



Double Dozen

District 24, October/November 2014

Innovators Club Banquet



Pictured above are attendees at the 2014 Awards Banquet for Toastmasters Innovators Club #4362, held on Monday, September 22, at the Nebraska State Penitentiary in Lincoln, NE. The banner ribbon being held in the front row is the Innovators Club's 2013-2014 Distinguished Club ribbon. Submitted by Immediate Past District Governor Kathy Henvey. Photo courtesy of Amy Whitfield, Nebraska State Penitentiary Club Counselor.



From the District Governor, Shellie Pointer

The two deadlines to be submitted to Toastmasters International from District 24 by September 30th were the District budget and District Success Plan. They were accepted September 26th.

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Take Action!

Register for round 2 of officer training at Toastmasters Leadership Institute, with sessions beginning December 2.

**“Who
knocked
off
Don?”**

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Toastmasters

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Conference

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Recognizes
Toastmasters

Experienced **12**
Toastmaster
Needed

And more!

Whodunit?

By Cindy Jenkins

Who knocked off Don? It was the question on all the club members minds as they came to the October 24th See Us Speak meeting. Beloved See Us Speak Vice President of Education and former President Don Karnish was found dead at the bottom of the stairs at his home. The meeting roles took on a different twist as the club members worked to figure out who did the awful deed to everyone's favorite officer and Division B Governor.

The Toastmaster and Mystery Narrator (Kalvin Tuel) opened the meeting showing the grisly picture of Don at the bottom of the stairs. The meeting's Jokemaster was interrupted by Don's voice (via conference phone) from the great beyond telling everyone who the 3 suspects were and why they may have knocked him off. The Judge and General Evaluator, Katie Higgason, presented the ground rules for the trial. The attorneys (evaluators) for the accused parties over-viewed their pleas of innocence.

See Us Speak President, Cindy Jenkins, was the first suspect. She admitted to quarrelling with Don and said Don had invited her to his home for dinner to make amends. She swore Don was fine when she left. Her plea was interrupted by a text from her husband asking where their butcher knife was.

Club member Troy Johnson felt the Road Runner and Wiley Coyote had actually done the deed. He claimed to have Sargent-at-Arms Mark Bell as a witness to his innocence but Mark was nowhere to be found to validate his story. Troy's final point for his innocence was that no one in the history of mankind had ever worn light blue shorts to off anyone.

Finally club member Prem Nataraj pled her innocence saying Don was her best friend bringing her children Christmas presents, taking cooking classes with her, and buying the blouse she was wearing. Prem said Don was like a grandfather to her children since her family was so far away. She also noted that blood stains on her blouse were from the chicken she and Don had cut up for a dish they were making.

Roving reporter (Topics Master) Ken Heatherly asked the audience who they thought was the guilty party. Kishore Viswanathan said Cindy was guilty because her butcher knife was missing. Matthew Truesdell expressed concern for the future of See Us Speak because Don had been the cornerstone of the club and Cindy was going to be in the penitentiary.

Defense Attorneys Simanta Sarma, Matthew Truesdell, and Calvin Tuel gave closing arguments (and evaluations) for the clients' innocence. The Jury had cast their votes and the jury foreman Kris Kremke (Vote Counter) announced the guilty party. No one was surprised to hear it was Cindy Jenkins but before she could be hauled off to the pen, a strange figure entered the room.

It was Don! It didn't look like Don but it was Don nonetheless. He explained he could come

The murder scene, as poor Don Karnish meets an untimely end.



back to earth once a month in costume and all the good costumes (like the Smurfs and Unicorns) were taken. He walked through the room telling everyone why each one of the suspects could have been his killer. In the end, Don said it was really Prem. She didn't like his choice of vegetables for the dish they were making and threw the chicken down the

stairs. When Don's back was turned, Prem grabbed the butcher knife and took care of business.



Everyone agreed the Murder Mystery theme was great fun and we will try it again next year before Halloween.

Did I mention Don's end was untimely? Don returns from beyond the grave.

***This year
we have
Mascots
for each
Division
and one
for the
District.***

From the District Governor

Shellie Pointer (Continued from Page 1)

In August, Sunny Faronbi, Marian Gramlich and I attended District Leader Training in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The clubs that have semi-annual officer terms need to be receiving nominations for a smooth transfer to incoming officers. These clubs include NEI Global Relocation Toastmasters Club, Revelliers Club, Tower Talkers Club, and Greater Communicators Toastmasters Club.

This year we have Mascots for the each Division and one for the District. Division A: Sandhill Cranes, Division B: The Bees, Division C: Champions, Division D: Pugs, and Division E: Gnomes. The District's Mascot is Lightening to go with our vision of RACING which stands for Reaching All Club members In Nurturing their Goals. The focus should be on each individual club member and the rest will race towards distinguished.

Congratulations to the following Toastmasters who received their DTM Medallions at the 2014 Fall Conference:

Sharon Brown	John Paul Arias (2 nd DTM)
Sunny Faronbi	Mark Fegan
Pat Hannan (2 nd DTM)	Ann Gentle
Melinda Campbell	George Madsen
Vicki Workman	

Congratulations to the following Toastmasters who received "Of the Year" Awards at the 2014 Fall Conference:

Sergeant At Arms: Elizabeth Humphrey
 Treasurer: Hilda Akati
 Secretary: Susie Powell
 Vice President Public Relations: Chris Johnson
 Vice President Membership: Denise Masek
 Vice President Education: Amanda Fintel
 President: Sandy Yager

Area Governor: Steve Dawkins
 Division Governor: John Paul Arias

Ann Gold Award: Heartland Toastmasters in Grand Island
 Ruth Kraft Toastmaster of the Year: Anthony and Cynthia Coleman
 Don Smith Toastmaster of the Decade: Keith Jones



Trio mascot relaxing en route to Malaysia. Photo by Lieutenant Governor Marketing Marian Albin Gramlich.

From the Lieutenant Governor Education and Training

Sunny Faronbi

Our District Fall 2014 Conference in Lincoln last month witnessed a few firsts.

We had a red carpet reception and a separate breakout session for first timers. Both of these were huge hits at the conference. Kudos to Laria Lovec, the First Timers Committee Chairperson, who gave birth to these ideas.

In addition, we heard three wonderful speeches from our keynote speaker, Byron Embry. At the Saturday lunch awards, several Toastmasters were recognized for their contributions to the success of our district last year. The complete list of names can be found in this edition of the Double Dozen (see page 10).

Furthermore, the Spring speech contests will kick off with the competitions at the club level starting Feb. 1, 2015. Please note the following minor changes:

- The current 2014 Speech Contest Rulebook will apply as Toastmasters International has made the change to allow the rulebook follow the same July – June annual cycle of the Toastmasters year.
- As we have done in the recent past, clubs in an area containing four clubs or less have the opportunity to send 2 contestants each to their Area Speech Contests. From here, only one contestant will move on to the next level.

Finally, the second round of our district's Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) is just around the corner. Lincoln will host the first of the six sessions on Tuesday, December 2nd. For this TLI round, we have a lineup of exciting topics such as Mentoring and how to finish the year strong. We're also adding some levity with rounds of Table Topics, with participants winning prizes.

An email inviting you to register for the TLI has been sent out. If you're yet to register and can't find the email, please check your junk or spam mail folders. You can also reach out to me.

I look forward to seeing you at a TLI session soon.



Open House at Club Sandwich Followed by Lack of Fatalities

By Jolene Allen

The membership of Club Sandwich took a big hit when Allstate sold Lincoln Benefit Life (LBL) a little over a year ago. The sale of LBL basically affected half the club membership and the club was dwindling fast.

The core membership was able to hold the club together through the challenging year. One of the charter members and current club president, Scott Minks, said the club needed a “hook” to draw people into attending an Open House. A wonderful “hook” for the Open House was birthed to have employees come practice BDI (Behavioral Description Interviews) questions with managers. This tied in very nicely as some employees had not interviewed for quite some time.

We were able to provide employees with a chance to practice for an interview plus tell them about Toastmasters and how they could enhance their public speaking and leadership skills. Two Open House events were held in about a three month period. It is the spark that the club needed as membership has increased and the club is on its way to making the DCP goals. The ultimate goal is to get the club back to charter strength – 20 members. Jean Dier, Area Governor, was also able to attend the second Open House. Her enthusiasm for Toastmasters carried over to the guests. Her time and effort was very much appreciated.

Allstate has also recently made a change in company policy regarding Toastmasters and membership fees and dues are now paid for by the company. That was a hurdle to get over as most folks would say “I can’t afford that.”

Now we are past that hurdle and the next hurdle is “I will just die if I have to speak in front of people.” We are happy to report – there have been NO fatalities at Club Sandwich.

From the Lieutenant Governor Marketing

Marian Albin Gramlich

Ask not what your country can do for you ...

Ask what you can do for your country.

On January 20, 1961 in John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address, he challenged people to think more of their country; less of themselves. He said, "Ask not what your country can do for you ... ask what you can do for your country."

As a Toastmaster think of the Toastmaster club(s) you belong to and be inspired to support all members. Ask yourself, "How can I be a better member, a better leader?" Begin by focusing on the end result. If something does not work, put aside your differences and work toward achieving the mutual goal of an engaged and active club, area, division and district. Ralph Smedley said, "Faultfinding without suggestions for improvement is a waste of time." Let us all work together to understand the guidelines and realize we are all volunteers.

On October 22 we celebrated the 90th birthday of Toastmasters. Look to build the membership of Toastmasters in District 24. Look inside yourself and ask what you can do to support your own club(s)! The more you support your clubs, the stronger your area will be. Stronger areas translate into stronger divisions and a stronger district. Let us support our respective area governors as their primary focus is working with the club officers on the health of their clubs and helping to build more clubs. The Area Governors are hands-on! They are the eyes and ears for their respective Division Governors and the district Trio. As liaisons they bring membership challenges and opportunities to the Lt Governor Marketing, educational challenges and opportunities to the Lt Governor Education and Training, and other administrative and budget challenges and opportunities to the District Governor.

The area governors and division governors are the leaders in the field – similar to your local elected government representatives. The area governors are your first lifeline to contact if you have a question or a suggestion. They are the first ones to float an idea by – has "Idea A" been tried before, was it successful, why or why not – was "Idea A: documented so no one has to recreate the wheel in the future?"

Work smarter, not harder. Help your club by insisting all officers attend Toastmaster Leadership Institutes (TLIs). If all clubs had annual elections, the TLIs would not need to repeat the "these are the duties of the ... office." It would free up more time for brainstorming and for sharing ideas on building stronger clubs, areas, divisions and the district. Be active in helping by working together and stepping up to lead contests by being informed members - contestants through judges.

Reach out and support each other. In conclusion, a quote from the book *Personally Speaking*, a collection of excerpts from Smedley's writings in the Toastmaster magazine over the years, "The personal touch, in all levels of our work, is one of [Toastmasters'] distinguishing features. We are working together."



Toastmasters Reaches Out to Soon-To-Be Grads

By Lee Searcey

FirstTier Toastmaster club had a great opportunity to present the benefits of Toastmasters to the students at the UNL engineer department. Wednesday September 17th FirstTier was allowed to set up a table so students could ask questions about how Toastmasters can help them communicate and lead better. They also had a drawing for some great husker item give aways. Many students were hearing about Toastmasters for the first time and saw the value in being able to communicate better as they start their new careers. Pictured: Lee Searcey at left with Area 22 Governor Jean Dier.



Ask before changing an address

Where is my magazine ... my award?

By Marian Albin Gramlich, Lieutenant Governor Marketing

If you are missing your monthly Toastmasters magazine or your award has not been delivered to you, check with your club officers. Sometimes a club officer will change the delivery address of an award earned so it may be presented by the club to the person who earned the award. This can also cause havoc, especially when multi-club member "Jane's" Toastmasters magazines are not delivered to her home and were delivered to the club officer's address.

If Jane is giving awards to Club A, Club B and Club C within the same time period and officers of Clubs A, B and C all request the respective awards be delivered to the club officer's address, it becomes a nightmare for Toastmasters International. Why? Toastmasters International does not know where to send any of the Jane's awards or magazines.

Continued on back page

District 24 Fall Conference



Keynote Speaker Byron Embry highlighted this year's fall conference, and of course, Byron was kind enough to take a photo op. Above, Byron Embry poses with District Secretary Lynn Redding. Below, Byron poses with, from left to right, Lieutenant Governor Marketing Marian Albin Gramlich; District Governor Shellie Pointer; Immediate Past District Governor Kathy Henvey; and Lieutenant Governor Education and Training Sunny Faronbi. In between, Past International Director Randy Prier sports the Speakers Bureau club banner, and Division B Governor Don Karnish is spotted with the Division B mascot.

Of The Year Awards Announced

The winners of the District 24 Of The Year awards were announced at the Fall Conference. Join us in congratulating our winners!

Sergeant At Arms

Elizabeth Humphrey
Rail Talkers

President

Sandy Yager
Gateway

Treasurer

Hilda Akati
Rail Talkers

Area Governor

Steve Dawkins
Area B12

Secretary

Susie Powell
Toastmasters At Principal

Division Governor

John Paul Arias
Division A

Vice President Public Relations

Chris Johnson
Omaha Toastmasters Club 281

Ann Gold Club of the Year

Heartland
Grand Island

Vice President Membership

Denise Masek
Dell Services Toast of the Town

Ruth Kraft Toastmaster of the Year

Anthony and Cynthia Coleman
Why Not Speak

Vice President Education

Amanda Fintel
Fairview

Don Smith Toastmaster of the Decade

Keith Jones
OPPD (and others . . .)

Sign Up!

[Register](#) for any or all of the upcoming Toastmasters Leadership Institute sessions:

Tuesday, December 2
Lincoln
5:30-9:30 p.m.
First Mennonite Church

Saturday, December 6
Omaha
10 a.m.—2 p.m.
ConAgra

Saturday, January 3
Grand Island
10 a.m.—2 p.m.
Grand Island YMCA

Tuesday, January 13
Omaha
5:30-9:30 p.m.
Blue Cross Blue Shield

Saturday, February 7
Lincoln
10 a.m.—2 p.m.
Christ Lutheran Church

Saturday, February 14
Columbus
10 a.m.—2 p.m.
NPPD

Lincoln Mayor Declares October “Toastmasters International 90th Anniversary Month”

Toastmasters was founded in California 90 years ago, and today helps over 300,000 members worldwide to communicate and lead more effectively. Now the City of Lincoln has officially the international organization.

Mayor Chris Beutler of Lincoln declared October, 2014 “Toastmasters International 90th Anniversary Month” in a proclamation signed in his office on September 24 in the presence of Toastmasters members from around Lincoln, including Gene Deyoe, who competed in the World Championship of Public Speaking in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia earlier this year. The proclamation (see opposite page) notes that “[t]he abilities to speak effectively, listen carefully, and think critically are among the most valuable talents a person can develop” and urges “residents to learn more about the opportunities available for communication and leadership development.”

Lincoln Toastmaster Jean Dier, who contacted the mayor about the proclamation, was also in attendance. “Being a member of Toastmasters is one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. It is the best place I know to learn how to speak and lead by experience – actually speaking and leading, all in a supportive environment.”

Do you want your community to recognize Toastmasters? Take a look at the Lincoln proclamation for inspiration, and draft a proclamation. Then call your mayor and see if he or she will sign it. Use the signing to contact local newspapers, radio, and television and talk up Toastmasters. Who knows how many people you could reach?

Pictured is Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler with Toastmasters Cindy Kaliff, who is holding the proclamation. In back, from left to right, are Toastmasters Ron Snyder, John Coffey, Gene Deyoe, and Lee Searcey.



CITY OF LINCOLN

PROCLAMATION

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL 90TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, The abilities to speak effectively, listen carefully, and think critically are among the most valuable talents a person can develop; and

WHEREAS, The development of leadership abilities in men and women is of great value to our democratic society and the free enterprise system; and

WHEREAS, Toastmasters International is a non-profit, non-sectarian educational organization, dedicated to providing the opportunity for developing these talents; and

WHEREAS, The Toastmasters clubs in Lincoln make valuable contributions to the public good through their participation in community service and charitable programs;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Chris Beutler, Mayor of the City of Lincoln, Nebraska, **do hereby proclaim** October, 2014 as:

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL 90TH ANNIVERSARY MONTH

and urge residents to learn more about the opportunities available for communication and leadership development.

Calling Experienced Toastmasters!

The American Legion is looking for one experienced Toastmaster to judge the Department Oratorical Contest at the Department Winter Convention in Norfolk, January 16-18. Contact John Paul Arias, jpablo_arias@yahoo.com.



Ask before changing an address

Where is my magazine ... my award?

By Marian Albin Gramlich, Lieutenant Governor Marketing

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This was my personal experience when “Jane” was me and my DTM plaque for earning my Distinguished Toastmaster was delayed for almost two months. The officers of two clubs had requested respective awards to be sent to their respective address, yet my plaque award not was delivered. While my ALS (Advanced Leadership Silver) was delivered, my plaque was missing in action.

With the DTM ceremony at the conference approaching, I contacted Toastmasters International. The staff was very nice and tracked it down in a warehouse; due to all of the address changes they did not know where to deliver it to.

My lesson learned was never to change a member’s address and my plaque was delivered a week before the conference!