

# 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  
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 on March 30, 2010

by Christa Neuhauser Secretary



President Don Barnett opened and led the business session.

This was the fifth meeting of the *Improved Communication Seminar*.

Toastmaster-of-the-meeting Butch Barney talked about "Evaluation". He pointed out that we should use the feedback of our evaluations as source of information to improve our public speaking skills.

Wordmaster of the evening, Elizabeth McKinney, introduced the word: "solecism," which is a noun and stands for mistake or faux pas. Grammarian was John Clark, Barbara Schanker the Timer, and Nancy Wilson the Vote Counter.

Jeff Walker, the Table Topics Master of the evening, asked questions regarding evaluations.

- Greg Jones was asked about his reasons to become a better speaker.
- Christa Neuhauser answered the questions which comments and suggestions of her evaluator were the most helpful.
- Lance Kull talked about the most important thing for him to get right into a table topic.

Three prepared speeches were held this evening:

§ Brian Davis gave his speech about "How to evaluate effectively". Evaluations must be sincere and tailored to the experience level of the speaker. He recommended evaluating the presentation and not the person, not to judge the idea or topic but how it is said. The speaker should receive positive feedback. It's important to choose encouraging language when pointing out suggestions to improve, and the speaker must know that his/her efforts are rewarded.

§ Elaine Wiles gave a speech out of the Communication and Leadership program. She talked about "The Roles of the Evaluator". She handed out information to support her speech. There are three different roles of an evaluator depending on the engagement of the speaker and evaluator. Evaluation help growing the speaker's self esteem and personal growth that consequently results in improved public speaking skills.

§ Marcia Barney gave her speech #2 out of the Specialty Speech Manual, titled "Helping Others to Improve". There are three ways to evaluate depending on the level of communication between speaker and evaluator. The most beneficial scenario is when the speaker tells the evaluator before the speech what to focus on. After the speech and the evaluation, the evaluator and the speaker discuss the points one-on-one.

Joel Schanker, the General Evaluator of the evening, analyzed the meeting. John Clark presented the grammarian report. Don Barnett evaluated Brian Davidson's speech and Christa Neuhauser evaluated Elaine Wiles presentation. Florian Neuhauser evaluated Marcia Barney's speech. This was Florian's first time as Evaluator, and he earned many compliments from the members for his thorough and detailed evaluation.

The award winners of the evening were:

- Best Table Topic – Christa Neuhauser
- Best Evaluator – Florian Neuhauser
- Best Speaker – Marcia Barney

Ernst Bonaparte ended the evening with a joke. Don Barnett thanked the fellow Toastmasters for the constructive session and adjourned.

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The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran

A Tapestry of Excellence

by Joel Schanker, DTM



Consider the two hypothetical college students. Both read and study six hours a day, seven days a week. One reads many different textbooks while the other has read and reread the same book for fifty two weeks. Which student will have learned more?

I contend that the same premise applies to our club. As hard as we may work and as diligently we may carry out our roles, if we only work with the same people every week of every year, we will not grow to our full potential.

We need the stimulation of new ideas and new interests. We need to have our comfortable rules challenged periodically to ensure that what was absolutely necessary before is still needed today. Anything worth keeping should be able to withstand questioning.

More importantly there is a wealth of talent out there that we need to bring in here. I was reorganizing my Toastmaster materials (well you really can't reorganize what wasn't organized in the first place) when I saw some old newsletters from 1997, the year I joined Northwestern Toastmasters. What a year for new members!

The class of 1997 has an International Director, three of our club presidents, three area governors, two division governors and a District Governor while earning three DTMs. They have carried on a tradition of excellence and commitment that was shown them by those who joined before.

What's exciting is to see the contributions made by those who have joined more recently. What better demonstration that the class of '97 is only part of the tapestry of experience, talent, hard work and joy that makes up the membership of Northwestern Toastmasters. Imagine how we can add to this ongoing weave of colors and textures if we can continue to add new members and work with them to become part of our grand effort.

Thank You, Joel

Joel may be too modest to tell you that he is a member of the class of '97 - but his efforts speak louder than his voice ever could. It is only by Joel's ability and willingness that we have an article for this issue of Northwest Words. The newsletter editor had received two firm commitments for an article, plus a third promise of an article soon. Yet, it was Joel who demonstrated the true Northwestern spirit by providing the article. Thank You Joel

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:

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

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

A regular walked into a bar and said, "Bartender, one round for everyone, on me!"

The bartender replied, "Wow! You're in a really good mood tonight!"

"Indeed!" the man said. "I just got hired by the city to go around and remove all the money from the parking meters. I start tomorrow!" The bartender congratulated the man and proceeded to pour a round for everyone.

The next night, the same man walked back in. "Bartender, another round for everyone, on me!" he said. As the bartender was pouring the drinks, he said, "If you're this happy about your new job, I can just imagine how happy you'll be when you get your first paycheck!"

The man went wide-eyed, grinned from ear to ear, pulled out a handful of quarters from his pocket and said, "You mean they pay me too?"





## **When You Are The Timer - - -**

The Timer has the responsibility for timing Table Topics, prepared speeches, and individual speech evaluations.

The target time for both Table Topics and Evaluations is 2 minutes. Timing lights should be turned on at:

Green 1 minute and 30 seconds

Amber 2 minutes

Red 2 minutes and 30 seconds.

Note: the red light will stay on until the speaker is finished.

For prepared speeches, the speaker or Toastmaster-of-the-Meeting will inform the Timer of the target time if the time is not listed in the program. The lights should be turned on at:

Green Target time minus one minute

Amber Target time

Red Target time plus one minute.

Note: the red light will stay on until the speaker is finished.

A prepared speaker is eligible for "Best Prepared Speaker" awards only if the green light has been turned on and the red light has not been turned on. In other words, a speaker must speak for his/her target time plus or minus one minute.

The timers report should be delivered from a standing position near the Timers chair. There are three places in the meeting when the Timers report is needed. These are: after the Table Topics Session, after the Prepared Speakers and after the evaluations.