

# The Cornerstone



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

*Late-Spring 2008*

*Volume XIX, Issue 5*

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## **We Enjoyed the Wide World of Toastmasters!**

*Kevin Olmstead, DTM*

*District 28 Lt. Governor of Education & Training*

With the theme of the District 28 Spring Conference on May 2-3 being “The Wide World of Toastmasters”, we indeed saw a wide range of presentations at the Doubletree Dearborn befitting a truly “International” District.

Friday night featured the finals of our Evaluation Contest, with the Test Speaker Bud Watkins, District 40 Governor (mostly southern Ohio). (See page 3 for results.) Friday Fun Night was led by Claudia Scott, and had several groups doing various song and dance routines from a wide variety of cultures. A good time was had by all.

Saturday saw a presentation by International Director John Rich, then workshops on topics as diverse as getting over the U.S.-Canadian border and use of humor in speaking. At the luncheon we honored two Communication and Leadership Award recipients: WXYZ-TV (Detroit Channel 7) weekend anchor Glenda Lewis, and her mother, WXYZ-TV weekday anchor Diana Lewis. Glenda

got to present the award to her mom as an early Mother’s Day surprise.

The District Council meeting agenda was jam-packed, but managed to end on time. The International Speech contestants were amazing. (See page 3 for these results, too.) The banquet was an elegant event, with music provided by DJ Tommy Ray.

Thank you to Conference Chair Anthony “Tone” Ross, everybody who served on the Conference Organizing Committee, and the staff at the Doubletree Dearborn for helping to put on an outstanding conference.

All Toastmasters in the District are invited to have a scarily good time by attending the Fall 2008 Conference, “Toastmasters Tricks and Treats”, October 31 and November 1, 2008, at the Clarion Hotel in Toledo!

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## **Help Wanted**

Is it time for you to s-t-r-e-t-c-h beyond the comfort of your home club? We need Toastmasters who are interested in helping with the Fall 2008 conference, being an Area Governor, serving on a District-wide committee, participating in new club kick-off meetings, etc. These positions provide excellent opportunities to improve your communication AND leadership skills. Contact a District Officer for more information.

## Thank YOU!!

Karen Holland, DTM  
District 28 Governor



Friends -

A few weeks ago, I received a letter from Toastmasters International President Chris Ford. It began:

*“Ten months into your term as District Governor, and you’re still in amazingly fine shape, right!? Think back on all that has transpired since the first of July last year.... yes, the good, the bad, and even the ugly! You know by now that leadership has its ups and downs. One day the plan is unfolding as it should, goals are being met, your team is happy, and you sleep well at night. The next day you’re asking yourself: “what was I thinking when I said I wanted to be the DG!?” This is the natural cycle of leadership, the inevitable ebb and flow when you are the CEO of a large, complex and diverse organization known as ....The District!”*

Mr. Ford was so right.

I only got used to being called “the DG” about February, yet soon my term of office will be over. Starting July 1, my new title will be Immediate Past District Governor. Hmmm...nice ring to it.

These past ten months have been:

- An amazing journey
- A challenge
- A great opportunity
- And at times, a pain in the tush!

And I’ve loved almost every minute of it. And I think that I’m going to miss it.

- Not the alarm going off early on Saturday mornings, to rush to set up for District Executive Committee meetings.
- Or the three tons of stuff that I’ve needed to haul to the conferences.
- Or the “issues” that it’s been MY job to handle.
- Or *Robert’s Rules of Order*.

What I will miss is the intense level of interaction a District Governor has with so many people, from the club level, to the District, right down to the International level. While it can be exhausting, it really is rewarding.

I will also miss the opportunity to see that certain spark in a member, and be able to say “Hey, how would you like to learn something new and help me with this project, or serve on that committee?”

Actually, I’ll still be able to do both of those things, won’t I? That means being IPDG is like being DG, without the paperwork. Cool!

Before I close, I must take the time to say thank you.

- Thank you to all of my friends who are helping to make this such a successful year.
- To my friends on The District Executive Committee, for all of your hard work and support.
- To my friends in my many clubs, who understood when I needed to miss meetings due to District commitments, and conversely, sat through countless presentations about District projects and patiently let me pick your brains, before, during and after the meetings.
- To Frank....

*In the end, that’s what this year has been all about. “Friends Helping Friends” — Helping to Try — Helping to Learn — Helping to Grow — Helping to Lead — Helping to Succeed —*

Because in Toastmasters, that’s what we do.  
Together.

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## 2008-2009 Club Officer Elections

If your club has not already done so, please remember to hold club officer elections ASAP. Also, please remember to submit your new club

officer information to TI via <http://www.toastmasters.org/Members.aspx>, under the "Conduct Club Business" section.

## She Likes Us, She Really Likes Us!

*Karen Holland, DTM*  
*District 28 Governor*

Checking one's e-mails can be boring, but not when the subject line is "*D-28 Presidential Visit, April 23-26, 2009.*" We are delighted to announce that District 28 will host a Presidential Visit by incoming International President Jana Barnhill at the District's Spring 2009 Conference!

District 28 was NOT originally scheduled for a presidential visit during 2008-2009, but because of a scheduling problem with another district, TI headquarters gave Ms. Barnhill a list of optional districts to visit, and SHE PICKED US! Apparently, she forgives us for "Project Jana!," the highly successful High Performance Leadership Project conducted in 2006-2007 by several

members from District 28, and sponsored by Dearborn Dynamic Toastmasters. (In case you don't know, "Project Jana!" involved the distribution of 1,000 business cards around District 28, Region VI and the 2006 International Convention that asked Toastmasters from all around the globe to send Jana her an e-mail on her birthday, February 1, 2007.)

A Presidential Visit Committee is being formed, which will work in coordination with TI headquarters to organize this very special event. Details will be announced as arrangements are made.

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## Speech Contest Winners

Congratulations to our Spring 2008 District 28 speech contest winners!

### **Evaluation Contest:**

1st Place – Mildred Matlock, DTM, Powertalkers  
2nd Place – Cliff Suttle, ATM-G, Dearborn Dynamic  
3rd Place – Joyce Wiazowski, CC/AL-B, Top of Troy

### **International Speech Contest:**

1st Place – Jeff Hampton, AC-B/CL, Birmingham  
2nd Place – Mildred Matlock, DTM, Powertalkers  
3rd Place – Collyer Smith, Washtenaw

**Good luck to Jeff Hampton as he moves on to compete at the Region VI International Speech contest on Saturday, June 7, 2008, at the Region VI Conference in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.**

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## District Council Meeting Results

We are pleased to announce the results of the District 28 Officer elections. For terms running July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009, the following Toastmasters will lead our District:

District Governor - Kevin Olmstead, DTM  
Lt. Gov. Education & Training - Nancy Zychowicz, DTM  
Lt. Gov. Marketing - Vera Johnson, DTM

Division A Governor - Kathy Varga, CC  
Division B Governor - Gayle Lawson, ATM-S  
Division C Governor - Stephen Gorham, ATM-B/CL  
Division D Governor - Bob Russell, ATM-B  
Division E Governor - Jeanne Beauvais, AC-B  
Division F Governor - Robynn Diamond, CC/CL  
Division G Governor - Frank Cooper, DTM  
Division H Governor – John Voymas, ATM-B

Area Governor and other key appointments are still being made and will be announced in the near future.

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## Proxies

In late March, TI headquarters sent all club presidents a large powder blue envelope, containing the club's proxies for the Region VI Conference and International Convention. It's important that we collect as many of these as possible. If you have

not already done so, please sign and mail your club's Regional/International proxy cards to current District Governor Karen Holland ASAP. (The address is on the card.)

## \*\*\*\*Attention All Club Officers & All Members\*\*\*\*

### TLI? What is THAT, and Why Should I Care?

Nancy Zychowicz, DTM

District 28 Lt. Governor of Marketing

***“Toastmasters Leadership Institute: (TLI): A recommended option or alternative which Districts may choose to provide Club Officer Training.”***

While the phrase and definition won't be found in Webster's Dictionary, the above statement was taken directly from the (mini) manual entitled “Toastmasters Leadership Institute,” available from Toastmasters International. Information in quotes in this article is from the same source.

What does TLI mean for you, your club, and the club's members?

**First: Proper training for club officers—“This is the primary purpose of a TLI.”**

If you have agreed to serve as a club officer this coming Toastmasters year, please accept the heartfelt congratulations and gratitude from the District 28 Leadership Team. Having well-trained and effective club officers is the life-blood of any vibrant, successful club—the members of your club deserve nothing less. The training the officers will receive, the opportunity to network, sharing ideas and different perspectives will directly contribute to supporting the goals and objectives of the club and the individual members.

**Second: “A TLI (can) provide supplemental training and educational opportunities to other Toastmasters consistent with the Missions of Toastmasters International and the District.”**

- Are you a new or “newer” member?
- Did you join Toastmasters with a specific goal in mind?
- Perhaps you've achieved that goal, but are looking for more?
- Are you a veteran member?
- Perhaps you're not even thinking about becoming a club officer!

- Perhaps you've already served as a club officer but are interesting in getting still more from your Toastmasters experience.

If you are interested in:

- Growing
- Learning
- Developing skills that could help you get a date!
- Stepping outside your comfort zone--with plenty of support, and expanding your horizons along the way!
- Improving your leadership and speaking skills
- Learning skills that will help you communicate more effectively with your kids!
- Leading or being a part of a project team
- Speech, or Table Topics, or Evaluation competition
- Unbelievable speaking opportunities: outside of the club, and into the world.
- Honing your ability to be a more effective leader in your community, your church, your synagogue, the schools, or with a special cause or approach to life in which you believe.
- Leadership opportunities: beyond your club, all the way to the International level!
- Enhancing the kinds of skills needed for that next promotion or new career opportunity.
- Conducting a workshop.
- Working towards becoming a professional speaker--or simply presenting at the level of a professional speaker.
- Understanding the unique circumstances and challenges facing corporate clubs
- The WOW Open House: The kind of event that can have a huge impact on your club, your schools, and other organizations.

...To cite but a few examples of what you might find at Toastmasters Leadership Institute.

**Teaser:** The following workshop has been scheduled at both TLI sessions: *“Laughter & Off the Cuff Speaking: Have fun competing, and learn along the way!”*

## TLI (continued)

### Finally: Who can attend TLI?

“Current and incoming Club Officers should be invited and encouraged to attend. Toastmasters not holding Club Office but interested in learning about or improving their Toastmasters leadership and communication skills may...also attend.”

### Postscript Perspective:

Officers: As some of these “non officer” sessions will occur simultaneously with Club Officer Training times, it’s important other members of your club attend TLI. This will enable your club

and the members to reap the greatest benefit from the complete TLI experience.

**Non Officers:** If you’ve never stepped out of the club; if you’re wondering if you could benefit from this experience; if you’re at all interested in improving your leadership and communication skills, come and join us!

If you’ve attended “Club Officer Training” before, come back and check out the opportunities at the District 28 Toastmasters Leadership Institute.

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## TLI Schedule

Saturday, June 21, 2008, at the University of Michigan-Dearborn in the Social Sciences Building. A map and driving directions are at: [http://www.umd.umich.edu/maps\\_directions/](http://www.umd.umich.edu/maps_directions/)

Saturday, July 12, 2008, at Owens Community College (Toledo campus) in the Audio/Visual Building. A map and driving directions are at: [https://www.owens.edu/about\\_owens/maps.html](https://www.owens.edu/about_owens/maps.html)

For both sessions, the Registration Desk opens at 8:00 AM, the program begins at 8:30 AM, and we’ll wrap up about 12:30 PM. By the way, it’s FREE! Being properly trained is important for your development as a leader.

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## Congratulations to our Newest DTMs!



District 28 traditionally congratulates those who reach the Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) designation with a special ceremony lovingly called “The Gauntlet.” At each conference, new DTMs are invited to step forward, receive their DTM ribbon, and shake hands with the other DTMs in attendance. Unfortunately, Scena Webb needed to move out of state shortly before the Spring Conference, so the DTMs posed for this picture before sending the ribbon and poster to Scena. Congratulations, Scena! We’ll miss you! Our other spring DTM recipients were: Nancy Zychowicz, Amin Ladha (not pictured) and Marilyn Albee and Kevin Olmstead (second or greater DTMs).

## Communication and Leadership Contests

Kevin Olmstead, DTM

District 28 Lt. Governor of Education & Training

In honor of the opening of Spring Training, the Educational Contests this spring centered on making ten “strikes” to complete speech projections, and “springing” to the front to be a leader. 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.

### “Strike TEN!” - D28 Education Award Contest

Designed to recognize and reward members who complete and submit communication awards to TI between January 1 – March 31, 2008, congratulations to:

- Competent Communicator: Elizabeth Atkins, DETROIT ROCKS!; David Haslam, Laff Out Loud; Tracie Hendrix, Respectively Speaking; James Mann, C-Notes Advanced; David Pridemore, The Toast of Dearborn
- Advanced Communicator-Bronze: Linda Dean, Hi Nooners; Gary Mach, First Center
- Advanced Communicator-Silver: John Middents, Huron Valley

- Advanced Communicator-Gold: The only AC-Gold was Nancy Zychowicz, who as a Top Three officer was ineligible for a prize.

### “Spring Into the Lead” - D28 Leadership Award Contest

Designed to recognize and reward members who complete and submit leadership awards to TI between January 1 – March 31, 2008, congratulations to:

- Competent Leader (the “old” or “new” version): Marjolein De Sterke, Leamington; Debra Lynn Whitcum, Toledo
- Advanced Leader-Bronze: Tim Lomas, Monroe
- Advanced Leader-Silver: Scena Webb, New Center

*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](mailto:LGET@d28toastmasters.org) to set up delivery.*

*For more information on upcoming contests, visit the District 28 web site: [www.d28toastmasters.org](http://www.d28toastmasters.org).*

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## Distinguished Expectations Contest

We want to encourage you and your clubs to submit your communication and leadership awards during June so that your club makes Distinguished or better. This will be a streamlined version of the contests we've done earlier this Toastmasters year. Everybody submitting a CC or AC during June will be entered in a drawing for a CC manual, with one manual given away for every 10 awards. Also, everybody submitting a CL (including taking advantage of the last month when you can submit an Old CL), or an AL will be entered in a drawing for a CL manual, again with one manual given away for every 10 awards. Winners will be announced in the next issue of the Cornerstone. Get those awards in, and meet YOUR Distinguished Expectations!

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## Welcome to the District!

**Toastmasters on Greenfield** (#1160440) chartered on March 30, 2008. The community club, located at the Baha'i Center in Detroit, Michigan, is in Division F, Area 26. Club Sponsors are Cathy Howard-Lindemann, ACS/CL and Barbara Weems, ATMB. The Club Mentors are Robynn Diamond, CC/CL and Pam Jones, DTM.

**Toast of the Town** (#1033242) chartered on May 1, 2008. This community club, located in Detroit, is in Division F, Area 26. The Club Sponsor is Will Wilson, CTM/CL and the Club mentor is Cathy Howard-Lindemann, AC-S/CL.

# Membership Building Contests

Nancy Zychowicz, DTM

District 28 Lt. Governor of Marketing

## Pick Up the Pace – 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 as of January 1, 2008.
- The clubs attaining the highest percentage of membership increase in their category through March 31, 2008, win.

*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 <sup>st</sup> Odette School of Business | 75.00% |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bay Area                  | 40.00% |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Advanced Articulators     | 33.33% |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cadtower Hour of Power    | 33.33% |

### CATEGORY: 13-19 BASE

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Top of Troy            | 56.25% |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oak Park               | 41.18% |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Credible Communicators | 28.57% |
| Honorable Mentions:                    |        |
| Motor City Speak Easy                  | 26.27% |
| Speaker's Corner                       | 23.08% |

### CATEGORY: 20+ BASE

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Success Talkers | 42.86% |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Windsor         | 34.48% |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Michigan        | 27.78% |
| Honorable Mentions:             |        |
| Birmingham                      | 26.83% |
| Canton Communicators            | 26.67% |

Gift certificates will be distributed to club presidents attending the Toastmasters Leadership Institutes at UM-Dearborn on June 21 or Owens Community College on July 12. Certificates are redeemable at the District 28 Book Store, and are to be used to purchase supplies for the club.

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

## Talk Up Toastmasters! – TI Contest

Congratulations to the following clubs, who added 5 or more members during February 1 - March 31:

- Success Talkers – 9 members
- Top of Troy – 9 members
- Tecumseh Area – 7 members
- Bloomfield Toastmasters – 5 members
- Huron Valley – 5 members
- Oak Park Toastmasters – 5 members
- Respectively Speaking – 5 members
- Washtenaw Toastmasters - 5 members
- Windsor Toastmasters – 5 members

Each of these clubs will receive a special ribbon from Toastmasters International, as well as a free educational module from the *Better Speaker, Successful Club, or Leadership Excellence Series*.

## "Beat the Clock!" - TI Contest

Add five new, dual or reinstated members to your club between May 1 and June 30, and you will receive a special Beat the Clock! ribbon to display on your club's banner, and your club can choose one item from *The Better Speakers Series, The Leadership Excellence Series or The Successful Club Series*. These seven- to 15-minute modules focus on speaking, leadership and club success, with topics such as: Take the Terror Out of a Talk, Building a Team and Evaluate to Motivate.

Don't let time run out! We encourage you to "Beat the Clock!"

## Annual Membership Program – TI Contest

This program runs July 1 – June 30, and acknowledges individuals who have sponsored five, 10, 15 or more members (new, dual or reinstated) during the program. Prizes include:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <i>Find Your Voice. Serve Your World.</i> Pin | 5 members  |
| Gold Star pin                                 | 10 members |
| Toastmasters necktie or scarf                 | 15 members |

*For more information on TI-sponsored membership building contests, visit the TI web site:*

<http://www.toastmasters.org/NonNavigableDocs/200708MembershipContests.aspx>

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

# It's Open House Month (and a Half)!

*Karen Holland, DTM*  
*District 28 Governor*

District 28 sponsored Open House Month contests in September 2007 and March 2008. After the spring conference, we decided to hold an event bigger contest, so we have declared May 15 – June 30, 2008 as “Open House Month-and-a-Half”! That means that ALL clubs are encouraged to hold at least one Open House or Lunch and Learn before June 30, designed to attract new members to the club.

New members are great. They can help to reinvigorate a club in so many ways that help to increase club quality. But wait, there's more! For community or specialty clubs that hold an Open House or for corporate clubs that hold a Lunch and Learn during this time period AND sign up 3 new

members, their club will be entered into a drawing for valuable prizes.

Additional information is available on the D28 website ([d28toastmasters.org](http://d28toastmasters.org)) -> Resources -> Open House/Lunch and Learn Resource Package. Contest details, official entry forms, a press release, and tips for a successful event are all posted there.

Additional questions? Contact me at:  
[Governor@d28toastmasters.org](mailto:Governor@d28toastmasters.org).

Also, congratulations to the winners of the March 2008 Open House Contest:  
1<sup>st</sup> Place - Motor City Speak Easy (\$70 TI gift cert.)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Tecumseh Toastmasters (\$30 gift cert.)

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## Please Save These Dates

Please mark the following dates on your calendar:

### **June 6-7, 2008**

Region VI Conference – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

### **August 13-16, 2008**

International Convention - TELUS Convention Centre - Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
(Information about the convention is available in the April issue of the *Toastmaster* magazine!)

### **October 31 - November 1, 2008**

District 28 Fall 2008 Conference – Clarion Westgate, Toledo, OH

### **April 24-25, 2009**

District 28 Spring 2009 Conference – Location TBD

### **Future International Conventions:**

August 12-15, 2009

MGM Grand at Foxwoods - Mashantucket, CT

August 11-14, 2010

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

August 17-20, 2008

Bally's Las Vegas - Las Vegas, Nevada

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## Submit Those Awards!

Please encourage your club members to complete those education and leadership projects to achieve their education and leadership awards (Competent or Advanced Communicator-Bronze/Silver/Gold, Competent or Advanced Leader-Bronze/Silver, or Distinguished Toastmaster). Reminder: Submit award applications asap, as the TI website and staff get REALLY busy in late June.

## The Unsung Hero

At each District Conference, the District is pleased to present “The Unsung Hero Award” to a Toastmaster who, despite not being a current member of the District Executive Committee, has gone above and beyond the call of duty to be of service to our District.

This Spring’s Unsung Hero certainly fits this description. This Toastmaster, after having served with distinction as a District Officer, declared the desire to “take a year off.” Hah! This Toastmaster:

- Stepped in to train the Vice Presidents of Membership at a main Club Officer Training session when Nancy needed to go out of town.
- Took on the role of Fall 2007 District Contest Chair, handling all the details to perfection...until about 90 minutes before the

Table Topics contest, when she learned that one of the contestants couldn’t attend due to a personal emergency. As the contest alternate for that person, she quickly appointed a deputy, provided them with all the necessary information, and then stepped away. By the way, SHE WON, which proves that, if you’re a contest alternate, you should still show up!

- She took on the position of chair of the Realignment Committee – a job that can make a person almost as popular as an Old Testament tax collector.

Please help congratulate our Spring 2008 Unsung Hero, Distinguished Toastmaster Pamela “Scooter” McKerregan!

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## Club of the Quarter: Downriver Ambassadors

*John Roos, ATM-B*

My name is John Roos and I am the President of the Downriver Ambassadors, Toastmasters club 2758. I have been President for just about one year. We recently celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a presentation on steel making. The Downriver Ambassadors was founded by Great Lakes Steel and was chartered in 1958.

We are currently a very small club. I would like to let you know some of the fun and interesting things that we at Downriver Ambassadors are doing to attract new members.

The Wyandotte Jaycees have been meeting in the room next to ours for years. Recently, we’ve been conducting joint projects and plan to do a Speechcraft in the future. The Jaycees have 85 members with 10 married couples from ages 18 to 40. (Age 40 is the oldest that they are allowed to be members of Jaycees.) Now they know that there is a club that will take older members. Over 40!!!

The Downriver Ambassadors recently hosted the first speech contest in years, thanks to Club Coach Tim Lomas.

We have been hosting a series on environmentally friendly topics. Green is in; money, the environment and Irish (my mother is from Ireland). We have had speakers on wind turbines in Wyandotte, electricity from land fill gas in Riverview and what is happening to honey bees. The most recent presentation was on solar energy in Wyandotte’s schools. Wyandotte cable video-taped one of our meetings and aired it on Wyandotte’s cable network. Our club has attended the Downriver Business Expo and did a presentation. We have had articles written on the Toastmaster organization in the *News Herald*. We have also gained a large number of contacts in the media (print and cable) that are able to get the word out about Toastmasters.

We are currently planning to have an internet video meeting with another Toastmaster club June 10.

We will be teaching a speech class in September through the adult education program with Southgate Continuing Education.

So, as you can read, interesting things are happening with the Downriver Ambassadors.

# Ohio State Politician "Gets It Dunn" with Toastmasters

Mike Comfort, CTM/CL  
District 28 Public Relations Officer

*Disclaimer: The following article illustrates what a Past District 28 Governor did to help a political candidate improve her presentation skills. By Toastmasters International Policy, Procedures, and Bylaws, neither clubs nor Districts may endorse any political candidate, issue, or position. Thus, this article should not be construed as an endorsement by District 28 of that candidate. --- Karen Holland, District 28 Governor*

"Hi, my name is Amy, and I'm the campaign manager for Darlene Dunn. Darlene is running for State Representative here in Ohio, and she needs some help with her speaking and presentation skills." This message was left on the District 28 toll-free telephone line.

Sheryl Blessing returned the call. She learned that Darlene Dunn strongly believes in the welfare of the people who live in her city, her political district, and in the state of Ohio. Darlene knew what she wanted to say, but she just wasn't sure how to say it in an effective way that would make an impact on the voters.

According to Amy and Darlene, joining a Toastmasters Club would take too much time. "Do you have someone who could work with Darlene one-on-one?" Sheryl replied, "As a matter of fact, we do!"

When all the details were worked out, Sheryl agreed to travel to Sylvania OH to meet with Amy and Darlene. After a short period of getting to know each other (including information about Toastmasters and Sheryl's experience), the work began. Sheryl asked Darlene, "Why do you want to run for State Representative?" Darlene answered with passion, "I'm TIRED of what's been happening here for the past 30 years!" Bingo: The opening of her speech was born! With a little more work and another visit to Sylvania, Sheryl helped Darlene write her "Stump" speech. A Stump Speech grabs the audience's attention, has a bit of humor mingled throughout to keep that attention, and ends with impact. It summarizes everything the candidate wants to say.

This is just the beginning of the campaign for Darlene, but she plans to keep working on her presentation skills and writing speeches to fit every occasion, just like we learn to do in Toastmasters! She wants to make an impact on the voters in order to make a difference in the future. Darlene believes that she's the person who can "get it Dunn!" And Sheryl believes that Toastmasters is the way to help her do it!

Sheryl (Blessing) Kubiak, DTM/PDG is a member of Canton Communicators, Wayne-Westland Easy Talkers, and the West Side Professionals Toastmasters clubs. The D28 toll-free number is 1-877-TOAST 2 U.

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## Challenges of Being a Toastmasters Club Treasurer

By Bill Morrison, CC  
Saturday Sunrisers

About a year ago, I was asked to become my club's treasurer. I thought to myself, "Why would I want to do this? I don't even pay the bills or balance the checkbook at home." Then I remembered reading the part of the *Toastmaster Promise* about volunteering: "To serve as a club officer when called on to do so." How could I refuse? Besides I thought, "How hard can it be?"

Indeed! The duties of the Treasurer are many. Getting set up at the bank, learning to pay dues online, collecting money at each meeting, going to the bank to make deposits, paying the bills, attending club officer training. Probably the most challenging duty of all is the collection and paying the dues on time. Every club

member has the best of intentions of paying on time but somehow for some (me included) it can slip the ole' mind....

Looking back, I can't believe that my year as Treasurer has gone by so quickly. Overall it has been a very rewarding experience. I've enjoyed being more involved with my club and helping to plot its direction. The Club Officer Training was the highlight for me. In addition to learning the ins and outs of being Treasurer, I was able to see some great educational presentations that have helped me with my speaking. I would recommend the Treasurers position to anyone looking to get more involved with their club.

## Farewell to the Old CL

Requirements for the Competent Leader award changed on July 1, 2006, BUT members may choose to earn the award under the previous requirements until June 30, 2008, or they may complete the new requirements for the award. (The latter involves completing the new Competent Leader manual.) If you look up the awards on TI's educational achievements list, those earning the award under the previous requirements will notice that they are listed under "OCL" (for "Old Competent Leader"), while those earning it under

the new requirements (a.k.a., the one with the manual) will be listed under the "CL" designation.

**Both OCL and CL awards count in the Distinguished District and Distinguished Club programs. Please encourage your club members to complete either (or both) of these programs.**

Note: Per TI, applications for the "old CL" must be made via fax or mail. On-line application for the "old CL" is no longer an option.

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## Sandbagging

Sandbagging (n): Holding back for the next Toastmasters administrative year.

It's OK if you have done it in the past, as long as you have since changed your ways. If you ever told a new member that you'd process his or her application on July 1, even though they signed up in early June, it's OK. If you decided to submit a member's CC award "next year" because your club doesn't need it right now, it's OK.

But that all stops now! We're talking about "sandbagging," a term often used by quota-bearing sales representatives who hold back reporting some of their excess sales until the next month so that they can start further ahead. But, the term is applicable to us, too, as Toastmasters. "Sandbagging" sets a bad example. If a family member was capable of acing a test, would you tell

him or her to just answer enough questions to pass the test? Of course not! You'd encourage them to do their very best. Would you encourage your club members to "achieve mediocrity" in their speeches? Of course not! Toastmasters is all about learning, encouraging, and growing.

We are entering the final stretch of the 2007-2008 Toastmasters year. Even though your club may have met its membership goals, our District still has a ways to go. Although your club may have met its educational goals, your Area Governor might need that extra CC to help your Area become Distinguished.

The bottom line is this: Do not hold back membership applications or educational or leadership awards. Another Toastmaster may be counting on you.

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## New Club Officer Kits

According to Toastmasters International Headquarters, 2008-2009 club officer kits (the ones with the handbooks for each of the club officers, entitled "When You Are the President" and so forth) were mailed out to all clubs in early May. Current club presidents - please forward these materials to the incoming club presidents as soon as possible.

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## Need Help?

If your club needs help figuring something out, PLEASE ASK US! Contact your Area Governor, Division Governor, or other District leader. We're here to help!

## REMINDER! Form 990N Was Due May 15, 2008

A new law, the Pension Protection Act, has resulted in the need for small non-profit organizations, including individual U.S. Toastmasters clubs, to annually file a Form 990-N with the IRS. The 990-N is a simple form that is comprised primarily of contact information for your club - it does not require you to report any of your club's financial information. This form **must be filed online by May 15, 2008**.

If your club has not yet filed a Form 990-N this year, instructions are at:

[http://www.toastmasters.org/irs\\_990n.aspx](http://www.toastmasters.org/irs_990n.aspx).

Please read these instructions carefully as there is a specific way that things should be entered.

NOTE: It is possible that your on-line submission may be initially rejected due to the timing of the filing in relation to your club's tax year - the Toastmasters instructions address these issues. TI has established a dedicated email address ([IRSquestions@Toastmasters.org](mailto:IRSquestions@Toastmasters.org)) to address any

questions that you have or report any problems you encounter.

According to a recent article in *Crain's Detroit Business*:

*On its Web site, the IRS said there will not be a penalty for nonprofits that miss the May 15 deadline this year, since the federal agency expects extremely high demand for technical support leading up to that point and may not be able to respond to all inquiries before the deadline.*

*Under the Pension Protection Act of 2006, nonprofits that fail to file the postcard for three consecutive years will lose their tax-exempt status.*

**We don't want any Toastmaster club to lose its tax-exempt status, so PLEASE make sure that your club files its Form 990-N this year and every year!**

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## 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

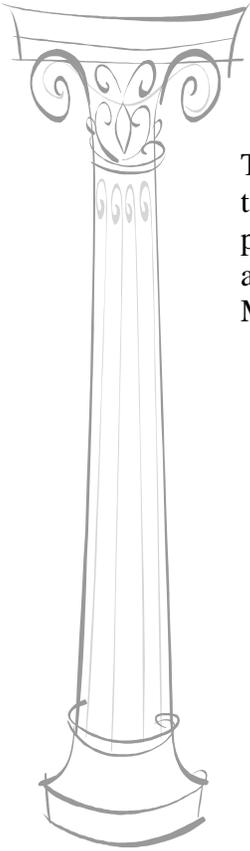
resources, the District converted publication to a primarily electronic format, with a PDF posted on the District website, [www.d28toastmasters.org](http://www.d28toastmasters.org). We do realize that some of our members have older computer systems or no computer at all, and so have limited or no access 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](mailto: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.

### 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](mailto:Cornerstone@d28toastmasters.org)*



## **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:

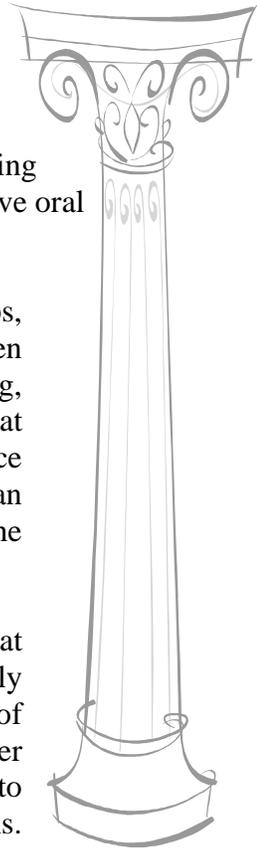
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Toastmasters International is the leading movement devoted to making effective oral communication a worldwide reality.

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.



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