

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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For more information --
call Marcia Barney at
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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.

A Modest Proposal



by John Clark, DTM

In our Northwestern Toastmasters meetings, part of the Grammarian's report is to assess a fine of 25 cents from each member. This money is passed to our Treasurer and is used to augment our meager funds.

I see some fundamental problems with this process. First, and foremost, everything done in a meeting should meet the criteria of helping members improve their communications and leadership skills. The original intent of this "fine" was to help members improve. For example, the Grammarian might say "John, I heard three filler words. That's three errors for a total of 15 cents." This provided feedback to John and helped make him more aware of using filler words. Somehow that has devolved into allowing the Grammarian to become lazy. As a result, today's Grammarian might well say "John, you had some filler words, pass a quarter." This does not give John any indication of how severe his use of filler words has become.

When our government wants to more money, they just raise the taxes to provide that money. Has our Toastmasters Club sunk to this same level? Is our treasury balance so low that we need this draconian action? If it is then let the Treasurer tell us and let's do it the right way. Each six months we pay dues. If our balance is low, then the correct way to improve it is to raise those dues - NOT nickel and dime (and quarter) each member at each meeting.

I, for one, plan to boycott this process. I will **NOT** pay one red cent (much less a quarter) for speaking. Instead of a quarter, I plan on passing a tea bag. Bring your tea bag and join me in a Northwestern Tax rebellion. Let us pass tea bags, not quarters.

A Meeting You Don't Want to Miss NWTM 50th Anniversary Celebration

Our May 19 meeting is a very special one which no Northwestern Toastmaster should miss. We will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary. In addition to a very informative educational program, we will have some nice celebratory surprises for members. Even our Charter Program will be available for viewing.

Dress a little more spiffy than normal and bring a big smile as we will have a club photograph made for publication on the web site as well as distribution of members.

As the no-too-elegant saying goes: Be there or be square!

Joel Schanker, DTM Receives Award

The Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind 2009 Service Award Banquet was held last Tuesday, May 17. Awards were given to employees recognizing employees of the month, perfect attendance, service awards (5, 10, 15, etc years of service).

The Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Northwestern's Joel Schanker, DTM for his work in helping start the VIPs Toastmasters Club. Joel has spent a great deal of time and effort into helping VIPs become not only chartered but also a growing thriving Toastmasters Club.

The award came as a surprise to both Joel and his wife, Barbara (another member of Northwestern.) The Toastmasters organization was mentioned frequently throughout the dinner and employees were encouraged to join Toastmasters by David Horton, Executive Director of WSIFB, to join Toastmasters. David is a member of VIPs and is extremely supportive of the club.

That's the Way it Was on May 5, 2009

by P.Fantum, Reporter



The business session was going great with interesting announcements about officers, 5th Tuesday meeting location (if you have suggestions please send them to Joel Schanker), and our 50th Anniversary party (be there!). Suddenly we heard some good/bad news: Jordan Smith will be starting graduate school at NC State in August; therefore, he will be moving to another club in Raleigh. Somehow our positive President made us look at the positive side and good spirits prevailed throughout the meeting.

Toastmaster-for-the-Meeting Brian Davidson chose "Summer Adventures" as the theme for the meeting. Wordmaster Craig Humphrey improved our sense of humor and may have even increased our vocabulary with "unbussomed" as the Word for the Day. Table Topics Master Jordan Smith gave "summer activity themed" topics to:

- -Craig Humphrey enjoyed spending 2 weeks during the summer with his grandparents.
- -Jeff Walker loves the beech – except for the traffic on the way back – on Memorial Day weekend.
- -Barbie Morgan loves a cookout as long as she can play games instead of cook.
- -Butch Barney suggests local trips to conserve funds while having fun this summer.

Princess Edwards served as timer for the meeting and Jordan McKinnie counted the votes.

Prepared

speeches were given by:

- Maurice Derbez (*right*) told us about his life in Mexico, Spain, and the USA as he worked as a mechanical engineer.



Maurice's Ice Breaker was evaluated by Barbie Morgan.

- Linda Minney (*left*) confessed to be an incurable thespian and entertained as well as informed us with well endowed descriptions of theater life. Marcia Barney evaluated the speech.



*Christa Neuhauser's B-3 "Red Rocks in the Sunset" made us want to jump on a hog and head for Arizona. Jeff Walker gave Christa feedback.

*Elaine Wiles rounded out the prepared speeches with a B-6 Working With Words "The Gift of Time". Zoltan made some suggestions for making Elaine's speeches even better.

Joel Schanker served as General Evaluator. Grammarian Barbara Schanker reminded us of our gaffs without mentioning specific names. It seemed to have worked – a lot of quarters passed down the table.

Winners for the evening were:

Best Table Topic Speaker: Barbie Morgan

Best Evaluator: Marcia Barney & Barbie Morgan (oops!)

Best Speaker – Elaine Wiles

(Thanks to Marcia Barney for the photos.)

The children begged for a hamster, and after the usual fervent vows that they alone would care for it, they got one. They named it Danny.

Two months later, when Mom found herself responsible for cleaning and feeding the creature, she located a prospective new home for it.

The children took the news of Danny's imminent departure quite well, though one of them remarked, "He's been around here a long time. We'll miss him."

"Yes," Mom replied, "But he's too much work for one person, and since I'm that one person, I say he goes."

Another child offered, "Well, maybe if he wouldn't eat so much and wouldn't be so messy, we could keep him."

But Mom was firm. "It's time to take Danny to his new home now," she insisted. "Go and get his cage."

With one voice and in tearful outrage the children screamed, "Danny? We thought you said Daddy!"

The Role of the Vote Counter

The vote counter should rank all participants in each category, but should not include the vote counter's vote except in case of a tie. This insures that the result of balloting will never be a tie.

The Toastmaster of the Meeting will ask for the results of balloting near the end of the meeting. The Vote Counter should give the results from a standing position near the Vote Counter's seat. Please do not give the number of votes for each person, just the name of the winner in each of the three categories.

The vote counter should count the votes as soon as they are received, so that presentation of the awards is not delayed. While the Toastmaster of the Meeting or General Evaluator should invite all members to vote, some members may choose not to do so. If you, as Vote counter, receive 17 votes when 20 members are present, don't be surprised.

Some members also pass their short evaluations to the vote counter. These should be passed on to the appropriate speaker.



