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DOUBLE DOZEN



Final Message

Chris Czerwinski, Past District 24 Governor

I have always said time flies when you are having fun. Well, it has been a fun and all too quick year.

I just got back from the Region IV Conference in Rapid City, SD where the next Trio, Pat, Elden, and George attended training. During the past 2 years, I have only been able to attend the conference to train, but this year was different. I really did have a great time. Networking is so important, and, in Rapid City, I was able to network with many other Toastmasters from North America. These conferences are well worth the time to attend. You will make friends that will truly last a lifetime.

This article is my last official act as your District Governor. My thanks go out to Connie Klabunde who was my Lt. Governor of Education & Training, Elden Plettner as my Lt. Governor of Marketing, and Pat Hannan as Public Relations Officer. These three spent many hours serving the needs of the District. Sheila Hoffert, Past District Governor and my

mentor, also deserves my special thanks, as I learned so much from her over the past 2 years. I’d also like to express my thanks to Floy Westermeier for her experience and guidance, as well as Randy Prier who served as the District 24 DCP Chairman. Kendra Beckstead did a great job keeping the books in order.

I was asked by a Past International Director if my year as District Governor was successful. My answer was a resounding “YES.” Being a Toastmaster is all about personal growth and I have grown. I have grown in my communication skills speaking to as many Toastmasters as I have this year. I have grown in what I have learned from all of the Toastmasters here in District 24. Finally, I have grown in leadership because I really care about the District and all of its members’ successes. So, it has been a TLC experience for me.

Pat’s next year will be great, and I know that District 24 will continue to grow.

Toastmasters Leadership Institute

Pat Hannan, District 24 Governor

Twice a year, the district offers training for our club officers and anyone else who is interested in learning more about Toastmasters and District 24. This year, we will be offering several opportunities for you to attend a Toastmasters Leadership Institute.

- Grand Island - July 12, 2008
 Principal Financial Group, 3025 W. College St., Grand Island, NE (enter building on west side)
 - Arrive at 8:30 AM; Start at 9:00 AM
- Omaha - July 26, 2008
 OPPD, 16th and Harney, Omaha
 - Arrive at 8:30 AM; Start at 9:00 AM
- Lincoln - August 16, 2008
 Southeast Community College, 301 S. 68th Street Place, Lincoln
 - Arrive at 8:30 AM; Start at 9:00 AM

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“Step up,
volunteer, and
serve!
Remember, our
members are at
the top and the
leaders are our
foundation and
support.”



Governor's Quill

Pat Hannan, District 24 Governor

For those members old enough to remember a TV show called "The Jeffersons," you might remember the fun jingle and lyrics. George Jefferson was "moving on up ... and finally got a piece of the pie." But serving our district in Toastmasters does not mean that we move up. The fact is that we move down. The traditional hierarchical structure, so commonplace in businesses, does not work in Toastmasters International.

In the traditional business environment, the CEO is at the top of pyramid, and employees are at the bottom. Some employees aspire to "move on up" to leadership positions as managers or supervisors, but, in Toastmasters, we "move on down" to a support role.

For members who seek to gain Toastmasters leadership experience, I would like to offer some suggestions. We are a volunteer organization, and, to that end, I would ask you to step outside of your normal role of member and volunteer to serve the district.

- Take a look at the district reports - see if there are some clubs that are low in membership meeting at the right time and place that you can help return to charter strength. Read the "responsibilities" on the coach role and make an appointment to meet with their club to see if they are interested in a club coach. Of course, keep the Area Governor and Division Governor in the loop so that you will earn credit towards a designation.
- Volunteer to be a judge or serve in another role at contests. One of the best ways to get to know each other is to network with other members outside of your club and your area. Arrive early at the contest and mingle. Of course, the identities of the judges are to remain anonymous, but you'll be amazed at the number of new Toastmasters you'll meet and the talent that resides within District 24.
- Contact various clubs about being a target speaker this fall during our evaluation contests. Make those speeches manual speeches so they count towards a designation but also so that you can get a written evaluation from them. Quality evaluations help each of us become better communicators.
- Don't assume anything. Don't assume that you can sit idling and someone will notice what a wonderfully talented person you are and ask you to volunteer. District 24 is composed of 65 clubs, 17 areas, 4 divisions, and more than 1,100 members. Don't assume that anyone can read your mind and ask you to serve.

Step up, volunteer, and serve! Remember, our members are at the top and the leaders are our foundation and support.

Education Time

Elden Plettner, Lt. Governor—Education and Training

It's Toastmasters Leadership Institute and Contest time.

Four sessions are scheduled for our semi-annual Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI). Check the DD 24 calendar for dates and locations that will serve you the best. Make your choice and please plan to arrive at 8:30 a.m. Sessions will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and end by noon. ALL MEMBERS are eligible and encouraged to attend the TLI. Each club needs a minimum of four officers to attend to gain points that contribute towards the clubs Distinguished Club Program (DCP) goals! These are easy points to obtain. But just as important as points towards the DCP, officers are able to network and some of the best ideas come from networking sessions with others. We hope to see you there!

It is contest season, and, as always, you can count on members stepping up to the plate and giving it their all. This fall District 24 is serving up two terrific contest opportunities: Humorous Speech Contest and the Evaluation Contest. Members will progress from their Club contest to Area level

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Marketing Minutes

George Volz, Lt. Governor—Marketing

Greetings! I am your 2008-2009 Lieutenant Governor of Marketing. Something I would like you to know about me is that I am a commuter. I live in Carson, Iowa and commute to Fremont, Nebraska and various other places.

Today, my work required me to go to a different destination than I normally visit. As I headed east away from my house, I reflected on the fact that all of the vehicles that normally accompany me on my commute were still going their way—but I was going a different way.

As I continued driving, I almost started to miss fitting into the crowd. Then the sun came up and I started to see

new vistas and I knew that going a different route was worth the change.

I see this is a parallel to Toastmasters. If you are a Toastmaster, you have chosen to step outside of your comfort zone and do something that others have not chosen to do.

I see this not unlike my choice to live in Carson and work elsewhere. And, a lot like my daily commute, this stepping out of your comfort zone can become routine until something causes this to change.

But what can change our Toastmaster routine?

YOU CAN!!

You can decide that this is the year that you will take another big step out of your Toastmaster comfort zone and rise to the challenge. What can you do? Perhaps finish that manual—or invite that person that challenges you at work or in your social circles to come to a meeting—or reach out to help another club start or grow.

In Toastmasters, the opportunities are endless. I and the rest of the District leadership are here to assist and serve your needs.

What do you want to do?

How can we help?

“You can decide that this is the year that you will take another big step out of your Toastmaster comfort zone and rise to the challenge.”

Reeling in Members

Pat Hannan, District 24 Governor

When members of the RealTalkers Club bragged about having 16 new members in one year, it was hard to believe. No, I don't mean to imply that anyone was telling a Tall Tale or even a fish story, but 16 members seemed like a lot of members in one year. I had to visit RealTalkers to see what was going on. I suspected that something fishy might be going on, but, when I arrived, I realized that the number 16 had to be corrected. RealTalkers signed on 2 more new members during the meeting that I attended for a total of 18 new members.

While there is no magic bait to catch those new members, RealTalkers does do something that a number of clubs might consider trying. They have business cards to give to prospective members with their name and meeting information on the card. One new member, C.C., had always wanted to join a Toastmasters Club and was actually at a garage sale when she met Marilyn Allen. The timing was just right for C.C. Under the leadership of club President, Jennifer Hinrichs, and a terrific team of officers, RealTalkers will end the year as a Select Distinguished Club and was awarded the Talk Up Toastmasters award for 2008.

If you are interested in visiting RealTalkers or would like to know more about their club, contact Division D Governor (and member) LuAnn Anglo for more information. LuAnn's e-mail address is: luannanglo@hotmail.com

RealTalkers meet every Friday morning at 7:30 a.m. at the Omaha Area Board of Realtors, 11830 Nicholas Street, Omaha.



“While there is no magic bait to catch those new members, RealTalkers does do something that a number of clubs might consider trying.”



The Minute Man Folder

Pat Hannan, District 24 Governor

We are quickly moving out of spring and into summer. Our district trio members are moving into new roles and doing a little spring cleaning as well. Chris, District Governor 2007 - 2008, is passing on knowledge, experience, and a mountain of Toastmasters paperwork and documentation to me, your incoming District Governor. Like Chris, I have a number of things to pass on the incoming Public Relations Officer and to my home club's incoming Club President. During spring cleaning, we are able to purge, repurpose, and recycle things that we no longer need. During my spring cleaning, I found a couple of items tucked away that I thought might be useful information to share. I have modified the Minute Man Folder note slightly.

Minute Man Folder - author unknown

A Minute man folder is a place where you can keep things so you're prepared when you go to your next Toastmasters meeting! Something you might want to slip into a folder or bag include:

- A flag - for the pledge of allegiance
- A Toastmasters application - for that unexpected guest
- A general evaluation form
- A notepad
- A pen
- A card with Table Topics ideas just in case the Table Topics Master can't make it
- A basic manual - just in case you need to give a last minute speech, make every speech a manual speech
- A Competent Leader manual - go be evaluated for your role in the meeting
- Timing cards - green, yellow and red
- A copy of Reader's Digest - a great source of jokes, table topics ideas, invocations and a word of the day
- Information that would help you explain Toastmasters to a prospective member
- A speech that you can give at the last minute

Bring your folder or, better yet, a tote bag when you attend your next meeting, and you will always be prepared.

Rick Meyer Competes at International Speech Contest

Pat Hannan, District 24 Governor

Serving up a great performance is the goal of every Toastmaster but serving up a speech that is contest worthy is a little daunting for some Toastmasters. Rick Meyer has surpassed many of us by competing in the International Speech Contest all the way to the Regional Contest Level.

Rick is known for his clear messages, strong voice and great storytelling style. As a member of the NPPD (Columbus, NE) Club, he has been powering up his speaking skills to try to get an opportunity to compete for the "World Champion of Public Speaking" stage in Calgary, Canada in August. While Rick did not bring home the winning speech, this time, he did a great job of representing District 24.

His story inspired us to set high goals, to stay on course, and to "begin with the end in mind." "Begin with the end in mind" is a Steven Covey principle, and Rick used that theme to tell the story of the skinny kid from Kansas who finished the Boston Marathon well ahead of most of the runners in spite of some major problems. Congratulations to Rick for getting all the way to Regional. We have no doubt that you will continue to keep the "end in mind" until you successfully achieve your personal speaking goal.

For more information about Rick, visit his website: <http://www.rickemeyer.com/>.



Rick Meyer with Immediate Past District 24 Governor, Chris Czerwinski



Happy Birthday A-Rousers

Pat Hannan, District 24 Governor

Many of us would not brag about our age, but the years have been very kind to A-Rousers. They turned 35 this year and have a great deal to be proud of. Last year, they achieved Select Distinguished Status, and, this year, they have earned Distinguished Status. In 2007-2008, four new members have joined the club giving them a nice membership size of 27.



During a member's presentation, I learned, while the number one has little statistical significance, it is very important in our lives. The words that just one person shares can mean all the difference in the world to us.

In addition to that terrific speech, A-Rousers

were also treated to what I think is one of the most unique themed meetings that I have attended. Kim Kuncl, our Toastmaster, introduced each participant with their favorite theme song. I have to admit that I missed guessing several of the more recent tunes but was able to identify the notes to Hawaii 5-0 and Gilligan's Island. I suppose that might date me, but that's ok, as they are celebrating their birthday!

If you would like to visit an A-Rousers meeting, you can find them at:

Douglas County Extension Office
8015 W Center Rd, Omaha, NE
Tuesday Mornings at 7 a.m.



Towering Above

Pat Hannan, District 24 Governor

Many of us are familiar with an Omaha landmark, Woodmen of the World. That structure stands tall in the downtown Omaha skyline. But what you may not know is that it is also the home of the Tower Talkers. Tower Talkers has just turned 20 years old. My first experience with this fun loving Toastmasters group came when I competed in an Area 41 Humorous Speech Contest. I was a Toastmasters newbie when Venita took first place in that contest. She took a real story about a girls' fun trip and filled it full of twists

and turns. It seems that Venita had found just the right pair of shoes to wear on her trip. They were cute and stylish, but she forgot to plan for the comfort factor. Those shoes just about did in her trip to the Big Apple.

I don't remember any of the other speeches during that contest, but I do remember vividly the story about an everyday event that Venita brought to life. When you are struggling and looking for the right topic for your next presentation, I hope you'll look around you at the

everyday things that we all share - the stories about our pets, our families or our first car. Often, it is the everyday stories that make us laugh the most.

Check out Tower Talkers in the Woodmen Tower, 1700 Farnam St., Omaha. They meet each Tuesday at 11:40 am. If you would like to give them a heads up that you are coming, call Linda Filipowicz at 402-271-7890. They are a fun group, and the view from the Tower is amazing.

"Often, it is the everyday stories that make us laugh the most."



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>



“By helping, you make a positive difference, and you will feel good!”

Education Time (continued from page 2)

Elden Plettner, Lt. Governor—Education and Training

followed by Division contests and finishing up in Grand Island, NE. on October 17 and 18, 2008 at the District Conference contest.

Good contests require planning. Each club Vice President of Education is tasked with the responsibility to run the club contest. That is often completed by appointing a well organized contest chair to manage the details. While the rules might seem a bit daunting, they become easier to understand if you refer back to the rules. Each club received a pamphlet outlining the rules of the road for contests, but a few along the line may have misplaced that item. But, don't worry! TI has provided the 2008 Contest Rule Book online: <http://www.toastmasters.org/fupload/media/IntlSpeechContestRules.pdf> Evaluation rules begin on page 15 and the Humorous Contest Rules on page 20.

DD 24 Contest change!! District 24 is going back to the way it has conducted Club, Area, and Division contests in the past. This means that only the highest placed contestant from each Club will compete in the Area contest, and only the highest placed contestant from each Area

will compete in the Division contest. The change is being made due to time constraints for conducting the Area and Division contests. Most Area and Division contest dates are on the DD 24 calendar. Check the calendar and plan your club contests so your winner can be determined in time to go to the Area contest.

And finally, we need **contestants and helpers** to staff the many roles for the contest. **Would you be willing to help?** The organization needs helpers in the Club, Area, Division, and District contest to perform the duties of judge, ballot counters, timer, etc. for the contest to be a success. By helping, you make a **positive difference, and you will feel good!** Compete and challenge your club members to compete as well. For those of you unable to compete, become a helper. Contact your Club Presidents, Area Governors, and Division Governors and let them know where you would like to help. We will train you to do the job. Your Organization needs you to make a **positive difference and to feel good!**

Consider this as my personal invitation to you to help!

Toastmasters Leadership Institutes (continued from page 1)

Pat Hannan, District 24 Governor

Omaha – Make-Up Evening Session date and location to be determined. An additional session may be held in either Norfolk or Wayne and that decision is still pending.

Toastmasters Leadership Institute agendas will vary slightly, but attendees can expect:

- Registration
- Welcome/Introductions
- Division Governor comments
- Fall Conference Information
- Area Governor Introductions
- Growing new clubs / membership - presented by Lt. Governor – Marketing, George Volz
- Strategic planning overview - presented by District Governor, Pat Hannan
- Present one strategic planning idea generation session
- Charting a Course for Club Success presented by Lt. Governor – Education & Training, Elden Plettner
- Achieving Success as a Club Officer (Concurrent session by office)- various presenters
- Quick Feedback - Club officers meet with area governors for a short get together

Officer training is a part of the point system for the Distinguished Club Program. To earn that, clubs must have at least four officers attend training. Any club that that sends all their officers to TLI will have their name thrown into a "hat" for a prize!



Region IV Conference—Rapid City, South Dakota

Pat Hannan, District 24 Governor



George Volz, Pat Hannan, and Elden Plettner

For Toastmasters who step outside of their club and enjoy the networking opportunities offered through our organization, it comes as no surprise that attending conferences and conventions yield many networking opportunities. District trio members, District Governor - Pat Hannan, Lt. Gov. Education and Training - Elden Plettner, and Lt. Gov. Marketing - George Volz each experienced the opportunity to network and learn from other trio members in Region IV and meet with other key Toastmasters at the annual trio training at the Region IV Conference.

Trio officer training extends over two days and helps prepare your district

leadership team for the work that they have been elected to accomplish. Some of the topics that were discussed included basic district budgeting requirements and rules, trademark and copyright laws, and even discussions on how the various generational groups feel about volunteer organizations.

District 24 is part of Region IV of the Toastmasters International Organization. Region IV is a large geographic area that encompasses districts in both the United States and Canada. Networking with other groups helps each of us develop ideas and achieve success.

But, the event isn't just work; there is some fun involved and great educational presentations. While the trio members were wrapped up in the training events, other District 24 members enjoyed several excellent presentations. Stephanie Anderson, Advanced Omaha Toastmasters, really enjoyed

the presentations and combined a trip to see her mother in Rapid City with the conference.

For me, one of the really fun events was a lip sync contest. Long-term District 24 members might remember lip sync contests in years gone by, but it was my first experience with this fun event. There were 8 groups of contestants who participated, and the laughter really filled the room. From "Leader of the Pack" to "YMCA" and "Bohemian Rhapsody," there was no shortage of silliness. I suspect that we might see a lip sync contest in a future conference.

If your personal travel budget allows a trip to a really fun Toastmasters event, the next Region IV Conference will be held during June 2009 in Winnipeg, Canada. Watch the Region IV website at <http://www.regioniv.net> for more information as that date moves closer.

“Networking with other groups help each of us come up with new ideas and helps us achieve success together.”

INnovators Speech Contest

Come one, Come all! INnovators 4362 invites you out for an evening of the Double T's. You are invited to a special speech contest on **Monday, August 4, 2008 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.** The categories will be Tall Tales and Table Topics.

This event will be held in the Visitation Room at the Nebraska State Penitentiary. The INnovators are asking clubs to send their top-notch speakers in each category to participate. If you would like to attend but do not want to participate in the contests, judges and guests are also welcome.

Visitors must complete the NCIC form and submit that by **Friday, July 11, 2008** to Amy Whitfield, PO Box 2500, Lincoln, NE 68542-2500.



Sunrise Welcomes David Haslam

David Haslam, a fellow Toastmaster from Michigan, will be visiting the Sunrise Club on Monday, August 11. David, who is originally from Manchester, England, will be serving in Michigan as an Area Governor this year. Sunrise Toastmasters would like to give a warm District 24 welcome to their special guest and would like to extend the invitation to members across District 24 to meet David.

Sunrise Toastmasters meets at 6:30 a.m. each Monday at the Perkins Restaurant, 48th and O Street, Lincoln, NE. For more information about this special event, contact Jo at jboshart@neb.rr.com.

