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DOUBLE DOZEN



Toastmasters T.L.C.

Table Topics and International Speech Contests

Pat Hannan, Public Relations Officer

Contest season will be arriving soon. Is there a member of your club who has given a moving speech that really tugs at your heart? Do you have speech idea waiting to be developed? The time is now! There are more than 60 clubs in District 24, but not all clubs participate in the spring or fall contests. Wouldn't it be great if each club did compete?

Nothing will turn a good speech into a great speech like a contest. Think about your own club and the members. Many of us have a certain presentation style that we are known for. Fellow Toastmaster, Eric Williams, OPPD Club 455, refers to my style as having an easy country feeling about it. Most of the members in my club know me for my story telling style of presentations. That is my niche and where I am most comfortable, but, in order to grow and expand our skills, competing outside of our home club adds a great deal to our toolbox of presentation skills. During most of my time as a Toastmaster, I have served in various district leadership roles which made me ineligible to compete in the contests, but I have listened to a number of other

Toastmasters compete as a judge or in other contest roles. As the winners progressed through the contest season, I have watched them grow with each and every presentation. Speaking in front of your own club is often very comfortable, but speaking at a contest in front a new group really does expand those presentation skills.

How can you help your club move into the contest season well armed with great competitors? It is easy. Listen for those heart tugging stories. Think back to the speech that you or another club member presented and encourage them to take it to the contest level. Perhaps your club just does not want to hold a speech contest, but you or another member want to compete? A club can send a member on to the area contest without holding a club contest but having the rigid structure of the contest at the club level helps prepare the contestant for the area contest.

Now is the time to really practice those table topics questions. If you have a last minute cancellation and no one can fill in for a speaker, add questions to your Table

Topics meeting time. Or perhaps, have a special meeting that is centered on just Table Topics.

The 2008 contest rule books have been mailed to each Club President and you can find the official rules on the Toastmasters website at <http://www.toastmasters.org/rules2008.aspx>

Winners of the Table Topics contests will compete through the district level.

The winners of the International Speech Contest continue to move forward to the World Champion of Public Speaking stage at the International Conference. Wouldn't it be great to hear a District 24 Toastmaster on that stage?

If you are still unsure about contests, talk to your Area Governor, Division Governor, or a veteran contestant. Contests are just another terrific avenue that Toastmasters offers to make each of us a better communicator. Find out more about contests online at the Toastmasters International website: <http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/MemberExperience/Contests.aspx>





"We are always in training to better ourselves, our clubs, and our world. What a great way to train for the future. Let the entire world know the kind of knowledge and experience Toastmasters readily provides."



Governor's Quill

Chris Czerwinski, District 24 Governor

I hope all of you had a safe and wonderful Christmas season and are looking forward to a super 2008.

This month is the second of a three part series on District 24 2007/2008 theme:

Toastmaster TLC

- Training
- Leadership
- Communication

Training

January is the start of a new year and a good time to take a quick look back. We as Toastmasters should take a quick look back to what Toastmasters has done for us.

If you are working from your Competent Communicator (CC) and Communication and Leadership (C & L) manuals you know that you are building a great foundation for success. Make it one of your new year's resolutions to complete these manuals in 2008. Those of us who have completed those manuals pick one up and start again. It is always good to keep your

communication skills up to date. Consider presenting a module from the Better Speakers or Leadership Excellence Series to enhance your training and communication skills.

As Toastmasters, you already know that verbal and written communication along with listening and evaluating skills are so important. We are being trained to become better listeners, speakers, and leaders each time we go to a meeting and participate. We are the trainers when we give feedback or mentor a fellow Toastmaster.

When we earn the Competent Communicator or a Communication & Leadership designation it's not the end but the beginning. After the foundation has set, then the real building starts. Toastmaster's offers Advanced Communicator (AC) manuals to continue moving you forward. The Advanced Leader (AL) track builds success when you serve as a club leader or accepting a

district leadership opportunity.

We are always in training to better ourselves, our clubs, and our world. What a great way to train for the future. Let the entire world know the kind of knowledge and experience Toastmasters readily provides.

I'm always promoting, what I consider as, one of the greatest organizations I know of. I hope you do as well. Shout it from the highest hill, "I'm a Toastmaster, and it's great."

P.S. Please, take the time in getting familiar with the upcoming changes to our organization. The Toastmaster Magazine and the Double Dozen will have updates. We will vote on the proposals at the spring conference in Beatrice, Nebraska in May.

P.S.S. Presidents and Vice President of Education please sign and send me your proxy cards when you get them.

Mark Your Calendars

Mark your Calendars Now!

Club officer training is offered twice a year. Clubs who have four or more club officers at the training qualify for a point towards the Distinguished Club Program.

Toastmasters Leadership Institute Training will be held:

- Saturday, January 19, 2008 in Lincoln
- Saturday, February 9, 2008 in Grand Island
- Saturday, February 23, 2008 in Omaha

Arrive at 8:30 am for light refreshments and to sign in. Training starts promptly at 9 am. Lt. Governor Education and Training Connie Klabunde will provide additional information and details on the agenda and location for each event.



Marketing Minutes

Elden Plettner, Lt. Governor—Marketing

Happy New Year to all of you!!

The New Year marks the start of the second half of the Toastmasters Year. We have accomplished much with much more to accomplish.

We have had success in increasing membership in clubs like Club Fed. This club has been fighting back to build up for the past two years. This year, although they began the year with only eleven members, Club Fed is on track to be a Presidential Distinguished Club!! They have set a plan that I have no doubt they will achieve. Lincoln Financial Club and Capital City Club are both on the way back from the brink, too.

Other gains are being made in clubs within District 24 and we congratulate all who have dedicated their time, energy, and effort in helping to make the individuals and the clubs in District 24 a successes. GREAT JOB!!

We continue working to charter new clubs. We have one club that has submitted a charter request but still needs more members to be chartered. That club is Wesley House and at last count they still needed 8 new members. If you have friends, family or coworkers interested in joining a brand new club in the North Omaha area, please consider sharing this information about the Wesley House Toastmasters Club.

More information about the

Wesley House can be found online at: <http://www.wesleyacademy.org>. The club meets every other Tuesday from noon – 1 PM. If you would like to know more about the Wesley House Club contact the sponsors: Terry Lee at terry-lee@woodmen.com or Pat Hannan at pro@district24toastmasters.com.

The Omaha Advanced Club is the second club. They continue to meet on the 2nd Monday of each month. To become a member, interested Toastmasters only need to have obtained their CC and CTM. In October, the club will meet at the Farm House Café, and Sheila Nelson has asked that those attending please confirm with her to insure they have enough seating. This will be a special open meeting. Come hungry, plan to order and pay for your supper, and be prepared for a wonderful Toastmasters evening. Contact Sheila Nelson at Sheila.Nelson@aquilla.com or George Madsen at gmadson-voyagesextra@cox.net, for more information.

We have three other clubs in the pipeline that we hope will make decisions to Charter before June 30, 2008.

We are looking for individuals to be part of the at large Demonstration Team. If you can assist, please turn your name into the LGMT, 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!

And finally:

CAN YOU ANSWER THE 5 W’S?

TO REFRESH YOUR MEMORY THEY ARE:

WHO: TOASTMASTERS OF ALL AGES

WHAT: TOASTMASTERS DISTRICT 24 SPRING CONFERENCE

WHEN: FRIDAY MAY 2 AND SATURDAY MAY 3, 2008

WHERE: HOLIDAY INN AND SUITES BEATRICE, NEBRASKA

WHY: FOR FUN AND LEARNING

Please mark the dates on your new 2008 calendar when it arrives and attend this spring conference.

Remember my theme on planning. Do you plan to fail or do you fail to plan?

Which are you?

Make plans to attend now!!



“We congratulate all who have dedicated their time, energy, and effort in helping to make the individuals and the clubs in District 24 a success.”





What is your New Year's Resolution?

"The very best pocket speeches are based on stories that you already know."



PR Pulse

Pat Hannan, Public Relations Officer

With the New Year come new opportunities and New Year's resolutions.. In the United States, we often reflect on our accomplishments and plan for future success. The media will have many stories about health and wellness and how to establish and commit to our resolutions as we enter 2008.

In Toastmasters, we, too, have a number of opportunities and should consider setting goals. Perhaps your Vice President of Education asked you for your goals at the beginning of the Toastmaster year in July 2007. Now is a good time to revisit those goals. Did you commit to doing 3 speeches, 10 speeches, or maybe you have set your target as accomplishing the Triple Crown?

I like to set goals, but, more than that, I like to achieve and surpass my targets. This year, I set my sights on achieving the Triple Crown for a 2nd year. Can I do it? Yes, I can! The only thing that can get in the way, are my own self imposed limits. Last year, my goal was to achieve DTM. I succeeded. This year, my goal is achieve that Triple Crown with a Competent Communicator, Competent Leader, and Advanced Communicator Bronze designations. I am two speeches away from my target.

A great deal of this success stems from the fact that I like

to have a speech ready to go. Evelyn Labode, Omaha Club 229, refers to that as a "pocket speech." The real value of a "pocket speech" is that, if someone is scheduled to speak at your meeting and cancels, you can step in at the last minute and, with just a little bit of practice, give a presentation on a short notice. The very best pocket speeches are based on stories that you already know. Think about all the family gatherings, parties, and other holiday events that occur this time of the year. Many of us have some tried-and-true stories that we share about personal mishaps or events that entertain our family. In my family, we never miss the opportunity to raze my sister, Brenda.

As a kid, Brenda was always managing to do something stupid. Sorry, stupid sounds harsh, but she admits to poor judgment, and stupid is a word that she uses when we raze her about her dog-walking adventures. You see, we lived in a 2nd floor apartment that required us to go up a steep set of stairs. It was Brenda's turn to walk Caesar, our large daschund. Caesar had been waiting a while and was eager to get outside and sniff the trees. Brenda put the leash on the dog and headed to the stairs. Apparently, the dog was more eager than my sister realized, and, just like Rudolph pulling the sleigh,

Caesar took off and drug Brenda down the flight of stairs. All we heard was a loud scream, a dog's whine, and there was Brenda at the bottom of the stairs, wrapped up in the leash, and the dog sitting on top of her still needing to go outside. It is a wonder that my sister managed to get through to adulthood without broken bones. She was a klutz.

Reading the story about my sister may not seem real funny, but, if you heard me tell that story, like I do at family gatherings, you would see the humor in it. My family is full of klutzes. I have to admit that I am the only person I know who can fall from the 2nd step of a 5 foot step ladder and break multiple bones. And when I say 2nd step, I mean the 2nd step from the bottom. I was 18" from the ground. At that time, being hauled out of my front yard in the rescue squad didn't seem very funny, but I can laugh about it today, and it could become a part of a speech on home safety.

Great speeches surround us, and taking a little time to develop a good pocket speech is time well spent. I hope that you can fill your pockets with some great speeches and achieve your speaking goals in 2008.

Happy New Year!



Immediate Past District Governor Message

Sheila Hoffert

There are only four short months to the election of District 24's new officers for 2008-09. A committee is being formed to help identify individuals to fill the roles of area and division governors, and top officer roles. If you have a burning itch to be considered for one of these positions, please let me know.

If you have set yourself a goal of earning your DTM and need to fill a role in leadership, we

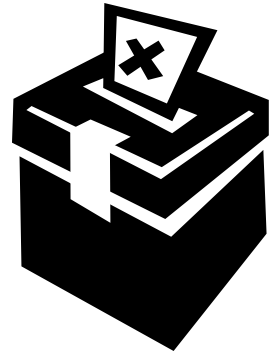
can help you fulfill this requirement. If you know of an excellent candidate who needs nominated, tell me about them. There are a lot of roles available for the upcoming year, so step up to the plate and get those nominations to me.

Candidates for the top three spots, District Governor, Lt. Gov of Education and Training and Lt. Gov of Membership will begin

campaigning at the TLIs. Each of these candidates is allowed two minutes to market themselves to the attendees.

Let's work together to make the election at the spring conference a smooth and easy process.

Sheila Hoffert
402.292.1424
sjh2955@msn.com



Education Time

Connie Klabunde, Lt. Governor— Education and Training

I wish I could.....

I have said this many times to myself. I am sure you have also. Yet when we hear these words from friends, family members and especially our children we provide encouraging words such as "You can do anything!" We can clearly see the positive for those in our lives thinking nothing is impossible - - all one has to do is TRY.

To try means to do something maybe you are uncomfortable or unfamiliar with. To try means taking one small step at a time. To try means falling down and getting up

Make a plan of what your "wish I could's" are. Write them down and keep trying

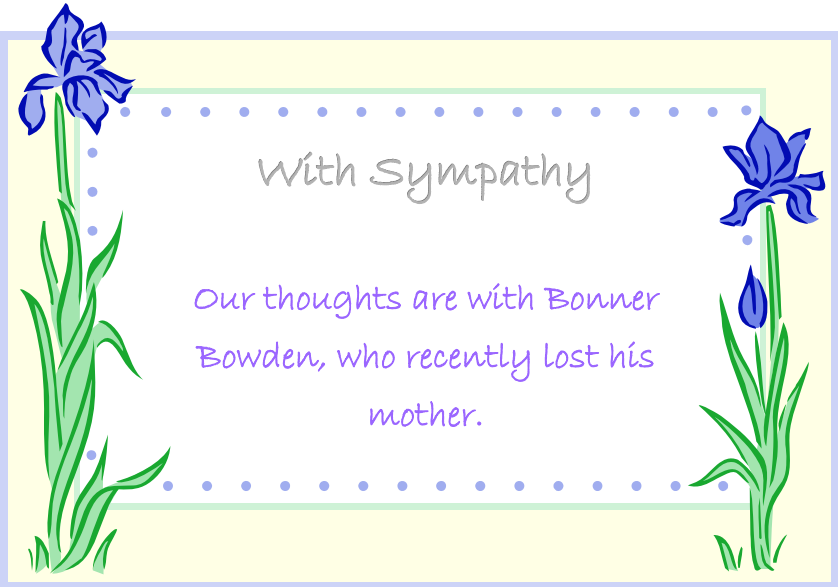
This is how we achieve all our Toastmaster goals of any of the designations we are work-

ing towards. Our manuals become our guide and plan setting in achieving our designation goals. Work those manuals and achieve your designations as we take the turn into the New Year.

"Goals that are not written down are just wishes."



"Goals that are not written down are just wishes."



District Officer Nominating Form

Are you interested in nominating yourself or someone else for a district officer position? Please complete the form below and submit it to the district governor of your district. If you are nominating someone, you may submit more than one person's name for each position. To be nominated or elected, a person must be a member in good standing of a Toastmasters club in good standing, meet the qualifications of the position, consent to being nominated and must sign the Officer Agreement and Release Form.

District Officer Nominating Form

I wish to have the nominating committee consider the following person for the office of:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District governor | <input type="checkbox"/> Lt. governor education & training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lt. governor marketing | <input type="checkbox"/> Division governor (please specify division _____) |

If applicable:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public relations officer | <input type="checkbox"/> District secretary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District treasurer | <input type="checkbox"/> Area governor (please specify area _____) |

Name _____ CC AC CL AL DTM

Address _____ State/Prov. _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Country _____

Telephone (H) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

FAX _____ e-mail: _____

Home Club Name _____ Club No. _____

Please describe any club and district offices held by nominated individual (include dates of service if possible). Please share with the nominating committee why you believe the nominated individual should be considered for the specified position. If there is additional information you would like to include about this candidate that you feel would assist the nominating committee in their deliberations, please attach it to this form.

Submitted by: _____ Date: _____

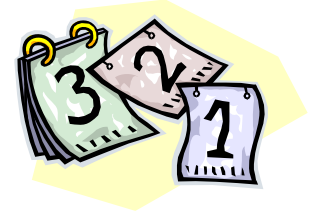
Mail, fax or e-mail to:

Deadline for submitting this form: _____



DISTRICT 24 CALENDAR

(all dates subject to change)



2008

- Jan 11 Mid-Winter Training for District Trio
- Jan 19 Toastmasters Leadership Institute, Lincoln
- Jan 31 Region IV Presenter Application Due
- Feb 1– Mar 31 Talk Up Toastmasters! Membership Contest
- Feb 9 Toastmasters Leadership Institute, Grand Island
- Feb 23 Toastmasters Leadership Institute, Omaha
- Mar 31 Proxies Mailed
- Apr 13 Celebrate the Sunrise! 50 Year Celebration of Sunrise Toastmasters
- May 1-Jun 30 Beat the Clock—Membership Contest
- May 2/3 District 24 Toastmasters Conference and Contests
- Jun 26/28 Region IV Conference and International Contest
- Aug 13/16 Toastmasters International Conference

