

The Cornerstone



*Official Bulletin of District 28 Toastmasters Serving
Southeast Michigan, Northwest Ohio, and Southwest Ontario*

Late Fall 2007

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A Funny Thing Did Happen!

*Kevin Olmstead, DTM
District 28 Lt. Governor of Education & Training*

The Park Inn in downtown Toledo, OH was the site for the 2007 District 28 Fall Conference. Over the November 2-3 weekend, 142 individuals attended all or some of the conference, which had the theme "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Park (Inn)". On Friday night, the District 28 Table Topics contest was won by Pam McKerregan from the Shores Club (Division E). That was followed by Friday Fun Night, this time a "talent" show run in the manner of "The Gong Show" by the Laff Out Loud club. (More about Laff Out Loud, the District's "Club of the Quarter", elsewhere in this issue). A good time was had by all.

Saturday saw nine workshops presented during the day, with topics ranging from use of PowerPoint to earning your DTM (done as skit based on "The Wizard of Oz"). The Communication and Leadership Award was presented at the luncheon to Diane Larson, anchor of WTVG Channel 13 News in Toledo. During the District's Hall of Fame Presentation, awards for the 2006-2007 Toastmasters year went to Frank Cooper, DTM for Area Governor of the Year; Y.S. Kim, DTM for Division Governor of the Year; Pam Jones, DTM for Unsung Hero; and Cliff Suttle, ATM-G/CL for Toastmaster of the Year. The finals of the Humorous Speech contest on Saturday afternoon was won by Mildred Matlock, DTM, of Powertalkers Downtown (Division F). The banquet

was elegant, and dancing was done to music supplied by Tommy Ray.

If you're sorry you missed all that, all you have to do is attend the NEXT conference, on May 2-3, 2008, at the Doubletree Hotel in Dearborn, at the intersection of Ford Road and the Southfield Freeway. The theme will be "The Wide World of Toastmasters", with workshops aimed toward international subjects. Club Presidents and VPs-Education should make a special point of attending, as District Elections and Realignment will be on the District Council agenda. (Registration forms are available in this issue and on the D28 website.) If you are interested in being on the Conference Planning Committee or presenting a workshop, contact Scena Webb, Conference Chair (SpringConference@d28toastmasters.org) or Kevin Olmstead, Lt. Governor of Education and Training (LGET@d28toastmasters.org).

Credit Card Option Available

An on-line payment option will soon be available for spring conference registration! A modest surcharge will cover the cost of offering this service. The link will be on the D28 website until April 21. Note: Due to cost considerations, this option will not be available at the conference itself.

www.d28toastmasters.org

SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to our Fall 2007 District 28 speech contest winners:

Table Topics:

- 1st Place – Pamela McKerregan, DTM, Shores
- 2nd Place – Mildred Matlock, DTM, Powertalkers
- 3rd Place – Stuart Foster, Birmingham Toastmasters

Humorous Speech:

- 1st Place – Mildred Matlock, DTM, Powertalkers
- 2nd Place – Guy Nusholtz, ATM-S, Bloomfield Toastmasters
- 3rd Place – Martin Lassers, CTM, Optimistic Orators

DISTRICT 28 HALL OF FAME

The following special awards were announced at this year's Hall of Fame ceremony, held at the Fall 2007 District 28 Conference:

- Chris Hiller Award: UMBS Toastmasters, #849467
- Harold Eastman Award: Washtenaw Toastmasters, #3054
- Area Governor of the Year: Frank Cooper, DTM, Area 20
- Division Governor of the Year: Y.S. Kim, DTM, Division G
- Toastmaster of the Year: Cliff Suttle, ATM-G/CL



During the Fall 2007 District 28 Conference, International Director John Rich, DTM, is interviewed by Diane Larson, anchor of WTVG Channel 13 News in Toledo, and the District's Communication and Leadership Award recipient.

Photos by Max Kohr, AC-S

And In Case You Missed It...



This photo shows the banner District 28 took on the stage at the International Convention in Phoenix in August. (We unfurled the banner again at our fall conference's Hall of Fame ceremony.)

Photo courtesy of Kathleen Wong, DTM, IPDG, District 60

Winter Club Officer Training – Coming Soon!

Kevin Olmstead, DTM

District 28 Lt. Governor of Education & Training

It's December, and that means January isn't far away--and that means that, like Santa Claus, bowl games, and constant showings of 'It's a Wonderful Life', the second round of Club Officer Training is almost here!!! If you're a club officer (or want to become one), whether you took office in July or January, you should try to attend one of the sessions to get tips on how to do your job better. In

addition, getting 4 officers trained at this session will complete the training goal for the Distinguished Club Program. The sessions will be January 12, 2008, at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and January 26, 2008, at Owens Community College in Perrysburg, OH. Further details will be announced soon.

Area Governor Visits – Round Two

Area Governors will soon be scheduling the second round of club visits. Each visit will include the completion of the "Area Report of Club Visit Form" (available at https://ecommerce.toastmasters.org/ecommerce/timssnet_new/timssnet/district/documents/1471-AreaRepClubVisit.pdf) with the club officers.

Your responses are very important, as they help the District Leadership Team with future planning!

District 28 Speakers Bureau

Are you interested in gaining speaking experience outside of regular Toastmasters meetings? The District 28 Speakers Bureau can help make it happen! The Bureau is designed to help members of clubs in District 28 to connect with non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and community agencies looking for high quality speakers to speak to their groups.

*For more information, contact Pam Jones, DTM
District 28 Speakers Bureau Chair
Speakers@d28Toastmasters.org*

Club Officer Elections

Does your club elect officers TWICE a year? If so, now is the time to do so. Afterwards, don't forget to submit your updated officer list to TI headquarters via the Club Business section of www.toastmasters.org. Clubs that elect semi-annually must submit this officer list to TI no later than December 31, 2007, in order to receive credit in the Distinguished Club Program. Also, please make sure that these newly elected officers attend Club Officer Training.

Cornerstone Ideas?

*If you have a story idea or comment you would like to share, please email Cornerstone Editor
Joni Dewan at:*

Cornerstone@d28toastmasters.org

I'm Having Fun – Are You?

Karen Holland, DTM
District 28 Governor



Many friends (in Toastmasters and “not yet in Toastmasters”) have been asking me the same question lately: “*Are you enjoying your year as District 28 Governor?*” My first response—still—is to think “I’m District Governor? Really? Wow!” Eventually I reply “*Yes, I’m having fun!*”

I’m going to try, in this small space, to explain why I think of this job as “fun” and why YOU should consider taking on a leadership position.

When I joined Toastmasters, it was to overcome my terror of speaking in front of groups. After I dealt with that, I wanted to become a better speaker. Then our club’s president left to take a new job (thanks to improved interview skills!) and I found myself elected president of a struggling young club. I must have done a passable job, because I was approached to become an Area Governor, then to run for Division Governor, then....

How did that all happen? Gaining leadership experience was not “The Plan” when I joined Toastmasters. I guess that funny things happen when people gain confidence. We learn to handle

small challenges, and like the feeling when we succeed. We accept, or even look for, larger challenges to tackle. In the process, we overcome our shyness and learn to enjoy working with others. At some point, we realize that we’re having fun, making new friends, and becoming more self-confident than we ever imagined.

I pledged to use this whole District Governor experience as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn, to serve the district, and to have fun. I have the opportunity to work with lots of great people, to meet Toastmasters from all over the District (and the world!), and to help others. Sure, I sometimes get writer’s cramp from signing contracts and reimbursement checks, but I’m having fun!

You, too, can have fun while you learn, make lots of new friends, and become more self-confident than you ever imagined. Consider running for club office. Consider running for District office. Consider volunteering to chair or serve on a District committee.

I’m having fun – are you?

Take My Office, Please!

Karen Holland, DTM
District 28 Governor

At the Spring District Council Meeting during the Spring Conference, club leaders will have the opportunity to select our next District Executive Leadership Team and the Division Governors.

If you have ever desired to serve as the District Governor, Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training, Lieutenant Governor of Marketing, or as one of the seven Division Governors, you should make your candidacy known to Nominating Committee Chairman Todd Brockdorf, DTM, IPDG.

Nomination forms will be available in January and interviews with the Nominating Committee will be conducted in February and March. Those not receiving a

nomination from the Nominating Committee, provided that the candidate meets all requirements for office, as outlined by Toastmasters International, may choose to run from the floor during the Spring District Council Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, May 3, 2008, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Dearborn, Michigan.

Look for additional material to be posted to the d28toastmasters.org website as well as emails from the District Executive Leadership Team and announcements from your Area Governors. In the meantime, if you have questions, feel free to contact Nominating Committee Chairman Todd Brockdorf at IPDG@d28toastmasters.org or (cell) 734-678-6068.

2007-2008 in District 28—The Story So Far

Kevin Olmstead, DTM

District 28 Lt. Governor of Education & Training

As we approach the half-way point in the 2007-2008 Toastmasters year in the District, we should see where we are, and where we have to go to meet our goals.

On the educational award front, we're doing quite well, since as of the Thanksgiving weekend we have 68 CCs, 25 ACs, and 53 Leader awards submitted. The communication awards (CCs and ACs) are considered "Critical Success Factors", and we're well on-track to meeting the goals Toastmasters International has set for us on those (138 and 39, respectively). We have a goal of around 100 Leader (CL, "Old" CL, AL-B, AL-S, and DTM) awards for the year, and we're on track for those as well. Keep up the good work!

A gentle reminder that a member can still submit the "Old CL" (by serving as a club officer for six months, attending club officer training, and presenting two programs from the Successful Club or Leadership Excellence Series) until June 30, 2008. After that, the only way to the CL is through the new CL manual, a GREAT program that your club should be using!

TI also sets goals for the District on number of clubs and member payments. We started the year with 101 clubs, and are now at 102 active clubs, with the loss of one club but the addition of two

clubs, Carhartt and Speak OUT! Our goal is at least 104 paid clubs by June 30, and with several clubs nearing the end of the charter process, we could have that many in the District by January 1. If you know of a community, group, or company that could use a club, please contact Nancy Z.--as members it's ALL our responsibility to increase the network of clubs!

It's also ALL our responsibility to build the number of members in our clubs. As a District, we're doing great, with over 1900 member payments so far this year vs. a goal of just over 4000. At the most recent dues renewal, some clubs submitted the minimum number of payments--we ask those to gather up the 'stragglers' and get them paid, as well as to follow-up with "lost members" who either didn't renew or haven't been seen in a while, to see what's happening with them and what it would take to bring them back. If you need any help with that, again, please contact Nancy Z.

Our goals as a District mesh with your goals as members and the goals of your clubs--for members to continue to learn and grow in communication and leadership, and for clubs to continue to grow and prosper. Following our District theme, we're all Friends, and by helping each other, together we'll carry ourselves, our clubs, and our District on to success.

Welcome to the District!

SpeakOUT! (#1069519) chartered on August 17, 2007. The community club, located in Ferndale, Michigan, is in Division D, Area 18. Club Sponsors are Karen Holland, DTM and Kevin Olmstead, DTM. The Club Mentor is Don Gatewood, AC-G/CL.

Carhartt Toastmasters (#1043835) chartered on September 11, 2007. The company club, located in Dearborn, Michigan, is in Division G, Area 31. Club Sponsors are Karen Holland, DTM and Vera Johnson, DTM. The Club Mentors are Ray Metz, AC-B/CL and Kate Pepin, CTM/CL. The Sponsoring Club is The Toast of Dearborn.

Plan Ahead for Speech Contests!

Not only is it Club Officer Training time, it's also time for the Spring Contest season. Clubs should be planning contests in Evaluation and International Speech to occur in January or February. **NOTE: We've adjusted the previously announced contest dates to allow more time for clubs and areas to hold contests**--check with your Area Governor for details.

The contests will culminate in the District Finals at the Spring Conference in May, with the winner in the International Speech contest advancing to the Region VI competition in Ottawa in June, and possibly the World Championship of Public Speaking in Calgary in August. If you need guidance in setting up your club contests, contact your Area Governor or Kevin Olmstead, District Lt. Governor of Education and Training.

The Spring 2008 District 28 Speech Contest Season will be here before you know it! Contests this season include the International Speech and Evaluation competitions.

The schedule for individual area and division-level contests will be posted to the Contests section of the District website (www.d28toastmasters.org) as they are scheduled.

For details on how to conduct a speech contest and helpful hints to ensure success, please review the handouts attached to the District 28 website under "Resources/Education."

If your club does not already have copies, 2008 Contest Manuals (#1173) and Rules (#1171) are available from the TI on-line store, www.toastmasters.org

Questions regarding how to run a speech contest? Contact the LGET at: LGET@D28.toastmasters.org

Questions regarding contest judging issues? Contact the District Chief Judge, Dulce Renaud, DTM, PDG, at dulced28@yahoo.com, or by calling (h) 586.759.4285. If there's no answer, please leave a message and she'll return the call asap.

The basic schedule is as follows:

Level	No earlier than	No later than
Club Contests	January 1, 2008	February 29, 2008
Area Contests	March 1, 2008	March 29, 2008
Division Contests	March 30, 2008	April 12, 2008
Level	Date	Location
District 28 Evaluation Contest	Friday, May 2, 2008	DoubleTree Hotel Dearborn
District 28 Int'l Speech Contest	Saturday, May 3, 2008	DoubleTree Hotel Dearborn

September Open House Month Contest Results

Clubs that held an Open House or Lunch & Learn during September 2007, AND added at least 3 new, dual or reinstated members during that time were entered into a random drawing. Congratulations to these winning clubs:

1st Place: UMBS Toastmasters - \$70 TI gift certificate

2nd Place: Kahn We Talk - \$30 TI gift certificate

When is YOUR club's next Open House or Lunch & Learn?

To Compete or Not to Compete? That's a Question???

Cliff Suttle, ATM-G/CL

District 28 Champion in Table Topics, Evaluation, Humorous, and International Speech Contests

Of course you should compete. I have competed in many speech contests within Toastmasters. For my efforts I have received some trophies, ribbons, and awards. These mementoes are nice, but they are NOT why competing is so beneficial. The little bronze statue of the speaker standing behind what looks like a bird bath is only the icing on the cake. The real benefits of competing will long outlast the benefits of having a trophy sitting on the shelf.

Not everyone realizes the numerous benefits of competing, so I hope you will join me in exploring the exciting gains that come from competing.

- Learning to get over jitters. It's one thing to learn to speak comfortably in front of your Toastmaster club, it's another to leave the butterflies behind in a contest. At a contest, there are people you don't know, with score cards, taking points off for the littlest things. That's a whole other level of pressure. Learn to be calm in a contest and you can speak anywhere at anytime to anyone.
- It is a great way to improve your speaking skills. As a Toastmaster you give many speeches. You write, practice, and prepare your speech. You present your speech at your club, get evaluated, and move on to the next speech. This is good, but there is an ever better and quicker way to improve your speaking. Keep improving the same speech. Most speech contestants will improve their speech at each successive level of competition. This re-analysis of the speech is a fantastic way to improve your skills. Most contestants will work harder on a contest speech than any other TM speech they will ever do.
- It will benefit your club. A few highly polished speakers in a club really go a long way to creating a strong club. Better speakers serve as an example to others and give stronger evaluations. The gains you make by competing will filter back to your club and make the entire group stronger.
- It will benefit your area, division, and district. The more people that compete in club contests, the better the speakers will be at the next level. Strong area, division, and district contests are great motivation for the entire district to work even harder to become the greatest speakers they can be. It raises the bar for the entire district. If you are in a contest, even if you don't win, you encourage others to follow suit and all the levels of contests improve.
- It's a great way to meet new friends and contacts. Spectators at the contests want to meet the contestants. What a great way to introduce yourself to other Toastmasters throughout your area, division, and/or district. Toastmasters are fascinating people. Getting to know these people on a personal level is an amazing benefit to being in a contest and one that is often overlooked.
- It is a great way to increase unity in your club. As the successful contestants move to the next level, club members will get behind them in a show of support. This support not only benefits the contestant, but the supporters as well. Club unity can go a long way to bolstering club strength.
- Club contests make a great open house event for potential new members. When guests see your better speakers performing some of their best work, they really see the benefits of being a Toastmaster.
- Contests are a great way to get press. Advertising contests in newspapers, local cable ad boards, and the radio is a great way to draw in perspective new members.
- And of course...there are always the TROPHIES!

I started a campaign a couple of years back to get more people competing. I speak on this subject whenever I can to whoever will listen. More clubs in our district are having contests and more people are participating. I'm not sure how much my small efforts have contributed to this improvement, but I know if everyone continues to share the benefits of competing, together we can't fail. Please join me in spreading the word.

If you want to send me feedback on this article, contribute ideas to the cause, are just to say hello, you can email me at Cliff@CliffSuttle.com. GOOD LUCK IN YOUR NEXT CONTEST!

Communication and Leadership Contests

Kevin Olmstead, DTM

District 28 Lt. Governor of Education & Training

In honor of “Talk Like a Pirate Day” in September, the Educational Contests this fall centered on leading (captaining) a ship, and on finding your “treasure” by completing speaking projects.

Drawings were conducted at the October District Executive Committee meeting. One prize (\$15 in gift certificates for the Toastmasters International bookstore, i.e., the one you get to through the TI website) was available for every 10 awards in a category.

“X Marks the Spot” - D28 Education Award Contest

Designed to recognize and reward members who complete and submit communication awards to TI between July 1 – September 30, 2007, congratulations to:

- Competent Communicator: Anjali Gamble, Compucators; Shirley Mitchell, Success Builders; Anthony Ross, Toastaholics; Jim Sobetski, Northline Nooners; Mary Ellen Warner, Optimistic Orators
- Advanced Communicator-Bronze: Tho Diep, Saturday Sunrisers; Laura Mackiewicz, Unity IV

- Advanced Communicator-Silver: Tara Kachaturoff, Top of Troy
- Advanced Communicator-Gold: Paula Demarest, Simply Speaking

Captain Your Ship - D28 Leadership Award Contest

Designed to recognize and reward members who complete and submit leadership awards to TI between July 1 – September 30, 2007, congratulations to:

- Competent Leader (the “old” or “new” version): Robynn Diamond, Kahn We Talk; Anjali Gamble, Compucators; Pam Jones, Toastaholics
- Advanced Leader-Bronze: Bill Moylan, Great Lakes Real Orators
- Advanced Leader-Silver: Frank Cooper, Optimistic Orators

Many of these prizes were delivered in person or via others. If you're a winner and have not received your prize, please contact Kevin Olmstead at LGET@d28toastmasters.org to set up delivery.

For more information on upcoming contests, visit the District 28 web site: www.d28toastmasters.org.

District 28 “Race for the DCP” Program

This contest will recognize clubs that achieve Distinguished Club status (or higher) by the time of the Spring District 28 Conference, scheduled for May 2-3, 2008. Details to be announced!

This year we have a wonderful Club Coach Team, Chaired by Pamela Williams. For more information on the Club Coach program, including how to become a Club Coach, or how to secure a Club Coach for your club, please contact her at (W) 313-966-0925, or ClubRebuilding@d28toastmasters.org

Membership Building Contests

Nancy Zychowicz, AC-G/CL
District 28 Lt. Governor of Marketing

Fast Start – District 28 Contest

It's official and the results are in—the final numbers in the Fast Start Membership Contest! As you might recall, the rules were simple:

- All clubs competed in the category reflecting the base membership in the club at the beginning of the Toastmaster year—July 1, 2007.
- The clubs attaining the highest percentage of membership increase in their category through September 30, 2007, win.

We had one tie for 3rd place, and decided to award each of those clubs a \$10 certificate. Beyond 3rd place, additional clubs listed will receive honorary mention certificates.

Congratulations to all of these clubs who worked so hard to bring in new members. And I extend a special acknowledgement to all of the clubs in District 28 who work hard to not only support their current members' goals, but also seek to extend the Toastmasters experience to others with ongoing membership efforts throughout the year.

CATEGORY: 6-12 BASE

1 ST Odette School of Business	>137%
2 nd NSF	> 55%
3 rd Tier 1 Talkers	30%
BCBSM Metro Masters	

4 th Lenawee Evening Toast	>27%
5 th Downriver Ambassadors	20%

CATEGORY: 13-19 BASE

1 ST Oak Park	> 47% *
2 nd Momentum	> 22% *
3 rd Leamington	> 21% *

4 th Speakers Corner/LTU	20%
5 th Success Builders	>14%

CATEGORY: 20+ BASE

1 ST Toast of Dearborn	65%
2 nd i Talk Toastmasters	> 28%
3 rd Compucators	> 27%

4 th Huron Valley Toast of Masco	25%
5 th Troy Toastmasters	22.72727%
6 th Michigan Toastmasters	22.222222

Certificates are redeemable at the District 28 Book Store, and are to be used to purchase supplies for the club. Certificates expire 6-30-2008.

(1st Prize: \$20 D28 Bookstore Certificate; 2nd Prize: \$15; 3rd Prize: \$10)

The Smedley Award – TI Contest

Named for TI's founder, Dr. Ralph C. Smedley, this program recognizes clubs that add five or more new members during the months of August and September, 2007. Congratulations to:

The Toast of Dearborn	13 new members
Michigan Toastmasters	6 new members
iTalk Toastmasters	5 new members
Leamington Toastmasters	5 new members

For more information on the Annual Membership Program, The Smedley Award, and other TI-sponsored membership building contests, visit the TI web site:

<https://www.toastmasters.org/fupload/media/1620%20-%20Simply%20Amazing.pdf>

For District 28 contest, or questions about membership building, contact Nancy Zychowicz at LGM@d28toastmasters.org.

Club of the Quarter--Laff Out Loud

*Joni Dewan, AC-B/CL
Cornerstone Editor*

At the International Convention in 2002, a fabulous idea came to Toastmasters Pam McKerregan and Marilyn Albee. They decided to start a specialty club where the main premise was to encourage members to add humor to their speeches. And so, the idea for a Toastmaster club called Laff Out Loud began.

By the close of the 2002 Convention, 20+ District 28 Toastmasters had signed up. Unfortunately, the club struggled to find a meeting place and time that would be convenient for everyone, and thus, the Club did not charter. In 2004, nearly two years after the idea was first hatched, some of the original 'members' decided to give it another try. And so it began...again. Laff Out Loud chartered on June 30, 2004, just in time to provide a new club to make the District distinguished.

Eighteen months later, the club found itself struggling once again, due primarily to a bad location and an unwieldy format. The four remaining members asked the District for help and, in February 2006, District Governor Tony Slawinski appointed Al and Marilyn Albee as club coaches. During the next four months, with special assistance from Frank Cooper, the club steadily grew. By the end of June 2006, not only had the club membership grown from four to twenty-one, but the club was also Distinguished. Laff Out Loud earned President's Distinguished Status in June 2007 and expects to be Distinguished or better again in June 2008. (The moral of the story: If your club is broken, FIX IT!)

The current, dedicated membership of 23 has returned the club to its original mission – to teach, assist and encourage the use of humor in speaking. The hour-and-a-half meetings on the second Thursday of every month are similar to advanced club meetings with speakers receiving feedback from all attendees in a round-robin evaluation. The club accepts members who are either already Toastmasters or who are new to the organization.

Not only are the members creative during the meetings, their creativity cannot be overlooked outside of the meetings as well. The club recently undertook a project to sponsor and organize the Fall Conference's Friday Fun Night. Thus was born "Toastmasters Got Talent? Oy!" – a talent? show patterned after "The Gong Show". Fifteen club members participated in the show as they demonstrated their creative use of humor and other talents. A good time was had by all.

Because of the passion and persistence of our fellow Toastmasters and the example they have set for all of us, *Laff Out Loud* is this Cornerstone's Club of the Quarter.

Laff Out Loud meeting the second Thursday of each month, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Denny's Restaurant, 39550 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. Contact Frank at 248-473-0697 (h) or fecooper@msn.com for more information.



Back row: David Haslam, Bob Russell, Russ Navarre, Dolores Harris, Keith Wilson, Al Albee, Wayne Buchanec, Frank Cooper, Kevin Olmstead, Karen Holland; *Center row:* Chuck Kressbach, Curt Gottlieb, Karen Bulmanski, Marilyn Albee; *Seated, in front:* Maureen Hurley, Pam McKerregan. (Not pictured: Christy Eason, Ken Egevari, Jeff Heinfling, Ray Metz, Dulce Renaud, Gretchen Vroman, Harold Vroman)

The Differentiator

Tammé Quinn Grzebyk, CTM

Are you fascinated by the inter-workings of a message? By how it's delivered and how it's received? Like you, I am a student of public speaking. So, when I was new to the corporate world (many years ago), I was fascinated by the leaders in my company and how they sold to clients, how they led their teams, and how they wooed Wall Street. I learned my skills from these real people; I honed my skills here. And, when I departed the company, I faced the sad reality that great speaking was not the status quo in corporate America.

How great it would be if more companies encouraged their employees to be part of a Toastmasters Club. Imagine the impact on cross-functional communication, projects outcomes, and bottom-line impact. Toastmasters provide that highly elusive place where positive feedback and constant support from our peers increases our presentation skills, relieves numerous fears and ultimately aids in our ability to lead.

And, now during challenged economic times, where businesses are competing for limited dollars, and people are competing for limited jobs, the Toastmaster member has the upper hand. While stress and fears leave most people's approaches disparate from their values, our Toastmasters' skills help us to be focused, organized and able to connect even during difficult times. These three acquired skills are *required skills* among the strong, among the most effective leaders.

Organize

In hectic times, more needs to be done with less. And, while we may feel as if we're doing the work of three people, it may be time to sit back, take a deep breath, and organize. The more organized we are, the more we can get accomplished. Spend a weekend getting your life in order. Set up the best filing system. Create and follow a method for processing incoming items. Do whatever is necessary to get the random thought in your head onto paper. Free yourself to focus on what really matters. Let the other stuff fall to the wayside, or delegate it to someone who can more effectively handle the situation. The goal with organizing is to make it easier for your brain to get more done. Our Toastmaster Club teaches us how to organize our speeches. Apply the same techniques to your life. Fill the body with what's most important. Cut the rest out. (David Allen's book,

"Getting Things Done," is a great tool to help sift through the madness.)

Focus

Messages from our neighbors or the media provide us all with too much useless information. Success guru, Napoleon Hill, discovered the best leaders were those who were accurate thinkers. Consider the information you are bombarded with each day. Separate fact from fiction, and purge the fiction; others' opinions are a waste of time. Instead, look at the truth that enters each day, and first focus on those facts that help you come closer to your goals. Some facts might be interesting, but if they do not guide you closer to your goals, they are secondary, in terms of importance. As Toastmasters, we weed through information regularly to determine the importance to our audience. Daily, we should be doing the same for ourselves.

Connect

It is so easy for communication to suffer when there is too much to do and when stress and fear are drivers. Connecting is a key to success, and leaders are able to connect during such times. You're a Toastmaster. You understand how to communicate a message, how to read your audience, and how to make adjustments along the way. And you know how to do this under pressure and stress of your own. This is your time to shine. It's a time to connect and lead people to a better and more stable ground.

We Toastmasters have learned skills necessary to transform our organizations, employees, and clients. We are like the leaders of the company where I began my career. We, during the most uncomfortable times, know how to organize, how to focus, and how to connect; we do these for an audience, after all. We're Toastmasters. Are we doing our part to lead us out of rough times?

Tammé Quinn Grzebyk has been a Toastmaster in various Michigan clubs. Her company VerbalWise, LLC (www.verbalwise.com) helps organizations align people and process for improved productivity. Her partnership in The Mastermind Institute allows her to help individuals find success, even in a tough economy. She can be reached at tamme@verbalwise.com.

*Celebrating a Club Anniversary?
Want to Recognize a Member's Special Achievement?
Advanced Club Looking for New Members?*

Advertise in the Spring 2008 District Conference Program!

All ads within the program are black ink on white paper. Please choose one of the following (prices in U.S. dollars):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Page - \$100 - 8.5x11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1/4 Page - \$25 - 4.25x5.5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1/2 Page - \$50 - 8.5x5.5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1/8 Page - \$15 - 4.25x2.75 |

Back Cover - \$250 - Full-color, full-page! Premium advertising spot! Only one available!

DEADLINE: April 18, 2008

Please make cash, check, or money order payable to "District 28 Toastmasters." Mail with this form to:
Kevin Olmstead, 2 Northwick Court, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Include non-returnable ad copy and artwork or email to LGET@d28toastmasters.org

Our staff will design the ad for you or cut & paste from your PDF document.

Questions? Get answers at 734.239.3733.

Your Name _____ Phone # _____ Email _____

The Cornerstone goes Electronic

You are reading *The Cornerstone*, the official newsletter for our District. As such, it is the only communication that the District has directly with every member within our District, as we give YOU important information about upcoming contests, officer training conferences, and educational award opportunities.

We are committed to continuing to provide this crucial information link to our members. However, printing and mailing *The Cornerstone* is very expensive. In 2006, it cost us roughly \$1100 to print and mail each edition out to each of the roughly 1800 members of our District. To better utilize our

resources, the District converted publication to a primarily electronic format, with a PDF posted on the District website, www.d28toastmasters.org. We do realize that some of our members have older computer systems or no computer at all, and so have limited or no access to the Internet. Others simply prefer to receive a printed copy of the newsletter.

If you would prefer to receive your issues of *The Cornerstone* in paper form, please let us know by sending an e-mail to PRO@d28toastmasters.org or by sending a note to the Cornerstone Editor. We will then happily put you on the list to receive a mailed or hand-delivered copy of the newsletter.



The Wide World of Toastmasters

www.d28toastmasters.org

District 28
2008 Spring Conference
 May 2-3, 2008
 Dearborn, MI

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Toastmaster Designation (ex: AC-B/CL) _____ -OR- Are you a GUEST of a Toastmaster? ()

Address _____ City _____

State/Province _____ Postal Code _____ E-mail _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (Cell) _____

Club Name/Number _____ Area/Division _____

Is this your first District Conference? () No () Yes Current club officer? () No () Yes _____

Conference Choices	Description	Cost (US \$)	Your Total
Full package	All Workshops, Evaluation Contest, International Speech Contest, all meals including a FULL Saturday Breakfast Buffet and Friday Fun Night entertainment	\$99 (\$109 after 3/31/08)	
Friday Evening	Evaluation Contest, Dinner and Friday Fun Night <i>(casual attire suggested)</i>	\$25	
Friday (contest only)	Evaluation Contest	\$15	
Saturday (all day, with meals)	All Workshops, International Speech Contest, FULL Breakfast Buffet, Lunch, Cookie Break and Dinner	\$85 (\$95 after 3/31/08)	
Saturday (all day, without meals)	All Educational Sessions and International Speech Contest	\$35	
Saturday (a.m.)	Morning Workshops, Breakfast Buffet and Lunch	\$45	
Saturday (p.m.)	Lunch, Afternoon Workshops, Cookie Break, International Speech Contest	\$45	
Saturday (lunch only)	Luncheon and Luncheon Keynote Speaker	\$25	
Saturday (dinner only)	District Governor's Banquet <i>(semi-formal attire suggested)</i>	\$35	
Saturday (contest only)	International Speech Contest	\$15	

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS/CHEQUES/MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO: DISTRICT 28 TOASTMASTERS

Payment Method: () Check () Money Order Check/MO Number _____ Total Cost \$ _____

DON'T FORGET TO MAKE YOUR MEAL SELECTIONS! (Please circle your choices.)

Friday Night	Lunch	Dinner
Smoked Turkey & Swiss Wrap -or- Chicken Salad/ Dried Cranberry Wrap -or- Hummus & Grilled Vegetable Wrap	Grilled Chicken Alfredo -or- Roasted Pork Loin -or- White Bean & Orzo Napoleon (Vegetarian)	Grilled Chicken & Polenta -or- Herb-Seared Salmon -or- Garlicky Spinach & Mushrooms over Spring Vegetable Cous Cous (Veg.)

Please let us know if you have any special dietary restrictions.

Mail Registrations by April 21, 2008, to:

Jason Schumacher, ATM-B/CL, Registration Chair
 c/o 2 Northwick Court, Ann Arbor, MI 48105
 (cell) 734-646-7058, jasonschumacher@eml.cc
 (NOTE: Additional \$10 fee for registrations sent after the submission deadline (including on-site registrations))

For more information, contact:

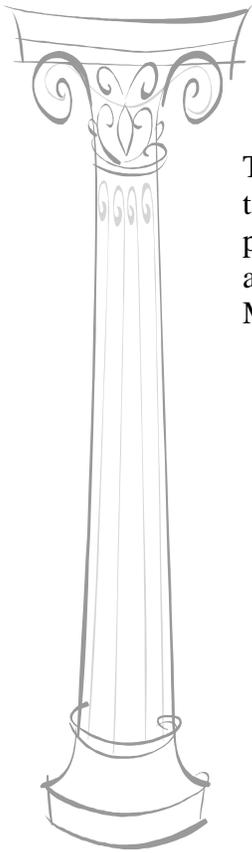
Scena Webb, ATM-S/CL, Conference Chair
 (H) 313-468-2942 (after 5 p.m.) or fax (24 hr) 734-532-7864
 Email: SpringConference@d28toastmasters.org

Hotel Information:

DOUBLETREE HOTEL DEARBORN

5801 Southfield Freeway
 Detroit, MI 48228
 (313) 336-3340 or 1-800-222-TREE.
 Mention "Toastmasters" for special room rate of \$95 (double or king).

The Toastmasters rate is good through 4/11/08.



Cornerstone Staff and Publishing Information

The Cornerstone is an information tool for members and the general public of District 28. Comments and ideas are always welcome.

Mail them to:

Joni Dewan
c/o 5392 Mill Race Way
Commerce Twp., MI 48382

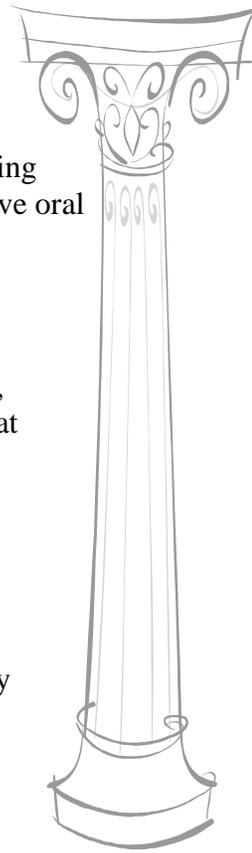
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ATM-B/CL

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Training:** Kevin Olmstead, DTM
Lt. Governor Marketing:
Nancy Zychowicz, AC-G/CL

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

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

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



District 28 of Toastmasters International
c/o 5392 Mill Race Way
Commerce Twp., MI 48382