

The Cornerstone



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

Late Fall 2006

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Teamwork Really Did Make It Possible!

*Kevin Olmstead, DTM
District Public Relations Officer*

The Fall 2006 District 28 conference was a big success, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the conference planning committee, an excellent slate of presenters, highly talented speech contestants, and a larger than anticipated number of attendees.

The weekend began Friday evening with a wonderful Table Topics contest, and was followed by a terrific Friday Fun Night. Larry Szczpanski, a licensed hypnotherapist -- and Toastmaster from District 10 -- guided a lively group of Toastmaster volunteers through a fascinating hypnosis session. While no one "clucked like a chicken," there were a few particularly memorable performances, including one involving the search for a stolen belly button. (We're happy to report that the missing navel was recovered.)

Saturday's activities included ten excellent workshops (all conducted by members of District 28), and a keynote address by Communication & Leadership Award recipient Michael Scott Karpovich on "Contagious Leadership." The annual Hall of Fame Awards program recognized individuals and clubs that achieved honors during the 2005-06 Toastmaster year. The District Council meeting was interesting, as always. (Thank you to those who attended for helping us to reach a quorum.) The Humorous Speech contest was TOO FUNNY! The banquet program moved along fast enough to leave plenty of time for conversation, relaxation, and music, including dance lessons by our favorite DJ, Tommy Ray!

We hope that everyone who attended enjoyed themselves, and that those do missed it will consider attending the spring conference on April 20-21, 2007!

SPEECH CONTEST WINNERS

Congratulations to our Fall 2006 speech contest winners:

Table Topics:

- 1st Place – Cliff Suttle, Optimistic Orators
- 2nd Place – Carlos Smith Bey, New Center Toastmasters
- 3rd Place – David Bodner, Anthony Wayne Toastmasters

Humorous Speech:

- 1st Place – Bruce Perry, Westgate Club
- 2nd Place – Cliff Suttle, Dearborn Dynamic
- 3rd Place – Martin Lassers, Rochester Toastmasters

DISTRICT 28 HALL OF FAME

The following special awards were announced at this year's Hall of Fame ceremony:

- Chris Hiller Award: Laff Out Loud, #694771
- Harold Eastman Award: Windsor Toastmasters, #6416
- Area Governor of the Year: Gerald Molnar, DTM, Area 27
- Division Governor of the Year: Claudia Scott, DTM, Division F
- Toastmaster of the Year: Kevin P. Olmstead, DTM

Take My Office, Please!

*Todd Brockdorf, 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 Governor's, you should make your candidacy known to Nominating Committee Chairman Tony Slawinski, DTM, PDG.

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.

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 mean time, if you have questions, feel free to contact Nominating Committee Chairman Tony Slawinski at tony.slawinski@us.bosch.com or (w) 248-876-2546.

We Are All Toastmasters

*Todd Brockdorf, DTM
District 28 Governor*



Toastmasters is one of the world's most benevolent organizations. Its mission is to help one and other improve his or her communication and leadership skills. We are the world's ONLY organization dedicated to this mission of self improvement.

So why do we tear it down?

The spirit and heart of our organization is cooperation. As was selected for the Fall District Conference, the theme "Teamwork Makes It Possible" is so appropriate. We work together in our clubs to improve communication skills. We work together to build membership in our clubs. We work together as District leaders guiding District 28 to a future of success.

So why do we tear it down?

It is human nature that there are going to be differences of opinion. With 1800 members in our district, that means that there are 1800 different opinions. And those differences are welcome. It helps our leadership consider many angles to a situation.

Analysis paralysis is just as bad, if not worse, than not making a decision and being forced into the only remaining option. Leaders are elected and appointed to make those decisions. Sometimes those decisions may not agree with your opinion. Sometimes those decisions may be wrong. Sometimes those decisions may be right.

But it's not about right or wrong, us or them, for or against. It is about all of us, and I mean all of us, working together, united in the common mission of Toastmasters International. Everything that we do should be in line with the mission of the organization, district, or club. We may not always agree, but we all have one thing in common and we all need to work together toward that mission.

So why do we tear it down?

With the Strategic Plan, we have a chance to influence the direction of our future and see our future before it is upon us. This year's administration has chosen to implement the District 28 Strategic Plan. We believe in its goals and aspirations. If you want to change the Plan, feel free to contact me and I will attempt to get you on the Strategic Planning Committee, whose responsibility is to review the Plan annually and provide suggestions for implementation to the next administration.

It's OK to have a different opinion. But don't just sit there and complain; do something about it. And if your opinion is not selected, don't feel bad. Remember that there are 1799 other opinions that the leadership hears and has to decide between.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Leaders Make It Possible!

“*Leaders Make It Possible!*” is the theme of the District 28 Spring 2007 Conference, scheduled for April 20-21, 2007, at the Westin Southfield. (Due to difficulties in securing a site in Division A that fit within our budget, we moved this conference to Division D. The Fall 2007 Conference will be in Division A.)

We need volunteers to help plan the conference. We’re also seeking workshop presenters, especially those with topics that fit the theme of Leadership. If you’re interested, please complete the application form (available soon 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 Spring Conference!

Credit Card Option Available

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

Club Officer Training

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

If you are a club officer (or will be in January), please mark your calendar and plan to attend one of these sessions, scheduled for 8 a.m.-1 p.m.:

- Saturday, January 20, 2007, at the University of Michigan-Dearborn
- Saturday, January 27, 2007, at Owens Community College in Perrysburg, Ohio

This training is designed for YOU, and for YOUR CLUB! Does your club need MEMBERSHIP BUILDING TIPS? Is the NEW EDUCATION PROGRAM still causing confusion? Do you want to know how to run an EFFECTIVE SPEECH CONTEST? We can help!

This round of training will cover different topics than the summer training, so please plan to attend! These trainings will include opportunities to:

- discuss any problems that your club is having
- seek advice from both other club officers and your District Officers
- network with officers of other clubs

We will provide information on:

- District leadership opportunities available in 2006-2007 and 2007-2008
- TI’s revised education and leadership programs
- how using the Distinguished Club Program can help YOUR club become stronger
- Spring 2007 speech contests (Evaluation and International speech)

Special Feature:

Our District Chief Judge, Dulce Renaud, DTM/PDG, will conduct a special training session for speech contest judges. This session will include a sample “Test Speaker,” followed by comments from several experienced judges who will explain not only how they scored the speaker, but more importantly, why they scored the speaker as they did. (In a real contest situation, judges are not allowed to divulge such information.) Please take advantage of this rare opportunity! Both future judges and future contestants are welcome to attend!

To receive credit in the Distinguished Club Program, a club must have a minimum of four offices trained during both training seasons (summer and winter).

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!

For more information, contact your area governor, or the Lt. Governor of Education & Training at LGET@d28toastmasters.org

Cornerstone Survey Card

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. It costs us roughly \$1100 to print and mail just one edition out to each of the roughly 1800 members of our District. To better utilize our

resources, the District plans to convert 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 fill out and return the postcard included in this issue. We will then happily put you on the list to receive a mailed or hand-delivered copy of the newsletter.

Plan Ahead for Spring Speech Contests!

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

The next round of speech contests will be upon us before you know it, and we hope that your club plans to participate!

For those of you who like to plan ahead, the Spring 2007 District 28 Speech Contest season includes the Evaluation and International Speech competitions. The schedule is:

Level	No earlier than	No later than
Club	Jan. 20, 2007	Feb. 24, 2007
Area	Feb. 25, 2007	March 23, 2007
Division	March 24, 2007	April 5, 2007

Per TI Headquarters, a copy of the 2007 Speech Contest Rulebook and Speech Contest Manual was mailed to each Club President of record in October, along with the quarterly DCP report.

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.

The division-level winners will advance to the District-level contests, to be held at the District 28 Spring 2007 Conference, April 20-21, 2007, at the Westin Southfield in Southfield, Michigan.

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."

Still have 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.

Reflections on Marketing for District 28

Vicki Brannon, ATM-B/CL
District 28 Lt. Governor of Marketing

It is hard to believe that half of our 2006-2007 Toastmaster year is gone! It seems like just yesterday I was sitting in training at the Region VI conference in a panic because I had a whole year ahead of me...but as the cliché says, "Time flies when you're having fun!" And what fun it has been. I have had some excellent opportunities that I could not have imagined were possible. And specifically, I have the extreme pleasure of having a kick-butt marketing team in place that has bent over backward to make sure the district is headed for another successful year.

Clubs: Congratulations go to our newest club to charter in District 28 – Tecumseh Area #863087 in Division F. Also at this writing and on the positive side, we have surpassed TI's 2006-2007 goal of 97 clubs for the district by 1 club. However, we cannot sit back on our laurels (to coin another cliché). I'm sure everyone realizes that this is nowhere near enough and we will continue to strive for success.

Dues: Most of our clubs have paid their October dues, but we still have a few stragglers. That is something I anticipate clearing up before month end.

New Club Leads: New club leads continue to come in, albeit slowly. Again, this is something I am confident will have a positive outcome. For your part, please continue to keep your ears and eyes open for any viable leads for new corporate or community clubs that could help with district growth. Contact me or your Marketing Ambassador with the information. (For your convenience, I have included the Marketing Ambassadors list below. However, you can also find them on d28toastmasters.org)

Div A: Nancy Zychowicz	Div B: Max Kohr
Div C: Kevin Olmstead	Div D: Russ Navare
Div E: Bill Roberts	Div F: Pam Jones
Div F: Gerry Molnar	Div G: Y.S. Kim

Contests: And *speaking* of growth, our next membership building contest (see the announcement in this Cornerstone issue) will run from January 1 through March 31, 2007. I am really excited about the prospect of bringing more members into our Toastmaster family.

So, as a final thought – Here's to 2007! There is still a lot of work to be done, but I truly believe we are up to the challenge. Happy Holidays to each and every one of you!

**YOU'RE INVITED
TO AN
EVALUATION WORKSHOP**

- ◆ Learn the words to use to become a more effective evaluator.
- ◆ Improve your evaluation technique
- ◆ Discover your evaluation style
- ◆ Find out how to motivate the speaker
- ◆ Get tips on competing in the Evaluation Contest

This workshop was originally conducted in January 2006.
A shortened version was presented at the District 28 Fall Conference.
If you are interested in attending the full 2½-3 hour workshop, please email
marilyn@dearborndynamic.com.
We will choose a date if there is enough interest in the workshop.

Another CC, Please!

You may have earned a Competent Toastmaster (CTM) award last year, or your Competent Communicator (CC) since July 1. (Aren't name changes fun?) Once a member has earned his or her CTM/CC, and started working in advanced manuals, a Toastmaster can still repeat the "basic" manual. It's rather like pianists practicing the scales – it keeps their "basic skills" sharp. TI rules indicate that a member may earn and receive credit for one CC each year for each club to which he or she belongs. Cool, eh?

New copies of the Competent Communicator manual can be purchased directly from TI's on-line store, and are also available from the District 28 Bookstore, which will be open at the main club officer training sessions, and at the Spring District Conference.

Old is Still Good!

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.

Upcoming Area Governor Visits

Area Governors will begin conducting their second round of club visits in January. Like last time, 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!

Tecumseh Toastmasters (#863087) chartered on October 5, 2006. The community club, located in Tecumseh, Ontario, is in Division F, Area 27. The Club Sponsors are Stephen Lilly, CTM/CL and Sandip Dholakia, ATM-B. The Club Mentors are Susan Schroeder and Jacque St. Louis, CTM/CL.

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

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, 2006, in order to receive credit in the Distinguished Club Program. Also, please make sure that these newly elected officers attend Club Officer Training.

Membership Building Contests

Vicki Brannon, ATM-B/CL
District 28 Lt. Governor of Marketing

Snowflakes Abound – District 28 Contest

As we know, there are no two snowflakes alike, but scoop them up and watch them work together to create the perfect snowman. So it goes with our membership, there are no two members alike. But, together we can grow our clubs and create successes beyond our wildest imaginations.

This winter's membership building contest runs January 1 – March 31, and will have three winners. Three winners will be chosen based on the highest percentage in membership growth for clubs in good standing with:

- 12 or fewer members
- 13-20 members
- greater than charter strength

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

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 the Annual Membership Program and other TI-sponsored membership building contests, visit the TI web site: <https://www.toastmasters.org/fupload/media/1620%20-%20Simply%20Amazing.pdf>

Communication and Leadership Contests

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

Manual Leadership - D28 Leadership Award Contest

Leadership is not automatic. It requires practice. It requires training. There's even a manual!

All members can practice their individual leadership skills by completing projects from the new Competent Leader manual. Club officers can also work on their leadership skills by attending club officer training and by serving their clubs, and can earn either a Competent Leader (old or new version) or an Advanced Leader-Bronze award. By serving the clubs of District 28 as a District Officer, members can work toward earning an Advanced Leader-Silver award.

“Manual Leadership” runs January 1 – March 30, 2007, 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.

PROJECT X - D28 Education Award Contest

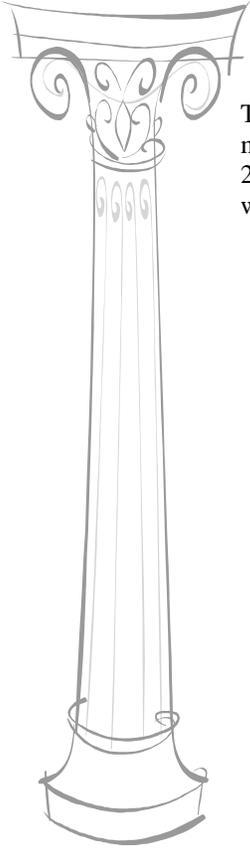
There are TEN projects in the “basic” Competent Communication manual. Completing two advanced manuals (TEN projects) is required to earn an advanced communication award, such as an AC-Bronze, AC-Silver, or AC-Gold.

PROJECT X is designed to recognize and reward members who complete and submit communication awards to TI between January 1 – March 31, 2007, including:

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

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

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

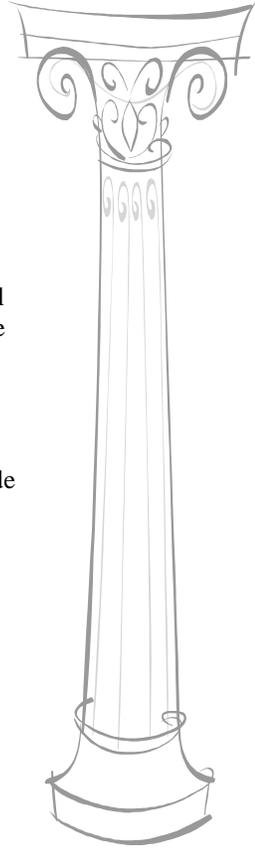
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Toastmasters International is the leading movement devoted to making effective oral communication a worldwide reality.

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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