

Voices

David Hostler, DTM • District Governor 2003 – 2004

New District Officers Elected

The close of the 2003-2004 Toastmaster year is upon us, and new District officers will soon take over District leadership.

New district officers were elected during the 2004 Spring Conference's business meeting. New District Governor, Lee Alviar, will be joined by Lt. Governor of Education and Training, David Himmelstein, as well as Lt. Governor of Marketing, Earl Hill.

New Division Governors are as follows: A, Kathy Hopkins; B, Tony Bieniosek; C, Miranda Buttler-Swanger; D, Shawn Sutherland; and E, Sharae Edwards.

The new Public Relations Officer for the District is Rebecca Harvey, DTM, and the new Secretary is DeDe Rhodes, DTM. CTM Scott McDowell is the new District Treasurer.

"This year, many D25 members have dared to dream, then have diligently worked the Toastmaster program and have made their dreams a reality," David Hostler said. "I sincerely thank the District for the opportunity to serve."

Looking back on this past year, David Himmelstein said that the lessons he learned will help him serve more effectively as Lt. Governor of Education and Training.

"Two years ago I didn't believe I could do the job as



David Hostler passes the gavel to Lee Alviar, D25's new District Governor for the 2004 – 2005 Toastmasters Year.

LGM. To have served a full term successfully, grown and learned, met outstanding people, and also to get to welcome several hundred people into Toastmasters is an incredible feeling," David said.

Looking forward to the new term, David is excited to be the District's LGET.

"We have a great team of leaders and our brightest days lie ahead!" David said.

According to Merriam Webster, success is defined as a favorable or desired outcome.

This up-coming Toastmaster year, from July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005, encompasses an all-new theme—Success with a Personal Touch.

According to the District's new Governor, Lee Alviar, "Success is how well you accomplish what you set out to attain. Success is

having a plan, mapping out the steps needed to get there, then meeting your dreams, your goals, your aspirations."

Because we are all different individuals, however, success means different things to each of us. Often we inherit goals of success from family, friends, society, or other external forces.

"If you follow a path to success that isn't your own, you may achieve your goals," Lee said, "but when you arrive at your destination, you may not feel successful or fulfilled."

David Hostler has known success. He dared to dream and helped District 25 continue its level of excellence. While it is now his time to step aside and let others experience new and exciting challenges in 2004-05, David hopes to continue to serve and grow as

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District 25 PR Team
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Earl Hill, DTM

Newsletter Co-Editors
Sharon Hawkins, CTM
Theresa Lubelski, CTM/CL

Webmaster
Chris Twichell, DTM

Database Chair
Jerry Kness, TM

Dismantling a World of Dreams

2004 Spring Conference Highlights



Iveth Valera and Rebecca Harvey sign in at the Credentials Desk for the District's Business Meeting.

Spring Conference 2004 at the La Quinta Conference Center in Arlington provided varied opportunities for District 25's members to sharpen their Toastmaster skills.

The "World of Dreams" themed conference wrapped up a successful series of educational moments, suspenseful competition, and loads of fun.

Friday's Just for Fun session kicked off a night of laughs with Darren La Croix.

Attendees dined on a series of appetizers (that were all too quickly depleted) and got to know one another before the festivities began.

As a warm up to the Table Topics Contest, Darren likened being involved with Toastmasters to being in a 12-step program.

Conference goers laughed so hard that they cried in several cases.

All too soon for nervous contestants, however, it was time for the competition.

Five outstanding competitors — Ron Clark, Sandra Creech, Greg Hanson, John Murphy, and Jeffrey Young — prepared themselves mentally for an invigorating mental challenge to organize and present a one to two and a half minute speech.

First up was Ron Clark, ATM-G/CL, from FAA Toastmasters.

Toastmaster for the evening, Melissa Sager asked, "If money was not a problem, would you give up your job for your hobby?"

Ron was visibly excited. For those who know him, his job is his hobby, and he loves to talk about it.

Sandra Creech informed attendees that she had actually had the opportunity to do exactly that—quit her

job for her hobby.

Greg Hanson provided incredible detail of white-water canoeing, which is what he'd do if he could quit his job.

John Murphy educated the crowd on the appropriate way to collect, roast, and grind one's own coffee beans (his current hobby), even though he maintains his job to support his coffee habit.

Jeffrey Young, a fairly new Toastmaster, stepped up to the plate and fully addressed the question.

Perhaps one of the most emotionally packed moments of the entire conference happened while waiting for the results of the judging.

As is traditional, the Toastmaster asked each contestant a few questions about him or herself.

Jeffrey Young shared with an entire room of strangers the fact that he is a cancer survivor. Clearly emotional, he explained that he was thankful for the opportunity to learn that the most important things are not things at all, but rather peo-

ple—his family, specifically.

While all contestants presented excellent table topics, there can be only one winner, and that was Greg Hanson (Unique Toastmasters).

Ron Clark placed second, and Jeffrey Young placed third.

After announcing the winners, Toastmasters started up the party. Beach ball volley ball and dancing featured prominently for the remainder of the evening.

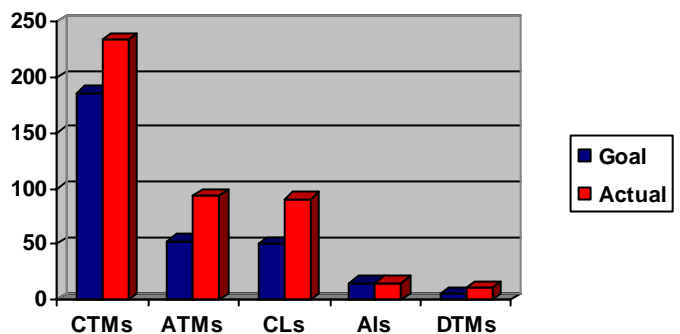
While some Toastmasters stayed on site the entire weekend to more fully participate in the sessions as well as the entertainment, others opted to commute.

"If I were to do something different," said Gayle Blair, "it would be to stay at the hotel rather than commute. I missed meeting with others in the free hours each evening because I chose to sleep at home — I didn't realize how much that adds to the experience until I tried it both ways!"

Many seasoned conference attendees recommend staying on site for the duration of the conference.

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District 25 Educational Accomplishments



Waking Up from a World of Dreams

2004 Spring Conference Highlights

As a matter of fact, frequent conference goer, Ron Smith, advises fellow members to purchase the entire package the very first time – attend it all. After the conference, decide what you did and did not like. Then the next time around, you can tailor the package to your own needs.

First-timer Anita Travis White (Gainesville City Speakers) said that the conference was worth every penny.

“The conference was loaded with information and activity,” Anita said.

If she could add a suggestion, however, Anita would add more items to the TMI supply table to be able to



ID Lark Doley (far right), D25 Governor David Hostler with the winners of the Table Topics Contest, Greg Hanson, Ron Clark, Jeffrey Young, and Toastmaster for the evening, Melissa Sager.



Funny man Darren La Croix regaled conference attendees with his unique style of “clean comedy” during Friday night’s “Just for Fun” session.

purchase club supplies.

First-timers, semi-frequent attendees, and well-seasoned conference goers all agreed that the educational sessions were top notch.

Saturday morning’s breakfast (in Acapulco) saw many attendees bright-eyed and ready to attend their education sessions – despite the fact that many had had a very late night before.

Sarfraz Nazir lined up a wonderful panel of presenters. The only problem lay in deciding which session to attend.

Whichever educational opportunity one participated in was timely and provided useful information.

Jodi Lee Ryan attended *Rebuilding a Club – When Leadership Counts*.

“No matter how good a club

is, sometimes it will go through a low period,” Jodi said; “anytime we can learn more about how to keep a club in good shape, it is an asset.”

Others attended Dr. Jeff Johnson’s career-building sessions to help gain a better idea of how to get a job and, better yet, how to keep one.

For others, such as sometime conference attendee Harold Smith from Plus Two Toastmasters, the stimulus for attendance was the opportunity to hear professional speakers, such as Darren La Croix.

“I want to work on my humor,” Harold said. So he bought several of Darren’s books and CD offerings.

Being able to see Darren from his 1992 awkward debut and how far he came to be the 1991 World

Champion of Public Speaking was a tremendous confidence booster.

Kenny Wickline said, “At times I think that I do not have what it takes to be a great speaker.” After Darren’s presentation and “stage time” theory, however, Kenny gained insight on how to be a bit more comfortable speaking in front of others.

Several conference goers honed in on Darren’s “stage time” theory: The more one takes speaking engagements, the more comfortable one becomes speaking to a group.

As Toastmasters, we have an almost infinite amount of “stage time” available to us through club meeting duties, guest speaking at other clubs, TLI’s, and conferences.

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Advanced Club Charters in Waco District Officers Preside

Incoming District 25 Lieutenant Governor for Marketing, Earl Hill, DTM, and incoming Area 41 Governor, Phyllis Renfrow, CTM, were elected to lead the recently chartered Advanced Toastmasters Club at Waco. Hill will serve as president; Renfrow as VP of Education.

Advanced clubs consist of members who have completed the basic manual and have at least the CTM designation.

The club met June 5 for its organizational meeting at Pat Neff Hall on Baylor University campus in Waco. Earl Hill and District Governor David Hostler were the first speakers for the new club.

This Advanced club, to be called the Heart of Texas Bridge Gappers, was the brainchild of outgoing District Governor, David Hostler. Hostler challenged Don Ferris, DTM, head of the Southern District 25 marketing effort, to establish a new club in the Temple, Texas area.

Ferris, a Toastmaster since 1968, took the challenge seriously. Don brings to the Toastmaster leadership table experience as an Area Governor and Division Governor in three Districts.

Don Ferris asked the question to potential members of the Advanced Club, "What kind of personal growth will you be getting after you receive your CTM?"

He proceeded to answer the question with several more questions, "Will you be receiving evaluations from a Toastmaster who



Area 41 Governor Phyllis Renfrow, Area 45 Governor Sandra Creech, and Area 46 Governor Doneva Garcia joined the Advanced Toastmasters club.

probably has not yet completed his or her basic manual? Will the evaluations you receive really provide you with the ongoing personal growth we all desperately need?"

Ferris concluded by saying, "Those of us who have worked hard to establish the Heart of Texas Bridge Gappers feel that through the Advanced Club we will receive the type of evaluations needed to help us continue to grow as Toastmasters."

The Heart of Texas Bridge Gappers will meet at the Bruceville-Eddy Café in Bruceville between Waco and Temple at 9 AM on the first Saturday of each month prior to the Southern D25 Marketing meeting.

IN-COMING AREA GOVERNOR ATTENDS SPRING CONFERENCE

by Phyllis Renfrow, CTM

I had a wonderful impression of the spring conference. I am only sorry I missed a portion of it.

The speakers were fascinating, and the professionalism was great. I was captivated by the International Speech contestants.

The one thing I realized is that any member could be up there. Those were just ordinary speakers with an extra drive that made them extraordinary.

As Ed Archangel said in his District winning speech, "two things make the difference in attitude — a positive outlook and enthusiasm."

The conference hosted many people who had both those qualities and possessed outstanding attitudes.

Everyone should attend a conference. What is it they say? Enthusiasm is contagious, and I caught it at the District Conference.

As an Area Governor, my goal is really two-fold. First, to assure that people grow and are given every opportunity through Toastmasters to realize whatever dream they have. Success in life is such an individual thing and really there is no specific path in Toastmasters to

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State of the District

Good Try or Fabulous Rebound?

All seven feet four inches of Kareem Abdul Jabbar's frame lies writhing on the 1980 NBA Finals floor. I think it was his leg. The Lakers were on the threshold of a dream, but their star player — one of the greatest of all time — would not be available for the pivotal sixth game.

Fellow Toastmasters, when you come so close to a huge accomplishment, it is easy to hang your head and applaud the efforts made to date, much like those who had as a goal to make it to the Super Bowl and don't know what to do



should they get there.

Have you ever worked with an obnoxious know-it-all?

I used to work with one that would merit a new category for Brent Cole's Office Official. If it says anything to you, the license plates on Larry's new silver 'Vette read: **Y B SHY**.

It was the Company Volleyball Finals. Not the NBA Finals, but a big deal to us.

We were in a world of hurt, down one game and six points in a best of three series.

Larry started in, "Yeah, pretty good to make it to the Finals. We made a good effort. We fought the good fight. It's OK ... NOT!" We instantly came together

and won that title.

Just as the Lakers — though they gave up six inches in height when they put rookie Earvin "Magic" Johnson in at center — they won what some say was a more important title — the NBA Crown.

District 25 stands at the threshold of a dream. We have worked so hard over the last several years, we will be Distinguished for the 3rd year in a row with just a few more members. The 3rd year in a row garners our district the Leadership Excellence Award — only a few Districts ever achieve this honor.

We are at the doorstep — will we hang our head and applaud the effort?

I believe in District 25, especially when we are challenged. Though the number of members we need is substantial, it only figures out to be **a few new members** for every club.

Getting new members doesn't seem so difficult. Maybe you were thinking about joining another club anyway. You could call up old members and ask them back. You could go through your guest book and invite them back. We stand at the threshold of a dream. Do you see that beautiful portal straight ahead? Let's run through together.

We Can Still Rebound

Join in our quest and get **three** new or renewing members today. It ain't over til it's over, as Yogi used to say.

There is still time to push for **new growth** in our clubs and get those few members to achieve that tantalizing award almost at our fingertips and join the group of elite Districts. Pick up your application today at: www.toastmasters.org/pdfs/400.pdf

If you want it, you can catch a world of dreams.

Star-Telegram Publisher Wins C & L Award

Wes Turner, president and publisher of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram newspaper, received this year's Communication and Leadership award at the District's 2004 Spring Conference on May 22.

This award is presented to a community member, not affiliated with Toastmasters International, who has made an outstanding contribution in communication and leadership.

This distinction — the high-

est honor Toastmasters International can bestow on a community leader — is only awarded to 77 people in any given year, according to David Hostler, District 25 Governor.

Winners names are voiced at the annual International Convention, and their names are recorded in the October edition of the *Toastmasters* magazine.

Mr. Turner did not accept the award for himself, however. Instead, he said that it

actually belongs to the 1500 plus employees and 700 contractors who work for the paper.

Mr. Turner asserted that Toastmasters core values are similar to those the Star-Telegram holds to be true.

The Star-Telegram tries to be the eyes and ears of the community by asking the questions we would have asked, if we had witnessed an event, Mr. Turner said.

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2004 Recipient of the Communication and Leadership Award, Wes Turner

Turning Dreams into Possibilities

*By Lark Doley, DTM,
International Director*

It was a privilege to be a part of your incredible District 25 Spring 2004 Conference. I began my District 25 stay by making corporate visits on Friday, May 21, with David Himmelstein, your Lt. Governor Marketing. We visited seven corporations on Friday, encouraging them to integrate Toastmasters into their employee professional development programs – an incredibly cost-effective, proven program to improve the communication and leadership skills of their employees.

We began our day at GameStop.com. They already understand the value of Toastmasters and had their plans to charter a club well under way. Then we visited TXU Irving. Ray and Gill, former Toastmasters, currently plan to form this club in the August / September timeframe.

From TXU we drove to the American Airlines Credit Union where I had the honor to meet with some of the officers and members of this prospective club. They have been meeting since March and only need a few more members to reach charter strength of 20 members. We had lunch with the GE Women's Network, which plans to form a club during the new Toastmaster year.

Then David and I made cold calls. We dropped off packets of information at Federal Express, Citifinancial Mortgage in Irving, and t:m Consulting.

What is the purpose of

these corporate visits? To share the benefits of Toastmasters with more people by extending the network of Toastmasters clubs. Just as we need to offer membership in our current clubs to more and more people, we also need to look for opportunities to increase our corporate and community club base. Why?

Every day we have the opportunity to share the benefits of our organization by inviting guests to our current clubs and by starting new clubs.

We have so many more lives to touch before we have shared our organization with every person within District 25. Our clubs should be overflowing with new members!

How many millions of people live within the boundaries of District 25? How many of these individuals have been offered the benefits of Toastmasters? How many new members have joined your club this year? What is the current membership of your club?

Has every member of your club shared the benefits of Toastmasters with at least one new member? How many people have you personally invited to membership in our organization? How many clubs have you personally helped to charter?

Your District theme this year is "Catch the Dream." The Toastmasters International theme is "Your Dreams Are Your Possibilities."

I hope that every member of District 25 has caught

the dream this year by turning their dreams into possibilities. Turn our Toastmasters International dream of "making effective oral communication a worldwide reality" into possibilities for others.

Invite a friend, a relative, a person in the grocery line, a person you meet in the elevator, a person in the seat next to you on the plane –

to attend your next Toastmaster meeting.

And ask your Lt. Governor Marketing how you can become a new club sponsor or mentor.

Share our dream of Toastmasters with every person in District 25. Turn our dream into possibilities for others by touching one life at a time.

Parade of Banners



Barbara Morgan carries the club banner for Wichita Falls, Club #305 during Saturday morning's Parade of Banners at the 2004 Spring Conference.

Saturday morning of the 2004 District Spring Conference began with the traditional Parade of Banners.

Leading the banner parade was Barbara Morgan from Wichita Falls (Club #305), one of the oldest Toastmaster clubs in District 25. Older clubs have smaller numbers. Within District 25, the three oldest clubs are Shared Communicators (#114), Wichita Falls (#305), and Plus Two (#329).

Adorning club banners are awards and honors a club has won over the years.

While some clubs didn't manage to get their banners to the conference, others scrambled madly at the last minute to find an alternative, smaller banner just for the fun of participating in the parade.

Newly chartered clubs even participated with wee little banners. (See the photo on Page 9 showing Bank One (#657679), a new club just recently chartered.)

First-Timer Reflects on Spring Conference

By Laura De la Garza, TM

To improve my delivery of ideas and to communicate more effectively, I toyed with the idea of joining Toastmasters for some time. I finally showed up at the Southlake group the first part of February 2004. I was impressed by the level of professionalism and experience of the majority of the members there and thought that I could benefit from joining. I became a member the following week. Sometime in early March, my club announced the upcoming Spring Conference to be held in Arlington. I thought that perhaps I needed to hear some great

speeches and to learn how others had gotten to that level of perfection.

My expectations were way short of the mark. What I found was a wonderful world of all kinds of people, who came from different backgrounds, different cultures, have different accents, and all have the same goal — to speak professionally and effectively and to help others achieve their goals!

All of the speakers, without exception, had a tremendously uplifting message to share, a message of hope, of faith, of a brighter future. I could not help but feel grateful to be surrounded

by such a wonderful group of people. Their energy and motivation is contagious!

From the speakers that day I learned, above all, that you can “eat an elephant one bite at a time” and that every great speaker started just like anyone else, at the bottom, making mistakes, and even being terrible at it. But sticking to it, rehearsing, and by taking every chance to speak, had transformed them into the professional speakers that they are today.

I am so glad that I decided to invest a little time to attend the District 25 Spring Conference in Arlington this year.

Besides, I ended up winning a great door prize on Saturday morning, and the First Comer Raffle of four tickets to the Ranger's game. But most importantly, I came away all fired up to take all the opportunities I can get for stage time.

I can't wait to attend the next conference!

C & L Award (Cont'd)

By espousing this representative attitude, Wes believes that the paper is more successful in presenting, fair, truthful, balanced, and accurate information.

Wes said that the Star-Telegram was dedicated to community service and has been involved in a myriad of causes, from women's issues to the Ft. Worth Bowl to the Colonial Golf Tournament.

“The days of the independent newspaper owner are almost over. The role of Publisher is that of caretaker—leave the community better off than when we got here,” Mr. Turner said.

Additionally, respect for the individual is a key component of the Star-Telegram's guiding principles.

Mr. Turner said that the Star-Telegram's job is to inform, provoke, make people think, educate them, and entertain them.

By his unparalleled commitment and presence within our community, Wes Turner has maintained an exceptional level of communications in the best half of

North Texas. According to District Governor David Hostler, Wes Turner is likely to shrug off his accomplishments as being within the newspaper person's purview of building community.

“If we can make our community more informed and more involved, then we've done our job,” Mr. Turner said. “We can make a difference — communication and leadership are key.”

New District Officers, Cont'd

he “mentors and guides anyone who can get some good from it.”

David said that he'd like to thank the many helpers and friends who just kept showing up this year.

“As you work toward Success with a Personal Touch,” David said, “remember to Catch the Dream.”

What a tremendously successful year for the District, as well as for the many Toastmasters who made it possible.



Conference Registration Chair Victor James, Lois Jenkins, DTM, and Rebecca Harvey, DTM, provide information and a goodie bag for conference attendees.

Area 41 Governor (Cont'd)

achieving your dreams — some simply want to be able to stand up and give a single speech, still others want to become a CTM, a CL, or ATM, while others want to serve as leaders. As area governor, it is my responsibility to mentor club officers and members so that they realize anyone of them can accomplish their goals. Their only obstacle is their inhibition.

Second, I want to help my district grow and to publicize Toastmasters. I think this will not only attract new and talented people, but also help to make our local Toastmasters more recognizable in the area for networking opportunities. I look forward to visiting with our local clubs and getting better acquainted with such a talented and enthusiastic group of people.

Tropical Times at Spring Conference



Area governors Craig Calame (left), Ginger Wiggins, Lillian Pupos, and Tom Feret with Division C Governor DeDe Rhodes (center) provide their tropical report to the District.

20+ Years and a DTM

Ted Martin has been a Toastmaster for over 20 years and across four states.

It's been a long journey but well worth the effort, according to Ted.

May 22, 2004 was a particularly memorable day for Ted Martin since that is when he finally achieved his DTM.

"What made the evening more memorable was having my wife, Betty, there, as she made the journey with me," Ted said.

One aspect of Toastmasters that has always impressed Ted is the support the seasoned Toastmasters provide to the less-experienced members.

One such mentor, Oliver Cozby, DTM, fired Ted up to achieve his own DTM.

Back in 1983, the Communication and Leadership manual required 15

speeches to achieve the CTM level. Ted finished his tenth speech just as the requirements changed to only ten speeches.

Leaving Tulsa, OK, where he achieved his ATM, Ted was able to start a new company club, serve as Area Governor, and attend his first Region III convention in Austin.

Another move found Ted in Wichita, KS where he made new friends, acquired more speaking time in an advanced club, and served as Division Governor.

Yet another move (to Pennsylvania, PA) allowed Ted to serve as a club officer, judge, and a speech contestant.

In 1996, Ted moved back to the DFW area. In 1998, however, his motivation returned and with the encouragement of his mentor, began the final push toward his DTM.

All five Divisions within District 25 had positive news to report.

The District has grown with several new clubs (and a few who transferred), new Toastmasters, and all new educational heights.

As a whole, District 25 received 234 new CTMs, 64 ATM-Bronze, 22 ATM-Silver, and seven ATM-Gold distinctions. Additionally, our members achieved 91 CLs, 14 ALs, and 10 DTMs. (See graphic on P. 2.) District 25 also had 16 Leadership Excellence awards.



After 20 years of being a Toastmaster, Ted Martin goes for the gold, receiving his DTM during the Spring Conference.



Rhonda Champ, CTM, from the newly chartered Bank One club (# 657679) participates in the Parade of Banners during the Saturday breakfast.

Conference, Cont'd

To find the comfort zone, we need to "take every opportunity we have to get up in front of people," Kenny summarized.

After Saturday morning's educational sessions, Toastmasters broke for lunch in Italy, during which District officers announced valuable information on the growth of the District, as well as individual members within the District.

The number of those recognized for their educational achievements was humbling, Gayle Blair said.

Additionally, though the business meeting was informative, it was a bit dry.

"But trust a member or two to break that up with some humor," said Gayle.

Most notably was Division B
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Denton Toastmasters Graduate Ten

Several Denton Toastmasters (club # 3055) wrapped up eight weeks of Youth Leadership training recently, graduating 10 students from the program on June 15. These Toastmasters celebrated by attending a Youth Leadership Party held in the home of Ben Woodham, one of the 10 recent graduates.

The Toastmasters Youth Leadership program enables students from ages 13–17 to garner speaking skills, such as poise, organization, delivery, and responsibility. The eight week workshop teaches the basic Toastmasters meeting method. The coordinator trains and guides the students, who run the meeting.

The participants, who ranged in age from ten to 14 years, were home-schooled students from Denton and areas around Denton.

For eight weeks, they practiced making basic

speeches, participating in table topics, providing evaluations, as well as the basics of parliamentary procedure.

Paula Woodham, mother of one of the participants, said that her son improved dramatically due to this exceptional course.

Another mother stated that she was excited about training her son in brainstorming.

Ron said that he would have loved to take personal credit, but "it came from the written material from Toastmasters."

"I owe special thanks to Laura Smith, ATM-B/CL, Maria Dycha, ATM-S/CL, Debbie Archer, George Hoover, and Jeanie Chilton, CTM for assisting me in the Youth Leadership presentations and providing the location," Ron said.

The course went so well that Denton Toastmasters was asked to provide this

training to other students beginning this fall.

Those completing the course, which is sanctioned by Toastmasters International, include Rachel Curylo, Alyssa Jenkins, Charli and A.J. Leone, Alison Ramsey, Charlie and Keith Richards, Christine and Danielle Wintz, and Ben Woodham.

In addition to the Youth Leadership training, Ron has modified his work schedule to provide a Speech Craft training to Denton's Federal Emergency Management Agency supervisors beginning in a few weeks.

Reference Materials from the TI Catalog

- # 801, Youth Leadership Information Brochure
- #802, Youth Leadership Coordinator's Guide
- #803, Youth Leadership Promotional Packet
- #808, Youth Leadership



Brenda Daniels, the District's new Historian, and Setma Maddox, the District's new Speakers Bureau Chair, pause for breakfast before attending the educational sessions at the 2004 Spring Conference.

Conference Highlights, Cont'd

Governor Lolita Winters, whose presentation was in the form of an old gospel revival. As a matter of fact, Darren La Croix later presented Lolita Winters with a complementary gift to help her enhance her humorous skills.

Educational sessions picked up again after lunch. After education sessions, a bit of a nerve-wracking time ensued for those running for District offices.

Several positions had two members running. Such interest in and competition for offices helps ensure that our District leaders are committed and active in their roles.

All clubs have a voice in electing our district officers: Club Presidents and Vice Presidents of Education may each cast a ballot. Area, Division, and other District officers may also vote during elections. While the remainder of members within the District do not



Spring Conference Chair, Donna Fossmeier, carries District 25's banner in Saturday morning's Banner Parade during the 2004 Spring Conference.

have a vote, they are always welcome at District meetings.

During the District's Business meeting, there were several surprise nominations from the floor.

Typically, candidates are nominated by peers and present a letter of interest to the Nominating Committee.

However, Toastmaster International rules allow for nominations from the floor immediately prior to voting.

If positions are uncontested, then the one person running is automatically elected.

David Himmelstein, current Lt. Governor of Marketing, ran for the Lt. Governor of Education and Training, which was thought to be uncontested.

However, there was a nomination from the floor. Tim Manson was nominated during the meeting.

All candidates presented a two minute speech on why they were the best option for the position. Other nominations from the floor included Tony Bieniosek and Isaiah McCommons.

Refer to the Page 1 article for a complete listing of the District's new officers.

Officer reports during the business meeting indicate that the District is growing and has exceeded its educational goals as of March 31 of this year.

As is traditional toward the end of a conference, the next conference has been scheduled.

Victor James, Fall 2004 Conference Chair, said that the Fall Conference will be on November 19-20 in Ir-



Division B Governor Lolita Winters and her Area governors present a humorous rendition of a Division and Area report.

ving. The theme will be "The Many Faces of Success." Prepare yourself now for Friday's Fun Session — Psychedelic 60s and Tall Tales Night. We have also scheduled a visit from the Toastmasters International President. The Fall Conference will be at the Select Holiday Inn on Hwy 114 and Esters Road in Irving.

A conference just isn't a conference without a speech competition, however, and Saturday evening found Toastmasters enjoying a banquet in preparation for the International Speech Contest.

Amid the beautiful decorations and fabulous meal, Dr. Jeff Johnson announced, "Let the contest begin!"

Brent Cole, James Tucker, Michelle Thomas, Ed Archangel, and John Lucas each took their turn on the stage. Each speech was judged on eight different criteria including speech development, effectiveness, speech value, physical, voice, man-

ner, appropriateness, and correctness.

When the winner was announced, Ed Archangel bounded up to the stage with a brilliant smile on his face. His speech, "Your Attitude Says it All," set the stage for his acceptance of the trophy. His attitude said he was a winner.

So how does it feel to accept the 1st place trophy for D5 International Speech Contest? Ed interjected, "Exhilarating! Fantastic!"

Ed began his speech by telling us that people might expect an Archangel to ride up on a white horse. He doesn't have a horse.

He continued by telling us about growing up with a mother who started each day expecting the best and a father who was so excited about life he inspired everyone. He brought us to the conclusion that we can do anything we want if we have the right attitude.

He inspired the audience and closed the conference nicely.

Web Hosting for Toastmasters

by Ron Clark, ATM-G/CL

I began his term as the President of FAA Club #6102 on July 1, 2003.

As I met with Club officers, I set my highest goal: Establish a new FAA Toastmasters web site to increase membership and to share information with both Toastmasters and non-Toastmasters alike.

Together with John King, ATM-S/CL, we tried to develop this new web site. Starting out by researching the Internet, I found information on speeches, Table Topics, presentation skills, and 11,000 quotes.

We thought that this information, combined with my various presentations from District 25 Conferences, as well as a list of over 1000 speech topics, would provide a highly usable site. John King then put this information into HTML.

A problem emerged, however. I couldn't find a low cost site provider to support the FAA site.

In late 2003, I got a message from some guy offering a free web site.

"I didn't jut fall off a turnip truck!" I said. "Nothing in life is free, what is the catch?"

Rather than responding to the message, I tossed this non-requested spam and continued to search for a free hosting web site.

Then, in the May 2004 *Toastmaster* magazine, I found an article titled "Want a Successful Club Web Site?"

This was exactly what we were looking for — a complete explanation on how to create a web site.

Finally I started looking for the original message and discovered it was from Bo Bennett, the same person who had written the article on creating a web site.

It took me less than ten days to get the template from Bo, establish a domain name, add all available information on our site at www.faatoastmasters.org and tie the domain into the free web site hosted by Bo Bennett, a long time Toastmaster.

Visit www.Freetoasthost.org to see a demonstration.

Back to the cost ... there is a small catch. If you use their domain name, it will average approximately \$15.00 per year.

If you have your own name, it is free (no catches). The system comes with the following menu organized on the left side of the web site:

Main Menu — Information that both members and visitors will find helpful.

Toastmasters.org Links — Links to the TI main site.

Articles — Articles written to help Toastmasters become better communicators.

Members Only — Information and tools for members of the club only. Most of these areas are password protected.

Why is it free?

According to Bo Bennet, Archieboy Holdings, LLC, is involved in contributing to several organizations.

"Toastmasters is an organization that we find to be extremely beneficial to both individuals and businesses," Bo said.

YearToSuccess.com, the main sponsor of [\[Host.org\]\(http://Host.org\), is linked to these websites giving \[YearToSuccess.com\]\(http://YearToSuccess.com\) more exposure and better search engine placement while not forcing obnoxious ads or popups on users.](http://FreeToast.</p>
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"It really is a win-win situation," Bo confessed.

"Besides, my passion is programming and design, so I really enjoyed creating this site."

So far, Bo has offered free hosting to over 550 Toastmasters Clubs.

It is an excellent web site that provides exactly what is promised.

Look at Ron's site at www.faatoastmasters.org.

If you like what you see, consider using Bo Bennet's www.Freetoasthost.org.

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Ron Clark, ATM-G/CL is a free lance writer and the editor of the FAA's Fort Worth Wrangler newsletter produced every three months. He is a member of five clubs — FAA, Denton (home), TV, PET, and the new ToastStop Club.



Only 1% of Toastmasters ever achieve their Distinguished Toastmaster award (DTM). District 25 recently acquired six more DTMS. District 25 Governor David Hostler presented Amy Crow, Rebecca Harvey, David Heywood, Ted Martin, DeDe Rhodes, and Lolita Winters with their DTMs on Saturday, May 22, 2004. Congratulations to our newest DTMS.

Calling Out Encouragement

*By Nancy Starr, DTM,
Candidate for Internat'l Dir*

Recently, a fellow Toastmaster shared the story of a busy mother whose son asked that she stop working and play darts. When she said she didn't know how to

play darts, her young son explained that the game was simple.

He would stand and throw the darts at the board, and she would stand to the side, clap, and exclaim, "Wonderful, wonderful!"

This story illustrates that the key to success in the Toastmasters program is the support and encouragement we give. We exist simply to encourage each other as we work towards improving our communication and leadership skills. I joined Papago Toastmasters in Tempe Arizona in 1988.

Not only was I impressed by the meeting quality, but what sold me on the program was the encouragement that both the winner and the other participants received from their fellow members.

My club continued to demonstrate encouragement as

I accepted the challenge of leadership in Toastmasters. They were there for me for each step in the leadership track. In my Toastmaster career, I haven't hesitated to take on a committee chair position, because I knew I would get support.

One of my personal passions has been officer training. I had a vision of officer training so exciting that people wanted to go to training!

But my club and my district is not unique – this attitude is universal throughout the organization. As I have visited other clubs and other districts, I constantly see encouragement in action.

During this past year, I have had the opportunity to visit all nine of the Districts within Region III.

I was particularly impressed with my visit to District 25. This has been a year of

challenges for many of your leaders, yet I saw so many examples of members calling out encouragement to your leaders and to each other.

It was a pleasure to meet so many people who were excited about the programs, who received recognition for their efforts, and those who showed support for their leaders.

I thank all of you who had kind words for me and who wished me well on my journey to success.

I hope to see many of you again at the Regional conference in June and the International Convention in Reno.

My goal as International Director is to help our organization become a truly global presence and yet stay true to the vision that allows individual members to achieve their potential and realize their dreams.

Remember, every member has the power to be a mentor to others.

All it takes is a moment to call out encouragement to each other as we all work toward accomplishing our dreams.

Calendar of Dreams

June, 2004

1-30 Hold Division & Area Council Meetings

14 Flag Day

18-19 Region III – Albuquerque NM

20 Father's Day

21 District Executive Committee Meeting and Transition Meeting

30 Last Day – Don't wait until June to reach your goals!



New Lt. Governor of Marketing, Earl Hill, gears up with his Southern Marketing Team, which includes (back left) Don Ferris, Jim Cross, Earl Hill, (middle) Phyllis Renfrow, Jeryl Hejl, (front) Doneva Garcia, and Theresa Park.

DISTRICT 25 TOASTMASTERS



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