

The Cornerstone



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

Fall 2006

Volume XVIII, Issue 1

TEAMWORK MAKES IT POSSIBLE!

We are delighted to announce that the theme for the District 28 Fall 2006 Conference is "Teamwork Makes It Possible!" We are THRILLED to report that the Conference Committee has two co-chairs now in place. Jeff Hampton is a member of Birmingham Toastmasters, and Jeanne Beauvais is a member of Northern Toastmasters and Optimistic Orators.

The November 3-4, 2006, conference will be held at The Holiday Inn Select in Auburn Hills. The conference registration form is available on the District 28 website: www.d28toastmasters.org, under "Fall Conference."

District conferences provide excellent opportunities to learn, laugh, renew old acquaintances, and make new friends. This one will feature the district-level Table Topics and Humorous Speech contests, the always interesting District Council business meeting, and an awesome array of educational workshops! Friday Fun Night will feature an amazing stage show by hypnotist (and Toastmaster!) Larry Szczepanski (<http://www.thetranquilsolution.com/entertainment.asp>). The Communication & Leadership Award

recipient at Saturday's luncheon will be Michael Scott Karpovich (<http://www.karpovich.com/association.htm>). He is a professional speaker on resiliency and a former Toastmaster. He works with grade school children, and conducts drug prevention programs.

We're seeking workshop presenters, especially those with topics that fit the theme, such as teamwork, mentoring programs and coaching. If you're interested, please complete the application form (also on the D28 website) and/or contact LGET Karen Holland at LGET@d28toastmasters.org as soon as possible.

We hope to see you at the Fall Conference!

Credit Card Option Now Available

An on-line payment option is now available for fall conference registration! A modest surcharge will cover the cost of offering this service. The link will be on the D28 website until October 30. Note: Due to cost considerations, this option will not be available at the conference itself.

*Interested in serving as a
member of the District 28 team?
Leadership opportunities exist in
numerous areas. Contact us!*

The Dues are Due!

Club dues are "due" on October 1, so please encourage your club members to pay their dues, and PLEASE submit them to TI asap. Dues payments may be submitted on-line, or via mail or fax.

Yes It's Possible!

*Todd Brockdorf, DTM
District 28 Governor*



Toastmasters International is the undisputed world leader in communication and leadership skills training. Through the local clubs, our members receive the best value for their money in skills that change their lives.

Who would not like to have greater self-confidence? Through Toastmasters, yes it's possible. What company does not want their employees to be able to lead a more efficient meeting? With Toastmasters, yes it's possible.

But did you know that through Toastmasters, you can learn event planning skills? Yes it's possible.

But did you know that through Toastmasters, you can learn desktop publishing skills? Yes it's possible.

But did you know that through Toastmasters, you can even learn a few dance moves at the banquets? Yes it's possible.

But probably the most rewarding lesson that you can learn through Toastmasters is self-discovery. As you prepare to write your first speech, you have the opportunity to look back at your life and tell the audience who you are and what you are about. As you assume leadership positions in the organization, some unintended situations may challenge your moral compass and your ethics. As a result of this outstanding program, you learn what is truly important to you in life, ambitions, and happiness. Though Toastmasters, yes it's possible.

So go out there, challenge yourself, and change the world, because through Toastmasters, Yes It's Possible!

Strategic Planning Update

*Todd Brockdorf, DTM
District 28 Governor*

District 28 is making great strides in the Strategic Plan. Though it did not pass at the Spring Conference Executive Council Meeting, it does not preclude the District Leadership Team and the Executive Committee from working to achieve its goals.

The District Chief Judge (DCJ) position has been created. Past District Governor Dulce Renaud will serve as the District's first District Chief Judge. Her responsibilities will be training judges at Executive Committee Meetings, Club Officer Training, and District Conferences. She will act as the Chief Judge at all District contests and ensure impartiality and fairness. She will guide the District in proper interpretation of the speech contest rules as established by Toastmasters International.

A collaboration opportunity with the National Speakers Association – Michigan has been identified. They will be hosting "American Idol: Professional Presenter's Edition" on October 21 in Ann Arbor. Darren LaCroix (TI 2001 World Champion of Public Speaking) will be one of the three celebrity judges. NSA-MI is the association to join if you are or want to become a professional speaker. District 28 will help promote this event and discounts are offered for groups of 6 or more, so bring your club!

Based on feedback from last year's participants, and the results that it produced, the Marketing Ambassador program has been continued and refined for this year. If you are interested in serving as a Marketing Ambassador, please contact LGM Vicki Brannon (lgm@d28toastmasters.org).

The Cornerstone Editor, Janice Harris, has been appointed and publication timelines have been established. Look forward to regularly scheduled publication of your Cornerstone this year.

We are still looking for someone to serve in the newly-created position of Corporate Club Hunter (CCH). This person will interact with corporations and the Marketing Ambassadors to start corporate clubs in our District. We are also looking for a Speakers Bureau Chair to facilitate speaking opportunities for members outside of the club environment. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact District Governor, Todd Brockdorf (governor@d28toastmasters.org).

A copy of the Strategic Plan can be found at the d28toastmasters.org website under the Resources section. Look for it to be introduced again at the Fall Executive Council Meeting at the Fall Conference.

It's Speech Contest Time!

The Fall 2006 District 28 Speech Contest Season is here! Contests this season include the Humorous Speech and Table Topics competitions.

Area contest dates are listed on the District website, www.d28toastmasters.org. The Division Contest schedule follows. Most have a nominal fee at the door.

October 10 -- Division D, First Center Building, Olympic Conference Room, R. L. Polk, (1st Floor), 26955 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, MI 48033. Registration at 6:30 p.m., contest at 7 p.m.

October 13 -- Division C, Washtenaw Community College, Room 175, Crain Liberal Arts Building, 4800 East Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Registration at 6 p.m., contest at 7 p.m.

October 16 -- Division G, Unity Church of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile, Livonia, MI 48154. Registration at 5:45 p.m., contest at 6:30 p.m.

October 18 -- Division E, St. John's Oakland Education Center, 27351 Dequindre Rd. Madison Heights, MI 48071 (north of I-696). Registration at 6:30 p.m., contest at 7 p.m.

October 19 -- Division F, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Dining Rooms A-D (lower level), 600 E. Lafayette, Detroit, MI 48226. Registration at 6:30 p.m., contest at 7 p.m.

October 21 -- Divisions A and B, First Presbyterian Church (Betty's Church), E 2nd St & Elm St., Perrysburg, OH. Division B registration at 9 a.m., Division A at 12:30 p.m.

The winners advance to the District 28 Fall 2006 Conference, November 3-4, 2006, at the Holiday Inn Select in Auburn Hills!

Further information on the area and division contests, including specific times and directions, is available on the District 28 website, www.d28toastmasters.org.

Questions regarding how to run a speech contest?
Contact the LGET at LGET@D28toastmasters.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. Please leave a message if there's no answer, and she'll return the call asap.

Area Governor Visits Underway

Area Governors are currently conducting the first round of club visits. Each visit will include the completion of the "Area Report of Club Visit Form" with the club officers. Your responses are very important, as they help the District Leadership Team with future planning!

Welcome to the District!

M-CARE Toastmasters (#912466) chartered on July 12, 2006. The company club, located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, is in Division C, Area 13. Club Sponsors are Semant Jain, ATM-B/CL and Kevin Olmstead, DTM.

Burned Out

*Pam McKerreghan, ATM-G/CL
Division E Governor*

Have you ever felt like you've OD'd on life? Like it's a chore just to get up in the morning? Did you ever feel like the things you did for fun, weren't fun anymore? It's called burn out. It happens to all of us, especially in Toastmasters. You all get excited about your meetings and you want to take part in all of them. Then this comes up, and that comes up, and pretty soon we have so much on our plate you just can't handle it any more. You stop going to meetings. You think, "If I can just get rested." You say, "I'll be back at the next meeting." But you're still tired. You don't come. Pretty soon you feel like you are not needed.

WRONG!

This is when you need each other more than ever. You need to ask yourselves, "Why did I join in the first place? What do I want out of Toastmasters?" Make a list. Start off with the reasons you joined. The people were friendly. The meetings were fun. I learned so much from the speakers. I needed to learn how to speak in front of others.



Now, ask yourself what has changed. If your answer is "NOTHING!", then this is when you go to someone in the club. Talk to them. They've all gone thru it. They *will* understand. If there is something they can help you with, assign a mentor to you, or just listen. They are there. Not just the officers. All of them, or at least they should be. Don't give up! We all go through it. You need to rekindle that spark. Reignite the flame of excitement. Remember the old saying, "Attitude is everything!"

You will be surprised how this feeling can spread! How others can pick up on this excitement! Soon, you will see a change in your club. An enthusiasm you may never have seen before! This is when it becomes fun again! As for the club itself...call those people who visited once and never came back. Call old members who have fallen by the wayside. Give them that old feeling again.

Together you and your club can do it. Together you can make your club as exciting as ever!

Remember...a club is only as strong as its members. Be that strong member. Support your club....all the way!

Membership Applications

Just in case you are still using the old ones, updated application forms can be ordered for free from the TI on-line store (item # 400) or can be downloaded at:

<https://www.toastmasters.org/fupload/media/400MembershipAppDI.pdf>

“Old” CL, “New” CL

Karen Holland, DTM
District 28 Lt. Governor of Education & Training

Leadership skills development has always been part of the Toastmasters program. In fact, many of our members join because they want to improve their leadership skills. In order to strengthen the leadership track, a new program has been added, complete with a new manual and a new leadership award.

The new 10-project *Competent Leadership* manual helps members develop leadership skills while serving in various club meeting roles. Since January 2006, the manual has been included in the New Member Kit. As of July 1, members who complete the manual may apply for the “new CL” award by having their VP-Education submit the application materials to TI on-line (www.toastmasters.org), or via fax or mail.

To accommodate the new CL, the names of the two existing leadership awards have been changed. The requirements are the same, only their names have been changed. The “old CL” requirements now lead to an award known as “Advanced Leader-Bronze.” This is the one where you need to be a CLUB officer for at least six months. The “old” Advanced Leader, where you need to serve as a DISTRICT officer for a year, is now called “Advanced Leader-Silver.” There’s no “Advanced

Leader Gold” yet, but TI designed the system so they can add one someday.

Grace Period:

To accommodate those who might already be working on the “old CL” and wish to complete it, TI set up a two year “grace period.” Applications for the OLD Competent Leader award will be accepted until June 30, 2008. TI lists these awards on their website as “OCL.”

Notes:

- 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.
- If you have or will earn the “old CL” before June 30, 2008, your next award level will be AL-Silver.
- If you earn the “new CL” (anytime after July 1, 2006), your next award level will be Advanced Leader-Bronze, then Advanced Leader-Silver.
- Beginning July 1, 2008, all members will have to meet the new requirements.

Club Officer Training Results

Karen Holland, DTM
District 28 Lt. Governor of Education & Training

Club Officer Training sessions for the summer must be conducted by August 31, 2006, so the summer training period has concluded. I am delighted to report that 64 clubs had four or more officers trained. Furthermore, the following clubs had ALL SEVEN officers trained: Fremont, Washtenaw, C Notes, Acorn, Optimistic Orators, Unity IV, Toastaholics, Powertalkers Downtown, Dearborn Dynamic, Westland Easy Talkers, and Laff Out Loud.

Club officer training is important because research has proven that Toastmasters clubs that send their officers to club officer training are statistically far more likely to be successful. The odds of your club being successful, and of your members getting the most out of their Toastmasters experience, are much greater if your officers are trained. PLEASE don't let these opportunities to learn and to improve your leadership skills go to waste!

The next round of training will be held in January-February 2007. (The dates and locations will be announced well in advance.) These sessions will cover different topics than the summer training, so please plan to attend one of the winter sessions!

To get more information about
upcoming events, etc., check out the
District 28 web site at
www.d28toastmasters.org

Current Membership Building Contests

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:

Find Your Voice. Serve Your World. Pin 5 members
Gold Star pin 10 members
Toastmasters necktie or scarf 15 members

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. The prize is the commemorative Smedley Award banner ribbon.

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>

Baseball, Apple Pie and New Members! - District 28 Contest

This contest ran August 6- September 5, and acknowledged the club that brought in the most new members with two tickets to the September 26 Detroit Tigers game versus the Toronto Blue Jays. Due to a tie, a winner was randomly selected:

Top of Troy – 5 new members

Congratulations are also extended to the following club that also brought in five new members:

Michigan Toastmasters

If you have any questions about these contests, please contact Vicki Brannon, your Lt. Governor of Marketing at LGM@d28toastmasters.org

Current Communication and Leadership Contests

The Goal Post Game - D28 Education Award Contest

Achieve your GOAL of improving your speaking skills! Help your club achieve its GOAL of earning points in the Distinguished Club Program by completing manual speeches, submitting the data to Toastmasters International, and having your communication awards POSTED to the TI web site.

The Goal Post Game runs July 1 – September 30, 2006, and will recognize members who earn communication awards, including:

- Competent Communicator
- Advanced Communicator-Bronze
- Advanced Communicator-Silver
- Advanced Communicator-Gold

Get the Lead Out! - D28 Leadership Award Contest

Everyone needs leadership skills, whether you are a corporate CEO, an office manager, or a parent trying to convince three children to agree on, well... anything!

Toastmasters can help! All members can work on their individual leadership skills by completing projects from the new Competent Leader manual. Club officers work on their leadership skills by serving their clubs, and can

earn either a Competent Leader (old version) or an Advanced Leader-Bronze award. District officers, by serving the clubs of District 28, work toward earning an Advanced Leader-Silver award.

“Get the Lead Out!” runs July 1, September 30, 2006, and will recognize individuals who earn leadership awards, including:

- Competent Leader (the “old” or “new” version)
- Advanced Leader-Bronze
- Advanced Leader-Silver

For both contests, winners will receive gift certificates redeemable for merchandise from the TI catalogue.

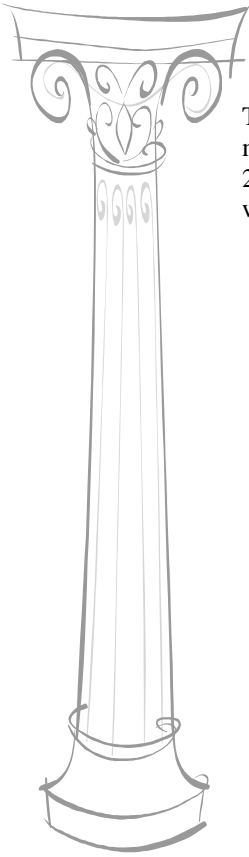
For more information on the either of these contests, visit the District 28 web site: www.d28toastmasters.org.

The direct links to the contest fliers are:

<http://d28toastmasters.org/Contests/GoalPostGame.pdf>
<http://d28toastmasters.org/Contests/GettheLeadOutGame.pdf>

If you have any questions about these contests, please contact Karen Holland, your Lt. Governor of Education & Training at LGET@d28toastmasters.org

The Conference registration form is in the printed copy of the newsletter. To secure a copy on-line, please click on the Fall Conference link of www.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:

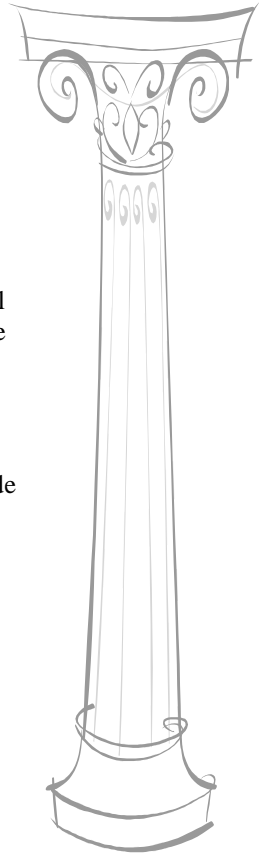
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Toastmasters International is the leading movement devoted to making effective oral communication a worldwide reality.

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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