



June 2008

**Key Contacts**

**District 24 Governor**  
Chris Czerwinski  
[governor@district24toastmasters.com](mailto:governor@district24toastmasters.com)

**Lt. Governor—Education**  
Connie Klabunde  
[lget@district24toastmasters.com](mailto:lget@district24toastmasters.com)

**Lt. Governor—Marketing**  
Elden Plettner  
[lgm@district24toastmasters.com](mailto:lgm@district24toastmasters.com)

**Nomination Chairperson**  
Sheila Hoffert  
[awards@district24toastmasters.com](mailto:awards@district24toastmasters.com)

**Public Relations Officer**  
Pat Hannan  
[pro@district24toastmasters.com](mailto:pro@district24toastmasters.com)

**DCP Outreach Chairman**  
Randy Prier

**Inside this issue:**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Governor’s Quill                        | 2  |
| Education Time                          | 2  |
| Marketing Minutes                       | 3  |
| The Ad-Libbers are a Club Like No Other | 3  |
| Lincoln Toastmasters #403               | 4  |
| PR Pulse                                | 4  |
| The Time Has Flown!                     | 5  |
| Doing It by the Numbers                 | 6  |
| What’s Next?                            | 7  |
| Thank You!                              | 7  |
| Quilt Raffle                            | 8  |
| Speech Contest Winners                  | 9  |
| LibOrators Spring Symposium             | 10 |
| Region IV Conference                    | 11 |

# DOUBLE DOZEN



**2008—2009 Officers Elected**

Congratulations to the following people who were elected as 2008-2009 District 24 Officers:

**District Governor**  
Pat Hannan, OPPD Club 455, Wesley House and Omaha Advanced Club

**Lt. Governor—Education and Training**  
Elden Plettner, Tri-State - Lt. Gov. Education and Training

**Lt. Governor—Marketing**  
George Volz, Greater Communicators, Tally Ho, and Fremont Toastmasters

**Division A Governor**  
Robert Puhalla, Gateway (2nd year)

**Division C Governor**  
Marilyn Champoux, The Good Neighbor Club

**Division D Governor**  
LuAnn Anglo, Real Talkers

**Division E Governor**  
Louis Lester, OPPD Club 455 and Omaha Advanced Club



**International Speech Contest Winner**

Rick Meyer, NPPD, took home the winning first place trophy at the International Speech Contest. Gene Deyoe came in second place followed by Curt Reiter in 3rd place. Rick will move on to compete at the Regional Convention at Rapid City, SD.



Chris Czerwinski, District Governor, and Rick Meyer, 1st place International Speech Contest winner

Congratulations, Rick!

**Table Topics Contest Winner**



Chris Czerwinski, District Governor, and Michelle Feit, 1st place Table Topics Contest winner

Michelle Feit, Southwest Toastmasters, took home the winning first place trophy at the Table Topics Contest. John Smith came in second place followed by Bonner Bowden in 3rd place.

Congratulations, Michelle!





*“Keep promoting Toastmasters and what the organization has to offer.”*

*“According to Webster, procrastinate means ‘to put off intentionally or to put off habitually.’”*

## Governor’s Quill

**Chris Czerwinski, District 24 Governor**

The past weekend was spent in Beatrice for the spring 2008 conference. My personal observation was that all who attended enjoyed themselves. I would like to thank those that helped out from the Beatrice club: Kathy Haldeman, Carol Miller, Michele Miller, Ron Miller, Rosemary Neimeier, and Judy Pingel.

Also, many thanks to Kevin Naber for being the Toastmasters for the C&L lunch, and Sherri Wells-Chestly for being the Toastmaster of the dinner. A loud cheer for Lori Warner; if not for her organizational skills and her expertise as a member of the Beatrice Chamber, the conference would not have been as successful. And thanks to Connie Klabunde, current Lt. Gov. Education and Training, who spent many hours arranging all of the

presenters and contest volunteers.

Our C&L Award winner Laureen Reidesel’s speech at lunch was exceptional. She has a wealth of knowledge and was able to entertain us with her stories. There is no doubt in my mind why Laureen is held with such high regards in the community.

During the business meeting, elections were held for the top officers for the upcoming term. Here is your leadership team for the 2008/2009 Toastmaster Year starting July 1, 2008:

*District Governor*  
Pat Hannan

*Lt. Gov. Education Training*  
Eldon Plettner

*Lt Gov. Marketing*  
George Volz

*Division Gov. A*  
Robert Puhalla (2nd year)

*Division Gov. C*  
Marilyn Chapeaux

*Division Gov. D*  
LuAnn Anglo

*Division Gov. E*  
Louis Lester

There is still a lot of work left to do for the current administration over the next 2 months, so I’m asking all of you to keep promoting Toastmasters and what the organization has to offer. Continue on your own personal goals and keep in mind some of the leadership opportunities the district has to offer.

Next Month: My Final Thoughts.

## Education Time—Procrastinate

**Connie Klabunde, VP—Education & Training**

I enthusiastically admit to have mastered the art of procrastination. According to Webster, procrastinate means “to put off intentionally or to put off habitually.” It was formed by combining the adverb “pro” implying forward motion with the Latin word “crastinus,” meaning belonging to tomorrow.

There are books, self help groups, and therapies to assist those of us who procrastinate. The common theme to all: set goals and reward yourself.

Many Toastmaster clubs have also mastered the art of procrastination with the submission of member accomplishments. On our long

list of daily to-do’s, we can always complete that task tomorrow.

As one procrastinator to another, here are some helpful tips:

- Have the VPE work with each member to know their personal goals they are working towards.
- As these goals are reached, the VPE should sign the applicable Toastmaster manual(s).
- The VPE should submit these achievements as quickly as possible to Toastmasters International. This can be completed using the old-fashioned postal service or on the

Toastmasters International web site, [www.Toastmasters.org](http://www.Toastmasters.org).

By submitting the member’s accomplishment quickly, the member will receive recognition from Toastmasters International in a timely manner. Your club will earn the credit toward the Distinguished Club program.

All of “us” procrastinators will feel a sense of accomplishment for completing a goal so quickly. The experts indicate this is a big step to recovery.

Our next art we will accomplish will be promptitude.



## Marketing Minutes

Elden Plettner, Lt. Governor—Marketing

Membership is the topic for this month. Why, you ask? Because May 1 to June 30, 2008 are the “Beat the Clock” membership contest months. During the Beat the Clock membership contest, we encourage club members to invite as many guests to the club meetings as possible. You may want to consider hosting a special guest meeting where you conduct a regular meeting but also specifically discuss the benefits Toastmasters member receive as they participate in the program.

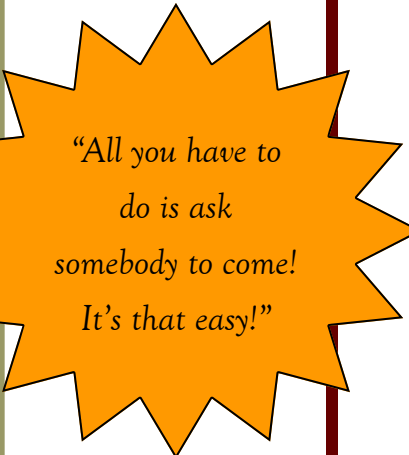
When the club adds five new, dual, or reinstated members to

the roster between May 1 to June 30, 2008, the club receives a special “Beat the Clock” ribbon to display on the club’s banner. The club will also earn a choice of one module from The Better Speaker Series, The Successful Club Series, or The Leadership Excellence Series.

All you have to do is **ask** somebody to come! It’s that easy! You can get blank membership application forms from you club VP of membership. **Ask, Ask, and Ask!**

Speaking of **Asking**:

Wesley House and the Omaha Advanced Club still needed 8 new members to charter. We have two corporate clubs that we are working on chartering and thus the need for a demonstration team. Like last month, we asked for individuals to be part of the at large Demonstration Team. That need is still there, so again I am **asking** for individuals to please turn your name into the LGM, so we can put you on the list to contact when needed. It is great fun, and you get to meet new and exciting people. Please consider joining the Demonstration Team!



*“All you have to do is ask somebody to come! It’s that easy!”*

## The Ad-Libbers are a Club Like No Other

By Michelle DeVote, Ad-Libbers Toastmasters Club #2499

If you are looking to try out a new or additional Toastmaster’s club, then I would suggest a visit with a club like no other -The Ad-Libbers!!! I believe Ad-Libbers is such a successful club for two reasons. The Toastmasters club meeting format and the members of Ad-Libbers themselves.

For starters, the Toastmaster’s club meeting format allows us to hold structured and timely meetings. Every member has a role of responsibility at each club meeting, and members come prepared to fulfill their duties. Even if you are not tasked with an area of responsibility, you still have to deliver feedback to speakers and evaluators; therefore, everyone is important at every meeting!

While Toastmasters provides us with a format to follow, the Ad-Libbers themselves add the real value to this club. The diversity of our club members allows for real growth as a club and for all of us as individuals. We have members of various genders, age, ethnicity, religion, countries of origin, career fields, etc. We also have Ad-Libbers of all levels of achievement, from those more tenured that hold designations such as DTM to those that just joined toastmasters and are preparing to deliver their ice breaker speeches.

With all the diversity of our club members, you can’t help but grow in your abilities professionally and personally. Every member of our club possesses an obvious strength that you can learn from, and I am always amazed at each person’s willingness to help aid in the development of everyone else. Our club is also one in which you can feel comfortable asking for help or suggestions without feeling intimidated.

At Ad-Libbers you will become a better speaker, you will become a competent leader and your

*“The diversity of our club members allows for real growth as a club and for all of us as individuals.”*

Continued on page 7



## Lincoln Toastmasters #403 was the First Club in Lincoln

Leo Allen

At a time when you could buy a loaf of bread for less than a dime, a quart of milk for 18 cents, a dozen eggs for 56 cents, coffee for 33 cents a pound, and a fifth of whiskey for \$4.00; a group of 22 men gathered in the Green Room of the Lincoln YMCA. The result of these meetings was what has become known as Lincoln #403 Toastmasters. The year was 1946, and a charter was issued on May 28th.

The club has a storied history, having sponsored several clubs, three of which continue today...Capitol City #2747, Sunrise #2788, and Beatrice #3086. Lincoln #403 also helped organize the Lincoln Toastmistress Club in 1948, which helped the women develop their communication and leadership skills. The Toastmistresses were active until Toastmasters International opened its membership to females in the early 70's.

Back before fax machines,

computers, and the World Wide Web, clubs were required to submit volumes of documents to compete for Club Achievement Awards. During that time, Lincoln Toastmasters #403 was recognized as the Top Club of the World for the years - 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, and 1961.

Now, with World Headquarters currently tracking club achievements, Lincoln #403 has received 8 Presidential Distinguished Club Awards (PDC). Five of these awards were earned over the past 6 years. Lincoln #403 is currently on course to achieve its fifth consecutive PDC this year.

The club has two active Past District Governors with Patt Harper and Leo Allen. Other members have served in various Area, Division, and District leadership roles. Leo Allen initiated the District Bookstore in 1995 while serving as Lt. Governor of Education and Training. He

continued as its Chair for the next 11 years.

Lincoln #403 introduced the Youth Leadership Program to Lincoln Junior Achievement nearly 20 years ago and monitors its course annually. Additionally, the club conducted the Youth Leadership Program for the Heartland Homeschool Association a few times.

While the cost of bread, milk, eggs, coffee, and whiskey have increased many times since 1946, the benefits of Toastmasters continue to be an exceptional value. On May 28<sup>th</sup>, Lincoln Toastmasters Club #403 will pause to give thanks to the 22 men who started it all in the Green Room at the YMCA in Lincoln 62 years ago. They really launched something that has helped thousands of men and women throughout the community. It was called Lincoln Toastmasters then, but, today, it is affectionately and simply known as Four-Oh-Three.

## PR Pulse

Pat Hannan, Public Relations Officer

What a great convention! The members of the Beatrice Club and the staff and supporting members really rolled out the red carpet for District 24's Spring Convention on May 3. Lori Warner and other members of the Beatrice group had been working for months to prepare for our arrival and did a fabulous job.

Even with the contests, educationals, elections, and networking, most members were able to view the silent auction items and see some of the great promotional items that Jean Dier, Fairview Club, was showcasing. Two clubs, Yakkity Yakkers and OPPD, both won visitor's week prizes and had the additional benefit of receiving a Fairview "green" book bag with the Top 10 reasons to belong to the Fairview Club. The first time I saw the top 10 list was at a TLI training opportunity with member Mickey Anderson wearing a t-shirt with the Top 10 list printed on it. What a great promotional idea!

One of my favorite weekend shirts is a blue Toastmasters shirt with the TM logo. I am often asked, "What is Toastmasters?" This opens the door to tell the Toastmasters story. The online Toastmasters store offers a number of terrific items for sale. Check it out at: <http://www.toastmasters.org/MainMenuCategories/Shop/ApparelGiftsOther.aspx?Mode=1>



## The Time Has Flown!

Connie Klabunde, Out-going VP—Education and Training

My Mom always exclaimed on how fast time passed by as she was enjoying her life. In my youth, I vowed never to sound *old* like that. Now, I know Mom was just very wise!!! Time really does go by fast.

I can not believe my time serving the District as Lieutenant Governor of Education, LGET, is coming to a close. What a year this has been. It has been a great experience. What have we accomplished this year?

We held two rounds of Toastmaster Leadership Institute, TLI, sessions to train all the club officers in the district. These were held in July and January coinciding with the officer terms. Sessions were held in Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island and added one in Norfolk in January. Many Area and Division Governors held make up sessions to support those who could not attend the Saturday sessions. These sessions were educational and fun. It is great to interact with so many Toastmasters within the district during these sessions. Thanks for the memories District 24!!

I developed a TLI tracking spreadsheet for attendance and to calculate the percentage goals we accomplished. Through the continued use of this tracking form, the District will have historical trends and results to calculate our TLI success. I have provided this tool to Elden for his continued use.

Toastmasters, Clubs, Areas, Divisions, and the District have established goals to reach for in earning our educational awards. The District has reached the Advanced Communicator goals for the year. We reached this goal in February of this year!! As of today, we need only one more Competent Communicator to be submitted to reach that goal. This is due to the

hard work of each and every one of you. It has been the highlight of my day to check online to see the newly submitted education awards. Not only have we worked hard to earn all these educational awards but we have 13 Toastmasters in the district who have earned **triple** awards. Some who have earned **quadruple** awards! Well done District 24!!

I developed a spreadsheet for 2006-7 and 2007-8 to track the success of achieving these educational goals. Through the continued use of this spreadsheet, the District will have historical trends and results which will allow us to develop our District goals based upon our history. I have provided this to Elden for his review. Once the year is complete, the final results will be provided.

The Area and Division Governors and I stayed in close contact the first 6 months of the year through the use of conference calls. We discussed topics such as contest rules, contest struggles, contest melt-down situations, area visits, results of area visits, status of district goals, club successes, and the weather. I learned as much in these discussions as anyone. The results of all the area visits were reviewed and documented (on a spreadsheet of course). Through the use of this information, we were able to identify successes and struggles within the District. Thank you to all those who served as an Area or Division Governor this year. Your dedication to the District is phenomenal!!

It has been rewarding to work with each of the clubs to reach their educational goals, each Toastmaster to earn their processional designations and all the officers for training. I have learned so much from you. Thank you all for the pleasure of serving you.



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## Doing It by the Numbers

Rick Jensen, Division D Governor

In reviewing this year's numbers in District 24, I found several revealing items to share with you. You all know my theme has always been to recruit, recruit, and recruit new members. With this being said, let me expand on why this is the number 1 key to Club, Area, Division and District success. Please keep reading this article, since it means the future of your Club's success.

My first observation is the 4 Divisions. The average number of new members per club is currently as of 5/16/08:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| A | 3   |
| B | 5   |
| D | 8.2 |
| E | 7.2 |

These statistics are not to single out any Division but to illustrate what areas may need assistance in the area of recruiting new members. All the Divisions have bright spots. I will tell you why later on.

My second observation is the number of Distinguished Clubs per Division. They are currently as follows as of 5/16/08:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| A | 3 |
| B | 1 |
| D | 7 |
| E | 7 |

Note: 3 Clubs have at least 5 points for Distinguished Club Program (DCP) but do not qualify due to lack of 20 active members or an increase of 5 new members in the fiscal year.

In Toastmasters International in the DCP, a Club receives **1 point** for adding **4 new members** and receives **1 point** for adding **4 additional new members**. This is by design and is the **recipe to success** of all Toastmasters Clubs.

Things change and people leave or move on. By adding at least 8 new members a year, you invigorate, revive, and charge up your Toastmasters Club. Do this, and you will resolve your membership challenge and have new blood and new leadership in your club.

16 Clubs have 8 or more new members this current year. I wonder how they did this year in DCP and how that will impact their performance next year? They are probably on the cutting edge. Personally, my Club Real Talkers in Area 31 D has to date sponsored 16 new members. Our club was struggling not too many years ago and resurrected itself through the development of **new leadership** and a **crusade** for new members.

Remember, when you bring a potential new member to your

club, they **may** or **may not** join. We call that in sales (some will, some won't, so what, **NEXT!!**) Keep that person on your tickler list and **go find** someone else immediately to bring to your next meeting.

New membership and chartering new clubs is why Division D has been successful this year. News flash: West Dodgers (Kirkham Michael & Associates and AG Processing) just hit 21 new members in our meeting yesterday. We are ready to do the paperwork for their Charter, thanks to hard work by our District Officers and our District Governor Chris Czerwinski.

I will not be a District Officer this upcoming new year in July. But who needs a title when I have dedicated myself to **2** things in the 08-09 new year. They are helping clubs **recruit** and come to full charter strength and form and **charter new clubs**. The rest is elementary my dear fellow Toastmasters. Have a great summer and call me if you want to visit further on this topic.

*By adding at least 8 new members a year, you invigorate, revive, and charge up your Toastmasters Club. Do this, and you will resolve your membership challenge and have new blood and new leadership in your club.*



For all of the latest information regarding upcoming events, dates, times, and locations, please check out the District 24 Calendar at:

<http://www.district24toastmasters.com/calendar.cfm>







Members: Ellen Hankes, Pat Hannan, and Floy Westermeier are 3 of the 6 Toastmasters who created the raffle quilt.

## Quilt Raffle

Pat Hannan, Public Relations Officer

Six Toastmasters contributed squares to the first ever quilt raffle to help support the educational fund. According to Anita Lewandowski-Brown, Educational Fund Chair, the quilt raffle earned \$290.00, and the silent auction brought in \$137.50 for a grand total of **\$427.50**.

The patriotic-themed quilt was created by six Toastmasters who each contributed blocks. The blocks were assembled and machine quilted. Just like Toastmasters, no two quilters were of the same experience, and it was a true reflection of a team effort. In the end, Ellen Hankes, who actually created 3 blocks, won the quilt. Congratulations to Ellen and thank you to all the members who purchased raffle tickets.

A second quilt raffle is in the planning stages for the fall conference. If you are interested in creating a block for the raffle, contact Floy Westermeier, [floy@district24toastmasters.com](mailto:floy@district24toastmasters.com) for more details.

## The Ad-Libbers are a Club Like No Other

(continued from page 3)

knowledge all around will grow. As a speaker, you will be encouraged to try out various speech topics, use new gestures, try some variety with your voice, use new wording, and overall you will learn to deliver solid presentations. As a leader, you will evolve through participation in leadership roles such as table topics master, toastmaster, chief evaluator, and there are many officer positions you can volunteer for. Along the way, you will learn from others as you are exposed to various topics, hobbies, and areas of interest you may have known nothing about before.

I have been a member of Toastmasters for a couple of years now, and I am so glad I found the Ad-Libbers club. I thoroughly enjoy my club and try not to miss any

meetings. As someone who grew up very shy, I never imagined I would be standing in front of a group of people giving speeches. With the help of my club, I can now do so confidently. The Ad-Libbers have provided me with a comfortable setting to step outside of my comfort zone. With their help and encouragement, I even just competed in my first Speech contest! I competed at the area level where I was successful and able to advance to the division level. What an experience!

I encourage you to come visit us any 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at Village Inn, 7837 W. Dodge Street. Meetings are from 7pm -8pm. Come early if you would like to join us for dinner!

*“Along the way, you will learn from others as you are exposed to various topics, hobbies, and areas of interest you may have known nothing about before.”*





## International and Table Topics Contest Winners and Runners-Up



Rick Meyer  
First Place—International Speech Contest



Gene Deyoe  
Second Place—International Speech Contest



Michelle Feit  
First Place—Table Topics Contest



John Smith  
Second Place—Table Topics Contest



Bonner Bowden  
Third Place—Table Topics Contest



## LibOrators #986233 Spring Symposium

On April 7, 2008, LibOrators Club #986233 hosted their Spring Symposium. From the people who attended the Symposium, below are their observations and comments from the night, which was packed full of laughter and fellowship:

It means the world to the members of LibOrators #986233 to have guests. Guests came who are inmates, there were people from the streets, and the mood was quite festive. Each speaker brought his "A Game" and made their fellow LibOrators very proud. These Toastmasters members are learning the art of speaking *and* the art of leadership and were joyful to share their accomplishments. Not only that, we had FUN!

*Connie Baum, Club Sponsor*

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I was very impressed with the professionalism from all in the meeting and received a very warm welcome. I felt very comfortable and safe at Tecumseh and definitely won't hesitate to visit their club again. The trip to and from Tecumseh as well as the visit was full of laughter. I went with Coral, Sandy, and Melanie and we had a great time. I came home energized and really felt great about the entire experience. It's amazing what you learn from other people in Toastmasters. Also, I was able to meet Anita's husband, Ralph, and now I have a face to put with the name which is always a benefit in conversations. Then, for those who know Connie Baum and miss her wonderful attitude and ability to make you smile/laugh, you have the opportunity to see her also.

*Karla Schweiger-Arnold*

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It's amazing how comfortable the guys make you feel! There's laughter throughout the entire meeting and THAT's good medicine!

*Coral Selden*

I had a great time and obviously enjoyed giving a rather humorous speech to the club and volunteers. I believe there were 25-30 people in attendance. The LibOrators are a great group and were wonderful to visit and joke around with. Toastmasters is doing wonderful things in that Prison, and they need all of our support.

*Rick Jensen*

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I liked it because you get to see a nice, polite group of men who, if you were in a different setting, would never know where you were. Always eager to meet you, take the time to greet you, and even offer to get you a cup of coffee. They have the same kind of nervousness when waiting to give a speech, but yet are eager to do it to show others how much they have accomplished.

*Sandi Fitzsimons*

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I had a wonderful time and was given the privilege of being the Table Topics Master. Rick did a great job on his humorous speech and I believe everyone had loads of laughs. I'm excited to see this group flourish. Another visit is definitely in my plans.

*Marilyn Champoux*

*"I came home energized and really felt great about the entire experience. It's amazing what you learn from other people in Toastmasters."*



**Region IV Conference  
Rapid City, South Dakota  
June 26 – 28, 2008  
Conference Schedule (Tentative)**

**Thursday**

5:00 PM Registration Opens  
6:00 PM Heavy Hors d'oeuvres  
7:00 PM Biker Attire Contest & Poker Run

**Friday**

7:00 AM Registration Opens  
8:00 AM Opening Ceremonies  
9:00 AM Keynote ~ Robert Barnhill, DTM, Past International President  
*"When You Come To A Fork In the Road, Take It"*  
10:15 Concurrent Educational Sessions  
11:15 Lunch on your own  
1:00 PM Morgan McArthur, 1995 International Speech Winner  
*"If It Isn't Fun, It Shouldn't Be Done"*  
2:00 PM Concurrent Educational Sessions  
3:15PM Concurrent Educational Sessions  
4:00 PM Jana Barnhill, 2007~2008 Toastmasters International President  
*"Toastmasters and You"*  
6:00 PM Reception  
7:00 PM Banquet  
8:00 PM Lip Sync Contest

**Saturday**

8:00 AM Keynote Address ~ Morgan McArthur  
*"Mining for Gold In Everyday Moments"*  
9:15 AM Concurrent Educational Sessions  
10:30 AM Robert Barnhill, DTM  
*"If Not You ~ Who?"*  
11:30 AM – Communication & Leadership Luncheon  
1:00 PM Concurrent Educational Sessions  
2:00 PM Concurrent Educational Sessions  
3:00 PM Concurrent Educational Sessions  
4:00 PM Region IV Business Meeting  
5:30 Social  
6:00 PM Banquet Head Table March In  
7:00 PM International Speech Contest  
9:00 PM Keynote ~ Jana Barnhill, DTM

