

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
Volume 35, No. 21, Early May, 2009
On the web at www.nwtm.org

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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.

Ready, Aim, Fire



by Joel Schanker, DTM
There is an interesting conversation in Alice In Wonderland between Alice and the Cheshire Cat. "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?" "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat. "I don't much

care where --" said Alice. "Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat

I do not believe that your experience will be much different in Toastmasters. If you do not have an idea of what you want to accomplish, then it really doesn't matter how you go about it. However, if you take a moment to consider why you are in Toastmasters, then you can successfully translate the *why* into *what*. What do you want to accomplish that will satisfy why you joined Toastmasters?

Once you have specific goals in mind, you can start planning how to get them. Whatever your goals are, Toastmasters has one or more manuals that will deliver the skill set necessary to make it happen. If you want to develop leadership skills, you might set goals that include holding club level office, then area, then division or district. If you want to speak more effectively at work, you might select the manual on Technical Presentation. If you want to be less stiff, you could try the Humorous Speaker manual. With specific goals you can complete manuals that target appropriate aspects of speaking. If you are not sure how to get there, talk to someone who has already been down the path and let them share their experiences.

After you set your goals, this best is now in front of you. Hard work and fun rarely mix in this day and age,. but in Toastmasters you are working in front of people who are on the same path you are. They have made every one of the mistakes you will make but they still succeeded. They

will applaud before you utter one word because they know what it takes to stand up there. Where else can you guarantee that unsuccessful efforts are not only unpenalized but get you the advice and feedback that will allow you to improve.

Life is rarely as complicated as we think. The old processes still work. Know where you want to go. Pick specific paths to get you there. Then, step out and move resolutely forward, stopping along the way to check your position and admire the scenery around you.

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This guest editorial is from the Late July 2001 issue of Northwest Words. Believing, as I do, that truth is eternal - I felt that it was worth looking at again.

## Spring Conference

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The Spring Conference will be held on May 15 - 17 in Charlotte, NC at the Marriott Executive Park. I-77 at Tyvola Road, 5700 Westpark Drive. For more information visit the District web site, www.toastmasters-nc.org/

Back By Popular Demand

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Be the first to identify the new secretary and win an all expense (excluding meals) visit to the next Northwestern Toastmasters meeting. The rules are simple:

- E-mail your entry to [Toastmasters@triad.rr.com](mailto:Toastmasters@triad.rr.com)
- Include the word "Contest" on the subject line
- Contest begins now
- Contest ends at 5:00 pm on Tuesday (just before the next meeting)
- You may enter as many times as you like
- Only your LAST entry will be used
- Decision of the judge(s) is final

## That's the Way it Was on April 21, 2009

by P. Fantum, Reporter



President Craig Thrift welcomed guests Jean Rockford, Cheryl and Thomas Orr, Candy Dickson, and Linda Minney. He proceeded to conduct his usual effective, efficient business session

before introducing Butch Barney, DTM, as Toastmaster-for-the-Meeting.

The theme for the evening was "Toastmaster Stimulus Package" and Butch proceeded to deliver a package of interesting, humorous, and sometimes valuable information throughout the meeting. Christa Neuhauser gave "ductile" (easily swayed, easily led, and tractable) as the Word-for-the-Day. Toastmaster Barney also gave us "archibutyophobia" (fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth) as a potential addition to our vocabulary. Christa's word was used more frequently while nobody confessed to suffering from Butch's. Table Topics Mark Perew gave some great topics to

-Jeff Walker said he would invest \$1,000 rebate in gold and silver.

-Candy Dickson admitted that a \$10,000 stimulus would be nice.

-Marcia Barney could us \$5 billion stimulus well to manufacture tricycles for young and old.

-Brian Davidson objected to giving Marcia \$5 for tricycle manufacture.

-Thomas Orr gave some interesting thoughts about stimulating confidence in consumers.

Prepared speeches were given by:

-Zoltan Rab's basic manual "Do You See What I See" gave us a lot of good information about presenting data. He was evaluated by Jordan Smith (his first evaluation.)

-John Clark did speech #4 from the Advanced Special Occasions manual presenting an award to Pam Christopher. John was evaluated by Brian Davidson.

-Pam Christopher received the award as speech #5 from the Advanced Special Occasions manual. Craig Thrift evaluated Pam's speech.

Marcia Barney, as General Evaluator evaluated the Evaluators and the other portions of the meeting before call Grammarian Jeff Walker. Maurice Derbez served as Timer and Christa Neuhauser counted the votes. John Clark told the Joke. We were reminded that there is not time limit in order to qualify for best Table Topics Speaker or best Evaluator. The target time for each of the program parts is 2 minutes.

Winners for the evening were:

Best Table Topic Speaker - Marcia Barney

Best Evaluator - Jordan Smith

Best Speaker - Pam Christopher

At the end of the meeting Linda Minney morphed from guest to member. Welcome, Linda!

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A man goes into a bar and says, "Give me a drink before the trouble starts." And the bartender pours him a drink. He drinks it and says, "Give me another drink before the trouble starts." He downs that one and says, "Give me another drink before the trouble starts." Finally, the bartender asks, "Just when is this trouble going to start?" The man says, "The trouble starts just as soon as I tell you that I don't have any money."

The Procrastinator's Creed

1. I believe that if anything is worth doing, it would have been done already.
2. I shall never move quickly, except to avoid more work or find excuses.
3. I will never rush into a job without a lifetime of consideration
- 4 I shall meet all of my deadlines directly in proportion to the amount of bodily injury I could expect to receive from missing them.
5. I firmly believe that tomorrow holds the possibility for new technologies, astounding discoveries, and a reprieve from my obligations.
6. I truly believe that all deadlines are unreasonable regardless of the amount of time given.
7. If at first I don't succeed, there is always next year.
8. I shall always decide not to decide, unless of course I decide to change my mind.
9. I shall always begin, start, initiate, take the first step, and/or write the first word, when I get around to it.
10. I will never put off tomorrow, what I can forget about forever.



"I signed up for one of those motivational seminars, but I just can't make myself go."

Actual Newspaper Headlines

- Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says
- Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
- Safety Experts Say School Bus Passengers Should Be Belted
- Drunk Gets Nine Months in Violin Case

