

Northwest Words

The Official Publication of *Northwestern Toastmasters* Club 2946/37

We meet each first, third, and fifth Tuesday, 6:30 PM - Mayberry's, 50 Miller Street, Winston-Salem, NC

OFFICERS (2009-2010)

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| President | Don Barnett, AC-B | 336 940-5486 |
| VP-Education | Craig Thrift CC/CL | 336 764-2024 |
| VP-Membership | Barbie Morgan CC | 336 813-5206 |
| VP-PR | John Clark, DTM/AL | 336 723-2153 |
| Secretary | Christa Neuhauser | 336 391-6695 |
| Treasurer | Marcia Barney, DTM/AL | 336 712-8183 |
| Sgt. at Arms | Jeff Walker, CC | 336 871-3636 |

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For more information
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(336) 712-8183



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.

Pam Christopher Elected International Director

Pam Christopher, DTM, PDG, member of Northwestern Toastmasters and all around nice person has been elected to the position of International Director at the Toastmasters International conference. Details of the Inaugural Ball are currently being formulated and will be announced as soon as the planning is complete.

That's the Way it was on August 4, 2009

By Christa Neuhauser, Secretary



President Don Barnett opened the business session. The president brings to attention that Greg Thrift won the Award Ribbon from last year. Area Governor

Kimberly Netter joined the meeting and another five guests came to attend as well.

Toastmaster-of-the-meeting of the evening, Zoltan Rab, elaborated on the topic "*The Convenience of Inconvenience*".

Craig Thrift was the Wordmaster of the evening and introduced the word: "*paramount*" (supreme, of greatest importance), which was used several times throughout the evening. Elaine Wiles was the Grammarian, Christa Neuhauser, the Timer and Vote Counter.

Table Topics Master Don Barnett got into questions about "*Passion With Purpose*". Christa Neuhauser pointed out what passion she would pick for her speeches, Marcia mentioned her preferred audience when giving speeches, Jeff Walker talked about his passion when it comes to food, and Craig Thrift shared with us his passion for cars.

The prepared speeches were given by:

- 1) Jeff Walker's task was from the Advanced Manual, presented in three segments: first he spoke about the requirements needed to be a good *sales person*. Secondly, he included Christa Neuhauser as a prospective customer whom he tried to sell precious metal as an investment opportunity and third, the discussion about his presentation with the members.
- 2) Greg Jones had his "*Ice Breaker*" speech where he told us about himself and how he got where he is today. He earned his Ice Breaker ribbon with this speech.
- 3) John Clark had his presentation out of the Entertaining Speaker Manual, #3 and talked about "*A Funny Thing that Happened . . .*".

Pam Christopher was the General Evaluator. Evaluation of the prepared speeches: Marcia Barney for Jeff Walker, Butch Barney for Greg Jones and Craig Thrift for John Clark.

Best Table Topic: Jeff Walker

Best Evaluator: Marcia Barney

Best Speaker: no vote because they all went considerably over the time limit.

The Area Governor, Kimberly Netter, enjoyed her visit; it was a superior experience for her. She pointed out the professionalism of the NWTM group and complimented the club.

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(Secretaries report, continued from page one)

The guests commented positively on the NWTM club meeting. They were all very impressed and several were interested in joining the club in the near future.

Craig Thrift was the Joke Master for the evening.

The Blank Slate!



By Joel Schanker, DTM
I belong to three Toastmasters clubs and twice a month, on average, I sit here trying to think of something interesting to say to groups of bright informed people. Everything else I save for Northwestern Toastmasters (Ha Ha Ha). Every other week I start with a

blank slate with the same questions and doubts gnawing at my self-confidence. **WHAT DO I TALK ABOUT?**

Being somewhat genetically inclined anyway, let's answer a question with a question. What do you talk to anyone about? What do you tell your friends over drinks? What do you say to your coworkers around the Coke machine? What do you exchange with you neighbors over the proverbially neighborhood fence? You talk about *Life, gossip, loves, hates, news, views, confidences, rumors, and speculations. How to do anything, Who did something, Why do anything, Should have done something, Must do this and won't ever do that again,*

Here's where we can get some ideas:

1. What did we do. - We travel to and work in different places. We see people doing the weird and the wonderful. Each one is a story with moments of unintended humor and examples of exceptional bravery. Stories come from our life experiences and our observations.
2. What do we care about. - We care about politics, laws, morals, and tradition. We have positions on important public issues and superficial social trends. All deserve to be heard. Speeches can come from the need to inform others of our beliefs.
3. What are we interested in. - We play sports, participate in clubs, and invest time in hobbies and crafts. All may be different but all share our time. Speeches can be chances to share what we value with others.
4. What did we read or see. - Humans have the unique ability to learn from others' experiences without direct participation. Speaking gives you the chance to pass on someone else's experiences to a wider audience than yourself.

We live in a richness of speech material. How could anyone not have something to say in a country that where George Bush was President for most of the last ten years and where Barack Obama will be President for who know how long? If you find hypocrisy and incompetence uninteresting then speak about something other than politics.

Whatever, you chose fill the slate, there are a lot of Northwestern Toastmasters eager to hear what you have to say.

New Members

Our newest member is Anne Everhart. Anne started the meeting as a visitor, but ended as a guest. We all hope you enjoy your Toastmasters experience with us. Just remember that everyone here wants you to succeed, meet your goals - and have fun doing it.

Meeting Guests

Our guests were Andy Everhart Robert Louwers. We hope that you enjoyed the meeting and look forward to seeing you again.

Club Level Contests

- Craig Thrift. CC/CL VP Education

Our club contests are approaching. We will have our Evaluator Contest during our meeting on Sept. 29. The Sept. 29th meeting is also education meeting, so it is going to be an even special meeting.

I hope each of you will seriously consider entering these contests! Northwestern is full of funny speakers and wonderful evaluators. If you would like to enter, please let me know.

So step right up with your best funny speech and then bring on your serious side and enter our club's evaluator contest!

Did You Know?

- § 99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
- § Support bacteria. They're the only culture some people have.
- § A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- § Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.
- § If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments.
- § How many of you believe in psycho-kinesis? Raise my hand.
- § OK, so what's the speed of dark?
- § When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- § Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.
- § How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?
- § Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
- § What happens if you get scared half to death, twice?
- § Why do psychics have to ask you your name?
- § Inside every older person is a younger person wondering, 'What the heck happened?'
- § Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

