

Northwest Words

The Official Publication of Northwestern Toastmasters Club 2946/37
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For more information --
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See YOU
at our next Meeting



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.

Put A Name On That Speech!



by Brian Davidson, ATS/CL
Toastmasters new and old sometimes struggle with the same issue. My life is boring and I have nothing to say in a speech. Believe it or not, we have not all won first place at a pie eating contest, caught the greased pig at the county fair, traveled to Nauru,

invented a widget or burped in the middle of a speech. You may think your life is boring just because you live it. But maybe no one else in the audience caught crawdads at the creek as a kid or learned to knit a scarf.

If you are still having trouble picking a topic for your next speech you might consider some of the following to get started.

- What is your philosophy? By what values do you live your life?
- List defining moments of your life. Lessons, experiences, events that have changed your life. Tell your audience.
- What subjects and issues are you passionate about? How easily could you be convinced to change your mind? If it would be difficult, you have a speech idea.
- Find the extraordinary in the ordinary. You won't inspire if you are negative. Find the blessings in life and bring them to life for you and your audience.
- What makes you laugh? Share it! Others will appreciate a new source of humor.
- What makes you anger? Share how you would make the world better.

- What are you struggling with right now? Having writer's block. Don't have enough time? Give a speech on that! You will be passionate and maybe it will offer a solution for you and others.

So what do you have to say? You already know – Just discover your voice!

Area and Division Contests

The Area Contest winners were Barbie Morgan in the International Speech Contest and Mark Perew in the Table Topics Contest. Congratulations to these fine Northwestern Toastmasters!

Barbie and Mark will represent Area 21 at the Division B contest. That contest will be on Saturday April 18 at Moses Cone Women's Hospital in Greensboro.

New Members

In the last few weeks several new members have joined Northwestern Toastmasters. These include Maurice Derbez, Craig Humphrey, Jordan McKinnie and Christa Neuhauser. Lets make sure that they feel welcome and are part of our organization.

Guests

At our last meeting we had two guests, Zabrina Liang and Manuel Neuhauser. We hope you enjoyed the meeting! If you have questions, please contact any of our officers listed at the top of the page.

Secretary's Report for March 17, 2009



by Evander Woo, Secretary
President Craig Thrift presided over our business session with his usual speed and accuracy. Following the officer reports, Treasurer, Marcia Barney, announced that dues are due.

Our educational session tonight was led by our Toastmaster of the Meeting, Joel Schanker. Joel (our newest DTM) used **Practice** as the theme for the meeting. Our word-master for the evening, Craig Thrift CC/CL was definitely conversant with meeting procedure when he introduced the word for the evening, "Conversant." Our Table Topics Master was Jennifer Davis. Her questions on practice went to Brian Davis, Christa Neuhauser, Jordan McKinnie and John Clark.

Our Timer for the evening was Craig Humphrey and our Vote Counter was Eddy Gaasbeek. These fine Toastmasters performed their duties in the background to keep the meeting on track.

Our prepared speakers for the evening included Jeff Walker, CC with speech number 1 from the interpretive reading manual. Jeff was followed by Pam Christopher, DTM/PDG/IDC who used speech number four in the basic manual to tell us about "Change is Coming."

Mark Perew served as our General Evaluator. After discussing progress of the meeting (and complimenting our VP of Public Relations, John Clark, for his outstanding work, Mark called on Marcia Barney, DTM to evaluate Jeff's speech. Following Marcia's evaluation, Mark called on Don Barnett to evaluate Pam's speech. Mark called on our Word Master, Craig Thrift for his report. Concluding the evaluation session was Brian Davidson with the Grammarian's Report.

The meeting concluded with the Joke Master's report from our very happy Treasurer (see Grammarian's Report) - Marcia Barney.

Best of awards for the evening went to
Ø Pam Christopher - Prepared Speech
Ø Marcia Barney - Evaluator
Ø John Clark - Table Topics

Working on the Competent Leader Manual?

If you are working in the CL manual (and if you are not, then why not?) talk with our Vice President of Publicity, John Clark. He can always use help and that help will get you credit for helping with the newsletter (Northwest Words) or our web site, or both. John claims that the work is not difficult and it is mostly painless.

Dues are Past Due

Semi-annual dues are due. To remain a member of good standing in this elite organization requires only two actions. The first is to prepare for your meeting roles to the best of your ability and the other is to give our Treasurer, Marcia Barney, DTM a check, cash or money order for \$31.50

Secretary's Report for March 31, 2009

by Undersecretary Marcia Barney, DTM

That's the Way It Was on March 31. President Craig Thrift did a fabulous job leading us through an active business session in which we decided to try something really different for our 5th Tuesday meetings. Joel Schanker moved and Pam Christopher seconded the motion to hold our 5th Tuesday meetings are varying locations. Brian Davidson amended the motion to state that these meetings are special educational programs and Marcia Barney seconded the motion. The amendment passed (just affirming EVP Don Barnett's plans for the meetings.) The discussion was lively and the amended motion passed with only one dissenting vote. Everyone who believes in following Robert's Rules of Order got a nice lesson in Parliamentary Procedure. Those who like "Bob's Rules of Order" may have been a bit overwhelmed, but a nice exercise for all.

Toastmaster for the Meeting John Clark made the evening interesting and enjoyable with him theme of "Enjoy." Wordmaster Pam Christopher gave "opulent" as the Word for the Day. John Clark, Joel Schanker, Jordan Smith, and Craig Humphrey used the Word during the meeting. Table Topics Master Princess Edwards chose "Spring" as the theme for Table Topics and gave topics to:

-Barbie Morgan said that Spring means sunshine and warm air to her.

-Barbara Schanker recited a few memories of Spring.

-Don Barnett described Spring at his house and how it may be delayed this year.

-Butch Barney likes the fact that almost everything becomes upbeat in Spring.

Prepared speeches were given by:

-Craig Humphrey told us about the importance of his family and his work as a private investigator during his Ice Breaker speech.

-Christa Neuhauser told us about her family and about the motorcycle travel magazine she publishes in her Ice Breaker.

-Jordan Smith gave us some wonderful information in his "Two Hours Strolling in History" from the Basic Manual. His terrifically timely tale of the UNC Sports Museum got us ready for the weekend's NCAA Final Four.

Joel Schanker served as General Evaluator. Barbara evaluated Craig H., Craig Thrift evaluated Christa, and Jeff Walker evaluated Jordan Smith. Marcia Barney served as Grammarian for which the club's treasury is grateful. Don Barnett was Timer and Jordan McKinney counted votes. Brian Davidson told the Joke. Guests Manuel Neuhauser, Zabrina Liang, and Maurice Derbez commented positively about the meeting.

Winners for the evening were:

Best Table Topic Speaker - Butch Barney

Best Evaluator - Craig Thrift

Best Speaker - Jordan Smith

The shopkeeper was dismayed when a brand new business much like his own opened up next door and erected a huge sign which read **BEST DEALS**. He was horrified when another competitor opened up on his right, and announced its arrival with an even larger sign, reading **LOWEST PRICES**. The shopkeeper was panicked, until he got an idea. He put the biggest sign of all over his own shop-it read... **MAIN ENTRANCE**.

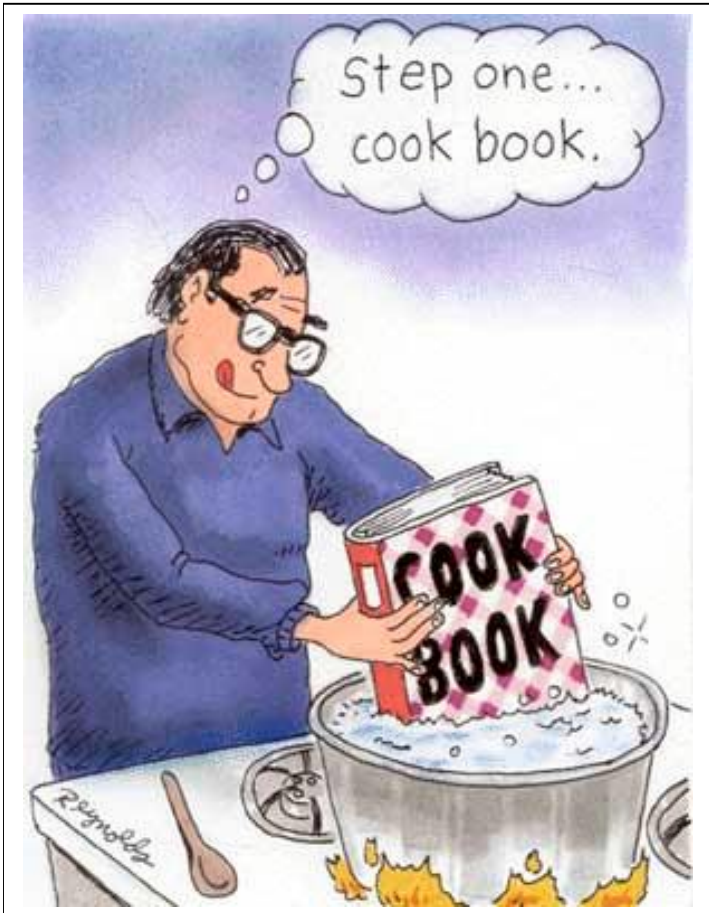


Mark Perew (left) and Barbie Morgan were the winners at the Area 21 competition. Both are members of Northwestern Toastmasters.

Barbie shows her trophy after demonstrating her speaking ability in the International Speech Contest.

Mark's trophy demonstrates his ability to deliver a short speech without pre-planning in the Table Topics Contest.

Thanks to Brian Davidson for the picture.



A physicist, biologist and a chemist were going to the ocean for the first time.

Fascinated by the waves, the physicist wanted to do some research on the fluid dynamics of the waves, so he walked into the ocean ... and never returned.

The biologist wanted to do research on the flora and fauna inside the ocean, and so he too walked into the ocean ... and never returned.

The chemist waited for a long time. Afterwards, he wrote into his lab book the observation: "This sample of physicists and biologists was soluble in ocean water."

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A burglar broke into the home of a prominent local lawyer, stealing the lawyer's Christmas presents from under the tree.

Scrupulously, he leaves the wife's and children's gifts alone.

As he is escaping from the house, he has the bad luck to run into a policeman, who promptly arrests him.

He confesses to what he has done, but tells the policeman that he can't be arrested.

When the policeman asks why, he explains, "Because the law states that I am entitled to the presents of an attorney."

