



Toastmasters International

E-Communic~8

District 8



Volume 9, Issue 7

March 2010

Membership Ideas

- Plan a club membership-building contest.
- Wear your Toastmaster pin on a regular basis, not just at Toastmaster meetings.
- Sponsor a Toastmasters booth at community events. Follow up with people who express an interest.
- Have a secret pal program within your club. Outside of the meeting times, the secret pal will send encouraging notes, ideas, evaluations, etc. to the person who is their secret pal. Reveal after six months. Keeps people coming to meetings as they try to figure out who is their secret pal.

For the other ideas:

<http://www.dist8tm.org/docs/membuild.doc>

Toastmasters In The St. Patrick's Day Parade

By Tom Ahillen, Division F Governor



On Saturday, March 13th, a group of District 8 members represented Toastmasters in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Downtown St. Louis. District Public Relations Officer Jacquie Vick followed up on a suggestion and organized our participation as a means of displaying Toastmasters to a large group of people. As it turned out, parade organizers estimated that a crowd of 300,000 showed up despite the damp, threatening weather.

This was the first year that we have participated in this parade, so we were fairly inexperienced when compared to most of the other units in the parade. Nevertheless, thirty-plus participants (Toastmasters, family and friends) strolled the level 17-block parade route. Some carried club banners and others handed out candy, strings of green beads, and brochures. They were led by a large banner announcing the District 8 Toastmasters and D.J. Randle's truck, adorned with decals and helium balloons. At the end of the group was a sandwich board proclaiming "Toastmasters Speak Better Blarney."

It was surprising the number of times that people asked what Toastmasters did and then asked for brochures. Before the parade, the volunteers had attached stickers with the district's hotline phone number to the brochures. So this effort definitely exposed the organization to a lot of potential members.

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Take the “85 Challenge!”

By Dori Drummond, DTM, District 8 Governor

Some of us will think back on the 1970's and remember the phrase, “Take the Pepsi Challenge” in which Pepsi-Cola challenged us to taste-test Pepsi-Cola and Coca-Cola and then decide which one we liked better. If we selected Pepsi, about all that we received was a T-shirt and maybe a sample of the Pepsi product.

In 2010, you're being asked to take a new challenge—the “85 Challenge!” In honor of Toastmasters International's 85th anniversary last October, I challenge each and every one of our Clubs to retain at least 85% of their current paid membership during the April renewal period.

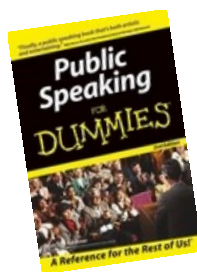
Why is membership retention so important? As important as new members are to the life of our Clubs, keeping the members that we already have is equally as important. After all, who is going to mentor the new members? Who is going to fill most of our Club offices . . . at least until the new members understand the duties of those offices? Who is going to earn the advanced communication and leadership awards that our Clubs need to be Select or even President's Distinguished?

Membership retention also is vital to your Club for another very important reason . . . no matter how many educational and leadership awards that your Club earns, you must have either 20 members or a net growth of 5 members by June 30. Without strong membership retention, it will be very difficult to have enough members to be a Distinguished (or better) Club.

So take the “85 Challenge!” Your Club will be recognized in an upcoming issue of Communic-8. And the other rewards will be much greater and more meaningful than the Pepsi Challenge. ■

Public Speaking For Dummies

By Raymond F. Allen Jr., CC, ALB, Area 15 Governor



A few weeks ago, while sitting at my computer at work, a perfect stranger approached me about the book *Public Speaking for Dummies* on my desk and asked, “Have you heard of an organization called Toastmasters?”

Before I answered, he went on to share with me some of the benefits of joining an organization such as Toastmasters.

Smiling and listening intently, I then told him not only had I heard of Toastmasters, but that I was the Area 15 Governor and an active member of two clubs. I went on to tell Alan Barasch that “Wells Fargo [where we work] has a very successful Toastmasters club, Uptick Talkers,

on campus.” As the conversation continued, I learned that he was a former president of a Toastmasters club in Arkansas and looking forward to becoming active with a club in St. Louis. Immediately, I told him more about Uptick Talkers and invited him to the next meeting, which we both attended and participated.

Alan enjoyed the meeting so much so that the day of the very next meeting, he walked by my cube with a box of treats he'd baked to take to the club meeting. Afterwards, he told me he was going to join Uptick Talkers.

Moral of the story: It doesn't hurt to have something on your desk such as a Toastmaster book or manual. Someone might see it and ask about our wonderful organization. ■



Club Exchange...What Does It Mean? Who Benefits?

Jacquie Vick, ACS, ALB, District 8 PRO, Primary Conversations, Pres.

"We will send a speaker and an evaluator to participate in your club's meeting; and in exchange, you will send a speaker and evaluator to participate in our club meeting," were Mike Marian's words when asked, what a club exchange was all about. From that point, the date was set.

On Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2010, Primary Conversations Toastmasters Club welcomed three guest participants from Anheuser-Busch Toastmasters Club—Mark Vance, speaker; Joe Eulberg, evaluator; and Mike Marian. Likewise, the following Thursday, Jan. 14, Anheuser-Busch returned the warm welcome to members of Primary Conversations—Deborah Hamilton, speaker; Jackie Olden, evaluator; and Raymond Allen, Jeffery Williams, and Jacquie Vick. What a great opportunity this presented to learn and grow as a club and as individuals!

The concept of a club exchange is often talked about, but rarely acted upon. Why not, when there are some obvious growth and development benefits? One

immediate benefit that comes to mind, as a result of this exchange, is the opportunity to speak and be evaluated by someone outside of your club. Too often, people become complacent when speaking in familiar territory. Speaking in front of a different audience challenges you and puts your learned communication skills to the test. Additionally, it offers you an opportunity to possibly learn a new speaking style and as well, get feedback from or give feedback to Toastmasters you don't know. This holds true, whether you are presenting as a speaker or an evaluator. Note, the benefits don't stop with the speaker(s), the club as a whole benefits.

The benefits for participating clubs are invaluable. A club

exchange creates an opportunity to observe and learn new ways of conducting club meetings. Sure, the objective of every club's meeting is the same—to conduct an efficient meeting that is conducive to learning and growing as Toastmasters. However, the method for doing so may differ. To your surprise, you may be introduced to new best practices. For example, AB Toastmasters has a dedicated video master at every meeting, whose function is to videotape the featured speaker(s) and provide the speaker with a copy on CD. What a great way to improve your speaking style! It is one thing to have an evaluator share opportunities for improvement with you, and it's quite another for you to see the areas

(Continued on page 12)

2010 District 8 Spring Conference

Tim Spezia, DTM LGET District 8

Mark your calendars for the greatest event of the District 8 Toastmasters year. This May 7th-8th in Springfield, IL is the District 8 Spring Conference. The Conference is attractively priced to encourage everyone in District 8 to attend. The price for a single full registration is \$70.00. Full registration provides entry to all Conference activities—meals, workshops, seating at the District Evaluation Finals and the District International Speech Contest. This is a full weekend of activities where you can learn and network with other Toastmasters from around the district. It is truly a unique learning experience with multiple benefits for attendees. Improve your communication skills at the workshops, support your division representatives in the contests, gather information to share with those in your club who cannot attend. This is a great opportunity to improve yourself and your home club.



The conference location at the Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center has an amazing collection of Route 66 memorabilia. This collection will bring back memories for those who know anything about the famous highway route known as Route 66.

Plans for Friday night include great entertainment following the District Evaluation Contest Finals. Come support the contestants and in the process pick up evaluation tips. These skilled evaluators will help you develop your evaluator skills. Then, are you ready for a "sock hop"? Make sure you bring your dancing shoes because we have a professional DJ (also a toastmaster) who will be spinning the tunes for us to dance the night away.

The District holds its business meeting (the District Council) Saturday morning. The proxy ballot for your club is included in this issue. Club Presidents and the Vice President-Education should make every effort to deliver their ballots to the credentials desk at the conference. We would like to see every club represented return their Club voting ballots and be present to vote at District Council. Every club's ballot is important and will make a difference. Our goal is to have at least one hundred clubs throughout the two state area of District 8 return their proxies. Issues coming before the council include district realignment and next year's slate of district officers.

Saturday events will include workshops on a variety of topics to help attendees learn new ways to think about communication in addition to other topic areas. Some specific topics to be presented—stress management, topic research, and developing dynamic agendas. At least eight workshops are planned and all promise to be thought provoking. Expect an excellent, informative keynote address with an immediate take away benefit for each attendee. Additionally, the district book store will be open for business. Bring your shopping list and avoid shipping costs for your Toastmasters merchandise. The finale on Saturday evening will be the International Speech Contest. The winner of this contest will represent District 8 at the World Championship of Public Speaking this coming August in Palm Desert, California at the Toastmasters International Convention.

Springfield, IL offers the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library which is well worth a visit while you are in town among other historic Lincoln related sites. Get your registration in early and save. Reserve your room and as Nat King Cole's song said ... "Get Your Kicks on Route 66". Come for the fun, the learning and remember 'The Road To Your Destiny Begins On Route 66!' Looking forward to seeing you there in May. ■

District 8 Toastmasters Spring 2010 Conference

The Road To Your Destiny Begins on Route 66

Friday, May 7th & Saturday, May 8th 2010

Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center - Springfield, IL 62703

		Are you a: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Non-TM	<input type="radio"/> TM <input type="radio"/> CC <input type="radio"/> AC - B, S, G (specify) <input type="radio"/> DTM Club # _____
Name First Registrant	Email Address		
	()		
Mailing Address	Daytime Phone		
	()		
City, State & Zip	Evening Phone		
	First Conference? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
		Are you a: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Non-TM	<input type="radio"/> TM <input type="radio"/> CC <input type="radio"/> AC - B, S, G (specify) <input type="radio"/> DTM Club # _____
Name Second Registrant	Email Address		
	()		
Mailing Address	Daytime Phone		
	()		
City, State & Zip	Evening Phone		
	First Conference? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		

Registration Fees:

Registration Table opens Friday, 5/7 at 4:00 p.m.
and Saturday, 5/8 at 7:00 a.m.

	Price if Postmarked		Number Attending	Amount
	On or Before April 20	After April 20		
Full conference Packages (include all meals & all events)				
Full Conference Registration for Toastmasters	\$70.00	\$80.00	_____	_____
Full Joint Registration - 2 family members	\$130.00	\$145.00	_____	_____
Other Registration Options:				
Registration without meals	\$15.00	\$15.00	_____	_____
Registration for contest Gallery Seating (each day)	\$5.00	\$5.00	_____	_____

Conference Registration is required for attendance at any event except the Business Meeting.

Friday	Dinner Buffet	\$18.00	\$21.00	_____	_____
Saturday	Breakfast	\$9.00	\$12.00	_____	_____
Saturday	Lunch	\$13.00	\$16.00	_____	_____
Saturday	Dinner	\$27.00	\$30.00	_____	_____

Entrée Choices - Complete this section before mailing!

	1st Registrant	2nd Registrant
Saturday Dinner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grilled Herbed Chicken Breast	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Herb Roasted Salmon	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rosemary Pork Loin	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bacon Wrapped Filet Mignon	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Special Needs _____

(All needs can be met by the caterers so order early)

TOTAL: \$ _____

Make check payable to: **DISTRICT 8 TOASTMASTERS**

Mail check & registration form to: Nate Randall, DTM - 3129 Temple Drive, Springfield, IL 62704 (217-346-8624)

For information call Nate Randall (217) 346-8624 or e-mail: Nate.Randall@horacemann.com

Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center - 625 East St. Joseph Street, Springfield, IL 62703 (888)707-8366/(217)529-6626

2 Adults \$69.00 + tax per room, per night. Suite price \$99.00 + tax

(NOTE: Make your reservations as soon as possible!)

The Road to Your Destiny Begins on



District 8 Toastmasters
2010 Spring Conference

Friday & Saturday
May 7th — 8th

Hosted by Division C Toastmasters

Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center

625 East St. Joseph Street, Springfield, IL 62703

Limited Rooms Available for \$69 + tax

Suites Available for \$99 + tax

(888) 707-8366 or (217) 529-6626

(When reserving room(s) use "District 8 Toastmasters" to receive special rate)



Friday night—attend the District 8 Evaluation Contest Final

The special entertainment provided by [Matthew Stevens DJ Service](#)

Bring your dancing shoes for a Route 66 Sock Hop!

Saturday activities include:

Business Meeting—electing District 2010-2011 officers & other official business

Opportunities to attend a variety of Educational Sessions

Attend the District International Speech Contest Final to see who will move on..

Come to the Conference ... Learn, Socialize, and Have FUN!!!

Registration Table ...

Opens at 4 PM May 7th and 7 AM May 8th

Friday Dinner (Buffet) ...

7:00 PM

Broasted Chicken/Lasagna

Saturday Breakfast (Buffet) ...

7:30 AM

Saturday Lunch (Deli Buffet) ...

12:00 PM

Saturday Dinner ...

6:00 PM

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: DISTRICT 8 TOASTMASTERS

Mailed to: Nate Randall, DTM
3129 Temple Drive
Springfield, IL 62704

Nate.Randall@horacemann.com
(217) 546-8624

District 8 Council Proxy Form

Credential or Proxy Certificate

District 8 Council Meeting – 05/08/2010
Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center
Springfield, Illinois

At the district council business meeting, each club president and vice president education in attendance is entitled to one vote. However, if either or both officers cannot attend, they may designate, in writing, any other active member of their club to act as proxy or proxies for their club. (Use form below.) No other proxies are valid at this meeting — *per Article X, Paragraph (d) of the District Administrative Bylaws.*

In the event one of these officers does not attend the meeting and has not designated, in writing, an active member of the club to act as his or her proxy, the officer or proxy holder in attendance is deemed to hold the proxy of the other, and may therefore cast two votes at the meeting. This assures that every club is represented by two votes.

In addition, each district officer, including area governors, in attendance is entitled to one vote. Only district executive committee members carrying either credential or proxy certificates from their club are allowed three votes. All other members are limited to a maximum of two votes each.

[Must be submitted to Credentials Desk to obtain ballot(s)]

Club name (print) _____

Club No. _____

Name of President or VPE (print) _____

Officer Position: _____

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND

Club president and vice president education only

Indicate your duly authorized proxy below (must be an active member of your club):

Name of Proxy (print) _____

Signature of President or VPE _____

Date Signed _____

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I Didn't Know

By Mary Kerwin, DTM



How many times have you heard yourself say that you didn't know about something? I've talked with people recently who told me that they didn't know about other Toastmaster clubs and when they meet. I've talked with people who said they didn't know about club contests

and others who didn't know about the levels of contests beyond the club, namely Area, Division, District, Regional and International Contests. I've talked with non-Toastmasters who have never heard of Toastmasters. Some would consider trying it and others were the ever-frightened public who would never make the attempt.

Each of you probably know a minimum of a thousand people. Are you reluctant to tell them about Toastmasters because you are too timid or you don't think they'll be interested? Share what you know and let them decide.

Rather than telling them they could use it (as you listen to their ah's and um's that annoy you), tell them that people would be interested in what they have to say.

Your mission may be to do your Icebreaker; it may be to finish 10 speeches in the basic Competent Communicator Manual and get your CC badge. Then what? You may want to further your leadership skills to help you be a leader in church, school or community but don't know how to take the first step. Let Toastmasters help. By being a District Officer you can broaden your communication base, learn to assemble committees to hold contests, and lead meetings to accomplish goals. By being a District Officer you will also be well on your way to getting to the Distinguished Toastmaster level.

If you don't know – find out. Toastmasters has so much more to offer than giving your Icebreaker Speech. Ask questions, get answers and become the leader you want to be. ■

The people who walked in the parade enjoyed the experience very much and they enthusiastically support doing it again next year. Thanks to the representatives of these clubs who participated in the parade:

- Aerospace Orators Toastmasters
- Anheuser-Busch Toastmasters
- Callaway Community Toastmasters
- Capital 503 Toastmasters
- Cave Springs Toastmasters
- Fairview Heights Toastmasters
- Jeffco Challengers Toastmasters
- Lincoln University (Prospective Club)
- Mid-MO Advanced Toastmasters
- O'Fallon Toastmasters
- Poplar Bluff Trailblazers Toastmasters (Prospective Club)
- Primary Conversations Toastmasters
- River City Toastmasters
- Scott Toastmasters
- Script Masters Toastmasters
- SLU Masters Toastmasters
- Smedley Hometown Memorial Toastmasters
- South County Toastmasters
- Square Talkers Toastmasters
- St. Charles County Toastmasters
- Voices in Unity Toastmasters

(Notice that each division in the district had at least two of its clubs taking part!) ■





Photos by:

Christopher Morris

Aerospace Orators Toastmasters Club

St Louis St Patrick's Day Parade

March 13th

Toastmasters Speak Better Blarney!



Communication: The Key to Leadership

Tony Gartner, MBA, DTM, IPDG



There are many definitions for the word Communication: (1) an act or instance of transmitting; (2) a process by which information is exchanged between individuals through a common system of symbols, signs or behavior; (3) the activity of conveying information; (4) a connection allowing access between persons or places, and so on. In the book,

Functions of the Executive, the author says “communication is the main task of managers and executives and it placed emphasis on improving communications in organizations (Barnard, 1938).”

When our children were growing up, I always told them that the most important thing they should learn—no matter their major—is to learn to speak and write well, i.e., communication. Many years later, I still fervently believe this to be true.

If communication is the key to leadership then I think we can say that the key to communication is listening. Somewhere I read that the essence of music is the space between the notes. If we take that as a given, I think we could make the point that the essence of listening might be the space between the words.

Most people spend about 70 percent of their waking hours in some form of oral communication, and I wonder how many of us do it very well. We probably all would agree that the biggest secrets to success in our business

and personal lives are learning to speak and to listen well. If we agree on that, then why do we spend so much time and money learning how to speak well but literally no time learning to be an excellent listener or even an attentive listener?

Whether it is with our spouse, our children, a sales prospect, or our boss, one of life’s challenges is to listen well. The late Thomas Leonard, founder of Coach University, International Coach Federation and Coachville in a *Tip on Listening* article wrote, “Learn what to listen for and what it means. It’s one thing to listen to a person attentively, this is nice and polite. However, the art of actually hearing someone, understanding what they mean, what that means and then responding to that borders on an advanced art form”. The specific focus of this tip is to understand the idea that there are certain things to listen for as you listen to what your client, leader, subordinate or partner is saying and not saying.

Why is that important? It’s important because the more fully you hear (understand, know) those people, the faster and better you can serve them. We have one mouth and two ears, so shouldn’t it follow that we might listen twice as much as we speak? Dr. Phillip E. Humbert, writer, speaker and professional coach writes, “Listening, really listening, with our whole being is a skill and one of the most important compliments we can give another human being.”

We learn to do by doing—when we are listening, learning, and speaking with our listeners in mind. I am more convinced than ever that Communication is the Key to Leadership. ■

Wanted! Hospitality Room Donations

Hospitality Room Chair Ivan Paul is looking for the following donations. Please contact Ivan (i_paul@hotmail.com) if you can assist with donations to make the hospitality room all the more hospitable.

- Soft Drinks—Diet Coke, Coke, Sierra Mist, Pepsi, Mountain Dew
- Water
- Alcohol—White Wine box, Red Wine box, Beer (Anheuser-Busch products possibly?)
- Snacks—potato chips, Doritos, nutigrain bars, chocolate (candy), cookies, popcorn

Benefits to Dual Membership?

Eileen Roth, DTM and Joann York, ACB ALB



*What is dual membership?
It is just what it sounds like,
dual membership is being a
member of two
Toastmasters' clubs. Why,
you ask, would you want to
have dual membership?
Let's count the reasons...*

1. Each Toastmasters club has its own distinct, unique personality. Dual members can share the positive aspects learned at both clubs.
2. Ever heard the term—networking? Multiple memberships expands your sphere of influence as you meet other fellow Toastmasters.
3. Stand up and exercise your leadership muscles with twice the opportunity to be a club officer.
4. Having a second club membership will permit you to stay on your course and achieve your goals ... maybe even faster than you imagined. Multiple club

memberships allow you to give more speeches at a quicker pace. Toastmasters is all about practice right? Give yourself more chances to practice.

5. Want more feedback? Membership in only one club limits the feedback you receive to develop your skills. Join another club to seek out new evaluators and evaluations. More practice and varied feedback, a great combination.
6. With each membership you receive a Toastmasters magazine. How about sharing your extra copy with the local library or a business to spread the word about Toastmasters? Who knows you might just get a new member as a result.

When you are invited to visit another club do so. It may open up opportunities not offered at your “home” club. Have a guest at your meeting that is a member of another club—don't forget to ask them to join your club as well. You might just get a new member.

We counted six reasons ... can you count more? While one membership can open the door to a new world, dual memberships can speed you toward the horizon. ■

(Continued from page 3)

referenced by the evaluator. One other role of particular interest to Primary Conversations, which was observed during a visit to another club, is the listener role. This role is designed to improve your listening skills. Essentially, the person filling this role is charged with taking notes during the meeting and asking questions at the end that are relevant to what was said in the meeting. So as you can see, the possibilities to learn and grow as a

club are endless. While two benefits have been identified, one very obvious benefit remains--networking.

The benefit of networking with fellow Toastmasters and leveraging club relationships is invaluable. For instance, Anheuser-Busch is a veteran Toastmasters club—nearly 30-years; while Primary Conversations will celebrate being a two year old club on May 1st. Anheuser Busch's years of experience, history, and Toastmasters knowledge makes the

club a great resource to tap into. If your club strives to improve, then do not hesitate to participate in a club exchange.

Participating in a club exchange is truly a win-win for both clubs. It presents opportunities not only to meet and interact with fellow Toastmasters, but to develop your communication and presentation skills. Additionally, you gain knowledge of other club practices that can be incorporated into your club meetings for further growth and development. ■

Mid Year TLI Training by Tim Spezia, DTM, LGET District 8

Officers of each Toastmasters club should recognize the important of regular training. Toastmasters International understands the value and has set a Distinguished Club Program (DCP) goal that each club train a minimum of four officers every six months—at the beginning of the year and mid-point of each year. Each club that achieves this minimum training goal earns a DCP credit. We have now completed both training periods for this year. The district goal was to have at least 80% meeting the minimum four officers trained. How did we do? We fell a bit below goal with slightly more than 60% of the District 8 clubs meeting the training requirement at mid-year.

The main concept behind any District function is attendance. Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) sessions are no different. Our Mid Year session was well attended considering the weather we experienced January 30. Despite the challenges of a snowy Saturday morning, two clubs had all seven officers present—South County

Toastmasters (#1957) and Twin Rivers WORD Masters (#1046008). Both of these community clubs are performing strongly in attendance and membership goals. They should be applauded for coordinating the schedules of seven individuals in an effort to display strong leadership as an example for their members which in turn lead to strong clubs.

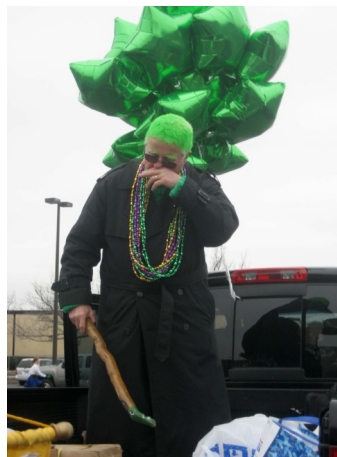
There were other clubs who achieved the seven officers trained accomplishment by attending TLI Make up or Division Satellite TLI sessions. These clubs were: St Charles County Toastmasters (#1151058), Primary Conversations (#1159447), Capital Toastmasters (#503), and Sigma Aldrich Toastmasters (#1254245). In addition to the benefits the officers gained from attending training, these clubs are entitled to their choice of either the Full Manual set of *The Successful Club Series* or *The Leadership Excellence Series* for use in their club library.

What did we learn at this TLI

Conference? TLI sign-in sheets are critical to document who was actually in each class. There is no other reliable way to know if someone attends a class if they do not sign-in. We found several clubs had appointed (or elected) new officers but had not updated their officer's list at TI. It is important club's make the changes because only the officers listed with TI can receive credit for attending. Attendance at a district sponsored officer training is a requirement as you work to achieve your advanced leadership award. Remember if you attend officer training, take the time to sign-in to receive the credit.

Leadership is a key ingredient for the success of every Toastmasters club. Well-trained, engaged club leaders can make all the difference. Officers that attended the training showed they recognize the value for themselves and their club's success. As we head toward the end of the year, I encourage each club to begin the work of developing the next year's leaders for greater continuity of your club. ■

More parade photos...



Ringside Seat

By Becky Ellis, CTM (Uptick Talkers)

I've been in Toastmasters since 2003. I earned my CTM (Competent Toastmaster) and tried out all the different roles at Toastmaster meetings. Some roles allowed me to practice skills I was already comfortable with, and some required me to (aargh!) stretch. I learned something new about myself or about how to apply a skill at every Toastmaster meeting. It was interesting. It was fun. It was comfortable. Ah, let me relax in my La-Z-Boy recliner, ah.... Nice.



I never wanted to be an officer. Now, don't get me wrong—I've been in officer or leadership positions in other groups. I just wanted to keep Toastmasters "fun". I was busy enough with my job, other groups I participate in, family, lots of things.

And I realized there was a bite-sized, convenient, and challenging door right in front of me, open and waiting. Our club was looking for new officers, and the position of Treasurer was not drawing much interest. Hmmm. I can balance my own checkbook. But I've never done a budget, never had any real financial responsibility for a group. Hmmm. Why not? So I stepped through the door.

What happened? I went to two sessions for officer training, meeting some new people and old friends, and being able to attend some fantastic training sessions on other topics while I was there. Using templates and examples from those sessions, I have taken our club through its very first budget (hey, we're small! And corporate sponsored so the finances are pretty simple) and my own first experience preparing a formal budget. I organized a simple tracking system to keep records on who has paid dues, whether new members have paid, whether their checks have cleared and whether their dues were paid by our club to Toastmasters International. No big deal. Pretty simple. But I do feel I've been able to serve the members of the club in a way that, as a member, I had not.

Most of all, I found that serving as an officer—even as Treasurer, which is probably the simplest and most cut-and-dried officer role—made me pay more attention to who is in the club, who our past members are, who our new members are, and perhaps most important, what all the other officers are doing and what it takes to make a club really successful. I have a ringside seat when the club President sends an email out to the officers and puts just the right message in front of just the right people, or the VP of Education plans a new strategy to get people excited about their progress and their potential, the VP of Membership brings in more new members than I can count in a single week, or the VP of Publicity builds us a new website and invites officers to give feedback on the design.

From a ringside seat, my view has changed. So if you've been sitting in your La-Z-Boy, think of stepping up and trying an officer role. The advantages of attempting something new are the small, unexpected things and the new point of view that happen while you're focusing on a simple budget. ■



Welcome New District 8 Club!

Toastmasters Business Professionals—
Belleville, IL (Area 6/Division C)



*District 8 members
earning Education and
Leadership Awards from*

*January 18, 2010 to
March 18, 2010.*

Division A

Crossroads

- Lares, Ron—CC
- Dalton, James—CC
- Gergen, Robert C.—DTM

Jeffco Challengers Club

- Meadows, Brook Rose—ACB

Maritz Club

- Darnall, Daniel A.—CC
- Kotur, Michael T.—CL

Maryville Toastmasters

- Tuttle, Laura—CL
- Brown, Melanie Annette—CC
- Manley, Alan—CL

Parkland Area Toastmasters

- Boyer, Charles—CC
- Hoeflein, Gerald E.—CC
- Hoeflein, Cindy L.—ACS
- Hensley, Kevin P.—CC

South County Toastmasters Club

- Dickemper, Novella Sue—CC
- Hendrickson, Carl H.—CL
- Clair, Donald—CC

Speak Easy Toastmasters

- Darnall, Daniel A.—CL
- Hart, Terrie D.—CC

SPEAK UP! Club

- Darnall, Daniel A.—ALB
- Menees, Mary Kay—ACS

Twin Rivers WORD Masters

- Morrissey, Debra M.—ACS
- Morrissey, Ralph P.—ACS
- Drummond, Josephine—ACB
- Denzel, Lori Ann—CL

- Warren, Roy B.—CC
Unigroup Toastmasters Club
- Holstein, Sheryl—CL
West County Club
- Graves, Gene R.—CC

Division B

Bulls & Bears Club

- Fields, Albert C.—ACB
- Cave Springs Toastmasters
- Astorino, Barbara A.—CC

- Donnelly, Bernard—CL

Mastertoasters Club

- Allen, Wayne—ACS
- Wei, Yansheng—ACB
- Schwarz, Jim—CC

River City Toastmasters Club

- Sutphen, Daryl—LDREXC
- Sutphen, Daryl—ALS
- Sutphen, Daryl—DTM
- Gergen, Robert C.—ALS

Script Masters Club

- Mayer, Gregory J.—ACS
- Lovelady, William R.—CL

TALX Masters Club

- Browder, Laura H.—CC
- Ford, Richard Flynn—CC

The Covidien Communicators

- Gattas, Fred—CL
- Lowery, Katrina—CC

WelDon Toast Club

- Palazzolo, Angelia L.—CL
- Morrison, James N.—ACT

Division C

Fairview Heights Toastmasters Club

- Parsons, Brian—ACG

McBrian Lincoln-Douglas Club

- Wilson, Lynn E.—ACS

Montgomery County Toastmasters

- Austin, Todd W.—ALS
- Austin, Todd W.—DTM

Noontime Toastmasters Club

- York, Joann—ACB

Scott Toastmasters Club

- Evans, Ernest James—CC
- Williams, Jeffrey A.—CL

St Clair Club

- Schaefer, Samantha—ACS

Tri-County Club

- Austin, Todd W.—ALB

Division E

Callaway Community

- Thompson, Arthur Scott—CC
- Columbia Toastmasters Club
- Melloway, Pamela R.—ACB
- Langille, Prairie L.—CC
- Downtown Toastmasters
- Kohnle, Sarah—CC
- Hunter, Charles—CC

Division F

Anheuser-Busch Club

- Vance, Mark D.—CC

BJC Toastmasters

- Venditti, Patrick—CC

Free Speakers

- Calhoun, Lawson H.—CL

MAC Toastmasters Club

- Noce, John—ACB

Primary Conversations

- Vick, Jacquie—ACS
- Gray, Rhonda L.—CC
- Smith, Pierre—CC

Rent-A-Toast Club

- Krishnan, Lakshmi—ACB
- Paruchuri, Manorama—CL

Sigma-Aldrich Toastmasters Club

- Porter, Richard W.—CL

Solae Toastmasters Club

- Ivy, Saraia Shante—CC
- McKeage, David M.—CC

Speech Masters Toastmasters Club

- Soar, Eric Wulf—CC

Uptick Talkers

- Davenport, Bryan William—CL

Voices in Unity Club

- Hieger, Pamela A.—CC



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District 8 is on the web.

www.dist8tm.org

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Upcoming Events—Dates to Know

Go to District 8 website calendar www.dist8tm.org to stay up to date on District 8 Events!

Talk Up Toastmasters Contest—Feb 1—Mar. 31

DEC Meeting—April 10, 2010—1:30 pm

Spring Conference—May 7th & 8th—Springfield, IL

Beat the Clock Contest—May 1—June 30

For specific date/time/location details on upcoming District Events—check out the “Calendar” link on the District’s website.

District 8 Map

