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Making Effective Communication a Worldwide Reality

Tamara Dowling—Editor

*Share the Light*

# DOUBLE DOZEN

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## Have You Paid Your Dues?

Let's face it, tis the season. The season where a number of us have to whip out the checkbook and write a check. Maybe you need to write a check to pay your last big heating bill of the season or the tax bill for 2006. Well, that is not really what I have in mind.

This check is one that you will enjoy writing. In fact, it might bring a smile to your face when you reflect on the number of great presentations that you have heard during your Toastmasters club meetings.

It is renewal time!!!

Membership dues are to be paid by April 1. Your club treasurer is depending on you to pay your dues so that they can get the membership renewal dues paid on time. Toastmaster membership is one of the very best values that you get for your money, and it is a terrific investment in yourself. If you haven't paid yet, please do so as soon as possible!

Treasurers can even save a stamp by visiting the club business section of the TI website and paying the dues online at:  
[https://ecommerce.toastmasters.org/timssnet/login/tnt\\_login.cfm](https://ecommerce.toastmasters.org/timssnet/login/tnt_login.cfm).

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## LibORATORS Toastmaster Club Now Official!

As you know, the beginning of a Toastmasters club is an auspicious occasion and LibORATORS Toastmaster club at the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution is going to be official on April 9th!

# Congratulations

## A Word From Our District 24 Governor

When you begin a term as an officer, the year ahead seems like such a long period of time. Then, all of a sudden, here it is nine months later, and the Toastmasters year is beginning to wind down. Or, is the year really beginning to wind up as we quickly race to meet the district goals by June 30th, 2007.

The district has more than met the AC goal for the year, which is awesome, but we still have our work cut out for us to meet the other three goals — the competent communicator, membership payments, and new clubs.

If you are close to finishing up a competent communicator manual, make sure you get your speeches scheduled, so you can submit the award over the next three months. The district only needs 28 more CCs to reach that goal.

I have had the privilege of attending a few of the area contests, and, from what I have heard so far, we are in for an interesting round of division contests. The winners of the division contests will move on to the district conference scheduled at Mahoney on April 28th. Be sure to cheer on contestants as they move up through the different levels. Club support goes a long way to boost contestants spirits.

See you at the District 24 Spring Conference on April 28!

Sheila Hoffert  
District 24 Governor  
Share the Light!



### Advanced Toastmasters Club in Omaha

Several veteran Toastmasters have been tossing around the idea of an advanced Toastmasters Club in the Omaha metro area. Members would need to have at least a CTM or CC designation to be eligible for membership.

To charter a club, we need at least 20 members and a place to meet. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Pat Hannan, LGM, by phone at 402-443-6775 or by e-mail at: [lgm@district24toastmasters.com](mailto:lgm@district24toastmasters.com).

### District Conference Hotel Rooms

A block of rooms has been set aside at the main lodge at Mahoney State Park Lodge on both Friday and Saturday nights. The rooms are approximately \$83 per night and this includes tax.

You can reserve your room under the Toastmasters block.

Contact:  
Mahoney State Park Lodge  
402.944.2523



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

**Spring is time for renewal and growth. If Toastmasters has helped you grow then it may be time for you to help others.**

As your LGET for the past year, I would be remiss if I didn't let you know of the leadership opportunities available to members of District 24 outside of the club environment.

Those of you who have served in one of these positions know of the personal growth you've experienced and how much enjoyment you had. We have a need for members to step out of their comfort zones and experience the personal growth the rest of us have enjoyed.

Though I've contacted a few of you that I thought might benefit from the experience, however, I have not been able to personally meet all of you. Therefore, if you are interested in or know of someone who might be interested in becoming part of the 2007-2008 District 24 team, let me know.

Even if you are just thinking about it and want more information on an individual office, contact me. The offices include Area and Division Governors, District 24 Treasurer and Secretary, Lieutenant Governor of Marketing,

and Lieutenant Governor of Education & Training. There are certain qualifications required for each office.

**So let's get out there and sow the seeds of growth and let the Toastmaster within you shine.**

We will unveil the Triple Crown Wall of Fame at the District Conference. The Triple Crown Award will be given to members who have achieved 3 educational awards within the Toastmaster year, which ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. Member's picture and biographical information will be placed on the Wall of Fame and will be proudly displayed at each District 24 conference and at the Region 4 Conference to be held in Lincoln in June.

One Final note for this month, during the past year it has been my pleasure to serve you as your Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training. Now, I would like to step up as your next District Governor. I'm asking for your vote and support in this endeavor. I hope that 2007-2008 will be another banner year for District 24.

## 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	65	93	70%
Advanced Communicator	33	26	127%
Membership Payments	1447	2735	53%
Total Clubs	67	73	92%

**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.**

# 2007 INTERNATIONAL AND TALL TALES CONTEST WINNERS





**YOU ARE THE STARS** in the  
**TV SPOOF CONTEST**  
 for District 24's Spring Conference  
 on April 28<sup>th</sup>

4 Division Governors will each “produce” 1 television extravaganza per Division – All clubs in each division are encouraged to work together to create their own production of a favorite television program – past or present.

**JUDGING WILL BE BASED UPON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

- Audience Reaction & Support
- Team Spirit & Cohesiveness
- Creativity
- Organization, Flow & Continuity
- Insertion of Toastmasters Propaganda
- The Team that receives the most support – and therefore the most votes – wins the contest – (Talent or criteria may have nothing to do with it.)
- Effectiveness
- Characterization
- FUN! FUN! FUN!

- Choose a favorite TV show – past or present
- Present a comedic skit of chosen program and its characters (5-7 minutes – you can't be disqualified on time, but you can be pulled if the skit runs too long)
- Include Toastmasters propaganda in the production
- Winning Division will be chosen by combining votes from the 3 prominent Toastmaster judges & the Toastmaster audience. Yes, you can vote for your own Team or Division.

# Toastmasters District 24 Spring Conference Mahoney State Park—Lodge, Ashland, NE Saturday, April 28, 2007

**Don't miss out on the Toastmaster event of the year!**

Fantastic Tall Tales & International Speech Contests

Inspirational Speakers

Valuable Educational Sessions

Exciting Networking Opportunities

3 Delicious Meals

Unbelievably low price of **\$55** includes park admission, scenic environment, entertainment, educational sessions, contests and delicious, hot meals prepared by the culinary staff at Mahoney Lodge.

### Break-Out Prices

Toastmasters Registration (minimum for all Toastmasters) \$15.00  
*(there is no charge to attend the business meeting ONLY)*

Includes park entrance, contests, educational sessions & business meeting

### **Additional Fees for Meals:**

Hot Breakfast        \$10

Lunch Buffet         \$15

Plated Banquet      \$20



*Guest Speaker, Dave Sheffield (The Chef)*

Non-Toastmaster guests who are accompanying a Toastmaster are not required to pay \$15 registration fee.

Please register ASAP – we need to verify meal counts early!  
Registration Prices are subject to an increase at the door.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Toastmasters Designation \_\_\_\_\_ First Timer Y / N

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Consideration: \_\_\_\_\_ Club name/number: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to District 24 Spring Conference. Mail to Joyce Keel, 886 S. 45th, Lincoln, NE 68510

Eugene T Mahoney Park Location: 28500 W. Park, I-80, Exit 426; Park Contact: 402 944-2523

**Toastmasters Spring Conference**  
**April 28, 2007**  
**Program**  
(Subject to Change)

- 7:00 a.m. Registration Opens – Mahoney Lodge (2nd Floor)
- Bookstore Open during breaks: Sandstedt Platte Room (2nd Floor)
  - Hospitality Room Open during breaks: Room 208 (2nd Floor)
- 7:30 a.m. Full Breakfast Buffet
- 8:00 a.m. Banner round-up
- 8:15 a.m. Opening Ceremonies
- Presentation of Colors
- 8:40 a.m. Key Note Speaker - Welcome – Helen Jacobe
- “Life is a Contact Sport”
- 9:00 a.m. Educational Session I – Bill Cashell
- “Rolling in the Aisles - How You Can Add Humor to Any Speech”
- 9:45 a.m. Break
- 10:00 a.m. Educational Session II - Georg Hood & Susie Powell
- “Evaluations S.O.S.”
- 11:00 a.m. Tall Tales Speech Contest Briefing - Contestants, Judges, Timers, etc.
- 11:15 a.m. Tall Tales Contest
- Noon Lunch & Keynote Speaker – Dave Sheffield
- “Unlocking Speaking Success”
- 1:00 p.m. Break
- 1:15 p.m. Division Television Spoof Contest
- 2:15 p.m. Educational Session III– Dave Sheffield – “So You Want to Be a Speaker”
- 3:00 p.m. Break
- 3:10 p.m. International Speech Contest Briefing – Contestants, Judges, Timers, etc.
- 3:15 p.m. Business Meeting
- 4:15 p.m. Break
- 4:30 p.m. International Speech Contest
- 5:45 p.m. Networking & Social Time
- 6:00 p.m. First Timers Reception
- 6:15 p.m. March in to Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner Served
- Banquet Program

# Your club's vote is important!

Here is how it works!

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

### Do you need this???

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

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

### Toastmasters District 24 Proxy Certificate

Spring District Council Meeting – 11:00 a.m.  
April 28, 2007  
Mahoney State Park, Ashland, Nebraska

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned, hereby assign my proxy to the above named club member to act as an official delegate of our club at the 2007 Spring Council Meeting at the Mahoney State Park Lodge, Ashland, Nebraska.

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

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

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

The District 24 Annual Business Meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 28, 2007 at the Mahoney State Park Lodge in Ashland, Nebraska. It is your right as a member of Toastmasters to attend the business meeting.

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

# DISTRICT 24 CALENDAR

(all dates subject to change)

- April 1 Dues and membership reports due at TI Headquarters
- April 8 Division Contests Completed
- April 28 Spring Conference, Mahoney State Park
- April 28 District Executive Council Meeting
- April 30 Area Governor Reports Submitted to District Governor
- May 1 - 8 Club Elections Held, Officer Lists to TI Headquarters
- June 16 Area/Division Governor Training, 1st round—Union Bank, Wahoo
- June 21-23 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—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

