

# Double Dozen Final Edition for the 2008-2009 Year Distinguished District 24 Toastmasters Newsletter

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## Changing of the Guard

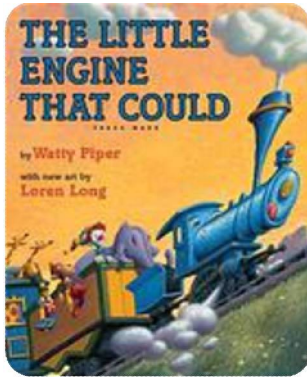
By Pat Hannan, 2008-2009 District 24 Governor

What a year it has been in District 24! We made a number of changes and it has been great! Over the past year, I have visited about a 1/3 of the clubs in our district, attended many area and division contests, meet new members and became better friends with some veteran members. The district leadership team (aka trio - myself, Elden, and George) all reached out and asked a number of members to step up and do more. I am ever so grateful for the service of each and every one of you.

When we began our year in July of 2008, District 24 had seen a number of clubs fall away. There is an ebb and flow to Toastmasters and some years we achieve success and other years, we are left with opportunities. I truly want to tip my hat to the members of our district, you have been wonderful to work with and I am grateful that I was given the opportunity to serve as your District Governor this year.

On July 1, the new trio team officially stepped into place. Elden Plettner, George Volz, and LuAnn Anglo will be at the helm to set our sails and guide our members to success. Two new clubs are on the horizon and will likely charter by the 1<sup>st</sup> of August.

There was a time that District 24 was about 100 clubs strong. Currently, we are composed of 67 clubs and honestly, 100 does not sound that far away. I like to think of District 24 as the “Little Engine That Could”. This childhood book tells the story of a train engine that pulled a heavy load of toys over a mountain. It continues to be a story of optimism and a can do attitude. Can we do it? With your help and continued support, Yes we can!



Some might wonder why I have spoke about clubs in terms of numbers. Toastmasters requires that districts maintain a certain number of clubs to remain a district. District 24 has been dangerously close to that magic number. But more importantly, each club has a personality all its own. We often learn best from those who are not “just like us”. The diversity of our district helps each of us grow in our communication and leadership skills and truly that is why we all belong to Toastmasters, to help us grow and improve.

Again, my heartfelt thanks to the many members of District 24 that have made this such a memorable year.

## Reflections

By Judy Southwick, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year International Director

The expression “time flies” sums up my term as an International Director. I was elected two years ago in Phoenix and my time will end in Mashantucket, Connecticut this August. You might be thinking, “What was it like to be a Director? How did you get to do that job?” It really all started with my friend and Past International Director Cliff Heinsch. He would tell me how exciting it was to serve, how important the Board process is to strategic decision making, where the agenda comes from and all of the wonderful people he was meeting. I decided I would like to have the same opportunity.

Two years ago I was elected in Phoenix by Toastmasters from around the world! I didn't have competition from anyone else in the Region wanting the job. I found that strange that others didn't run for the position. Campaigning was fun and really the first time I had been exposed to such a large, diverse group of Toastmasters beyond my own Region. I was asked questions at my booth ranging from “What language should we have the club members use for the meeting to Why do you want to be an International Director?” When you decide to serve on the board, you need to carefully plan your campaign, refresh yourself on all aspects of the Toastmaster programs and manuals, plus learn about the new issues that are being proposed. In addition, you need to prepare handouts for everyone stopping by your booth. I had a campaign manager who drilled me on possible questions I would be asked at the Candidates Showcase. After the first session, I was able to relax and enjoy talking in each of the separate showcases. It was an exhilarating, exciting experience. Charlotte Howard, Region III candidate, and I shared the stage and the question and answer time together. We have become best friends thru our showcase stage time.

Sunday training begins immediately following the August Convention for the new Directors and carries over Directors. We had to get up to speed in a hurry because there were many, many proposed new changes to the way Toastmasters would be going forward. The board meetings are formal- Parliamentary Procedure is followed, you wait your turn to speak, everyone comes prepared to discuss the topic and respect is given to each speaker. It was always amazing to me to see how the board – 23 different individuals reached consensus on the issues and the work was accomplished.

The Executive Board Officers trained us to make corporate visits, provided suggestions for our keynotes and encouraged us to go forth as Ambassadors for the organization. The best part for me was visiting the Districts within Region IV. The leaders were fun to work with and I loved the individual traditions each

District has. I enjoyed meeting the members and getting excited with them as they achieved their goals. Region IV covers so much territory and I was so proud to represent an International Region!

I feel I was given an opportunity of a lifetime to serve Toastmaster members and bring my 27 years of experience to influence the changes. I would encourage all members to truly get involved, attend your District events, support your leaders and think about running yourself for International Director.

### Officer Lists

Thank you to the clubs who turned in their lists on time!! Election of officers and reporting those changes to TI is so very important to each and every club. This is a good time to check and make sure your personal information such as your mailing address and e-mail are correct with Toastmasters International. Currently, there are only 4 clubs who have not turned in their officer lists: Sunrise, High Nooners, Roman Forum and Ameristar.

### Humorous and Table Topics Contests

It is not very far away! The fall contest season will be upon you in no time at all. This fall's contests are Humorous and Table Topics. Many Area Governors have already posted the dates for the upcoming contests and club contests must be completed in advance of those area dates. Check out the district calendar at <http://www.district24toastmasters.com/calendar.cfm>

### Triple Crown and Educational Achievements

This has been an amazing year for District 24 and it is because our members. Together you have completed a number of designations. There were **255** designations earned this year.

The following members earned 3 (Triple Crown) or more designations during the year.

- Armstrong, Anthony D. OPPD Club 455
- Brown, Sharon W., NPPD
- Buckley, Cristie, Omaha 229
- Enchayan, Roe, Star City
- Gustman, Matthew J., Omaha 229
- Hannan, Patricia A., OPPD Club 455
- Hayden, David L., OPPD Club 455
- Jackson, Deborah Lynn, TM at Principal
- Lester, Louis L., OPPD Club 455
- Lewandowski - Brown, Anita, TM at Principal
- McDowell, Tami L., Omaha 229
- Meyer, Patsy Lee, Omaha 229
- Nelson, Sheila A., Ad-Libbers
- Volz, George B., Greater Communicators
- Wagner, Lester, INNovators
- Wells-Chesley, Sheri M, Small Talkers
- Westemeier, Floy C., Greater Communicators

### Distinguished Program

Toastmasters has developed a number of programs that you may have heard or read about. There is the Distinguished Club Program, Distinguished Area, Distinguished Division and even the Distinguished

District Program. But you may be wondering, just what is in it for me, the members. Let's shed some light on the value of the various distinguished programs.

As members, we pledge to support our fellow members to improve their communication and leadership skills. We mentor them, coach them and encourage them. Along the way, we grow in our own skills and we get all this for a small membership fee of \$27 per 6 months plus (in some clubs) a small club membership fee.

In today's economy we are especially consensus of the value of the products and services that we purchase. As the old saying goes "we want to get the most bang for our buck." Often shoppers will look for reviews of the products and services that we purchase to help us get the best value. For those who travel, you might look at the rating system for hotels. Would you pay the same amount for 2 star hotel as a 5 star hotel? Would you expect to get the same value for your money? The rating system is a measurement tool to help you in your selection.

The distinguished club program is also a measurement gauge. Have the club officers attended training? Are club dues submitted on time? Do members complete manual speeches and work towards designations? Clubs that achieve 5 of the 10 goals outlined in the distinguished club program are rewarded with a ribbon for their banner and some bragging rights. Seven of the 10 will earn the club a select distinguished status and 9 of 10 will earn the club President's Distinguished Status.

Not all clubs will achieve distinguished status and not all clubs will achieve that goal each year. But when members set their personal achievement goals, those goals often support the distinguished club program; two CC's will earn a point, two more will earn another point. If a members earns a CL, it is a point and if another member earns another CL, there is another point; four new members earns a point and 4 more – well there is another point.

Begin your new Toastmasters year with your personal goals in mind and you'll soon realize that the DCP for your club will fall into place. Earning the DCP does take some work and not all clubs will achieve this designation every year, but setting the goal to achieve this recognition is a great way to support our membership and provide a great value for their

### **Distinguished Clubs 2008-2009**

The following clubs have earned the Distinguished Designation:

#### **President's Distinguished**

TM's at Principal  
NPPD Toastmasters  
The Good Neighbor Club  
Lincoln Toastmasters  
Omaha 229  
OPPD Toastmasters  
Mutual of Omaha  
Greater Communicators  
LibORATORS

#### **Select Distinguished**

E.C. Speakers  
Roadtoasters  
Blue Ah-Busters  
Realtalkers  
Small Talkers  
Noonshiners  
Physician's Mutual

## **Distinguished**

A-Rousers  
Ad-Libbers  
West Dodgers  
Tower Talkers  
Beatrice Toastmasters  
Offutt Toastmasters  
River City Toastmasters

## **Distinguished Areas / Divisions**

Congratulations to these Area and Divisions. Areas and Divisions are measured with a slightly different yard stick but the goal is the same, to help our members achieve their personal goals of improved communications and leadership.

Area 3 – Distinguished (Nadean Thompson)  
Area 21 – Select Distinguished (Diane Sullivan)  
Area 22 – Distinguished (Connie Zimmerman)  
Area 23 – Distinguished (Dave Durand)  
Area 30 – Distinguished (Kathy Henvey)  
Area 31 – Select Distinguished (Kim Spicka)  
Area 34 – Distinguished (Dave DeFord)  
Area 41 – Select Distinguished (Patsy Meyer)  
Area 42 – President’s Distinguished (Floy Westermeier)  
Area 43 – Distinguished (Stephanie Andersen)  
Area 44 – Distinguished (Sheila Nelson)

Division D – President’s Distinguished Division (LuAnn Anglo – Division Governor)  
Division E – President’s Distinguished Division (Louis Lester – Division Governor)

## **West Dodgers Celebrates 1 Year Anniversary**

One year ago Roger Helgoth, President of Kirkham Michael and Judy Ford, SVP Human Resources, AGP and had a of vision of watching their “people “ grow and learn within the world of effective communication. This month the West Dodgers Toastmasters club celebrated their 1 year anniversary by thanking the two who were so instrumental in the beginning and who continue to be an inspiration to this club..



*Roger Helgoth, President of Kirkham Michael and Judy Ford, SVP Human Resources, AGP*

## Iowa Western Community College Students

By Floy Westermeier

One cold January evening five young Iowa Western Community College (IWCC) students walked into the Greater Communicators Toastmasters Club and asked if they could attend the Toastmasters meeting. They had heard they could improve their English and learn to speak in public through Toastmasters. The young men and women were all Agri-Business students in the U.S. on scholarships. Soon there were many visitors. Marily Matzar from Guatemala; Marta Lera from Mexico; Jose Ulloa from Honduras; Rosa Ruiz from Nicaragua; Chilove Pierre and Yolene Theodat from Haiti quickly joined Toastmasters. Elder Mejid from Guatemala and Manuel Perez from Mexico were a frequent visitors and participants as well. None of them knew each other before coming to IWCC.

The students quickly became active Toastmasters readily volunteering to perform all roles required in a meeting. They gave speeches about their home countries, their goals, and shared with club members their journeys from home to college. They especially enjoyed being the “ah” counter and became quite adept at catching us “experienced” English speakers making faux pas. These young men and women were like sponges soaking up every aspect of running a meeting. They traveled to Fremont twice to conduct demo meetings for a potential Spanish-speaking club so they could learn that too. They practiced their recruiting skills by bringing their host families and internship supervisors to the Council Bluffs club when they had a special role. Several visitors have expressed an interest in joining the club based upon information shared by the IWCC students.

On June 24<sup>th</sup> they bid the Great Communicators farewell. Yolene asked to be the Table Topics Master so the students could do the topics as a surprise to the Club. Every eye in the place had a few extra drops and our hearts were touched as only friends can touch one another when the graduates expressed their appreciation to the club members. In Marily’s final presentation to the club when she explained she had less than two days notice to pack to leave for the USA, she said, “I didn’t have anything, but I knew I could do everything.” This has been the attitude of these wonderful young men and women from impoverished homelands and is a lesson for us all.

The graduates took home with them experience, information, and plans to start new clubs where there are none. Greater Communicators has pledged to help them and to retain the bonds of friendship, which is a hallmark of Toastmasters worldwide.



Rosa Ruiz, Nicaragua; Chilove Pierre, Haiti; Jose Ulloa, Honduras; Yolene Theodat, Haiti; Marta Lera, Mexico; Marily Matzar, Guatemala; and Elder Mejid, Guatemala

## Toastmasters Leadership Institute aka Officer Training

By Elden Plettner

Each fall and spring, the trio members organize an opportunity for our members to learn and grow. Club officer officer training or TLI has something for everyone and you need not be an officer to attend!

Our first learning opportunity will be held at Omaha Public Power District on **July 18**. Each club who sends at least 4 of their 7 officers will earn credit toward the Distinguished Club Program but more importantly, members will learn more about Toastmasters and how to better serve our membership.

If you are attending the training on July 18, (start time 8:30 am) please remember to enter from the west side of the building @ 17<sup>th</sup> and Harney. Refreshments are allowed in the meeting rooms but not in the auditorium.

Our agenda will be posted to our website [www.district24toastmasters.com](http://www.district24toastmasters.com) and the training is planned to help **Energize You**.

The first 50 Toastmasters to register online and attend will receive a gift.

<http://www.district24toastmasters.com/Members/RegisterTLI.cfm> Register now and help us plan for your success.

## District Governor Thoughts

Elden Plettner, DTM, District Governor 2009 - 2010

Get Energized at Toastmasters Leadership Institute!

Time to get ENERGIZED and attend one of the three sessions 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 8:00 a.m. Sessions will begin promptly at 8:30 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 the networking sessions with others.* We need and hope to see you there!

Also, the **first 50 registrants** for these events will receive a special District 24 gift! Register for any of the three scheduled events: Omaha, Lincoln or Grand Island. Of course, you must attend the entire event to get your free gift.

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 Table Topics**. Members will progress from their Club contest to Area level followed by Division contests and finishing up in Omaha, NE. on October 9 and 10, 2009 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 of along the line, may have misplaced that item. But, don't worry! TI has provided the 2009 Contest Rule Book online:  
<http://www.toastmasters.org/fupload/media/IntlSpeechContestRules.pdf>

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, and 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!

### Marketing Minutes

By George Volz, Lt. Gov. Marketing 2008-2009



Deb and George Volz at Regional Convention in Winnipeg, Canada June 2009

### Outgoing LGM Thoughts

This year the district rose to the challenge to build more clubs. We have built 5 clubs this year-- On Time Delivery, ConAgra Foods TM, Club Sandwich, Advanced Toastmasters of Omaha and Oration Omaha. Thank you for all of those who supported the effort and allowed the benefits of Toastmasters to open to new venues. A special thanks to Floy Westermeier for her work as Outreach Chairperson. Next year should be an even stronger year for club building. Sponsors and mentors are needed.

Low member clubs are still a challenge. We need coaches everywhere. Every division has many clubs with fewer than twenty members. The most recent report shows that Div A has 7, Division C has 14, Division D has 5 and Division E has 16. Clubs with twelve and under number 17 and again exist in all of the divisions. We have made a huge gain in overall membership (2542 versus a goal of 2401), but over half of our clubs lost membership over the year. Our challenge for next year will be to continue to strengthen our clubs.

The 20 for 24 contest is underway. Any club that grows to 20 members or more will be given a special ribbon delivered by the leadership team.

### Visitor's Meeting

Any club hosting a visitors' night before the end of the year and letting the Trio know will be eligible for a drawing for a special gift. In addition if the club is under 20 members and adds 2 members or any club over 20 members that increases membership by 10 per cent will receive special recognition.

This will be my last LGM note and not to sound melancholy, but it has been an exciting year. I have learned much and feel that I have grown from the experience. I appreciate your patience and support. The Toastmasters of District 24 are a caring supportive group and I have truly enjoyed working with everyone.

## Education Notes

### Greetings from your Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training for 2009/2010

First, I would like to thank you for your faith to elect me as your Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training. I will work hard to make my year one that will live up to your expectations.

I do have several goals for this year and to succeed, I will need **your** help.

My first goal is to involve as many people as I can. Toastmasters is a learn-by-doing organization and I want to make sure that we involve as many people as possible in the education and training process. You may ask why that goal is ahead of providing the required training. It isn't really—I believe it is a subset of that goal. Providing the required training requires trainers and trainers learn by doing. If you are interested in helping with the training, let me know.

My second goal is to help bring more excitement to the club meetings. I am looking for tips from the excited clubs and expanding training for club coaches.

My third goal is to provide the required training and to do it in a way that everybody walks away saying “I learned something today”.

The next training event is on July 18<sup>th</sup> at OPPD in Omaha. In addition to the new officer training we will have special sessions that will include judging contests and building club excitement. Be sure to check the calendar at [www.district24toastmasters.com](http://www.district24toastmasters.com) for detail and make sure that all the new officers for your club and those interested in knowing more about the contest experience put this date on their calendars.

District 24 has laid the groundwork for being all they can be for their members; we need to train to be even better next year!

## Incoming Marketing Minutes

By LuAnn Anglo

Hello from you new Trio member, LuAnn Anglo.

As the incoming Lt. Governor of Marketing I cannot express how excited I am to be working for District 24. To be part of a Distinguished District means that our district is fulfilling the Toastmaster's *mission* of “helping men and women learn the arts of speaking, listening and thinking.” What a fantastic time to be sharing Toastmasters with our community!

This Toastmasters year is starting off with a bang! Our outstanding leadership team has already positioned two new clubs to start up within the next couple of months and the leads for more clubs keeps growing. As members of Toastmasters, let's all keep the Toastmaster's *vision* alive by “empowering people to achieve their full potential and realize their dreams.” If you know of a company or organization that could benefit from Toastmasters, we want to hear from you! You can contact your club president, Are Governor, or me directly.

What an honor it is to be part of such a fantastic organization and such a dynamic district. I look forward to this coming year!

## **Toastmasters Structural Changes are Coming**

### **By Pat Hannan, Immediate Past District Governor**

Changes are coming to the hierarchal structure of Toastmasters International. For many of us, we are members of clubs and the rest of the “structure” is pretty invisible to us. But for those you continue along the leadership path, these changes are huge.

Let's start at the peak of our organization. It is the member who is at the top. Our Toastmasters Promise and our Mission reminds us to support our members and learn from each other. We need a support network to accomplish that task.

**Each member belongs to a club.** (Some of us belong to several clubs.) The club officers plan for our success. Many organizations have performance measures to guide their success. In Toastmasters, our clubs measure their effectiveness and success with the Distinguished Club Program (DCP).

**Areas support clubs.** In District 24, we have 17 areas. As a member, you'll meet an Area Governor who will visit your club at least twice a year and organize a couple of area contests. The Area Governor is a terrific resource.

**Divisions support Areas.** We have 4 Division Governors: A – Nadean Thompson, C – Marilyn Champoux, D – Sheri Wells Chesley, and E – Louis Lester. The Division Governors are another level of support. They help organize training events and support the area governors to best serve our membership.

**At district level, we have the trio team.** This year it is LuAnn Anglo, our Lt. Governor of Marketing; George Volz, our Lt. Governor of Education and Training and Elden Plettner, our District Governor. Their jobs are to be the conduit between Toastmasters International and our clubs and members. They are responsible for building teams to support the membership, grow our membership, increase our clubs, conduct training, and so much more!

**Moving down the organization, our next level is regional. Currently,** we have 2 International Directors, Judy Southwick and Lyle Applegate. Judy and Lyle and other ID's help set the vision and set strategy for our international organization. But as Toastmasters has grown, there are some changes coming. In the past, Regions held Regional Conventions and it was an opportunity to get to know more members in our general geographical area. Region IV spans across a large area of Canada, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska. The district trio members of all 6 districts attended training during the Regional Convention and our winners of the District International Speech Contest competed to move on to International. The bonding and working relationship between the regional trio members has been invaluable to many of the members. This year especially! District Governors shared their ideas and success stories. They offered encouragement and congratulations. They were cheerleaders for all the members across the region.

**President, Senior Vice President, Second Vice President and Third Vice President are the remaining piece of our organizational structure.** These directors are members of the board and help set our direction. They offer vision and together with the International Directors, steer our course.

But like all organizations, changes are coming to the structure. For most of us, it will be a non-event. Many members are happy to learn their club roles and do not step outside the club walls into other opportunities of Toastmasters leadership. But for those who do, the changes have an impact on our current structure.

Toastmasters International is creating a new position call the RA – Regional Advisor. The role of the RA is to help districts grow clubs and membership.

Moving forward, Toastmasters will be composed of

- 14 Regions (currently there are 8)

- One board director per region (currently we have 2 per region)
- One region advisor marketing per region (this position does not currently exist)

Understanding the structure of Toastmasters is often a challenge for new members and veteran members, alike. But in the end each serve a valuable role in supporting our members achieve their goals of improved communication and leadership!

### Who Belongs to Toastmasters?

When you see information about Proposal A and the upcoming changes, have you ever wondered who belongs to Toastmasters and where the clubs are located? The U.S. leads in the number of Toastmasters Clubs and together with Canada, composes about 72% of the membership totals.

<http://www.toastmasters.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/CompanyInformation/GlobalPerspective.aspx>

Geographical Region	Rough Percentage
United States	60%
Asia-Pacific Rim	18%
Canada	12%
Middle East & Africa	4%
Europe	4%
Latin America	2%
Other	< 0.01%

### World Champion of Public Speaking – Jim Key

Watch for more information on our upcoming Fall Conference on our district website. The planning team is working on the details for another great event. In addition to terrific educational sessions, a wonderful venue, we are having **Jim Key**, a World Champion of Public Speaking, at our conference.

Register on-line for the early bird pricing. [www.district24toastmasters.com](http://www.district24toastmasters.com). Visit Jim online at [www.jimkey.com](http://www.jimkey.com).

### Incoming Newsletter Coordinator

Welcome Kim Spicka as our 2009-2010 newsletter coordinator. Do you have a story to share? Sent it to Kim at [news@district24toastmasters.com](mailto:news@district24toastmasters.com) NLT the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Kim would love to share your stories and photos in the Double Dozen!