

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 -- August 21, 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.

~~~ Member Feedback ~~~

One of our members (who asked to remain unnamed) made this suggestion. "Why not eliminate the role of Grammarian and simply have each member give a quarter to the treasurer at the start of the meeting?" This makes a great deal of sense (cents?) to me, since (cents?) the role of the grammarian seems to have evolved from an "uh" counter to a way to raise money.

Along those lines, we have had 25 cents as the upper limit. This was proposed several years ago when a quarter was worth a quarter. Perhaps we should raise the limit to 50 cents. This would make the fine more in line with the rate of inflation.

Combining these two suggestions would provide some benefits to the meetings. Scheduling would be simpler, the meetings would run faster and the Clubs slush fund would increase at a faster rate. My challenge is for someone to bring this up at the next business session.

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

There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

Schedule for the August 21, 2007 Meeting

Scott Anderson..... Speaker
Butch Barney Evaluator
Marcia Barney Evaluator
Teddy Burriss Timer
Pam Christopher Grammarian
John Clark..... General Evaluator
Brian Davidson..... Speaker
Donna Hall Evaluator
Matthew Hamby Table Topics
Karl Hastings..... Word Master
Lance Kull Evaluator
Zoltan Rab Speaker
Barbara Schanker Speaker
Joel Schanker Evaluator
Christine Sternjacob..... Vote Counter
Craig Thrift Joke Master
Derrick Webb Toastmaster
Elaine Wiles Speaker
Evander Woo Evaluator

Schedule for the September 4, 2007 Meeting

Scott Anderson..... Grammarian
Don Barnett..... Speaker
Butch Barney Joke Master
Marcia Barney Evaluator
Teddy Burriss General Evaluator
Pam Christopher Evaluator
Brian Davidson..... Evaluator
Diana Garcia Speaker
Matthew Hamby Speaker
Karl Hastings..... Evaluator
Lance Kull Toastmaster
Susan Lippow..... Timer
Zoltan Rab Evaluator
Christine Sternjacob..... Speaker
Craig Thrift Speaker
Jeff Walker Vote Counter
Elaine Wiles Evaluator
Evander Woo Table Topics

August 7, 2007 Meeting Notes

by Marcia Barney, Treasurer



The business session was delightfully short due to an unprecedented occurrence: The Vice President of Education stated that he had nothing to say and therefore said nothing! This does not, however, imply that Evander does not keep us fully informed. The back of the program contained assignments for the next three meetings. Thank you, Evander!

Toastmaster of the Meeting Zoltan Rab chose "The Power From Within" as the theme for the meeting. Wordmaster Evander Woo gave us "riant" (laughing, smiling, cheerful) as the word we should add to our vocabulary. This fill-in Secretary can't help but wonder if this was an attempt to replace the usual good humor provided by our absent Secretary.

Table Topics Master Craig Thrift gave topics to: Don Barnett who told us how to overcome a fear; John Clark told us about releasing the power within to help someone in an emergency; Jeff Walker, who declares that he is not a "people person" discussed using the power to make a dream a reality.

Prepared speakers were:

--Christine Sternjacob with a B-2 "Flying the Friendly Skies."
Pam Christopher evaluated the speech.

--Don Barnett gave his B-10 "Focus on Excellence." The ever kind Barbara Schanker gave Don feedback.

--Derrick Webb gave his #4 from the Humorously Speaking Manual. His "Keep Them Laughing" covering his purchase of a new used car in which his daughter rode "in front of the driver's seat." The long-missing Teddy Burriss was his evaluator.

General Evaluator Butch Barney gave us some compliments and some needed smacks on the wrist for our performance at the meeting. Zoltan had so many things that he "would like to do" that Butch kept his remarks short. Grammarian Joel Schanker told us we needed to learn "to use words more economically."

Teddy used "riant."

Winners for the evening were: Best Table Topics Speaker: Don Barnett

Best Evaluator: Pam Christopher

Best Speaker: Christine Sternjacob (2 out of 2 for "Best Speaker")

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Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

If a 911 operator has a heart attack, whom does he/she call?

Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, "I think I'll squeeze these dangly things here, and drink whatever comes out!"

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!

Is Disney World the only people trap operated by a mouse?

## Glass Half Full or Half Empty?

by Evander Woo, VP of Education



How do you look at a glass of water filled up to the middle? Do you see it as half full or half empty? Objectively, that glass of water is the same no matter how you look at it. Human beings tend to see things subjectively. What is subjective in Toastmasters? Evaluations are the most subjective aspect of a meeting.

While the ice breaker speech may seem to be the scariest event for a new toastmaster. The first evaluation performed by a new toastmaster may actually be scarier. Why? It is a test of how well you listen to the speaker. Also, it is a test of how well you can organize constructive opinions in a short period of time.

While some people feel that public speaking is a fate worse than death. There are fates that are much worse than speaking in front of fellow toastmasters. If you feel discouraged about something at work or at home, toastmasters will help you take the "dis" out of discourage and give you the courage to do what you never thought possible.

Whether you feel that your life is half full or half empty, become a better communicator through speaking and evaluation at Northwestern Toastmasters. That way, your life will always be full, not just half full.

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While I do my best to refrain from making comments about our editorials, I feel compelled to thank Evander. We all know that people join Toastmasters for selfish reasons – to improve themselves. Evander has illustrated an often-overlooked reason for Toastmasters. Thank you, Evander.

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When your photo is taken for your driver's license, why do they tell you to smile? If you are stopped by the police and asked for your license, are you going to be smiling?

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?

If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?

Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane?

If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?

What do you call male ballerinas?

If Wyle E. Coyote had enough money to buy all that ACME stuff, why didn't he just buy dinner?