

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 for 2011-2012

Christa Neuhauser, CC	President
Jeff Walker	VP-Education
Jessica Pockey	VP-Membership
John Clark, DTM	VP-Public Relations
Elizabeth Stepp, CC	Secretary
Marcia Barney, DTM	Treasurer
Brian Gravely, CC	Sgt. at Arms
On the web at	www.NWTM.org

Volume 38 - Issue 18

Our Next Meeting will be on
February 7, 2012
(Next Tuesday)

For More Information, call
Marcia Barney (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.

Mark your calendar

Each spring we have an International speech contest and a Table Topics contest. Each Toastmasters club holds a contest for these two events. Club level winners compete in Area contests. Those winners go on to compete in a Division contest. Division winners compete at the District contest. Those winners go to the regional contest and, finally, the International Contest. The schedule for Northwestern Toastmasters is --

Club Contests date to be announced
Area Contests March 24, 2012
Division Contests April, 15, 2012
District Contests May 3, 2012

Corrections, updates and other details, such as time and place, will be included in the newsletter.

Words of Wisdom (from an old Cowboy)

What's wanted isn't always what's needed.
Don't let your earnings get ahead of your earnings.
If you value it, take care of it.

Meeting Guests

Our guest at the January 31st meeting was Am Shater. Am wanted to know more about Toastmasters and chose Northwestern to find out.

Webster's dictionary editors met to decide how to abridge the new edition. "We are listing too many old words that no one uses any more They've got to go," said the chief editor. "It's time we faced the fact that... we can't have archaic and edit too."

Officer Training

The semi-annual training of Northwestern's officers will take place at 5:45 p.m. - before our regular meeting on February 7th. This training will be conducted by our very own Pam Christopher, DTM, PID. All officers are expected to attend and all members are welcome.

There are several reasons for this training. Two major reasons include making sure that our officers remain aware of their responsibilities and giving our club points toward being recognized as a Presidents Distinct Club.

Help Make it Complete

Speakers, before you give your Communications Manual to your Speech Evaluator please write the title of the speech and the date of your speech on the written evaluation page of your manual. After the meeting review what your evaluator wrote and log the speech at the back of the manual for later initialing by the VP of Education.

Evaluators, please sign your work. Any comments that you think would benefit the speaker, but might be inappropriate for others to hear should be included in your written comments in the speaker's manual. While you are checking your written comments check to see that the title and date of the speech are also included on the page - and remember the title of the speech is an important part of the speech as it leaves the first impression with the audience. As such, pertinent comments about the title should be part of your evaluation.

If space is a vacuum, who changes the bags?

If you can't see the bright side of life, polish the dull side.

The Way it was - January 31, 2012

By Elizabeth Stepp, CC/CL



The meeting started at 6:34 p.m. with President Christa Neuhauser opening the meeting. There were no officer's reports, no committee reports and there was no new business. Christa reminded the members that we would have another meeting next Tuesday. Am Shater was our guest for the evening.

Don Barnett was the Toastmaster of the meeting and the theme was "The Joy of Competition." The speech was project #10 from the Competent Communicator manual. He spoke about the different types of competition that we experience through our lives and the benefits of competition. Additionally, he shared tips that members could use if they decided to enter the upcoming speech competitions.

The Grammarian for the evening was Kristen Schockett, Timer was John Clark, Vote Counter was Elizabeth Stepp, and the Word Master was Achal Shah. The word for the evening was **sequester**, meaning to set apart, to separate or to segregate.

The Table Topics session was hosted by Joel Schanker. Joel asked John to share what he considered the thrill of victory; Elizabeth to share what she considered the agony of defeat; Kristen to tell us whether she agreed with the statement that competition was beneficial; Christa to tell us whether she agreed that there are two groups of people—one that works, and one that takes the credit.

During the prepared speeches, Allan Chavez gave speech #2 from the Competent Communicator manual, called, "To Boldly Go." He spoke about the ways that Star Trek has moved and continues to move technology forward in a number of industries.

Brian Davidson gave speech #4 from the Humorously Speaking manual, entitled, "Doomed by the Internet." Brian cited the items that the internet has made obsolete: maps, telephone books, CDs, VCRs and VHS tapes.

Butch Barney gave speech #5 from the Storytelling manual, entitled, "Bringing History to Life." He told the audience of a number of stories where someone was caught "spinning" an event: Kim Jong Il in North Korea; the prevalence of the Salem Witch Trials; and what George Washington's true dentures were made of.

Marcia Barney served as the General Evaluator for the evening. Jeff Walker evaluated Don, Craig Thrift evaluated Allan, Pam Christopher evaluated Brian and Daniel Parker evaluated Butch. Kristen provided the grammarian's report for the evening and Achal let us know who used the word for the evening.

Christa asked for announcements. Marcia noted that our website noted the timing for Table Topics and Evaluations was 1:30, 2, 2:30 minutes. She made a motion that the club adopt the times listed on our website and the vote was seconded. The motion passed by majority vote. Christa asked our guest to share her thoughts with us. Piyush Gupta provided the joke. Butch won best speech for the evening, Pam won for best evaluator and Kristen won for best table topics. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

10 ideas to improve your speaking

from Bert Webb

Develop your voice – A high whiney voice is not perceived to be one of authority. In fact, a high soft voice can make you sound like prey to an aggressive co-worker who is out to make his/her career at the expense of anyone else. Begin doing exercises to lower the pitch of your voice. Here is one to start: Sing — but do it an octave lower on all your favorite songs. Practice this and, after a period of time, your voice will begin to lower.

Slow down – People will perceive you as nervous and unsure of yourself if you talk fast. However, be careful not to slow down to the point where people begin to finish your sentences just to help you finish.

Animate your voice – Avoid a monotone. Use dynamics. Your pitch should raise and lower. Your volume should be soft and loud. Listen to your local TV news anchor; take notes.

Enunciate your words – Speak clearly. Don't mumble. If people are always saying, "huh," to you, you are mumbling.

Use appropriate volume – Use a volume that is appropriate for the setting. Speak more softly when you are alone and close. Speak louder when you are speaking to larger groups or across larger spaces.

Pronounce your words correctly – People will judge your competency through your vocabulary. If you aren't sure how to say a word, don't use it.

Use the right words – If you're not sure of the meaning of a word, don't use it. Start a program of learning a new word a day. Use it sometime in your conversations during the day.

Make eye contact – I know a person who is very competent in her job. However, when she speaks to individuals or groups, she does so with her eyes shut. When she opens them periodically, she stares off in a direction away from the listener. She is perceived as incompetent by those with whom she consults. One technique to help with this is to consciously look into one of the listener's eyes and then move to the other. Going back and forth between the two (and I hope they only have two) makes your eyes appear to sparkle. Another trick is to imagine a letter "T" on the listener's face with the cross bar being an imaginary line across the eye brows and the vertical line coming down the center of the nose. Keep your eyes scanning that "T" zone.

Use gestures – Make your whole body talk. Use smaller gestures for individuals and small groups. The gestures should get larger as the group that one is addressing increases in size.

Don't send mixed messages – Make your words, gestures, facial expressions, tone, and message match. Disciplining an employee while smiling sends a mixed message and, therefore, is ineffective. If you have to deliver a negative message, make your words, facial expressions, and tone match the message.

Two trucks loaded with 1,000 copies of Roget's Thesaurus collided as they left a New York publishing house last Thursday, according to the Associated Press. Witnesses were stunned, startled, aghast, taken aback, stupefied ...

~~ Meeting Schedule ~~

Please Note: The Vice President of Education is continually adjusting the schedule to meet the requirements of the members. So, if you need to see the current schedule, contact our Vice President of Education

Member	02 / 07 / 2012	02 / 21 / 2012	03 / 06 / 2012	03 / 20 / 2012
Don Barnett, AC-B		Table Topics	General Evaluator	
Butch Barney, DTM	Evaluator	Speaker	Vote Counter	
Marcia Barney, DTM	Evaluator	Speaker	Evaluator	
Allan Chavez	Timer	Vote Counter	Table Topics	Speaker
Pam Christopher, DTM	Toastmaster		Joke Master	
John Clark, DTM	Evaluator	Evaluator	Speaker	
A.J. Daoud	Vote Counter	Grammarian	Speaker	Evaluator
Brian Davidson, DTM	Evaluator		Timer	Grammarian
Brian Gravely	Speaker	Evaluator		
Piyush Gupta			Speaker	
Scott Hill				General Evaluator
Lance Kull, DTM				
Christa Neuhauser, CC		Speaker	Grammarian	Toastmaster
Daniel Parker	General Evaluator	Timer		Speaker
Jenny Patterson				
Jessica Pockey				
Barbara Schanker, AC-S				
Joel Schanker, DTM	Joke Master	Toastmaster	Evaluator	
Kristin Schokett		Speaker	Evaluator	Table Topics
Achal Shah	Speaker			Speaker
Elizabeth Stepp, CC	Speaker	Speaker		Joke Master
Craig Thrift, CC/CL	Table Topics	Joke Master	Speaker	Evaluator
Jeff Walker, CC	Grammarian	Evaluator	Evaluator	Speaker
Elaine Wiles, CC-G	Word Master	Evaluator	Toastmaster	Vote Counter
Chuck Wooten	Speaker	General Evaluator	Evaluator	

Remember: All roles are important! If you can not attend the meeting, then contact our VP of Education.

Northwestern Toastmasters
 4270 Mill Creek Road
 Winston-Salem, NC 27106

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