, you will complete one of the requirements to move you closer to achieving your Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) designation? Sometimes finding new clubs to help grow is not an easy task. Toastmasters International only allows 2 sponsors and 2 mentors per new club to receive credit towards that requirement, but there is another way to complete that requirement. You can become a club coach for a club that is struggling.

Once a member has completed their Advanced Communicator Gold (ACG) and Advanced Leader Silver (ALS) designations, they will have completed all tasks required for the DTM designation. Several District 24 members have completed their ACG, formerly known as Advanced Toastmaster Gold, but have not completed the ALS requirements.

Contact your Area Governor/District Governor or the LGM if you are interested in having your name placed on the list to sponsor, mentor, or coach a club.

Advanced Leader Silver (ALS)

Requirements:

- Achieved Advanced Leader Bronze award (or “old” Competent Leader award)
- Served a complete term as a district officer (district governor, lieutenant governor, public relations officer, secretary, treasurer, division governor or area governor)
- Completed the High Performance Leadership program
- Served successfully as a club sponsor, mentor or coach

While every club has to have at least 20 members to charter, sometimes things happen, and membership drops. You can volunteer to serve as a club coach and help clubs whose membership numbers have dropped to 12 members or below and would like to have a seasoned Toastmaster help re-grow their club. Contact Elden Plettner, Lt. Gov. of Marketing, lgm@district24toastmasters.com, and he will work with the club to assign that helping hand.

Sick Call or PR? By Pat Hannan, Public Relations Officer

Many of us have spent some time at the doctor's office or the local oil change place and found ourselves looking for something good to read. We often shuffle through the magazines that are piled on tables or stacked neatly in a rack. Wouldn't it be great to find something really useful to read while we are waiting? How about a Toastmasters Magazine? In today's world, we are thinking more and more about recycling and reusing items. Have you ever thought about leaving your old Toastmasters Magazine behind for someone else to enjoy?

While a number of us save these little jewels, I suspect that there are a couple

among us who do not treasure each and every issue enough to keep all of them in our personal library. Why not remove your mailing label and replace with the name and contact information for your club or one near your waiting area and leave the gift of something good to read for the next visitor?

In fact, the next time that you order additional supplies from Toastmasters International, ask them to send you brochures. They will send 10 high quality brochures with each order for free. You can't beat the price, and they are a great addition to your local library's brochure rack. Of course, you may need to get permission to take some of the space at the library.

Did You Know?

Here are a few fun club facts that you may not know.

Toastmasters is filled with leaders, but Greater Communicators seems have more than the average number. Ellen Hankes, Floy Westermeier, and George Volz are all members of Greater Communicators. Ellen is the Division E Governor, Floy is Area 42 and 44 Governor, and George is an Area Governor in Division A.

Another club with more than the average is Small Talkers who has both the District Governor, Chris, and the Lt. Governor of Education and Training, Connie, claiming membership.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

If you would like to see your club, area, or division special events added to the website calendar of events, send them to pro@district24toastmasters.com

District Award Submissions, by Pat Hannan

Don't wait too long! Now is the time to submit your club officer of the year nominations. Each year District 24 honors the best of the best. You will find nomination criteria online at <http://www.district24toastmasters.com> under News. Please submit only one nomination form per office from your club. Additionally, if you feel that your Area Governor and Division Governor did a great job, nominate them for the Area Governor of the Year and Division Governor of the Year Award. Does your club select a Toastmaster of the Year? We have an award for the District Toastmaster of the Year, as well. With all the great clubs and terrific officers, there should be a flood of nominations for The Ann Gold Award.

Ann Gold Clubs typically have:

- High membership retention
- Uses the Distinguished Club Plan
- Have a High level of membership growth and retention
- Members participate at Area and Division Contests
- Members attend and participate at District Conference
- Have a speech contests in the fall and spring
- Provides recognition to Club Toastmaster of the Year
- Their club meetings are productive and fun
- Members have high morale and commitment

Ann Gold Club Award will be awarded to a high caliber club that sets the standard for quality in District 24. Check out the district website for more information.

Missing Officer Information

The following clubs have not submitted their officer lists to Toastmasters International.

Club	Division	Area	Club Name
4686	A	1	Yakkity-Yakkers Club
6597	A	4	Point Masters Club
2904	C	20	E.C. Speakers Toastmasters Club
6604	C	20	Star City Club
2788	C	21	Sunrise Toastmasters Club
2747	C	22	Capital City Toastmasters Club
1454	D	30	HDR Toastmasters Club
6501	D	30	Lincoln Financial Club
6806	D	31	Roman Forum Toastmasters Club
3573	E	41	Nuclear Powered Club
786836	E	42	Ameristar Leadership Club
736714	E	42	Sarpy County Chamber Toastmasters Club
3560	E	43	Plattsmouth Club
8432	E	43	Ramblers Club

Updating your club list is easy. Just go to the Toastmasters International website: https://ecommerce.toastmasters.org/timssnet/login/tnt_login.cfm

Fairview Toastmasters Celebrates at Annual Picnic, by Chris Carroll

Fairview Toastmasters celebrated another year with its annual June picnic. There was no shortage of conversation or homemade food. There was a nice showing of support from other clubs, including the immediate past district governor, Sheila Hoffert; Division Governor, Garry Martin; Leo Allen of Lincoln 403; and Tom McCormick of Sunrise Toastmasters. Family members in attendance included Richard Durand, Sandi Simpson, Dan Kolar, and Becky Martin.

Member accomplishments during the year included Donald D. Smith and David Durand, ATM Gold and Jean Dier, Competent Leader.

Division Governor Garry Martin presided over the swearing in of the new officers: President, Jean Kolar; Vice President of Membership, Jean Dier; Vice President of Education, Jolene Boshart; Vice President of Public Relations, Chris Carroll; Secretary, Donald D. Smith; Treasurer, Mickey Anderson; Sergeant at Arms, Doug Simpson.

It was a pleasantly cool and sunny evening which was much appreciated by everyone in attendance. The fixings were particularly memorable and included homemade ice cream, flan, and pesto pasta salad. There were many more equally wonderful dishes and desserts. There was discussion of initiating a 1st annual one-armed tug-a-war event, but it was agreed it would be best to handle this as a table topic first.

Looking for Judges

Area Governor, Buck Buckhahn, jrbuckhahn@terracon.com, is looking for judges for the Area 34 D Fall Contest. The contest will be held Thursday, September 13, at 6:00 p.m. in Omaha, location to be determined.

LuAnn Anglo, luannanglo@hotmail.com, is also looking for judges for the 31 D Area Contest. It will be held on Thursday, September 20, at Bank of the West, 13220 California St., Omaha, NE.

If you have never been a judge, this is a great experience. You'll meet new people, hear great speeches, and hone your listening skills. Contact Buck and LuAnn directly if you are interested.

Introducing Randy Prier

Randy Prier is one of the long time Toastmasters that hardly needs introductions. A member of Toastmasters since 1981, Randy is a retired Lt. Col in the United States Air Force. He has held a number of positions in the organization including serving as an International Director just a few short years ago. His extensive experience has been very helpful to District 24 over the years, and Randy has agreed to serve as the Distinguished Club Program Outreach Chair.

Randy is ready to roll up his sleeves and help clubs reach that goal of distinguished. If your club would like some help or would like to know more about the DCP, e-mail rprier@cox.net and Randy will be there to serve.

Coming Up Next

The Double Dozen is just one method of communicating District 24 opportunities and events. It serves us best when it is shared with your fellow club members. We realize that not all members have e-mail, and we ask that, for those that do not have e-mail, club members share this information with them. If someone does not have e-mail or web access and requires a printed copy, please contact Pat Hannan, pro@district24toastmasters.com or call 402-443-6775 to have a paper copy mailed to them.

September Double Dozen planned topics will include:

- Featured clubs and accomplishment sent in by you
- International Conference Highlights
- Toastmasters Structure - What is an Area?
- Contact information for Area Governors
- Dues and membership
- Updates from District Leadership members

Send in your club stories and share them with others.

Picture Gallery



Division D Area Governor Meeting



Division D Area Governor Meeting



Wesley House Orators



Wesley House Orators



Wig Wam—Wahoo Revellers

TOASTMASTERS STRUCTURE - CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

by Pat Hannan

Last month, we introduced the most important member of Toastmasters – you, the member. (Double Dozen, July 2007). This month, we are going to progress to an overview of the various officers in each Toastmasters Clubs.

From a structural perspective, this is the member's first line of support. Some clubs select their officers semi-annually, while others keep officers on board for a full year. The Toastmasters year runs from 1 July - 30 June. Elections are held in early May for clubs that elect officers annually. This allows a transition time to from the outgoing officers to the incoming officers. Lists are submitted to Toastmasters International and can be done by a club member on the Toastmasters International website. Each club has a secure area to log in.

The Club Executive Committee consists of:

- President
- Immediate Past President
- Vice President of Education
- Vice President of Membership

- Vice President of Public Relations
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Sergeant at Arms.

While a full slate is encouraged, there are only 4 officers that must be filled: President, Vice President of Education, Vice President of Membership, and Secretary/ Treasurer. Twice a year, the District Lt. Governor of Education schedules Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI), which offers training for officers. The TLIs are listed on the district calendar. In addition to learning more about their specific roles in the Club Executive Committee, officers also get the opportunity to network with other club officers from other clubs, areas, and divisions. Sometimes the best part of the TLI experience is that opportunity to network. Additionally, clubs who send 4 or more officers to TLI twice a year receive credit towards the Distinguished Club Program.

Each officer receives a manual from Toastmasters International outlining the responsibilities for their position. This list is a brief summary of their roles:

District 24 Goals

District 24 is a terrific organization! Check out these 2006/2007 numbers! Way to go, District 24!

Categories	To Date	District 24 Goal	Percent of Goal Reached
Competent Communicator	115	93	124%
Advanced Communicator	60	26	231%
Membership Payments	2480	2735	91%
Total Clubs	66	73	90%

Have you been to the District 24 website recently?

Check out:

www.district24toastmasters.com

for the current news and upcoming events.

HELP WANTED

**LOOKING FOR
TOASTMASTERS MEMBERS
UNDER 35 YEARS OF AGE
FOR FOCUS GROUP
SESSION.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT
DISTRICT GOVERNOR
CHRIS.**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
HEARING FROM YOU SOON!**

Step It Up!

Toastmasters looking for another venue to increase their speaking skills are in for a treat. An Advanced Club is currently meeting on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. Join the group at Denny's Restaurant on Monday, August 13. Denny's is located just north of I-80 on 84th Street in Omaha. Attendees should arrive early to order dinner, if they decide to eat. The meeting room is in the rear of the facility, and those attending will be charged a \$1.50 per person fee for the use of the meeting room.

Who should attend? Any member with a CTM, CC, or above designation who wants a more in-depth evaluation. The meeting structure will be focused on presentations and evaluations, and the time frame will allow members to give longer presentations that they might not be able to give in their home club.

TOASTMASTERS STRUCTURE - CLUB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CON'T PG. 10)

- Club President - Acts as the CEO for group. Communicates with District Leadership, Insures compliance with bylaws. Responsible for voting the club proxy.
- Immediate Past President - Provides guidance as serves as a resource to Club officers and members. Chairs the Nominating Committee.
- Vice President of Education - Second highest ranking Club officer. Schedules and makes assignments. Assigns mentors. Votes the club proxy. Track member's progress.
- Vice President of Membership - Third ranking club officer conducts membership building programs and efforts.
- Vice President of Public Relations - Fourth ranking club officer promotes the club both internally and externally.
- Secretary - Fifth ranking club officer records and reads meeting minutes.
- Treasurer - Sixth ranking club officer prepares a budget. Takes care of any bank signature cards. Sends dues to and submits new member applications.
- Sergeant at Arms - Seventh ranking club officer schedules meeting locations, maintains club equipment and arranges the meeting room.

Each officer contributes to the well being of the clubs that they serve. Annually, District 24 selects officer of the year nominations from club members. Each club can submit one nomination per officer as the District top officer for that position. The nomination forms are online at: <http://www.district24toastmasters.com/news.cfm>

The due date for submission is August 31, 2007. Submit the nomination forms via e-mail to the Awards Chairperson at: awards@district24toastmasters.com. Winners will be presented awards at the Fall District Conference in Norfolk, NE in November.

Next month's topic: Areas and Area Governors.

DISTRICT 24 CALENDAR

(all dates subject to change)

Aug 4	TLI—Lincoln
Aug 15-18	Toastmasters International Convention, Desert Ridge Resort, AZ
August 25	TLI—Grand Island
Aug 31	Club officer training completed
Sept 1	Club contests to be completed (Humorous and Evaluation)
Sept 6	Area 41 Speech Contest
Sept 11	Area 32 Speech Contest
Sept 13	Area 34 Speech Contest
Sept 20	Area 31 Speech Contest
Sept 22	Area contests completed
Oct 1	Dues and membership reports due at TI Headquarters
Oct 1	Division C Speech Contest
Oct 4	Division D Speech Contest
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
Jan 11	Mid-Winter Training for District Trio

