

**May 2009 Special Edition Double Dozen Newsletter
Distinguished District 24 Toastmasters
Service Centered Leadership is our Theme**

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Contest Winners

Wow! What a contest season. Congratulations to:

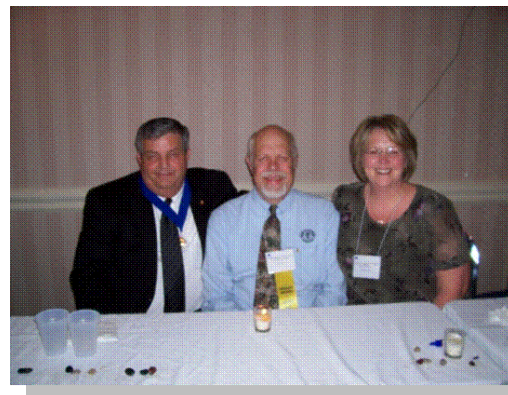
- Karissa Johnson - Tall Tales Winner
- Ned Pauley - International Speech Contest Winner

Ned will move forward to the Regional Contest State in Winnipeg, Canada, June 6, 2009.

District Officer Elections

New district officers were elected during the spring business meeting. They are:

- Elden Plettner – District Governor
- George Volz – Lt. Gov. Education and Training
- LuAnn Anglo – Lt. Gov. Marketing
- Nadean Thompson - Division A Governor
- Marilyn Champoux – Division C Governor
- Sheri Wells -Chesley – Division D Governor
- Louis Lester – Division E Governor



Other District Officers include:

- Jean Schieffer – Public Relations Officer
- Patsy Meyer – Treasurer
- Stephanie Andersen – Secretary

There are still a few openings for Area Governors. If you are interested in serving please contact incoming District Governor Elden Plettner at lget@district24toastmasters.com.

Thank You Convention Team

Special thanks to the many members of District 24 who helped make this convention great. From the registration desk, credentials, judges or our chair, Sheila Hoffert, the teamwork just shined brightly.

Quilt Raffle

Congratulations to Marjorie Gaston, On Time Delivery. Marjorie won the quilt that was raffled at the convention. Proceeds from the silent auction and the raffle will underwrite the cost of Jim Key, the World Champ, that is coming to our fall district conference. If you want to help support the educational fund, there will be two additional opportunities to win quilts yet this year. A summer themed quilt will be shown at the Toastmasters Leadership Institute and the winner will be selected about 31 August. A fall / winter theme quilt will be raffled at the fall conference. These are made by fellow Toastmasters and help support visits from the World Champs!

Club Officer Elections

It is not too early and in fact it is the right time to hold officer elections for your club. Submit your officers on line via the Toastmasters International website to start your club off on the right foot this year. Remember that at least 4 officers need to attend training semi-annually and the dates are already posted to the district website at <http://www.district24toastmasters.com> > calendar.

Notes from your Trio

Governor's Quill by Pat Hannan

“The Little Engine That Could”

I have fond memories of sitting on my dad's lap as child reading books. Dad would bring the stories to life with his commanding voice. He would throw in a question or two to add to the suspense. One of my very favorite stories is “The Little Engine that Could”. In this 1930 story, the little train engine was faced with what some thought an impossible task, to climb a steep hill. The line that I remember and love most is, “I think I can, I think I can, ...” District 24 clubs are made up of my members who have embraced that same positive “can do” attitude. It is one of the great things that I love about Toastmasters.

District 24 is the little engine that could! District 24 is the first district to achieve distinguished status in the World!

Total Clubs July 1	63	Membership Payments Base	2355	CCs to Date	103	ACs to Date	38
Active Clubs to Date	66	Membership Payments to Date	2542	Goal for June 30	82	Goal for June 30	23
Paid Clubs to Date	65	Goal for June 30	2402	District is ahead 21		District is ahead 15	
Goals for June 30	64	District is ahead 140					
District is ahead 1							

Why is this important? Does it just mean a ribbon on the banner? What is the big deal? These are questions that you might hear in your club. Maybe you are thinking about this yourself.

The Distinguished Program is a measuring stick of how a district is performing. About 10 years ago, District 24 had almost 100 clubs. Over time, new clubs have joined us and some clubs have dissolved. In the end, Toastmasters International requires each district to have at least 60 clubs in good standing. We were dangerously close to that number. But this year, members really stepped up. You invited more guests to meetings. More speeches were given using the manual speech books. World Champs came to visit. We even had a visit from an International Director.

Members attended Toastmasters Leadership Institutes, perhaps in part, because the TLI (officer training) was refined and new fresh information was presented. On-line registration allowed the team to plan better. TLI's were almost mini-conferences. Your leaders held conference calls and worked with membership to insure the needs were met.

Toastmasters International has set certain standards for districts and our members have achieved those goals! Last year District 24 lost membership and clubs but things have turned around this year due to the teamwork and willingness of many members to step up and help.

As of this writing District 24 is 4th in the world and has earned Distinguished Status before anyone else. We all truly lived our theme of "Service Centered Leadership" and the best part is the Toastmasters year does not end at the elections. Instead, we have until June 30 to continue to build on our successes, strengthen our clubs and achieve success.

What an honor to serve as District Governor!

Pat

Regional and International Proxies

Each spring, Toastmasters International mails proxy forms to each club president. Club presidents should mail the proxies to the District Governor, Pat Hannan, 1637 N Laurel, Wahoo, NE 68066. These proxies will be turned in at the regional and international convention for ballots. District 24 needs your proxies!

Often times, the club officers who receive proxy forms set them aside and forget them, but they serve an important function in Toastmasters. Last year, the role of 3rd Vice President was won by just a handful of votes. Four years from now, the 3rd Vice President will serve as the President of Toastmasters International. There are a number of other important issues on this year's agenda.

Share Your Photos

A special end of year newsletter will feature lots of photos from around the district. Do you have a photo to share of a special event or just one of your club. Maybe you have a photo of your incoming officers. If you do, we want to see it! Send your digital photo to governor@district24toastmasters.com and you'll see it in our special edition and on the website. For those with many megapixel cameras, a photo of downsized to 640X480 would be perfect. If you have a camera but don't know how to resize – not a problem, send it anyway.



Education and Training Notes by Elden Plettner, LGET

Thanks to each and every one of you for all your work and effort to District 24 this year. Your work and effort resulted in District 24 becoming distinguished on April 22, 2009. District 24 was the first District in the world to make Distinguished in the 2008 – 2009 year. THANKS to ALL of you and CONGRADUATIONS on this accomplishment.

We have 45 days left in this current year and every point counts towards our ranking in the final world rankings. Thus, we have another contest for you to participate in. The contest is for individuals who complete a CC or AC between May 1, and June 30, 2009. Complete one and you will have your name put into the hat for a chance to receive an advanced manual. The district is going to draw for five advanced manuals. Best wishes to all!!

Speaking of accomplishments, the following four individuals were the winners from the first CC contest. The winners are George Volz, Brenda Stewart, Benjamin Carpick, and Sonja Sebree. An advance TM manual will soon be on its way to you. Congratulations!!

In reviewing the club reports it was noted that many clubs are short of becoming distinguished clubs by one or two items and several people have completed two educational goals and need just one more to earn a Triple Crown Award. The trio members are changing up the awards as we think that earning three designations in one year is very special. Remember to **ENERGIZE YOU!** You can do it!

Education and Leadership Designations Contest

Earn an educational or leadership designation between May 10, 2009 and June 30, 2009 and you'll get your name thrown "in the hat" for a chance at an advanced manual. Five lucky members' names will be drawn on 1 July 2009 (or shortly after that) and will receive either an advanced manual or Communication Leadership Manual!

Triple Crown

Earn 3 or more designations, CC, CL, AC-B, AC-S, AC-G, DTM, AL-S during the Toastmaster year 2008-2009 and earn a triple crown. This is the third year for this contest. Each Triple Crown winner will receive an award at the Fall Conference at Mahoney State Park. Awards are based on the number of times the Triple Crown designation has been earned.

So far this year we have several Triple Crowns earned already and a number of members who have already earned 2 designations and closing in on the Triple Crown.

- Sharon Brown – NPPD Columbus
- Cristie Buckley – Omaha 229
- Roe Enchayan – Strictly Speaking and Star City
- Louis Lester – OPPD 455 and Advanced Omaha
- George Volz – Greater Communicators, Advanced Omaha, and Talley Ho
- Lester Wagner – Innovators
- Floy Westermeier - Greater Communicators, Advanced Omaha, and Talley Ho

Protect Your Points! No More Grace Period!

Watch Those Deadline Dates!

There is will no longer be a grace period for distinguished programs. All member designations (CC's, CL's and such) must be at World Headquarters by NLT 30 June to be considered for this year's distinguished club program. There is **no** grace period.

Opportunity Knocking - Area Governor Appointments

Area Governors are appointed positions. Each year the District Governor appoints the new Area Governors. Area Governors can serve for 2 years consecutively. There are a number of areas that will need new appointees. Serving as an area governor is one of the most rewarding leadership roles that many Toastmasters have experienced. The area governor provides support and assistance to each club so that it may achieve the club mission and fulfill its responsibilities to club members.

To serve as an Area Governor:

- Recommended that you have first served as a club president or vice president of education (not mandatory)
- Make at least 2 clubs visits to each club in your area during the year.
- Submit the area governor visit report to TI by the required deadlines.
- Participate in Area Governor Training conducted by the trio each year.
- Hold successful area contests in the fall and spring.

Most importantly, know that if you are willing to step up to the plate and serve as an area governor, you'll find great new friends and have the opportunity to know many more fun Toastmasters.

Full details for the area governor role are on-line: Area Governor Handbook - <http://www.toastmasters.org/ALMan.aspx>; Area Governor Job Description

<http://www.toastmasters.org/AreaGovJob.aspx>. If you are interested in serving as an area governor, please contact one of the trio members, Pat – governor@district24toastmasters.com; George – lgm@district24toastmasters.com or myself – lget@district24toastmasters.com.

Marketing Minutes by George Volz, LGM

This has been a fast year! As a district we have had some clubs fade away, but we have been able to add strong clubs to replace them. At this time there are 5 new clubs in District 24. And four of the five clubs had someone at the spring conference. The fifth club would have—but they weren't officially a club until after the conference. And we are not done building clubs yet. We have several more clubs that will charter in the next three months. Even better is the news that we have strong leads and will start next year far ahead of where we started this year. A special thanks to Floy Westermeier for her work as Outreach Chairperson and for her insistence that we do it by the book.

New clubs bring new energy and require us all to step up and help. We are in need of people interested in investing in a new club for six or more months as mentors. It is a great opportunity to be part of another club without paying dues and the benefits you receive in leadership are immeasurable. It also counts toward leadership goals.

Low member clubs are still a challenge. With all of the excitement that we have in the new clubs and many of the larger clubs, nearly half of our clubs are struggling. The joy and excitement seem to be missing. Our challenge for the next year is to find a way to re-energize these clubs. It is another opportunity for leadership as club coaches.

20 for 24 Contest

All clubs that have 20 or more members by 30 June 2009 will receive a special Governor's Award ribbon for their banner. A member of the district leadership team will personally deliver your ribbon to your club meeting!

Visitor's and Membership Contest

Any club that holds a special visitor's meeting between May 10, 2009 and 30 June 2009 and reports that meeting to the District Governor, Lt. Gov. Education and Training, or Lt. Gov. of Marketing and grows by 2 members (if you are less than 20 members) or 10% (if you are at 20 or more members) will receive a special gift for the club.

I thank you for allowing me to serve as your Lieutenant Governor of Marketing and the faith shown in me by electing me Lieutenant Governor Education and Training. I see this as an especially challenging year. The district needs to build on the successes of last year and take the training program up another notch. My vision is to improve the quality and the effectiveness of the training.

Sincerely,
George Volz, LGM and LGET-elect

Thoughts from your Incoming Lt. Gov. Marketing – LuAnn Anglo

Hello! I am so excited to serve District 24 in the coming year as the Lt. Governor of Marketing! To be able to work with such fantastic leaders as Elden Plettner and George Volz is an honor and a pleasure. Wow - what a terrific year this has been for the District – 1st in the world to become distinguished – now how cool is that?! As the “new kid on the block” I know I have a lot to learn but I also know I am in good hands - who wouldn't want to be part of a team that knows how to set goals and achieve them? I heard our District Governor, Pat Hannan say that the Trio put their heads together a year ago and set their goal to be distinguished by the Spring Conference this year, and by darned, they did it! Way to go Pat, Elden and George!

For those of you who do not know me, I have been in Toastmasters for just over 10 years. My home club is the RealTalkers, Club #8759. We meet every Friday morning at 7:30am at the Omaha Area Board of Realtors. I am definitely not a morning person, so you can see how much I *love* Toastmasters – to be awake and ready to “speak” at 7:30am for the past 520 Fridays!!

As a member of RealTalkers I served in a number of officer roles. Expanding my leadership skills, I became the 30D Area Governor and then the 31D Governor. Working with clubs to rebuild and grow by reaching their goals using the Distinguished Club Program is challenging, but incredibly exciting! Serving as an Area/Division Governor also afforded me the opportunity to meet many wonderful, talented, club members throughout Omaha and Lincoln; many of whom I can now proudly call my “friends”.

This past year I had the honor of mentoring one of our district's newest clubs, West Dodgers, who will complete their first year as a club next month. I found my love of Toastmasters expanding as I decided six months just wasn't long enough with this group of fun folks, so I quickly signed up as a dual member. The excitement of working with a group of passionate, energetic new members ignited a fire in me to grow new clubs. It is my firm belief from the number of visitors both of my clubs experience each week that Omaha is thirsting for Toastmasters! More and more I hear guests say that their employer recommended they join a club or that they heard of Toastmasters through networking groups who suggested they join. Isn't it just the best feeling to be at the right place... just at the right time?!

Wow – do you feel the energy? Our incoming District Governor, Elden has said that this year's theme is to “**Energize You**”! Well, I can certainly feel it – there is energy in the air! Jump on board and hang on tight as we move to expand, enhance and empower the clubs and members of District 24 in 2009/2010!!

Regional Convention

Do you have a passport? This year is the last year that Toastmasters International will be conducting a regional convention. Come hear Ned Pauley represent District 24 in the International Speech Contest. The convention will be held in Winnipeg, Canada and all the details are online at <http://www.regioniv.net>.

Power Up for the Fall Conference

Wait! We just finished the spring convention! Yes, mark your calendar because we have a special guest, Jim Key, World Champion Speaker coming to Mahoney State Park Oct. 9 and 10, 2009. This fall contests will include the humorous and table topics contest. Join us for great educational and



networking and hear a champ. Jim's website is <http://www.jimkey.com>. Watch the district website for more information, www.district24toastmasters.com.

Welcome World Champion of Public Speaking Jim Key to District 24

District 24 Toastmasters Fall Conference October 9 & 10, 2009

Early Bird Registration - \$55

- Great venue – Mahoney State Park near Ashland
- Friday night fun
- You'll get electrifying educational sessions
- Table Topics & Fall Humorous Speech Contests
- Lunch and Dinner on Saturday
- And World Champion Jim Key is scheduled to attend!

This price is only good until **July 31, 2009**. Make your checks payable to:

District 24 Fall Conference. **Mail your registration and check to District 24 Fall Conference, c/o Kim Spicka** P.O. Box 509, Elkhorn, NE 68022

Registration for the Fall District 24 Conference Oct. 9 & 10, 2009

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, and Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Club Name & Number: _____

Your designation: _____

Club, Area, Division or District Designations: _____