

# 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

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VP-Membership	Barbie Morgan CC	336 813-5206
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**For more information**  
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***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.***

## That's the Way it Was on December 1, 2009

by P.Fantum, asst. to the Secretary



President Don Barnett welcomed Elizabeth McKinney, now our newest member, then the fun began. We had our second

Parliamentary Procedure exercise (Don proved he was buff) with a motion to rescind the motion to have a Christmas Party. Our December 29 meeting will be "normal" if anyone would care to define that.

Toastmaster-of-the-Meeting Barbie Morgan chose "Irritating People" as the theme of the meeting. Her opening speech, Resources for Entertaining was from the Entertaining Speakers Manual. She was evaluated by Pam Christopher. Table topics Master Craig Thrift gave "debilitating" - making one weak by sapping one's strength - as the word for the evening. Pam Whitley served as timer and Craig Thrift also served as vote counter.

Table topics Master Brian Davidson followed the theme and gave topics to:

- Craig Thrift tackled the question of irritation caused by being called for a table topic.
- Marcia Barney confessed that her finishing other's sentences and interrupting when she should be listening are irritations. Will 2010 be better?
- Pam Christopher described something akin to bullheadedness as a characteristic in others that irritated her. (Marcia gave a sigh of relief and finished the sentence for her.)
- Jeff Walker tries to remember that the irritating actions of others should not be taken personally, as we don't know what other people faced prior to their encounter with us.

Prepared speeches were given by:

- Flo Neuhauser gave the second speech from his CC Manual. In "Shark Attack" he entertained us with exciting adventures and gave us some great advice for scuba diving and living - prepare, relax and enjoy. Flo was evaluated by Lance Kull.
- Don Barnett gave Speech #3 from his Interpretive Reading Manual title "Man of La Mancha". He was evaluated by Marcia Barney.
- Elaine Wiles gave "Accountability" and was evaluated by John Clark.

Butch Barney served as General Evaluator. Jeff Walker was grammarian. John Clark filled in as Jokemaster. We missed the Everharts, Bob, Linda, Craig H., Maurice, and Greg. The Schankers were having too much fun in London for us to miss them!

Winners for the meeting were:

- ü Best Table Topic Speaker Marcia Barney
- ü Best Evaluator John Clark
- ü Best Speaker Flo Neuhauser

Tips for the week: Want to improve faster? Prepare your next speech then e-mail VP-E Craig Thrift at [CT808@aol.com](mailto:CT808@aol.com) and tell him that you're ready next time a speaker drops out. Can't make your next speech? Ask someone scheduled for a later meeting to switch with you as soon as you discover the problem - then let guess who at [CT808@aol.com](mailto:CT808@aol.com) know what you've done.

~~~~~  
Be yourself - Everyone else is taken.  
~~~~~  
Don't be afraid - I'm right behind you (using you as a shield.)

More email obsession

by Don Barnett, AC-B, President



Lately, I seemed to have an obsession, a one-track mind. I've been stuck in a rut. I am reminded of Snoopy: in one comic strip, with dinner dish in his mouth, he was expecting supper. Charlie Brown came to him and said: "you are always thinking of food. Snoopy you have a one-track

mind." Snoopy said in reply, "I prefer to think of it as a singleness of purpose."

I have been dwelling on the frustration of the many emails we all receive daily. The emails received from someone just down the hall, or in the next, adjoining cubicle. Or the junk emails with advertisements that are meaningless or tell old, stale, jokes.

Why can't we go back to good old verbal communications? Isn't that how history was passed down before the written word? Surely, that is how lessons in life were passed from parent to child and grand parent to grand child - to niece and nephew. Are we getting away from sharing information verbally? Isn't that what Toastmasters is all about?

Perhaps, the challenge is not to criticize the volume of email but to manage it better - to put the amount of email, or the amount of time dealing with email, in balance. Balance with the spoken word. Let us use modern technology to improve our verbal communication. We can improve our messages on the phone. We can use the toastmaster skills of organization, vocal variety, and impromptu responding, perhaps even humor at the right time: phone calls with individuals; customer service skills with clients, co-workers and bosses

TM skills can help in dealing with the communications overload. We can find the balance in our professional communications and avoid being stuck in a rut. That's all I will say about the topic. I got it out of my system. That is it! The end!

I've got to go check my email.

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Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

Never miss a good chance to shut up.

Don't worry about what people think, they don't do it very often.

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

Inner Peace

If you can start the day without caffeine,

If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,

If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,

If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it,

If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,

If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,

If you can conquer tension without medical help,

If you can relax without liquor,

If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,

...Then You Are Probably the Family Dog!



My idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance.

Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.

