

March 2009 Double Dozen Newsletter

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Leadership Meeting March 14

Area Governors, Division Governors and other district level officers along with our past District Governors and Past International Directors are invited to attend a special leadership meeting to be held at Southeast Community College in Lincoln **Saturday March 14**. Since a light breakfast is scheduled, we need to know how many to plan for.

Agenda items will include:

- Picking up Area and Division trophies and contest forms for the upcoming contests
- Review of area governor visits
- Succession planning
- District Success Plan
- New Clubs, Club Opportunities

We value Toastmasters time and this time will be well spent. Check for the exact time and location on our website: <http://www.district24toastmasters.com/calendar.cfm>

E-Mail your confirmation to Pat at Governor@district24toastmasters.com NLT Friday March 6.

Watch your inbox Renewals - April Dues Notice

Organizations around the world are focused on environmental concerns, and Toastmasters International is no exception. In an effort to combine first-rate service to members with environmental stewardship, WHQ will send the upcoming member dues renewal reminder to club officers via email, rather than an invoice sent through the postal service. We apologize, but in order to protect the privacy of members, the e-mail reminder for the membership dues will not include a copy of your club's invoice.

District 24 Division, Area and Club Leadership

Starting the **first week of March**, you can view and print a copy of the invoice for your club's membership dues. Visit the Club Business login at: www.toastmasters.org/clubbusiness

Important Notes for Processing Membership Payments:

- Renewals can be submitted online, by mail or by fax.
- We recommend that you do not submit renewals by e-mail because it is not secure.
- If paying by credit card, dues renewals can be paid online.
- At least six members must pay dues; three must be renewing.
- If paying by check, you can print the list with the renewing members checked, and mail, along with payment to World Headquarters. Check must be payable to Toastmasters International.

Remember...

Club Officers, please look for the April 2009 dues **renewal reminder in your e-mail inbox the first week of March. Remember, membership renewals are due by April 1, 2009.** Club officers will be able to submit renewals online through the Club Business login: www.toastmasters.org/clubbusiness starting the first week of March.

Proxies are Coming!

When the trio, Elden, George and I attended the International Convention in Calgary, Canada last August, we spent a great deal of time interviewing the candidates for 3rd Vice President. As your District Governor, I am responsible for casting the ballots that you – your clubs have turned in on the best person to lead our organization. Additionally, we interview all the candidates for International Director and vote on various changes that impact governance, the way we operate.

As a club member, I truly did not “get it”. Sure, there was an envelope that arrived from Toastmasters International and I need to put a stamp on those proxies and mail them to the current District Governor but it seemed to be a task that was not “relevant” when I was a first time officer with less than 1 year as a Toastmaster.

But having the experience of being at the International Convention, interviewing the candidates and together with the other District 24 members who attended and selecting the best candidates for several offices is a daunting task. Who would have thought that the vote for 3rd Vice President would require a recount? Both Toastmasters were highly of the qualified candidates. Each had their ideas best for our organization as we move forward.

This is when it really struck me; District 24 had the power to make a difference! We missed the boat and did not collect every proxy sent out to every club. Those proxies are validated and turned into votes at the International Convention.

Of the more than **20,000 ballots cast**, the difference between the two candidates running for 3rd Vice President was **less than 1%**.

Proxies will be mailed to each Club President at the end of March. Please mail those proxies as soon as they arrive. Make District 24's voice heard.

Toastmasters Leadership Institute

Training for this credit towards the Distinguished Club Program ends 28 February. Now is the time to check out the reports on Toastmasters International and make sure that you have gotten proper credit for officers who attended Toastmasters Leadership Institute / Officers Training. Check: http://reports.toastmasters.org/reports_new/dcp.cfm and report any corrections to Elden Plettner ASAP at lget@district24toastmasters.com. There is a short window of time allowed to make corrections and once that window is gone – it is gone!

Spring Contests

Spring contest season has arrived! This spring's contests are **Tall Tales** and the **International Speech Contest**. Any member in good standing may compete in the Tall Tales contest but you have to have completed at least six speeches to compete in the International contest. Rules are online at: http://www.toastmasters.org/NonNavigableDocs/Rules_1_2.aspx. Each club should have gotten a copy of the rules from Toastmasters International in December.

Competent Communicator Contest

Get your first or next Competent Communicator Designation turned in now. Help us achieve our district goal of **82** Competent Communicator Designations earned before the spring convention. A couple of members will have their name draw for a prize at the convention. See the district website and calendar for due dates and more information. <http://www.district24toastmasters.com/calendar.cfm>

Welcome the Omaha Advanced Club

It is official the newest club in District 24 is the Omaha Advanced Club! With 21 members on the charter paperwork, this team is committed to great presentations and detailed evaluations. Everyone is welcome to visit the club, but membership requirements include being at least a CTM or CC. This club meets every 2nd Monday of the month at Perkins, 108th and L Street, Omaha, NE. Meetings begin promptly at 6 pm. Arrive at 5:30 and order dinner "on your own".

Division C Traveling Trophy

It is with tremendous pride that we announce the winners of the Division C Traveling Trophy which is presented to the club having the most officers trained annually.

Lincoln Toastmasters Club #403 had all seven of its officers trained at the August 2008 TLI and at the January 2009 TLI.

This outstanding effort is a shining example of dedication and commitment to their club members and to Toastmasters International.

The trophy and certificate were presented by Division C Governor, Marilyn Champoux to those officers present at the February 11th weekly meeting.

Pictured are President, David Handlos; VP of Education, Leo Allen; VP of Membership, Pat Flodman; Sergeant at Arms, Bill Gude; Secretary, Barb Kavan

Not available for the photo: VP of Public Relations, Scott Saathoff; Treasurer, Dayna Krannawitter



Congratulations George and Louis!

We have two new Distinguished Toastmasters. Louis Lester and George Volz have both achieved their DTM status. Job well done!

Spring Convention

Sheila Hoffert is our spring convention chair. Sheila and her team of committee members are working hard to provide us with another great event. This year Judy Southwick, International Director, will be visiting District 24. Watch for details in next month's Double Dozen.

Nomination Committee

Leo Allen, Past District Governor, will be serving as this year's nomination committee chairman. Nomination forms for the various offices, District Governor, Lt. Gov. Education and Training, Lt. Gov. Marketing and each of the Division Governor roles will be placed on the District 24 website mid-March. The requirements for each of these offices are listed on the Toastmasters International website:

Additionally, rules for campaigning don't reflect any other campaigns that you might have experienced in the past. Check out the rules at:

<http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/OfficerResources/DistrictOfficerResources/Elections.aspx>

International Director Visit

Judy Southwick, one of our two International Directors, will be visiting the District 24 Spring Convention. While here Judy will be working with George Volz, our LGM, to do prospecting visits for new clubs. Additionally, Judy will present an educational session, a keynote and will present information on the changes on governance policies including the cancellation of the Regional Convention.



International Directors: Judy Southwick and Lyle Applegate

Changes in Governance

Changes are coming to Toastmasters International and the way that we operate as clubs. To learn more: <http://www.toastmasters.org/Members.aspx> on the right side of the page, click on the links under **Announcements**.

Internal Speaker Pool

Watch for changes on the District 24 website. You will soon be able to list your club as one that is requesting speakers or if you are Toastmaster, you'll be able to add your contact information to the list as available to be a guest speaker for another Toastmaster club. In the meantime, if you would like to have a speaker or if you would like to be a guest speaker, contact Louis Lester as speakerpool@district24toastmasters.com Please note, that while we know that many in our clubs are professional speakers or own their own businesses, this is not a place to hawk your services or products. The goal is to match up low member clubs who would like another Toastmaster to fill in as a speaker with members who might like to speak to another club.

Academic Decathlon

Thank you for the turn out of Toastmasters who served as judges during the recent Academic Decathlon held at Creighton University in February. Dave Hayden, member Club 455, has reached out to Toastmasters for a number of years to serve as judges. Dave inherited the job from Ron Mortensen, Reveillers, when Ron retired from OPPD.

Who better to judge a speaking contest, than a Toastmaster? Next year, Omaha will have the unique opportunity to host the National Academic Decathlon. In addition to the need to fill seats at the Nebraska State Level competition, another 85 judges will be needed to serve in the National competition.

Dave's goal is to get more Toastmasters to serve this worthy cause and is using this as his High Performance Leadership Project. Please contact Dave for more information at dhayden@oppd.com.

Notes from your Trio

Governor's Thoughts by Pat Hannan, DG

Find Time to Speak!

Time is flying by. It happens. One day we are 21 and the world is at our doorstep. We blink and find ourselves juggling family and work responsibilities with little time for us. Before you know it, what used to be firm is sagging and what was once a beautiful head of hair is gray or gone.

How we spend our time says a great deal about the person. You have heard that before, the speeches have been written to retell the story of time that got away from us. But in today's hurry up world, we have all learned how to squeeze the most of our time. We multi-task to get more done.

Often I hear fellow Toastmasters talk about how much other stuff they have to do and "well, they just don't have time to prepare a speech!" We miss those members. We miss hearing their personal stories and we aren't able to learn from their presentation styles. If you are one of those members, here are some ways to get back into the swing of things.

- Carry a couple of advanced manuals with you. The next time you are sitting and waiting, instead of reading an old copy of *Reader's Digest*, pull out the manuals, read the requirements and think of some topics that might be used to fill that requirement.
- Review the Interpretive Reading Manual. In this case, you don't have to write the speech, but instead deliver someone else's speech or play or story.
- Deliver a "prepared speech" from the *Better Speaker's Series* or *Leadership Excellence Series*. Remind us how to "Organize our Speech" or "Create an introduction" !

Both the member and club benefits when we have the opportunity to hear all our members speak up!

Education Notes by Elden Plettner, Jr., LGM

It's Toastmasters Contest Time

It is contest season and, as always, you can count on members stepping up to the plate and giving it their all. This spring District 24 is serving up two terrific contest opportunities: Tall Tales and International Speech Contest. Members will progress from their Club contest to Area level followed by Division contests and finishing up in Omaha, NE. on May 8 and 9, 2009 at the District Conference contest. Make your reservations now to attend the District Conference at **Howard Johnson's 72nd and I-80 Omaha NE**. The registration form is on the District 24 Website so you can apply today. Save money by registering early.

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, ballet 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 – George Volz, LGM

Greetings from your friendly IRS

IRS 990-N Filing Requirement for all US clubs

All US clubs must file IRS form 990-N for any given year no later than May 15 of the following year. Failure to file by the due date could cause the club to lose their nonprofit tax exempt status as a subordinate under Toastmasters International.

So how does one file and get out from under the thumb of the IRS??

First click on this link: <http://www.toastmasters.org/NonNavigableDocs/IRS990NFilingInstructions.aspx>

Simply download and follow the instructions. It is not hard—but it must be done. Please bring it up in your next club meeting. If you have any questions at all, use the IRSquestions@toastmasters.org link.

Thank you for helping to make your club a success!!

George Volz LGM



Trio Members: George Volz, LGM; Pat Hannan, DG; and Elden Plettner, LGET

Critical Success Factors

Just like the Distinguished Club Program, the critical success factors for the district help measure our health as a district. Districts need at least 60 clubs to remain a district. District 24 is one of the smallest clubs, but we haven't always been this small. Here is how we are doing so far this year.

Clubs:

Total Clubs July 1	63
Active Clubs to Date	66
Paid Clubs to Date	63
Goals for June 30	64
District is behind 1	

Membership Payments:

Membership Payments Base	2354
Membership Payments to Date	1371
Goal for June 30	2401
District is behind 1030	
Educational Awards – Competent Communicator	
CCs to Date	66
Goal for June 30	82
District is behind 16	
Educational Awards – Advanced Communicator	
ACs to Date	32
Goal for June 30	23
District is ahead 9	

Distinguished District Program and History

Source: Region IV website. <http://www.regioniv.net>

District 24 Historical Performance

The Distinguished District Program was established in the 1969-1970 Toastmasters year. Each year, districts are evaluated based on the achievement of four Critical Success Factors (CSFs). These factors reflect the performance of clubs and the establishment of new clubs. The CSFs are:

- Competent Communicator Awards (% district members)
- Advanced Communicator Award Percent (% district members)
- Net Membership Growth
- Net Club Growth

When the required growth for all four of the critical success factors is achieved, the District is recognized as a **Distinguished District**. When the District ranks among the **top 12 districts in the world** (based on a point system weighting club performance among other factors), the district is recognized as:

- **Presidents Distinguished District** (#1 through #6) or
- **Select Distinguished District** (#7 through #12).

NOTE: Before 1979 Districts were either Distinguished or President's Distinguished. In 1979 districts with a rank of from 7-12 were first designated Select Distinguished. Due to different criteria for determining of President's Distinguished prior to 1979, it was possible for districts ranked lower than 6 to become President's Distinguished.

Achieved Distinguished District:

2005-2006
 2004-2005
 1999-2000
 1986-1995

1983-1984
1976-1978

Achieved President's Distinguished District:

1978-1980
1973-1974

Can we achieve distinguished this year? Yes we can!

Whether it is a distinguished club, area, division or district, the designation is a measurement of the health of our organization. Are our members achieving their goals?

What can you do? Get the club's dues paid on time. Attend Toastmasters Leadership Institute when offered. Give manual speeches. Set an example and let's achieve distinguished together!

Toastmaster's Club Mission

The mission of a Toastmasters club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every individual member has the opportunity to develop oral communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

Toastmasters District Mission

The district's mission is to enhance the performance and extend the network of clubs, thereby offering greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from the Toastmasters educational program by:

— Focusing on the critical success factors as specified by the district educational and membership goals.

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— Ensuring that each club effectively fulfills its responsibilities to its members.

— Providing effective training and leadership development opportunities for club and district officers.

Toastmasters International Mission

Toastmasters International is the leading movement devoted to making effective oral communication a worldwide reality.

Through its member clubs, Toastmasters International helps men and women learn the arts of speaking, listening and thinking - vital skills that promote self-actualization, enhance leadership potential, foster human understanding, and contribute to the betterment of mankind.

It is basic to this Mission that Toastmasters International continually expand its worldwide network of clubs, thereby offering ever-greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from its programs.

