



Toastmasters T.L.C.

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Making Effective Communication a Worldwide Reality

# DOUBLE DOZEN

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## Region IV Conference

The Region IV Conference was held on June 22 – 23 at the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska. Toastmasters from the six districts attended. For those new to Toastmasters or unfamiliar with the organization at the regional level, check out <http://www.regioniv.net/sixdistricts.htm> for the location of clubs in Region IV.

The regional conference is held in District 24 once every 6 years. Conference Chair, Anita Lewandowski, worked with a number of other district Toastmasters to make the regional event.



Chris Ford, Sr. Vice President of Toastmasters International, with Congressman Lee Terry. Congressman Terry is accepting the Communication and Leadership Award at the Region IV Conference.

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Dana LaMon, 1992 World Champion of Public Speaking with Congressman Lee Terry

While many of us are familiar with the educational aspects of the conference, you may not realize that the incoming district trio, Chris Czerwinski, Connie Klabunde, and Elden Plettner were “locked down” for two days worth of training with other Region IV trios.

Of course, one of the great highlights is always the International Contest. The winner of the International Speech Contest moves on to compete in Phoenix at the 2007 International Conference where the World Champion of Public Speaking will be awarded.

## Everyone is Talking

But what are they talking about? The International Conference, of course!

Many of us are familiar with the District 24 Conference. Some of you might even have attended a regional conference, but, if you really want to step it up a notch, attend the 2007 International Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, August 15 – 18.

The conference will be held at J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort and Spa. Join 1500 other Toastmasters for this great event.

For more information, visit the Toastmasters International website: <http://www.toastmasters.org/artisan/detail.asp?CategoryID=1&SubCategoryID=13&ArticleID=494&Page=1>.

## A Word From Our Outgoing District 24 Governor

The year as district governor has flown by.

Yes, to be distinguished and three in a row distinguished is even better, but sadly that is not a reality this year. Too many clubs decided to quit, one was a relatively strong club, another one a brand new club, others were tired of struggling. That is where the club specialist comes into play. Earlier in the year, the Double Dozen ran an article aimed at offering assistance to struggling clubs, but few took the offer. The district still has many clubs at 12 or fewer members. If you are struggling, contact your district leadership for assistance. We have had wins, though. LibORATORS came in as a new club, and Toasters + charter is at TI resolving some paperwork issues. There are two more clubs close to chartering, too.

Educational awards must be where everyone puts their energy. We are over the top with CCs and AC awards, and the Wall of Fame netted some serious competition. Way to go Chris for introducing that award!

Pat Hannan has worked tirelessly with the web site and the Double Dozen and is currently working with two clubs to charter. Her year started with the challenge of unexpected surgery, and this was followed by the unfortunate loss of her father, but she has rallied and continues to support the district by becoming the public relations officer for the upcoming year.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the hard work of Matt Binderup, who kept the district budget in order, and to Jean Dier for her work as district secretary. Thank you to all the division and area governors and everyone for all of your support, it is truly appreciated.

Belonging to Toastmasters is fun for many, and it draws people to consistently attend meetings and conferences. Others find the commitment a challenge with busy lifestyles.

I encourage those of you who do not attend regularly to find the time because the benefit for you is continued opportunities to learn and grow.

The Region IV conference was held this last weekend in Lincoln, Nebraska. This opportunity comes to District 24 every six years. What an opportunity to expand your personal horizons, right on your own doorstep. If you missed the event, find time to attend another.

People have asked what I plan to do now my year is almost over. First of all, I plan to breathe again. Working full time, keeping a home, completing a masters degree in communications, being in district leadership, volunteering, and traveling extensively have taken their toll. I plan to sit back for a couple of months and take it easy. I will continue to work with the new district team, chair the nominating committee for the fall awards, and be on the nominating committee for the following year district officers. Then I expect to join the Literacy Council, as it is a goal of mine to teach an adult how to read, and also to volunteer at the new veteran's home down the road. So, there are my plans in a nutshell.

I wish the district membership all the best in your future endeavors. I know you will continue to make this district share the light and SHINE

Signing out, your District 24 Governor,

Sheila Hoffert

*Share the Light*



## Incoming District 24 Governor Notes

July 1<sup>st</sup> is the start of my term as you District 24 Governor.

My theme for the year is TM TLC (Training, Leadership, and Communication).

**Training:** As members we are training all the time, striving to be better communicators. No matter where, within our clubs, with our family and friends, or in the work place.

**Leadership:** We should think of ourselves as leaders, confident in the fact that we are part of a program that works.

**Communication:** To promote the good each member sees in themselves after receiving the value that Toastmaster's gives.

Watch for more on TM TLC during the upcoming months.

During my year as District 24 Governor, I'll continue to work hard in promoting the hidden values that being a member of this organization can give to others and to keep working to make all of you proud to be members of District 24.

Chris Czerwinski  
District 24 Governor



## “It’s a Rap” or “Transition Time”

The Wall of Fame was a success. We should recognize the members who worked really hard to achieve 3 educational awards within a year. The final numbers are not in but the results will be shown at the Fall Conference and also on our web site.

Speaking of the Fall Conference, plan to take the scenic drive up to Norfolk. This conference should be a great time with some fantastic educational sessions. Remember that Norfolk is the home of Johnny Carson, so we should all have a fun time.

Remember that TLIs are not just for the officers; it should be attended by all members who would like to gain more insight into the workings of their clubs and to interact with fellow TM. Try to think of them as a mini conference. They are held across the state. Hope to see you there.

I will continue to work hard and hope that all of District 24 will continue to have fun and keep learning.

Your outgoing Lt. Governor—Education and Training  
Chris Czerwinski

## A Note from Our Incoming Lt. Governor of Marketing

Greetings to all,

As I move into the position of Lt Governor of Marketing, I am excited about the coming year. To ensure the continued success of District 24, we need your help. Among the duties of LGM, I am charged with growing new clubs and club rescue. Rescue seems a rather harsh term, but in effect, the goal is to help clubs that are struggling with membership. The district trio can not do that without your help.

If your goal is to complete your Advanced Leader Silver designation this year, you'll need to serve successfully as a club sponsor, club mentor or a club coach. This can be a winning partnership. For those clubs with less than 12 members, a club coach can serve as cheerleader and provide guidance to help you return to charter strength of 20 or more members and the coach will be able to complete one step towards AL-S.

If your club would like to have a coach assigned or if you want to become a club coach, please send your information to me.

If you have any leads for new clubs, I'm also the key contact person. Time constraints and distance will provide challenges to growing new clubs and the trio needs your help here as well. If you would like to help with growing new clubs, I want to hear from you.

Contact me at 402-825-5860 or e-mail [lgm@district24toastmasters.com](mailto:lgm@district24toastmasters.com). Together we can build on what is already a terrific organization.

Remember failure to plan leads to a plan to fail. We look forward to your inputs. Thanks in advance for your help in developing this success plan.

Elden Plettner, Jr.  
District 24 Lt. Gov. Marketing

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## A Message from the Division C Governor

Hello Toastmasters!

What a great conference we just had. It was my first regional conference, and it was superb!

I want to specifically mention two things from this regional conference.

First of all, congrats to our representative from District 24 and from Division C, Jim Otto, who finished 2nd in the International contest. What a competition! It was so close, and Jim did a fantastic job. It is really superb to do so well in such high level of competition.

The other fantastic job I would like for you to check out the Lincoln Journal Star newspaper article at: <http://journalstar.com/articles/2007/06/24/news/local/doc467dc47e2eae7237486301.txt> It was a very nice article about the regional convention with a photograph of Craig Valentine the 1999 World Champion of Public Speaking. Please take a look.

We all need to thank Jean Dier, because it is through her efforts that she got this fantastic article in the newspaper. Another job well done by Jean and if you see her or have her email, please let her know how you appreciate this good work.

Garry Martin  
Division C Governor, District 24

## Out—In, by Pat Hannan

What a year it has been! As I finish up my time as your Lt. Gov. of Marketing, I have a number of things to reflect upon. Most importantly, I want to say, "Thank you" to two very important mentors, Floy Westermeier and Sheila Hoffert. Floy has been a driving force as Outreach Chair to try to grow clubs in District 24. She is a master of the "cold call" and more importantly an experienced Toastmaster who often offers advice. Sheila, our Immediate Past District Governor, has been elected and served in all three roles, Lt. Gov. of Marketing, Lt. Gov. of Education and Training and District Governor. She is detail oriented and driven to leave the district a better organization. I believe Sheila has been very successful in her roles. There have been challenges along our journey but as I leave the role of LGM, I pass to Elden, a pipeline of good leads and a couple of clubs on the brink of chartering.

On a personal note, I have grown and learned a great deal about Toastmasters and the members of District 24. I have formed a great number of friendships along the way and appreciate their support and guidance.

This year started out with some personal challenges, I had surgery and was out of the loop and off work for six weeks and just when I thought I was able to go back to my full schedule and participate in the fall conference, another personal crisis hit. But it was, to some extent, the skills that I have honed in Toastmasters that helped me through the crisis. My father was the funniest man I have ever known. He could deliver a fun story or joke on just about any occasion. My siblings called on me to deliver my father's eulogy probably about the same time many of you were attending, what I am sure was a great fall conference. I drew on my presentation skills and delivered a eulogy filled with fun stories about my dad and what

he meant to the friends and family attending the service. While humor might not be everyone's idea of how to honor our dearly departed, I know that my dad was there with a smile. I believe that delivering that speech was the hardest one I have ever given but I also know that it was the most important one as well. In some measure, I have to thank each and every evaluator who has reminded me to speak up, remember to pause for laughter and make eye contact because those comments helped me also deliver what has been to this date the best speech I have ever given.

But, while I am leaving my role as your Lt. Gov. of Marketing, I am moving forward to take on the role of District 24 Public Relations Officer. As many of you are already aware, I have been promoting District 24 via my role as webmaster for several years, but now I'll add a number of other responsibilities to that promotion responsibility. As we move through the year, you'll hear more about promoting District 24 and the terrific clubs and members in our organization.

In my new role as District 24 Public Relations Officer, I will have a number of additional duties. As we move through the year, you will hear more about the terrific clubs and members in District 24.

Again, a heartfelt thank you to all who have helped make this a terrific organization during 2006-2007.

Pat Hannan  
[pro@district24toastmasters.com](mailto:pro@district24toastmasters.com)

## Toastmasters Leadership Institute

Three sessions are scheduled for our semi-annual Toastmasters Leadership Institute.

- \* Saturday, July 14—Principal Financial, 3025 College Street, Grand Island
- \* Saturday, July 28—National Park Service, 601 Riverfront Drive, Omaha (east of the Qwest Center)
- \* Saturday, August 4—SEC Continuing Education Center, 301 South 68th Place, Lincoln

Please plan to arrive at 8:30 a.m. Sessions will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and end by noon. A minimum of four officers from each club need to attend to gain points towards Distinguished Club Status.

## Growing New Clubs - Wesley House

A new community club is growing in an old organization. The Wesley House has been a part of the Omaha community since 1872. It began as the Omaha City Mission. Wesley House is dedicated to youth academics and leadership training. Terry Lee, Tower Talkers, has been working with Paul Bryant, Wesley House Director, and others to charter a club at this organization. Other District 24 members, Pat Tooles, Pat Hannan, and Wayne Crocker, OPPD; Sheila Hoffert, Feds Club; and Boris Forte, Blue Ah-Busters are also involved.

The club will meet every other Tuesday from noon – 1 p.m. If you are interested or know someone else interested in joining the Wesley House Club, contact Terry Lee at [TerryLee@woodmen.com](mailto:TerryLee@woodmen.com) for more information and exact meeting dates. More information about Wesley House can be found online at: <http://www.wesleyacademy.org/index.html>.

## Good Neighbor Toastmasters



We all know that Toastmasters is fun, but Good Neighbor Toastmasters is a blast!!!!

With 35 members strong, Good Neighbor Toastmasters has made the President's Distinguished Club in the past and is on the way to receiving the award again this year.

Their May 31 meeting was fantastic. One of their newest members, Carrie Bahde, gave her Ice Breaker speech, "All About Me." Everyone was very entertained and excited to see how talented their new members are. Joseph Littell challenged the audience in a speech about decision making and the ramifications of going with your gut. Laurie Smith reminded the audience that everything does NOT stay in Las Vegas. Her speech was a hoot.

Jeff Seim, their Table Topics Master, used technology to create a terrific session for our participants to think on their feet. If you don't know what a "SNIGLET" is, just ask Jeff.

The Good Neighbor Toastmasters club meets every Thursday



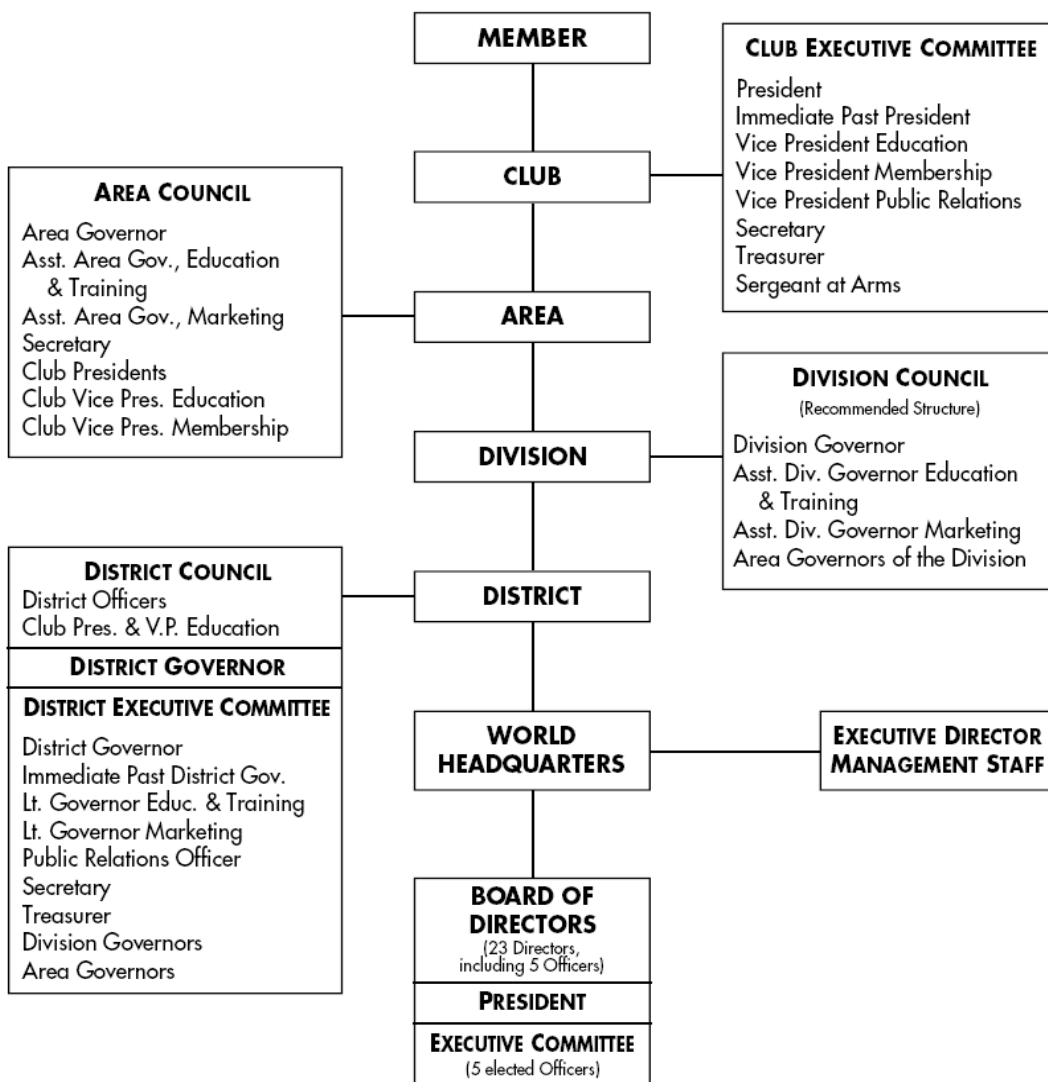
# Introducing Toastmasters Structure

Just like other organizations, there is a structure to Toastmasters, and sometimes that can be a bit confusing to both veteran and new members. Over the next several issues, we will present an overview of the structure to help everyone better understand Toastmasters.

We will begin with the most important building block - the member - you. You are the most important part of Toastmasters. Without the member, nothing else would be needed.

The first rung of support that any Toastmaster member can count on is the club. When chartered, clubs must have at least 20 members. Within that membership, a number of individuals serve in various roles such as President or VP of Education. Clubs meet at least 12 times a year. Regular meetings shall be conducted in person. Members should be working towards awards such as the Competent Communicator and Advanced Communicator Awards. Members must give oral speeches. Members give and receive oral evaluations. Members have the opportunity to develop and practice leadership skills and earn leadership awards such as the Competent Leader or Advanced Leader Awards.

If you want to look ahead, the complete Toastmasters International Organization Service Chart can be found online at: <http://www.toastmasters.org/pdfs/orgchart.pdf>



## LONG TIME TOASTMASTER - MADELINE MEIGS

A long-time member of Toastmasters is leaving and will surely be missed.

Madeline is the consummate Toastmaster. She has held every office in Omaha 229. She has been a Division Governor and District 24 Secretary. For many years, she conducted the Youth Leadership program for students in an alternative educational setting in Wahoo. Madeline has been the greeter at the District 24 conferences because she presided at the registration table. When District 24 hosted the Region IV conference in 1999, Madeline returned to Omaha to don a flowing robe and turban and read the palms of conference attendees.



Madeline and her husband, Bob, spend their summers in Sandpoint, Idaho. While in Sandpoint, Madeline traveled many miles to participate in Toastmasters, since there was no club nearby. Madeline started a club in Sandpoint and represented the Sandpoint club in the humorous speech contest. Her entry took her through the area and division contests and on to the regional level.

In addition to being a charter member of the Sandpoint club, Madeline has sponsored and mentored clubs. She is also a gifted mentor for new Toastmasters.

For several years, District 24 gave each member who achieved a CTM a Golden Gavel. Madeline was the person who orchestrated the Golden Gavel program.

Madeline has participated fully on every level of Toastmasters. She and Bob have traveled to Regional and International conferences. She is an active ambassador for Toastmasters. She has met several International presidents and has graciously driven a World Champion speaker from the District 24 conference site to the airport. Madeline was awarded the Toastmaster of the Decade at the 2005 Fall Conference.

Madeline achieved her DTM in 1997. District 24 inducted Madeline into the Circle of Honor. The Circle of Honor award was created to honor Toastmasters who, over many years, have continued to give unselfishly of their time to improve the quality of leadership, oral communications, membership building and retention in District 24.

The members of Omaha 229 know Madeline for her joyful sense of fun, for her gentle guidance in the correct manner of presenting, and for her wonderful cuisine. Madeline has compiled her wonderful recipes into a delightful book entitled Maddy.

While we shall miss her presence, her wisdom will remain with us.

# With Sympathy

*Condolences to Jackie Gfeller, past District Governor, in the loss of her brother William (Bill) Gfeller.*



## ANN GOLD, CLUB OFFICER OF THE YEAR, AND TM OF THE YEAR

Each year, clubs are encouraged to submit their recommendations for District Awards. Nominations for these prestigious selections can be made on-line on the District website. To submit your nomination, go to <http://www.district24toastmasters.com/news.cfm>

Several awards can be submitted. The nomination committee will select a President of the Year, VP of Education, VP of Membership, VP of PR, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sgt of Arms, in addition to a Toastmaster of the Year. Each club is encouraged to nominate their officers who have done an outstanding job during the 2006-2007 year, as well as their Toastmaster-of-the-Year and their club for the Ann Gold Award.

These awards recognize members whose dedication, commitment and efforts significantly contributed to the betterment of the club and Toastmasters. The Ann Gold Award will be presented to the club who really has stepped up the plate and serves as an excellent Toastmasters Club. All the forms can be downloaded on-line from the district website.

Nominations will be accepted until August 31, 2007.

## 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	108	93	116%
Advanced Communicator	54	26	208%
Membership Payments	2450	2735	90%
Total Clubs	65	73	89%

**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.**

# DISTRICT 24 CALENDAR

(all dates subject to change)

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 6	Area 41 Speech Contest
Sept 11	Area 32 Speech Contest
Sept 13	Area 34 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

