

Northwest Words

The Official Publication of Northwestern Toastmasters Club 2946/37
Meeting each first, third, and fifth Tuesday, 6:30 PM - Mayberry's, 50 Miller Street, Winston-Salem, NC
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On the web at www.nwtm.org

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**See YOU at our next Meeting
Tuesday April 17, 2007**



The Mission of a Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which each member has the opportunity to develop and practice communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

~~~ This weeks Edition ~~~

Be sure that you check out all three pages. In order to meet the requests of the readers to include more humor it was necessary to go with three pages in this issue. A suggestion was made at the last meeting to use a calendar rather than timing lights for Joel's speeches. Perhaps we need to do something similar for our Secretary, considering the length of his report. On the other hand, this is the history of our meetings, so – Brian, Keep up the good work!

Remember: All roles are important! If you can not attend the meeting, then contact our VP of Education.

~~~ A Southern Belle ~~~

A very gentle Southern lady was driving across the Savannah River Bridge in Georgia one day. As she neared the top of the bridge, she noticed a young man fixing (ready) to jump. She stopped her car, rolled down the window and said, "Please don't jump. Think of your dear mother and father." He replied, "Mom and Dad are both dead. I'm gonna to jump."

She said, "Well, think of your wife and children." He replied, "I'm not married, and I don't have any kids."

She said, "Well then, think of Robert E. Lee." He replied, "Who's Robert E. Lee?"

She replied, "Well bless your heart, just go ahead and jump, you dumb Yankee."

Schedule for the April 17, 2007 Meeting

Kyle Adams.....	Speaker
Scott Anderson.....	Joke Master
Don Barnett.....	Table Topics
Butch Barney	Evaluator
Marcia Barney.....	Evaluator
Teddy Burriss.....	Evaluator
Pam Christopher	Evaluator
Brian Davidson.....	Speaker
Dianna Garcia.....	Evaluator
Donna Hall.....	Timer
Karl Hastings.....	Grammarian
Lance Kull.....	Evaluator
Zoltan Rab.....	Speaker
Evelyn Ries.....	Wordmaster
Barbara Schanker	Speaker
Jeff Walker.....	Vote Counter
Derrick Webb.....	Speaker
Elaine Wiles.....	Toastmaster
Debbie Woo.....	General Evaluator

Schedule for the May 1, 2007 Meeting

Kyle Adams.....	Vote Counter
Scott Anderson.....	Speaker
Don Barnett.....	General Evaluator
Marcia Barney.....	Evaluator
Teddy Burriss.....	Evaluator
Pam Christopher	Table Topics
Dianna Garcia.....	Speaker
Donna Hall.....	Evaluator
Karl Hastings.....	Toastmaster
Lance Kull.....	Wordmaster
Zoltan Rab.....	Grammarian
Evelyn Ries.....	Joke Master
Craig Thrift.....	Speaker
Elaine Wiles.....	Evaluator
Debbie Woo.....	Evaluator
Evander Woo.....	Evaluator

April 4, 2007 Meeting Notes

by Brian Davidson, Secretary

The April 4, 2007 meeting of Northwestern Toastmasters was called to order by President Donna Hall. Joel Schanker, Vice President of Education, reported that all club members' assigned roles were present and accounted for; hence, no shuffling of roles was necessary. Congratulations to Joel! His hard work and tenacity in maintaining the clubs educational schedule and forecasting the future paid him a reward.

Joel reminded the membership that the Division B Contest will be held April 14, 2007. He also reported that the District Conference will be held in Charlotte on April 27th and 28th. Visit www.toastmasters-nc.org for details

*Secretary's Note: The District Conference will be of special importance to Northwestern Toastmaster **Pam Christopher**. Pam currently holds the office of Lieutenant Governor of Education & Training for District 37. After holding several Club, Area, Division, and District offices Pam is seeking to lead District 37 as District Governor for the upcoming year. All Northwestern Toastmasters can support Pam at the District Conference. At the same time I am sure Pam would encourage you to take advantage of the numerous educational sessions and events that will be offered over the two day period.*

After a short recess VP of Ed, Joel Schanker reconvened the meeting and introduced the Toastmaster for the evening, Donna Hall. Toastmaster Donna introduced the meeting topic "Becoming a Donor". Her speech with the same title, recounted her very personal experience with the donor program and the importance of Bone Marrow typing and donations.

TM Donna transitioned from her speech to the introduction of Word Master Kyle Adams to procure the word for the evening. Kyle challenged us to use the word "procure".

TM Donna introduced Table Topics Master Zoltan Rab. Staying with the meetings theme, Zoltan did not hesitate to offer some thoughtful suggestions for discussion to Pam Christopher, Kyle Adams and Diana Garcia. According to Timer Brian Davidson, all of the speaking times were within the allotted time limits. Ballots were directed to Vote Counter Diana Garcia.

After accepting control of the lectern back from Zoltan, TM Donna introduced the first prepared speaker, Jeff Walker. Jeff presented his Ice Breaker. Congratulations to Jeff and thank you for sharing some information about yourself to the club. We look forward to many more great speeches from you. Next up was Evelyn Ries. Evelyn's speech was the second project from the Competent Communication Manual. Evelyn's speech was titled "Organizing a Camping Trip". The next prepared speaker was Matthew Hamby. Matthew's project was the third from the Competent Communications Manual. Matthew's speech title was "Golf". Joel Schanker was the big finale. Joel was working from the advanced manual "Persuasive Speaking".

His speech title for the fourth project in the manual was "The Path to Participation".

The timer's report presented by Timer Brian indicated that Donna, Jeff, Evelyn and Matthew met their target times. Due to a timing light operator malfunction, Joel slightly exceeded his allotted time.

Next, Toastmaster Donna introduced General Evaluator Pam Christopher. Pam presented her view of how the meeting had progressed and where we could possibly make some improvements. Pam then turned to her team of evaluators to help the individual speakers. Marcia Barney helped out Donna with an evaluation of her speech given at the opening of the meeting. Marcia offered Donna some suggestions on things she might consider to enhance her speech and presentation skills. Elaine Wiles sent some suggestions over to Jeff with her evaluation. John Clark evaluated Evelyn's speech and Don Barnett evaluated Joel's speech.

GE Pam obtained a timer's report from Timer Brian. Brian indicated that all of the evaluators had qualifying speaking times. Ballots were directed to Vote Counter Diana. GE Pam called on Grammarian Derrick Webb. Derrick pointed out some (many) grammatical hiccups we had during the meeting and issued the appropriate fines. Word Master Kyle reported that the word of the evening, "procure", was used by the membership during the meeting. *We really do need a more competent Secretary who might write down the names of those who used the word of the evening.*

GE Pam returned control of the meeting to TM Donna. TM Donna wrapped up the educational portion of the meeting by sticking with her meeting theme "Becoming a Donor". She then put her president's hat back on and obtained the vote count from Vote Counter Diana Garcia. President Hall then presented the Best Table Topics Award to Pam Christopher. The Best Evaluator Award went to John Clark. The Best Prepared Speaker Award went to our Toastmaster for the meeting and Northwestern Toastmaster President Donna Hall. *Look at all the hats Donna can wear in one meeting.*

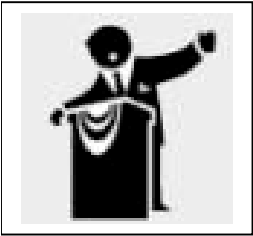
Joke Master Craig Thrift got the bellies giggling just before President Hall efficiently wrapped things up and called the

MEETING ADJOURNED! 

Pun-tificating

- A thief fell and broke his leg in wet cement. He became a hardened criminal.
- Thieves who steal corn from a garden could be charged with stalking.
- We'll never run out of math teachers because they always multiply.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U C L A.
- The math professor went crazy with the blackboard. He did a number on it.
- The professor discovered that her theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground.

Big You, Little I By Marcia Barney, DTM



"Make it personal and they will listen to you." It's virtually a credo of public speakers. Perhaps it is a reflection of society's fascination with the personal from the Oprah Winfrey and Dr. Phil to the tabloid rags. No question, it sells to listeners in all forms. However, we seem to be losing sight of the range of personal pronouns. Are we forgetting that "you" is also a personal pronoun?

When we speak, each person who is listening to us – usually about half of the audience depending on how interesting we are and how well our listeners relate to the message – is giving up precious time. That gift of time is a debt that should be paid through our words – words useable and meaningful to those listeners.

The journey to improved communications in Toastmasters begins with the Ice Breaker in which the new member is asked to talk about himself or herself. Some Toastmasters never seem to get past that concept. Years later every speech is another version of "here's my life." We're friends, so fellow member's lives are interesting. However, we are supposedly training to be better communicators in real life. Unless you plan to spend your life communicating only with close friends, consider readjusting your focus. Focus on the "you" of your presentation. Expand your vision to the needs of your audience, limiting the first person personal to an anecdote or an aside. Emphasize the more broadly applicable parts of your speech. Some incident in your life may have led to your interest in the subject, but that incident does not necessarily make the audience interested in it, so tell them what's in it for them. Establish your credibility through the introduction given by the person who welcomes you to the lectern. That person can better establish sympathy because you suffered a deadly disease, accident or misfortune than you can. They can more effectively remunerate the awards you've received or your achievements. Let them do their job, then you concentrate on telling the audience what's in it for them.

A good exercise is to, after writing your next speech, count the number of first person personal pronouns. Now count the number of second and third person personal pronouns. If the number of first persons exceeds the others undertake a serious rewriting. Be sure your third persons are well defined.

Have many Ice Breakers have you made? Consider broadening your speech horizons.

More Pun-tificating

- I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.
- Police were called to a daycare where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- Did you hear about the guy whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.
- The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference.
- To write with a broken pencil is pointless.

Here are the 7 habits of very organized people.

1. They have a place for everything. Every item they have has a consistent, assigned home. The home for books is on the book shelf. The home for toys is in the toy room on the toy shelves. The home for blank greeting cards is in the greeting card organizer in the office.

2. They put things back. Whenever an item has been removed from its assigned home, it is used for whatever reason and then immediately returned to its home when no longer in use. There are no temporary holding places. It's just put back where it belongs, right away.

3. They write things down. Organized people make lists and notes, and keep these in one consistent place such as a planner, notebook or calendar. They don't try to remember things in their heads. They let the pen and paper (or the computer) work for them. They reference their lists and notes on a daily basis.

4. They don't allow papers to pile up. Papers to file are filed each day, not left to grow into mountains. Mail is opened over the recycle container so papers not needed don't even have a chance to multiply. Kids permission slips are signed right away and sent back to school with the kids. Bills are tucked into a bill paying system until bill paying day, and paid bill statements are filed away that day. Magazines are read within a week or two and then recycled or donated.

5. They don't procrastinate. When something has to be done, organized people schedule time to do it and then they keep that scheduled appointment. They know that the more they delay, the more likely deadlines will be missed or opportunities will pass.

6. They set goals and assign deadlines. They know if they want to get things done, they need to know exactly what they want the end result to be and by what date. They review these goals often and set aside time each day to work on achieving them. They review what they've accomplished and never forget to reap the rewards.

7. They only keep what they use and/or they enjoy. They can't stand anything taking up space that doesn't have a useful or pleasurable purpose in their lives. They're big believers in simplicity. They breathe easier knowing they've lightened their loads and can move easily without having to climb over boxes and piles of clutter.

Even More Pun-tificating

- When fish are in schools they sometimes take debate.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- The dead batteries were given out free of charge.
- If you take a laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory.
- A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
- The optometrist fell into his lens grinder and made a spectacle of himself. [That's a story that lens itself.]
- A boiled egg is hard to beat.