

Northwest Words

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OFFICERS (2008-2009)

President	Craig Thrift, CC/CL	336 764-2024
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VP-Membership	Elaine Wiles, CC-G/CL	
VP-PR	John Clark, DTM/AL	336 723-2153
Secretary	P. Fantum, SPDQ	336 555-4111
Treasurer	Marcia Barney, DTM/AL	336 712-8183
Sgt. at Arms	Eddy Gaasbeek	336 871-3636
Immediate Past	Brian Davidson, ATM-S	336 765-5502

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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.

Let's EVALUATE, not Review



by Marcia Barney, DTM

The purpose of an evaluation is to help the speaker become a better speaker. The purpose of the general evaluation is to help Northwestern Toastmasters more efficiently and effectively serve the communications and leadership

needs of our members. The purpose of a review is to regurgitate what was said or what occurred during a speech or during the meeting. Those two purposes seem worlds apart to this writer.

When you evaluate something you should point out the specific qualities that you liked without giving a personal history of why you liked them. You should point out what you thought needed improvement, again without telling personal stories about why you thought they needed improvement. Last, and most importantly, you should - if possible - suggest ways that those "needs improvements" could be changed.

While the language of evaluations is personal, for example "It seemed to me" and "I thought" are great phrases, the injection of personal stories and comparisons are of negative value. Likewise the simple repetition of what the speaker said or what happened at best indicates that the evaluator was listening and at worst indicates that the evaluator wasn't listening.

Rarely does the speaker in our normal (by NWTM standards) meetings give a speech that will be given again. Most of our speeches are projects to improve an aspect of our speaking skills. Therefore, it is of greatest value to the speaker to concentrate on the characteristics exhibited by the speech rather than the content of the speech. Recapping or reviewing the speech or the meeting does not prove that you are a brilliant listener or evaluator (even if you get it right), but merely wastes precious time.

Remember, too, that an evaluation is not the time to exhibit your brilliance as a humorist at the expense of the speaker. Humor is appropriate if it makes the speaker more relaxed and likely to benefit from your remarks. Neither is it the time to play "gotcha" with the speaker or other members. Forgetting to do something that was obviously a one-time occurrence and not indicative of a modifiable habit is best left unnoted.

Listen to the evaluators and the general evaluator. You could learn something from the good ones. When you vote for "Best Evaluator" ask yourself "Which one most likely helped their speaker become a better speaker."

Evaluations are exceptionally good growth opportunities for both the speaker and the evaluator. Developing our leadership abilities through evaluations is an opportunity not to be wasted. Let's keep our standards high!

Officer Elections June 2

At our June 2 meeting we will elect the Northwestern Toastmasters Club officers to serve from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. The Nominating Committee has nominated the following candidates:

For President Don Barnett, AC-B/CL
For Vice-President of Education Craig Thrift CC/CL
For Vice-President of Membership Barbie Morgan CC
For Vice-President of Public Relations John Clark, DT
For Secretary Christa Neuhauser
For Treasurer Marcia Barney, DTM
For Sgt.-at-Arms Jeff Walker, CC

Please make an extra effort to be at the June 2 meeting. We have a fine slate of nominees and a rousing show of support would be nice.

Also, please note that the office of Vice-President of Public Relations includes Public, Private, Domestic and Foreign Relations. This means making us look good in public and producing the newsletter.

That's the Way it Was on May 19, 2009 When we Celebrated 50 Years

by P. Fantum, Reporter



Craig Thrift (*left*) did his usual great job of running a business session in which we heard the nominees for NWTM office for the coming year and a call for ideas for meeting locations for fifth Tuesday meetings. After a short break he introduced the Toastmaster-for-the-Meeting, pointing out that she was not a Charter Member of the club (perhaps Elaine Wiles explained why later in the



program), but had a long list of impressive accomplishments.

Jordan McKinnie gave "conversant" as the Word-for-the-Day. Throughout the evening we heard just how conversant our members are with honors, awards, and leadership growth opportunities in Toastmasters. Table Topics Brian Davidson (*right*) gave topics to:



*Don Barnett told us when and why he joined NWTM.

*Zoltan Rab told us that he did not have many expectations when he joined us.

*Jordan McKinnie told us what he wanted from Toastmasters. Let's see that he gets it!

*Craig Thrift told us what he expects to gain from NWTM in the future.

Christa Neuhauser served as Timer. Zoltan Rab was the Vote Counter. The prepared speeches came from the Advanced Public Relations Manual (with projects in order as listed below) and were targeted at 5 minutes each:



>Lance Kull (*left*) spoke about "Learning from the Past" and was evaluated by Princess Edwards

>Butch Barney (*right*) explained the levels of achievement in both communications and leadership path of Toastmasters.



Butch was evaluated by John Clark.

>Joel Schanker (*left*) made a compelling speech about the value of competing in speech contests. He was evaluated by Barbie Morgan



>Elaine Wiles (*rt.*) explained one of the reasons why Marcia was not a Charter Member of our club and discussed the opening of TM membership to females in 1973. She was evaluated by Barbara Schanker.



>Pam Christopher (*left*) covered the leadership experience and encouraged us to take advantage of the leadership opportunities available through Toastmasters. She was evaluated by Craig Thrift.



General Evaluator Don Barnett (*right*) gave a gentle evaluation of the meeting and evaluators.

Marcia Barney (*left*) did something she had wanted to do for 36 years – she thanked the program



participants for their contributions to a fabulous evening.

Winners for the evening were:

Best Table Topics Speaker – Jordan McKinnie

Best Evaluator – Princess Edwards

Best Speaker – Elaine Wiles

Vice-President of Membership Elaine presented President Craig with a special 50th Anniversary ribbon for our banner.



Zoltan told the Joke for the Day before we assembled for our official 50th Anniversary Portrait. Our Toastmaster promised to provide each of us with a copy of the photo as a keepsake. Web Master John Clark also plans to post it and other interesting ones from the evening on www.NWTM.org. Thanks to Butch Barney, Marcia Barney, and Christa Neuhauser for talking the pictures and providing them for this report.

2009 Region VIII Conference

The conference will be at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro on Friday and Saturday (June 26 & 27.) The theme is "Make The Connection" For more information, or to register, visit the District website, www.toastmasters-nc.org.

The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.

Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail

If you don't have a sense of humor, you probably don't have any sense at all.

Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.

A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.

How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?

(continued in next column)

Hysterical / Historical Photographs from our archives



Lordy, Lordy - Look how we've grown in just 10 years. (Of course we've grown - the picture is larger.)

Two questions:

- 1) Can you spot any non-smiling faces?
- 2) Will your smiling face be in our 60th year picture?



Early one morning, a mother went in to wake up her son. "Wake up, son. It's time to go to school!" The son's reply was "But why, Mom? I don't want to go." His mother countered with "Give me two reasons why you don't want to go to school today."

"Well, the kids hate me for one, and the teachers hate me, too!" "Oh," replied his mother, "that's no reason not to go to school. Come on now and get ready."

In a last ditch effort to avoid getting up, the son replied "Give me two reasons why I should go to school." His mother ended the discussion with "Well, for one, you're 52 years old. And for another, you're the Principal!"