



WHERE LEADERS ARE MADE

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## Communic~8

Volume 12, Issue 7

District 8 ~ Memorial Issue

June 2013

*District 8 mourns the passing of Past District Governor Dori Drummond.  
In this special issue, we celebrate Dori and her life well lived.  
We remember the “dash” of her life that we were privileged to share.*

## *Dori Drummond, DSM*

*July 20, 1960 — May 20, 2013*

### **A Conversation with God**

Toastmasters, District 8, Missouri and Illinois

Why God? Why did you take Dori from us?

***Because***

She was such a good person. We loved her.

***I know. I love her too.***

She genuinely cared about everyone she met.

***I know. I made her that way.***

To the young she was old, to the old she was young. Why would you take someone in the prime of her life?

***Because it was her time.***

But she did so much good for so many people.

***I know. All the good I instilled in her, she kept, nurtured and shared.***

What will we do without her? She taught us so much.

***You will take what she taught you and teach others.***

She was such a great mentor, such a great inspiration, such a great motivator. What will we do?

***You will mentor, you will inspire, you will motivate and remember Dori whom I shared with you as long as you needed her. She is happy with me now.***



## Dori, In Our Hearts Forever

(Dori's Eulogy)

A daughter, a sister, a co-worker, but most importantly, a friend, this is who Dori was to all of us.

Think for a moment what "Fully committed" and "Dedication" means to you... It is very possible that a future version of your favorite dictionary will have a picture of Dori next to the words Commitment and Dedication. Dori took the meaning of these words to the extreme. It didn't matter who needed help or what time of the day it was, Dori was there.

I am sure we all have a Dori "WOW" moment. My first "WOW" moment was back in 2006 when I was District 8's Governor. On numerous occasions I would receive emails sent from Dori at 2:00 am. I would read and reply to them at 7:00 am as part of my morning routine, not expecting a response for a while. To my surprise, I would have a response by 7:15.

I was also amazed at her almost photographic memory. We would be having a discussion and Dori would reference the details of a previous discussion or an event that happened months, years ago. WOW!!! Did that happen to anyone else?

If Dori was involved, I knew that she would give everything she had. Sometimes; most of the time, she gave more than she had to help someone or to ensure an event would be successful. Dori seemed to be able to find 28 hours in every day.

I am sure Dori will stay active in Toastmasters by starting the first club in Heaven. When I was growing up my Mother would tell me when we heard thunder it was the angels bowling. From this point on when I hear thunder it will be Dori counting Ah's and Um's at the Heavenly Speakers Toastmasters Club.

Please join me in prayer: O God of grace and mercy, we give thanks for your loving-kindness shown to Dori and to all your servants who, having finished their course in faith, now rest from their labors. Please give to Dori's family and to all who mourn, comfort in their grief and a sure confidence in your loving care that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may know the consolation of your love. Help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and find comfort in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Receive our thanks for Dori and for all the blessings you bestowed on her in this earthly life. Bring us at last to our heavenly home that with her we may see you face to face in the joys of paradise. Amen

### A Poem—Author Unknown

With peace and joy in sweet repose,  
Gladly will my eyelids close  
And go to sleep the grave within.  
For mine eyes have the Savior seen,  
Whom thou for all of us hast given  
To open us the gate of heaven,  
That he should be the light divine  
Which shall upon the gentiles shine,  
And upto Israel to raise,  
Glory and everlasting praise.



Though Dori will not be physically with us, her memory will live on in our hearts and minds. Dori, thank you for being part of our lives, thank you for being my friend.

Dan Darnall, DTM PDG



## *Reflecting on Dori ...*

I've heard people say that sometimes we don't understand the reason God takes some people out of our lives.

Up until now, that was true for me for only one person.

Dori was an incredible light shining in a world so darkened by sin, evil, fear and similar things.

I do not know why God decided it was her time to go, but in true Dori fashion, she left detailed instructions on how things should be done, and, as usual, she has touched many more people in the actions she took than we may ever know.

I last spoke to Dori on the phone while she was sitting in the emergency room. She said her vitals were strong, she was just sitting there, and they didn't know what was wrong with her.

That was her last speech to me.

But in true Toastmasters fashion, I never got to give her an evaluation, so here goes:

1. For touching lives and leaving the world a better place than you found it, excellent;
2. For feeding positive energy into each and every one you met, focusing on the positives and minimizing the negatives, check;
3. Last, for leading the way by example, demonstrating the philosophy of "Do as I do, and not only as I say", check.

Dori is not the first Toastmaster that was distinguished that will make it in to Heaven,

But she is certainly one of the few who will make heaven more Distinguished because of it.

We love you and we miss you, Dori!

And, as they say in one of my weekly meetings, Keep Toastmastering!

Curtis Scroggins, DTM DG

## Special Tributes

Dori always went out of her way to remember the special events in my life (my birthday, my wedding anniversary). When my wife's mother passed away many years ago, Dori drove from Jefferson City to Columbia and spent time with us, even taking us out to dinner. She always made me feel so unique that my wife and I felt the need to attend Dori's funeral service. After all, since Dori had spent so much time on us and made us feel so special I wondered if we wouldn't be the only ones at the service. I was amazed at the number of people in attendance—who felt exactly the same way we did.

David W. Mallory ACS, AL

When Dori was District Governor and Tim Spezia was LGET, we travelled together all over the district attending club anniversaries and various other events. One of the events we attended was the graduation party for the Youth Leadership group conducted by Randy Lanning at the Scott's Air force Base in Belleville, IL. During the ceremony, Dori sat next to me and as Randy and others were speaking, I heard this rumble coming from next to me. When I turned to look, Dori was not only sleeping, but she was snoring-and not softly either. When lightly poking her in the arm did not wake her, I gave her a good whack! She woke up just in time for her turn to speak-which she did as if nothing out of the ordinary had happened. She didn't even appear to have been asleep just seconds before. As I sat listening to Dori with a smile on my face, I wondered how many around her knew that while everyone in District 8 Toastmasters was asking the question, 'when does Dori sleep?' (because she is always up until the wee hours of the night sending emails)- I had the answer!

Kat Mokriakow

When Dori was District Lt Governor Marketing, she initiated demo meetings in Springfield [Capital Club], Hillsboro [Montgomery County Club] and Decatur [ADM], all in Division C. I'm sure she helped form other clubs throughout the district. Her efforts in starting new clubs in the district contributed greatly to the district being designated as a Select Distinguished District for only the second time in its existence.

Dale Fitzpatrick, DTM





**At the Fall 2010 Conference,  
then Immediate Past District  
Governor Dori Drummond was  
“roast”-ed.**



Over the years, Dori has posed for many photos celebrating contest winners as well as other awards earned. Dori attended conferences, conventions, new club charters, demo meetings, basically you name the event and you would find Dori there. In this special issue, recall a few of the photo moments.







## *More memories of Dori ...*

Through Toastmasters Dori Drummond was a source of strength that influenced a great many people throughout the world of Toastmasters International. She cared for many people and took a personal interest in helping them see what is possible in achieving higher levels of accomplishments for themselves.

Dori accomplished this by always being available and offering to help those who requested help. Dori always gave informed advice helping to spark interest and showing how to raise the professionalism of our Toastmasters organization. Dori took a special interest in developing new clubs and was never satisfied with the status quo, she worked diligently to achieve new milestones in membership that otherwise would go untapped. This was proven in Dori's term as District Governor when she asked for and got that extra effort from members and delivered for that year a ranking of 11 out of 90 Toastmaster International Districts throughout the world. This was a proud moment for all in our Toastmasters district as this involved hard work from everyone involved. Dori spent many late nights following up with individual members during this time.

Dori always practiced what she expected others to accomplish. Dori achieved Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) the highest Toastmasters designation for both leadership and communications. This called for not only taking her Toastmaster experience to the next level but also enhancing the Toastmasters Organization through development and recognition. After her term as District Governor, Dori used her leadership skills to campaign for Toastmaster International leaders who Dori believed would benefit the entire organization and its members.

Dori touched the lives of a great many people and those of us who knew and worked with Dori benefited greatly knowing Dori and having her in our lives.

Tim Spezia, DTM, PDG

My first personal contact with Dori was a letter congratulating me on my completion of the requirements for the Advanced Communicator Silver (ACS) when she was Lt Governor Education and Training in 2009. Dori encouraged me to start working on the Advanced Communicator Gold (ACG) and not to lose the momentum I gained. She also encouraged me to consider becoming a Chairperson of a District Committee.

It was not until the 2010 District 8 Spring Conference in Springfield, Illinois that I really got to know Dori. In the picture from that conference are Carole Breckner, Dori Drummond, Bernie Donnelly and me, Sandy Kardis. At that conference, she put forth a call for action, asking how my club is ensuring that I, the member, can Cre-8 my own destiny. I had fun at that conference and returned home to fulfill my goals and the goals of my club. I attribute Dori's call to action to my becoming more involved in district leadership.

I cherished every compliment I received from Dori because it was timely, sincere and from her heart. All her words of encouragement, especially the words of encouragement in my role as LGM, are cherished for those words were also timely, sincere and from her heart. I may not have known Dori as long as other District 8 Toastmasters, but I knew her long enough to hold her in my memories.

Sandy Kardis, DTM





## My Memories of Dori by Tim Spezia, DTM, PDG

Dori had no shortage of emails. At one point in early 2010 she had so many emails in her yahoo account that the mail bag had no more room. At the Bridgeton Library, I sat down with Dori and helped her archive thousands of emails to adjacent storage to allow the emails to flow once again!

As a fellow district officer during my tenure I always had frequent interaction with Dori. When I was the district treasurer, I would continually reimburse the LGM at that time for new club development kits that were mailed to companies and individuals. I always wondered why I had trouble reading the handwriting; it was because there were so many pages of expense vouchers that it took real effort to write down all those names. Dori had a passion for marketing and this showed her interest in extending the network of clubs.

When Dori became LGET her interest turned towards Education and Training. I took over as LGM and this was when I started daily phone conversations with Dori on district business. These calls had a big impact on me and helped shape my view of the district.

When I became LGM-elect, I would accompany Dori on marketing calls. On several trips to call on new prospects in Division C we drove long distances to make appointments. Many trips were fruitful but some not, but Dori never let that diminish her passion for district development.

During regional midyear training in Nashville during a cold January, I parked my car in St Peters for the weekend and rode with Dori. The training went well and we discussed plans all the way home. When we arrived, Dori dropped me off and I prepared to leave my car wouldn't start. I called Dori who by this time was on her way home and she offered to come back to assist me by jumping my car battery. She returned and I was able to get home that late Sunday night.

When I became LGET, I was in even more communication with Dori. It was a good thing that we both had ATT service and the calls were mobile to mobile. I remember visiting conference sites with Dori and I saw first hand the tendency to take detail to task. Conference contracts can be very detailed but as an attorney Dori was used to making sure these documents were comprehensible and fair to both parties involved.

The flagship measure for the district is the number of individuals achieving their Competent Communicator. Dori always set a high expectation when she was LGET and DG. This means that I had a lot of work to do recognizing those who earned their CCs. It was important to meet or surpass the stretch goal for these awards and that helped to make everyone in the district successful and proud. As DG, I still continued dialogue with Dori and I see the impact Dori had on me. Communication is important to be successful in any activity particularly those involving a large number of people.

At Dori's second Memorial in Jefferson City, I saw so many people come forward and speak about Dori. Not just Toastmasters but people who worked with Dori and those she had known for many years came forward to voice their experience and memories of Dori. A consistent theme of caring, dedication to cause and success were apparent all through Dori's life. I know I will miss Dori but I learned a great deal in my interactions with Dori.

### District 8 Select Distinguished Award



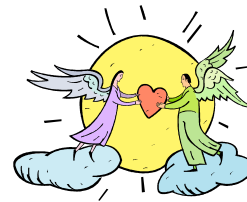


## Memories ...

I can't remember the first time I met Dori because it seems like she has been with me always. She became more a part of my life when I served as District 8 Secretary in Tony Gartner's administration. I always sent my minutes to the senior officers as soon as I could possibly get them written. Dori was always prompt with corrections (within minutes). She made me feel that my efforts were recognized. During Dori's year as District Governor (2009-2010), I served on the Bookstore Committee and observed her "never give up" leadership style. In March 2010, the Nominating Committee Chair, Dan Darnall called me back to service to run for Division A Governor. About March of 2011 (when I was thinking that I had served enough), Dori in her role as Nominating Chair, called me and told me that she thought I should run for Lt. Governor Marketing. She made it clear that it was a four year commitment of leadership. That April, she visited with me in my home to assure me about my decision to run. I told her about my primary commitment to my husband, David Kincade, to support his dream to earn his private pilot's license. We talked for hours and I really got to know her. As we talked, I could see David flying me to Toastmaster meetings across our district. With her reasoning and encouragement, both David and I reached our dreams.

You can never repay the people who "pushed" you to reach your dreams. The only way you can repay them is to help others reach theirs. Help me pay Dori's legacy forward by encouraging others to fly high and you become the wind beneath their wings.

Lora Mather, DTM



Unlike Lora Mather, I can clearly remember my first meeting with Dori Drummond. As a pre-toastmaster, I accompanied Lora to the International Convention in Las Vegas. At the time I was not interested in adding Toastmasters to my life. I really didn't think they had anything I needed. One morning Lora called me and asked me to meet her at a restaurant for lunch. As I waited there, Lora came walking up, and along side her was a small, disarmingly friendly woman with one of the biggest smiles that I have ever seen. I thought I was in trouble, and this was going to be a sales pitch, so I went to shields up and full impulse power.

Was I ever wrong. She was a charming woman to talk with, and I was shocked at how smoothly she spoke. I had a wonderful lunch with her.

Three years later, I had been a Toastmaster for a year, and I have embraced the philosophy Dori taught me that day; Toastmasters is as much or more about learning to listen and learn, as it is about learning to speak. Thank you Dori.

David Kincade



Spa day at Carole Breckner's following Select Distinguished District



Toastmasters and especially District 8 were a big part of the “dash” of Dori’s life.







*Dori Drummond*







No one lives forever, while we may all rationally know that as a fact when someone is taken suddenly from us the loss seems more sharp. One moment Dori was with us and then Dori was gone.

Dori was one of a kind, an original. If you met her you couldn't help but remember her. As I was thinking back on memories of Dori like others, I cannot remember my actual first meeting with her. I just cannot remember District 8 without her. When I joined Toastmasters Dori was already in the leadership of the District. She was always enthusiastic about Toastmasters with incredible focus toward spreading the word of the benefits of the organization. Dori lived Toastmasters, she loved Toastmasters and genuinely cared about the success of others.

As the Communic~8 newsletter editor over the last several years I have had the opportunity to work closely with Dori. Past District 8 Governor Tim Spezia mentioned Dori's use of email for communication and I can confirm Dori knew how to email. She often sent multiple emails as additional thoughts would occur to her on a subject and they would come at all hours of the day and night. I can also confirm his comment about her attention to detail. Dori read every word of each issue and would recommend changes to correct grammar and context to make sure the newsletter's final product was the best it could be. No one who knew her could ever suggest Dori did not care about the big or little details.

I also had the privilege of knowing Dori as a member of the Smedley Hometown Memorial Club. Like me after my move to Indianapolis, Dori also made a move that caused her to have to make a long journey to attend our meetings. She cared enough about the survival of the club to travel the distance to be there to support the club and was very involved in our plans to rebrand the club to rebuild the membership. Without Dori's support and encouragement, I cannot say that the club would still be in existence to rebuild.

Albert Einstein said, "Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal." Those of us who knew Dori have our memories that remain. Though Dori is no longer with us on the earth, we can carry forward Dori's legacy and share her love of Toastmasters with others. We will miss Dori Drummond, a Distinguished Toastmaster, a Past Select Distinguished District 8 Governor and a one of the kind person. I for one am better having known her. Thank you Dori for pushing and encouraging me.

Joann York, ACS, ALS



Dori's family in attendance when Dori became District 8 Governor







*Toastmasters ... builds much more than speaking skills*  
*It builds Friendships that last!*

Dori. Dori Drummond. Wow. I still cannot wrap my head around the fact that she is gone. I know that Dori would have wanted me to give her a good roasting, but I can't bring myself to do it. Not yet. Most everyone knows Dori loved a good roast and was always on the lookout for roast material for EVERYONE. Whenever that material presented itself, she would look at me, point, and say "write that down for his/her roast!" and laugh in that contagious laugh of hers. I am sure whoever went thru her Toastmaster things found a "roast notebook" of some sort. Then again, Dori remembered everything and did not really need to write it down.

I still remember when I first met Dori. Yes, she would be impressed that I remember something from that far back! I was Area 21 Governor, sitting in the front row at my very first DEC meeting. Steve Watkins was District Governor. Dori came up to me and handed me an invitation to Capital 503's upcoming club anniversary party. Let me add that I remember what she was wearing – a red suit with a white blouse. I am sure she could tell you what I was wearing, how I was sitting, what I said, AND what date and time this occurred, but I can only brag that I remember the red suit. After the DEC meeting, Dori came up to me and we quickly became best friends. Until I realized that EVERYONE was Dori's best friend. WHAT?!? But that was Dori. Everyone's best friend.

From that year on, we roomed together at every District Conference or International Convention - Mary Kerwin, Floy Westermeier, Dori and I. While she lived in Jeff City, Dori and I would always plan our travels together as much as we could. We rode to the airport together, sat on the plane together, shared a room, and always an adventure or two. We spent many late nights in the hotel room sitting and talking about Toastmasters, our families, friends, hopes, and dreams. I can still picture it, me sitting with my feet on the bed, Dori in the chair across the room, listening to every word I said, like a good friend does. I will miss that.

David & Carol Mallory and I laughed on the way home from Springfield about how Dori has (no doubt) set St. Peter up with a 5-step process to streamline getting folks into the pearly gates. Thank you, Dori, for making that easier for us. I know you will be looking over my shoulder, helping to guide me thru life, just like you always have.

I miss you, my friend.

Cindy Larm, DTM, PDG



## *Reflections on Dori*

As I previewed the articles in this special edition of the Communic~8, I cannot think of anyone else in the district that would warrant as much adoration in District 8. Dori Drummond was one of a kind. Though we shared some similarities—born in the same year and a propensity to be very anal—I can never match her dedication to the organization.

And as goal driven as Dori was, she was also a people person. She remembered to recognize birthdays and anniversaries due to her incredible memory.

She was also one of the best mentors to have when I served as District Governor. I could call her at 11:30 pm, and I knew she would be awake to take my call. I had many and long conversations with her at all hours of the day—just ask my wife!

Unfortunately we many times take people for granted. We do not recognize someone's value until they are gone. Dori Drummond, you will be greatly missed. Thank you for being such an inspiration.

**Tom Coscia, DTM, IPDG**

P.S. As I write this, I am sure she is setting-up sample meetings in heaven.



**D** Devoted

**O** Orderly

**R** Respectful

**I** Independent

**D** Dedicated

**R** Resourceful

**U** Understanding

**M** Mentoring

**M** Mannerly

**O** Open

**N** Nurturing

**D** Durable

She was my friend and will always have a place in my heart.

**Angell Chisholm**



Excellence in Education & Training Award  
Presented to Dori Drummond, DTM  
2008—2009



### *More Memories ...*

Dori was a jewel of a person, she contacted me and sent me cards when I was really, really sick. When Dori was in the hospital a few years ago for surgery, I told her I would be there for her and I gave her a "purple beanie bear." Dori kept the beanie bear until she saw a little girl eyeing it, Dori gave it to the little girl. That was Dori always caring for people. I am missing her, she meant a great deal to me. God loves her and keeps her from all pain, thanks be to God for our time with Dori.

Carole Breckner, DTM









## Dori Drummond

Gathering information on Dori could be a semester research paper.

Dori has been a Toastmaster for 20 years. When she joined us in District 8 she came to love Toastmasters and accelerated her Toastmasters career. She served in many clubs as an officer and continued on to be an Area and Division Governor. When she was Lt. Governor Marketing she started enough new clubs to help District 8 become Distinguished.



As District Governor she started new programs by having educational sessions at District Executive Meetings. She began a new routine for DTM awards at District Conferences. Rather than simply announcing the person's name and having them welcomed by other DTMs, she asked that the new DTM's mentor say a few words about the person receiving the award. It helped everyone to know more about the person receiving their DTM.

In Dori's year as District Governor she again brought the District to Select Distinguished status.

She established the Omer Roberts Foundation to fund prison clubs and fought for the rights of the prisoners to be Toastmasters. That fund continues today.

Dori was tireless in her dedication to all Toastmasters as individuals and gained the friendship and respect of many Toastmasters worldwide.

We will miss our friend.

Submitted by Mary Kerwin (author unknown)



We meet many people in our lives. Many become acquaintances, few become friends. We meet many people in Toastmasters some impress us and some leave an impression. Merriam Webster defines impression as: especially marked and often favorable influence or effect on feeling, sense, or mind.

Dori left an impression.

It's hard to believe she is gone but her spirit will always be with us.

Mary Kerwin, DTM

**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

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**WHERE LEADERS  
ARE MADE**

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

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## The Mission of District 8

We build new clubs and support all clubs  
in achieving excellence.



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