

I. History of the Fund

At the last District Council Meeting, there were questions raised regarding the Omer Roberts/Dori Drummond Inmate Scholarship Fund (herein called the Fund). Our District Governor assigned the task to me to present the history of the Fund at the Council Meeting in May.

First and foremost, the Fund is named after two Past District Governors. Both very passionate about the prison Toastmaster Clubs, as well as the prison Gavel Clubs, who hoped to one day become a Toastmaster Club. Omer and Dori both knew the difficulties associated with inmates paying their dues, which was the reason for the Gavel Clubs. They simply could not afford to pay their Toastmaster dues.

Case in point: Prior to the Fund being established, the Alpha Toastmaster Club, #1408, the first prison club, closed and converted to a Gavel Club, because annual dues were only \$47 for the *entire club*, and inmates could pay the \$47 themselves. Why not stay a Gavel Club? As a Gavel Club, they are not officially recognized as a Club in the District, and thus could not host Area or District events, contests, or participate in official Toastmaster activities with outside Clubs. Gavel Club members have no voting rights or representation at International. Award records are not tracked for Gavel Club members as they are for Toastmaster members.

Omer and Dori were relentless in their pursuit of inmates receiving dues assistance in order to be full- fledged Toastmasters. The Fund was first named after Omer Roberts, deceased Past District Governor. Omer was a VIC (Volunteer in Corrections) and attended as many prison club meetings –Toastmaster, as well as Gavel Clubs- as he possibly could. The fund was later amended to include Dori Drummond after her death. Dori began the quest for the Fund.

My research for this report found information back to November, 2005, where the then Division E Governor, Bob Glidewell, working with Dori Drummond and a few other Toastmasters, wrote to and talked to Department of Corrections (DOC) Personnel, trying to establish an inmate scholarship fund to help offset the (then) \$9 every-six-months dues increase. After much correspondence, visits, and phone calls, the DOC finally gave their consent. This marked the beginning of inmate dues assistance.

Many fundraising activities were held by the District – silent auction for gift-filled baskets at District Conferences; St Louis area entertainment coupon books were sold; photos with a TI backdrop were sold; profits from the flyover photo at Pier Marquette; and of course, individual donations. It is important to note that while the prison club members can and do conduct fundraisers, they are not allowed (by DOC) to use these funds to pay their club dues.

The District kept track of the fundraising and donations for the scholarship. As inmates needed assistance with paying their dues, the District provided it. TI eventually advised that Districts could not hold such funds. It is against TI Policy for Districts to pay individual members' dues.

Omer Roberts/Dori Drummond Inmate Scholarship Fund prepared by Cindy Larm and Sandy Kardis
May 8, 2015

In March, 2010, the Omer Roberts Inmate Scholarship Fund was established by District 8 at Toastmasters International (TI) with a balance of \$1,786.99. TI Executive Director, Dan Rex, approved the fund with contingency that it be housed at TI under a special trust account, as Districts are not allowed to house such funds. The District was to provide guidelines on how the fund could be spent and who is authorized to withdraw the funds.

The purpose of the Fund is to fund inmate Toastmaster dues. Payment requests need to be signed by the District 8 Treasurer and a member of the Top 3 (District Governor, Lt Governor Education and Training, or Lt Governor Marketing), with a specific dollar amount referenced. Members' name, member number, and club name also need to be submitted. If new members, a new member app needs to be submitted. TI will send periodic financial activity updates to the District 8 Treasurer.

There is not, nor has there ever been, a predicted life of the fund. At one point, it was not considered District money, but a completely separate educational fund operated by an individual, Dori Drummond.

As a result of this fund, Alpha Toastmasters were able to charter and once again become a recognized club with Toastmasters International.

Currently, the Alpha Toastmaster Club in Jefferson City and Talu Toastmasters in Moberly are both receiving funds, with the possibility of at least one more club in the future.

We asked a few of the Alpha and Talu Toastmasters to give testimonials regarding their thoughts and feelings concerning their Toastmaster club. Those are attached. Please take a moment to read thru them. I personally have visited both of these clubs, and have seen the difference it makes in those men's lives.

I recommend continuing fundraising for continuance of the fund.

This report was intended to be a brief overview of the Fund's history. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Larm, DTM
Past District Governor

*Special thanks to all the past District Governors and Treasurers who contributed information for this report. Some direct cut/paste information was obtained via reports from: Tom Coscia, Mary Kerwin, Bob Glidewell, Dan Darnall, Barbara Kryvko, and Curtis Scroggins. *

II. Inmate Testimonials (Quotes from Talu)

“I was introduced to Toastmasters and the Talu Club by individuals who seem to have found a purpose in rebuilding themselves into the men they were meant to be. I saw individuals who would never amount to anything become leaders not only in Talu but throughout the prison community. I wanted to be a part of that. Toastmasters makes you want to be a better person. It has shown me that even though I may have lost my way I have not lost my voice.”

“I became a part of this group because I had something to say, but I didn’t know how to say it. I was mad, I would fight at the drop of a hat. When I join the club my life change and a great way. I don’t like to write out what I have to say, but I speak from the heart. That is why I am writing this today. Talu is a club that is a family that I’m glad to be apart of. It’s a place that takes us out of jail for sometime, and without it this place would be lose.”

“As with most convicts, I didn’t have much money. Thanks to the Omar Roberts Trust Fund I was able to pay my dues and begin the educational portion of the program. The benefits of the program are far too numerous to encompass in a single page but without them I don’t feel I would have ever been rehabilitated. Having a criminal record is an extremely large barrier to finding a job upon release. Having gainful employment is a requirement of parole, but tell me, who hires these people? Upon my release from prison I applied for numerous jobs. Within several days I was visited by an owner of a company with whom I applied. His main reason for hiring me was because I was a member of Toastmasters. My past didn’t matter to him he was willing to give me a chance because of Talu Toastmasters. He was a retired policeman.”

“Yet, the most important aspect of my ToastMasters experience is the accessibility. Our funds ae so limited while incarcerated. Without the assistance and generosity which enables us to pay \$36.00 a year for membership instead of the full \$72.00, people like myself would have to pass up on this unique opportunity while under such circumstances.”

“Since I have been incarcerated, I have participated and facellitated many programs in the Department of Corrections (DOC). I find that Toastmaster by far is the best self help program there is, not only for myself but for others as well. Toastmasters has helped offenders to be a better person. It has turn criminal thinking and criminal behavior in-to something positive.”

III. Inmate Testimonials (Quotes from Alpha)

“Toastmasters has taught me a lot. I often tell perspective members that Toastmasters is the one thing outside of chapel that I have found worthy of my free time. I continue to be an active part of Toastmasters not only for what I get out of the experience but for what I can share with others.”

“Two of the greatest outside Toastmasters I have ever met were Omar Roberts and Dori Drummond. Both gave their time to teach us in prison what it meant to be Toastmasters. I can think of no better named fund to help prisoners in district 8 than the one that bears their name. Both of them asked for our best and helped give us a ‘step-up’. We ask that their scholarship fund continue to give prisoners a helping hand. It is hard for many to pay even the half-price of the dues but this commitment maintains a membership of men who are serious about learning and attaining the education Toastmasters provides. Alpha Toastmasters teaches and prepares members for inclusion and acceptance into outside society. I think we are a credit to Area 7, District 8 and I hope we can continue in that tradition.”

“Thanks to being an official member, my accomplishments will follow me upon my release. I have my CC and CL. I am near completing the Advanced Series. I would like to say to those of you who do not know the Toastmasters International organization gave me hope in a place full of despair.”

Because of Toastmasters I have become so comfortable speaking in front of people that I’m now in a group that speaks to at-risk youth and adult probationers about how their current life-choices could lead them exactly where I am now. I am able to comfortably share my life history with them so they’re able to see the similarities between the road they are currently on and the road I was on – and hopefully get them to get off that road.”

“Ideas for fund raisers

1. Game-a-thon = can be done indoors or outdoors. Set up some games such as:
 1. Bean Bag Toss
 2. Frisbee Toss
 3. Bounce the Ball
 4. Nerf dart Toss
 5. Rod & Reel Target cast
 - (1) Set up two boxes 10, 15, 20 feet apart
 - (2) Set up cloths baskets at different distances as targets
 - (3) Stack up different size boxes for different points and bounce a Ping-Pong ball at the targets.
 - (4) Set targets a set distance and toss for point value
 - (5) Put a practice plug on Rod and Reel – use same setup as #2
2. Baked goods auction”

*All testimonials are posted on the District 8 website in two separate documents. Five excerpts were selected from Alpha and Talu clubs for this report.

IV. Transactional History

Provided by TI

District 8 Trust Account Opened March 2011

Beginning Balance: \$ 1,783.99

<u>Statement date</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	
Apr-11	\$0.00		\$ 1,783.99
May-11	\$0.00		\$ 1,783.99
Jun-11	(\$9.00)		\$ 1,774.99
Jul-11	(\$36.00)		\$ 1,738.99
Aug-11	\$0.00		\$ 1,738.99
Sep-11	(\$162.00)		\$ 1,576.99
Oct-11	\$0.00		\$ 1,576.99
Nov-11	(\$123.00)		\$ 1,453.99
Dec-11	\$0.00		\$ 1,453.99
Jan-12	(\$12.00)		\$ 1,441.99
Feb-12	(\$15.00)		\$ 1,426.99
Mar-12	(\$6.00)		\$ 1,420.99
Apr-12	\$0.00		\$ 1,420.99
May-12	(\$288.00)		\$ 1,132.99
Jun-12	(\$45.00)		\$ 1,087.99
Jul-12	\$0.00		\$ 1,087.99
Aug-12	(\$6.00)		\$ 1,081.99
Sep-12	\$0.00		\$ 1,081.99
Oct-12	(\$183.00)		\$ 898.99
Nov-12	(\$18.00)	\$209.00	\$ 1,089.99
Dec-12	\$0.00		\$ 1,089.99
Jan-13			\$ 1,089.99
Feb-13	(\$18.00)		\$ 1,071.99
Mar-13	(\$36.00)		\$ 1,035.99
Apr-13			\$ 1,035.99
May-13	(\$198.00)		\$ 837.99
Jun-13		\$782.00	\$ 1,619.99
Jul-13	(\$359.00)	\$250.00	\$ 1,510.99
Aug-13	(\$45.00)	\$118.00	\$ 1,583.99
Sep-13			\$ 1,583.99
Oct-13			\$ 1,583.99
Nov-13	(\$150.00)		\$ 1,433.99
Dec-13			\$ 1,433.99
Jan-14	(\$153.00)		\$ 1,280.99

Feb-14			\$ 1,280.99
Mar-14			\$ 1,280.99
Apr-14	(\$456.00)		\$ 824.99
May-14			\$ 824.99
Jun-14	(\$45.00)	\$ 53.00	\$ 832.99
Jul-14			\$ 832.99
Aug-14			\$ 832.99
Sep-14	\$ (222.00)		\$ 610.99
Oct-14	\$ (333.00)	\$ 308.00	\$ 585.99
Nov-14	\$ (279.00)		\$ 306.99
Dec-14	\$ (12.00)		\$ 294.99
Jan-15	\$ (27.00)		\$ 267.99
Feb-15		\$ 200.00	\$ 467.99
Mar-15	\$ (60.00)	\$ 275.00	\$ 682.99
Apr-15	\$ (378.00)		\$ 304.99
May-15	\$ (208.00)		\$ 96.99
Ending balance as of May 2015			\$ 96.99

IV. Projected Income vs Required Income

If numbers remain at 11 Talu members and 21 Alpha members, the required income for 2015 - 2016 for membership renewals will be \$1,152. If we approximate the number of new members at 15, that would be an additional \$150 for new member dues and \$540 for renewal dues for an approximate total of \$1850.00. The club members pay \$18 and we provide the other \$18. Alpha has been paying the \$20 new member fee. As of April 2015, Talu is paying half the \$20 new member fee. Payment for the new member fee needs to be consistent with each club paying half.

V. Predicted Life of the Fund

We are not proposing fund raising at this time. It will depend on whether members volunteer to be part of a new committee to decide on fund raising going forward.

VI. Procedure to Authorize the Request for funds: Talu Toastmasters - charter date is 10/1/1993

1. John Quinn, Institutional Activities Coordinator at Moberly Correctional Center mails to my home address a copy of a memo that has been mailed to Senior Account Office: Alyssa Pan, Toastmasters International, 23182 Arroyo Vista, Rancho Santa Margarita California 92688. It is a request for the other 1/2 dues for semi-annual membership and new member dues to be paid by the trust fund. Names of the members are provided. The memo is signed by the club treasurer. John Quinn requested my address so the memos can be mailed to me.
2. I either scan a copy of the memo with approved written on it with my name, designation, and date or I respond with my approval to an email from the Finance Department at Toastmasters International asking me to approve the request.

Alpha Toastmasters - charter date is 6/28/2013

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May 8, 2015

1. I am copied on an email to Toastmasters International from Curtis Scroggins, Liaison for Alpha Toastmasters, requesting the other 1/2 dues of the semi-annual membership to be paid by the trust fund. The email contains a memo or just lists names. It depends on how many.
2. I either scan a copy of the memo with approved written on it with my name, designation, and date or I reply to the Finance Department at Toastmasters International in the email.

The Finance Department emails me the account balance monthly.

VII. Instructions for folks who might like to donate directly to the scholarship fund

1. Make check payable to Toastmasters International with the memo line stating "District 8 Omer Roberts/Dori Drummond Inmate Scholarship Fund.
2. Mail check to:
Toastmasters International
Attention: Finance Department
23182 Arroyo Vista
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688
3. Request in a memo to notify the District 8 Governor (District Director) when the deposit is made. This will help in authorizing funds to be transferred as needed for the prison clubs.