

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

Volume 36, Issue 17
Early March, 2010

For more information
call **Marcia Barney** at
(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.

That's the Way it Was - February 16, 2010

by **Christa Neuhauser** Secretary



President Don Barnett opened and led the business session. Marcia Barney reminded the members of the upcoming *Improved Communication*

Seminar, which begins March 6, and lasts for 8 weeks. Two guests were welcomed to the meeting: Norman Underwood and Laura Gladson.

Barbara Schanker was Toastmaster-of-the-meeting and chose "*Fidelity*" for the subject of the evening. She talked about the definition of *fidelity* and its value in society.

Wordmaster of the evening, Pam Windley, introduced the word: "*steadfast*," which stands for *determination*, *persuasive*, or *committed*. Several members incorporated the word in their speeches. Don Barnett was the Grammarian, Elizabeth McKinney the Timer, and Florian Neuhauser the Vote Counter.

Table Topics Master Marcia Barney continued with the topic of "*Fidelity*", and raised several questions pertaining to the subject.

John Clark answered the question on whether the word in a company name would imply something, using the example of "Fidelity National Bank", which indicates that you *should* be able to trust this institute.

- Lance Kull expounded on what qualities he felt are most valuable in a politician: following through, fulfilling promises, and being true to ideas.
- Elizabeth McKinney shared her viewpoints on whether the lack of fidelity equals lack of morals in politics, and what she personally expects from politicians.
- Bob Lauwers talked about the most important characteristic in a spouse. He feels that supporting the other's goals is most precious.

Three prepared speeches directly followed:

- Nancy Wilson, a new member to the club, gave her Ice Breaker speech out of the Basic Manual. It was interesting to hear how she referenced her birth certificate throughout the speech as a red line. She tied several events to it, which were entertaining and informative, and gave good insight into her life.
- Christa Neuhauser delivered her 6th speech out of the Basic Manual, which was titled: "*The Power of Positive Thinking*". It was a well-organized and sincere presentation. Some members commented that it was a well-chosen topic for Toastmasters. The message was that each of us could decide, through the power of our mind, whether we are optimists who seem to get through life easier, or pessimists who see only problems.
- Elaine Wiles talked about "*Woman in Progress*". She compared it to the life of an athlete, emphasizing the importance of healthy nutrition, regular exercise and sufficient sleep. This not only helps the body to be more balanced physically and mentally, but also raises productivity in your everyday tasks as well.

General Evaluator, Jeff Walker, dissected the various parts of the meeting. Don Barnett's grammarian report was detailed and he pointed out mistakes to avoid in the future.

This evening's proud award winners were:

Ice Breaker – Nancy Wilson
Best Table Topic – John Clark
Best Speaker – Elaine Wiles
Best Evaluator – Butch Barney

Mark Perew entertained everyone and ended the evening with a joke. The present guests were impressed by the well-ordered and productive meeting. The president thanked the fellow Toastmasters, as well as guests and adjourned.

The Value of A Good Story

by Butch Barney, DTM

The value of a good story is tremendous. Stories help you connect with your audience in a way that puts both of you on the same path with the same cadence and traveling in the same direction.



As, wanna be, good speakers we should develop every talent at our disposal. Good story telling requires us to lose some of our inhibitions and

return to those childhood days when our imagination and creativity made every happening an adventure. As adults we get so concerned about our dignity and our self-perceived image that we forget how to be excited and spontaneous.

Stories may take several minutes or be just a very descriptive phrase. Great phrases or are usually best because they take less time and often have more color. Maybe we use a one sentence quote from some personality. It serves the same purpose if we give it some voice inflection. That requires a bit of acting or assuming the personality. The quotes from Casey Stengel, my favorite salty old baseball manager, would fill a book. There is not much that he did not distort into a great quotation. (Examples: 'It ain't over 'til the fat lady sings' or "It was deja vous all over again.") Eight words and your portrayal of the character can be the thing that makes your point and gives your audience that special something thy will remember.

You can give the quote without emotion but you can do it best by assuming the character you are quoting. No character and a bland quote does not add much to your presentation. Even Ebanazer Scrooge had some great quotes. "Bah – Humbug" can really nail down your point if it is delivered correctly. However, while a story or quote should always help you make your point, those with no purpose are more likely to confuse your audience than to enlighten them.

Also, be sure to give credit to the originator. Otherwise you may run for political office someday and be accused of plagiarism by someone who dug out your old speech.

So - use some logic in choosing what to say and how you want to say. Every word should be carefully chosen and artfully delivered. It helps explain your message by giving your audience something special to remember. Finally, practice it – many times. Don't get half way through and forget the ending.

Say did you hear the story about

- Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
A backward poet writes inverse.

Meeting Roles Supplement

With each issue, we are including a definition of the various roles in a Toastmasters meeting. Feel free to print this role and keep it with your Toastmasters Notes. Because all roles are important, these roles are presented in alphabetical order. This issue contains the role of the Joke Master. Other roles described are:

- Evaluator
General Evaluator
Grammarian
Joke Master
Speaker
Table Topics Master
Timer
Toastmaster of the Meeting
Vote Counter
Word Master

These are also available on our award winning web site - www.NWTM.org or, if you like, talk to our Vice President of Public Relations, and ask for an embossed and personally autographed copy.

Dues Are Due

It is time for all Northwestern Toastmasters to commit to another 6 months of self-improvement. Please send you check for \$31.50 to Treasurer Marcia Barney, DTM, 3501 Lakefield Court, Clemmons, NC 27012. Make checks payable to "Northwestern Toastmasters." If you'd prefer, you may bring check or cash to the meeting on March 2.

Improved Communications Seminar Begins March 2

It isn't too late to sign-up for this 8-week session that's sure to improve the communications and leadership abilities of all attendees. Just send an e-mail to Marcia Barney at hmbarn@aol.com. All NWTM members who have not participated in this program are automatically enrolled, just let Marcia know if you have to miss any of the sessions.

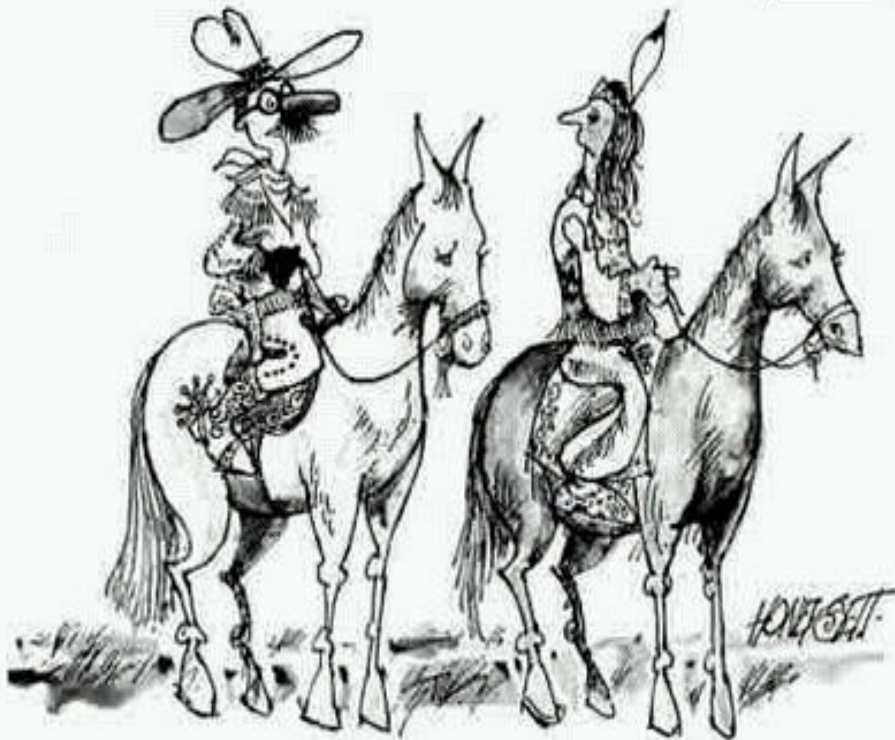
The program is free for NWTM members and costs only \$25 for non-members. Bring a friend, associate, or acquaintance! Reservation forms and posters are on www.NWTM.org.

- Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, "You stay here; I'll go on ahead."
I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: "Keep off the Grass."
A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, "No change yet."
A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
The short fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.

When You Are The Joke Master - - -

The Jokemaster's duty is to provide a note of levity near the end of the meeting. The joke should require less than 2 minutes to tell. It should provide a moment of humor in good taste (no off-color stories, please) coinciding with the theme of the meeting whenever possible. This position provides a rotating opportunity for members to practice the use of humor orally before a group.

The Joke should be delivered from a standing position near the Jokemaster's seat. The Presiding Officer will ask for the joke at the appropriate time. (Normally this is at the end of the meeting.)



"Next time, Tonto, I'll go and buy the mask myself."