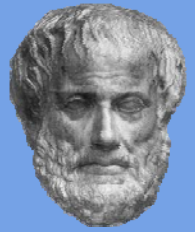


The Sage



A newsletter focusing on District 26 Toastmasters covering Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming

Special points of interest:

- District 26 is distinguished
- Last Regional Conference
- Toastmasters Leadership Institute is coming
- New District theme
- Get ready for a big year
- Bowing out
- Fun and enthusiasm

The Numbers are IN!

Bob Baxter, DTM 2008/2009 District Governor Step OUT and Step UP!

Members and leaders of District 26. Congratulations, for the second year in a row, **District 26 is distinguished!!!!** YOU made District 26 Distinguished! The Distinguished District program is very similar to the distinguished club program, only with larger numbers. Just like Distinguished Club goals, Distinguished District goals include increasing membership, achieving CCs, achieving ACs, completing paperwork, and officers trained. The Distinguished District goal also requires we achieve our club goal. We achieved every one of our goals. Although CLs, ALs, Distinguished Clubs, and Distinguished Areas are not required for the Distinguished District program, we get points for them and they do figure into our worldwide ranking.



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District 26 is distinguished!!!!

These are our numbers as of **June 19**.

Member Pymts	YTD	Goal	Pts
	6,848	6684	7.68
Clubs	YTD	Goal	
	165	165	4
CCs	YTD	Goal	
	239	229	5.3
ACs	YTD	Goal	
	152	65	11.6
Disting. Dist	Plan		
	Y		
Dist. Off	Training		
	Y		
Dist. Clubs			
	52		1
Disting. Areas			
	21		6
CLs/ALs			
	145		9
Tot. Pts.			44.57

SO.....

- Did you help start or charter a club this year? **You** helped D26 become distinguished!
- Did you earn a CC? **You** helped D26 become distinguished!
- Did you earn an AC? **You** helped D26 become distinguished!
- Did you join, or renew your membership? **You** helped D26 become distinguished!
- If you are district officer, did you go to district officer training? **You** helped D26 become distinguished!
- Did you earn a leadership award (CL or AL)? **You** helped improve D26's worldwide ranking!
- Are you a member of a Distinguished Club? **You** helped improve D26's worldwide ranking!
- Are you a distinguished Area Governor? **You** helped improve D26's worldwide ranking!
- D26 would not have made Distinguished without **YOU**, but these are not the **final** numbers. The Toastmaster year ends June 30 and the final numbers should be out by the second or third week of July. By that time, I fully expect our numbers to be **even better**.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!!!!

Schedule of Events

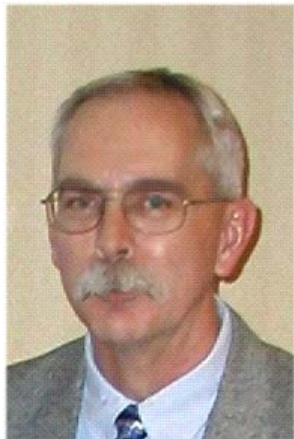
- Jul 1 New Toastmaster Year Starts
- Jul 1 Distinguished Club, Area, Div, and Dist Program Begins
- Jul 1 Annual Membership Program Begins
- Jul 1 Begin Club Visits
- Jul 1 Begin Area and Div Council Meetings
- Jul 11 Toastmasters Leadership Institute, Denver
- Jul 15 Treasurers Report July 1-May31 to DG
- Jul 18 Toastmasters Leadership Institute, Ft. Collins
- Jul 25 Toastmasters Leadership Institute, Colorado Springs (tentative)
- Jul 31 District High Performance Plan & Budget Completed

July 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 TLI Denver
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 TLI Ft. Collins
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 TLI C. Springs
26	27	28	29	30	31	

2009 Region 3 Conference

John R. Barnes, DTM, PDG Region 3 Conference Chair



The Region 3 Conference convened on June 18-20 at the Renaissance Hotel in Denver. Three things were accomplished at the conference: 1) training of the incoming top three district officers occurred, 2) a business meeting was held to decide which of the international director candidates would move forward to the International convention in August, and 3) the Regional International speech contest was conducted.

Highlights of the Regional conference this year were: 1) karaoke singing at the meet and greet on Thursday evening, 2) the humorous showcase on Friday evening with Elissa Gregory as the Toastmaster, 3) Rory Vaden's education session on Friday morning, 4) Immediate Past International President Chris Ford's presentation on Proposal A, the new governance proposal, 5) the keynote

presentation by Chuck Maher at the Saturday luncheon, 6) both international candidates, Pam McGown and Maurice Taitt, moved forward to the annual meeting in August, and 7) our very own Byron Embry of Colorado Springs won the International speech contest and will represent both District 26 and Region 3 at the International contest in August.

A very able committee of Beth Boaz, Registration; Judy Lloyd, Education; Catherine Maul, Decorations; Elinora Reynolds, First Timers; Nick Samoylov, Chief Sergeant-at-Arms, and Dana Morgan, Co-chair and Facilities Coordinator did an outstanding job of putting on the conference. Everything went very smoothly. If the governance proposal is approved in August, this will have been the last Regional Conference.

The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them.

- Albert Einstein



August 2009

Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 TLI Casper
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 International	13 Convention	14 Mashantucket	15 Conn.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- Aug 1 Smedley Award Membership Contest Begins
- Aug 1 Toastmasters Leadership Institute, Casper (tentative)
- Aug 12 International Convention Mashantucket, Connecticut
- Aug 15 International Convention Ends
- Aug 31 Year-End Audit Report Due
- Aug 31 Last day for club, area, and division officer training

Building a Successful Club

Bonnie Peterson, DTM

Building a successful club is a challenging and rewarding experience. Several years ago I received a call and was asked if I could look in on a club down the street from where I worked. I said sure, what do I need to do? The rest is history.

I called the number I was given for "Toast of Inverness". I attended their meeting which had 4 other people present. I explained that I had been asked to help them rebuild their club. They were excited that district and international were sending help. You see this was the whole club. They were paying dues for members that no longer belonged. They did not want to lose their charter.

The first thing we did was to setup a planning meeting to review how the club operated and discuss the duties. We decided that there had to be many changes. We reviewed all the duties of the officers. We discussed the components of a meeting. The most vital component was there, the desire to build the club. They had a great meeting place and time at the Inverness Hotel. Best of all it was free.

In the beginning people just showed up for the meeting and preformed the duty that was decided

at the previous meeting. The meetings started having agendas and everyone shared the duties. A monthly schedule of duties was set up and distributed. The speeches given became manual speeches. Table Topics became an exciting time. Everyone became greeters and welcomed the guests. They found the meetings to be very organized and enjoyable. The meeting started on time and ended on time. Time was very important since it was a lunch time meeting and most had to get back to work.

We knew that to grow we would have to gain new members. The plan was to get the word out by advertising. We listed meeting times as many places as possible. We created a trifold brochure about the club for everyone to give out. The guests that came started joining the club. In fact by the end of the year the membership had grown to about thirty members.

Toast of Inverness is still today one of the strongest clubs in the district.

The secret to creativity is knowing how to hide your sources.

- Albert Einstein

Creativity requires the freedom to consider unthinkable alternatives, to doubt the worth of cherished practices.

- John William Gardner



Celebrating Possibilities

Alan Swartz, DTM District Governor



As the new District Governor who is privileged to provide leadership together with all Toastmasters, I selected the theme "Celebrating Possibilities." Why did I select this theme? Because I believe the possibilities are limitless in District 26. Our only limit is the one we place in our minds, "I can never accomplish that" or "Our club will never be distinguished." We can accomplish anything we want through Toastmasters.

Just consider some of the accomplishments I have witnessed this year. Elinora Reynolds, Betty Funderburke, and Michelle Bires created a new club of 30 members in 2 ½ weeks and took them to Distinguished. They started in January. What the mind can conceive, it can achieve. I couldn't conceive of that accomplishment before it happened.

Bonnie Peterson, who achieved her DTM by taking Toast of Inverness, a club of 4 members several years ago, and making them one of the most successful clubs in the District. We all need that determination.

Joyce Feustel who provided the spark to charter ToastAbility, a club that allows disabled and non-disabled to be in a partnership. It had been meeting for 3 ½ years and almost everyone had given up. Congratulations Joyce!

Those are a few examples of what can be accomplished in Toastmasters. We have tremendous talent, inspiration, and dedication in this District. If we use that talent, inspiration, and dedication, we can achieve my vision of having every club at charter strength; of having fantastic, fun, and educational meetings; of helping

Toastmasters at every meeting believe they can go beyond their limits and achieve their dreams; and of seeing Toastmasters touch lives.

You can be part of that vision. You can make it happen one day, one meeting at a time. We can make District 26 Toastmasters a model for other Toastmaster Districts.

All you have to do is visit some of the outstanding clubs in our District.

We can all learn from each other. For example, Darryle Brown, the President of Simply Speaking in Aurora, shares his vision every meeting with tons of enthusiasm. That is how visions become reality. He has 30 members with tremendous talent and some are learning English through Toastmasters.

Bob Baxter, our District Governor who is a computer whiz. He took us to Distinguished by being dedicated every day. That is an awesome accomplishment.

Finally, Byron Embry, the man who was a baseball player one day and a FedEx employee the next. He gave a great speech about "what's inside" that was filled with his message. He touched hearts. I felt the emotion well up within me. That's what a good speaker does. He touches the head and the heart. District 26 had an International Contestant going to Connecticut because Bryon is "celebrating possibilities."

Celebrate the Possibilities of Toastmasters. Share the talent and inspiration you have with others in your club. Believe in the vision of what Toastmasters can accomplish. Together we will be Celebrating Possibilities all year long.

How many times it thundered before Franklin took the hint! How many apples fell on Newton's head before he took the hint! Nature is always hinting at us. It hints over and over again. And suddenly we take the hint.

- Robert Lee Frost

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Late breaking information:

David Brooks,
1990 TM World Champion of Public Speaking,
world class speaker and trainer,
is coming to our area and will be speaking on
**The essentials of public speaking: how to use
humor, substance and style.**

Cost: FREE

July 23 Colorado Springs

July 24 Denver

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Location: yet to be determined

More information later



Get Smart-er

Julia Davis, ACS,ALS Lt. Governor Education and Training

Now that the spring conference is behind us (and oh what a wonderful conference it was), it is time once again to elect officers for the next term and get them trained. District 26 sponsors several opportunities for your newly elected club officers to receive the latest in officer training. We have spared no expense (sort-of) to bring you top level trainers and exciting extracurricular training in a number of interesting topics. All you have to do is set aside one half of one day to get educated, excited, motivated, and enthusiastic about Toastmasters.

For some of you newer people (and those of us that aren't), the officer training is open to anyone that wants to attend, but club officers are strongly encouraged to get trained at a District 26 sponsored Toastmasters Leadership Institute. Why you ask? Statistical studies show that well trained officers can strengthen a club, make it more productive, and more fun to attend the meetings. Getting trained kick starts your term with a clearer understanding of what your role as an officer is in your club. You will be able to exchange ideas with other club officers, share insight into what works and what could be done better. What is more, you will make new friends and renew acquaintances at the training.

Want more to motivate you? Did you know that your club gets ½ of a Distinguished Club Program point for having at least four of your officers trained during the designated training period? The District picks up the tab for the

officer training and all extra educational sessions.

Not enough you say? Okay, let's pull out all the stops. I am so confident that training is the right thing for your club officers, that I will sweeten the deal. Every club that has all seven officers trained (not necessarily at the same training session, but during the training period); I will enter the club name in a drawing for a special prize. At the end of the training period, I will choose one club from each division and award that club a complete set of official jewel encrusted (okay I'm exaggerating here) Toastmaster officer pins. That's right, every officer, from the President to the Sergeant at Arms will get their own pin designating their office within the club and the Toastmasters logo.

Remember, all seven officers of record from your club must be trained by the District during the training period (July 1st to August 31st) to qualify for the drawing. Will your club be the one? I certainly hope so. Plan to attend a session convenient to you, dates and locations will be posted on the District website.

If you have any questions about officer training, Toastmaster Leadership Institute, extracurricular training, or want to teach a course, I encourage you to send me an e-mail or call me. Only you can fulfill your wildest dreams in Toastmasters – let us help you!



Confusion is the welcome mat at the door of creativity.

- Michael J. Gelb

Belief gets in the way of learning.

- Robert Anson Heinlein

Toastmaster Leadership Institute going on NOW!

Genisi Sedlmayer, ACB, ALS Public Relations Officer

Do you wonder how all of those other clubs are meeting goals, getting ribbons, and running great meetings? Is your club running smoothly, but you would like some new fresh ideas? Did you just get elected to office, and now you have realized you have to run with it?? We have a great resource for you!! District 26 has scheduled a Toastmaster Leadership Institute (TLI) session in your area. I will list a few reasons why you and your club members should attend TLI.

- It is FREE Toastmaster training!! You joined to grow and to learn right?
- At least four of your officers must attend Officer Training before August 31, 2009 to receive credit for one of your club goals.
- Every officer must attend training during their time in office to apply for the Advanced Leader Bronze award.

- Non officers can attend officer training just to find out all of the nitty-gritty details about how their club works!
- There are educational sessions above and beyond officer training. These focus on club success as well as personal success.
- You will meet and exchange ideas with members from all sorts of clubs in your District!!
- Did I mention it is FREE to attend?

So come on out to one of these fantastic sessions, and Celebrate the Possibilities that lie through education and growth at the TLI! For more information, we continue to update the [D26 website TLI page](#).



INSPIRE ♦ ENERGIZE ♦ PERFORM

Norm Frickey, DTM Lt. Gov. Marketing



What an exciting time to be a Toastmaster and for me personally to be a part of the leadership team you selected to guide District 26 for the next year. Thank you for putting your trust in me. Starting a new year it is expected that I give my vision. So here it is:

- Have 60% of District 26 clubs at or above 20 by this time next year
- Be a distinguished District again
- Improve communications with clubs, area and division governors
- Develop an innovative membership growth strategy
- Find innovative ways for district leaders to provide assistance to clubs.
- Increase the number of club's participating in the coach Program
- Make area governor club visits a priority
- Identify innovative ways to provide club assistance

If the individual is narrowly concentrated on the goal, to the exclusion of other relevant aspects of the problem situation, he is often unable to achieve a solution. The creative thinker must stand sufficiently detached from his work.

- Mary Henle

A man must have a certain amount of intelligent ignorance to get anywhere.

- Charles Franklin Kettering

With Toastmasters International potentially restructuring its board and creating new regions to better serve its global membership and as it enters the world of E-learning, these are truly challenging and exciting times. With all this discussion and emphasis on restructuring and global growth we need to keep our feet firmly planted and remember it all starts with clubs and club members. Members are not just names on the roster but active members with a VISION of becoming better communicators and more effective leaders. Active, involved, members bring energy to the club which in turn provides the venue for personal and professional growth for everyone.

Ralph Smedly's VISION of improving the world and making it a better place by improving oral communication started with a club. The emphasis was on standing up, delivering a

message and listening to what others thought about the presentation. That one to one, small group concept was important in the beginning and is just as important today. Even with technological advances and cyber-networking opportunities, the biggest impact can still be a positive, one to one, face to face, meeting where ideas are exchanged and fair consideration given to those ideas -- personal contact ENERGIZES. The vibrant club is where that ENERGY can be found -- these clubs are usually identified as Distinguished and most often they have twenty or more members.

The accomplished Toastmaster is a PERFORMER. The only proven way to become an accomplished communicator is "platform time" -- an opportunity to PERFORM, to experience and practice the verbal process. One person, one voice for one minute, seven minutes or even longer, with real-time feedback in a supportive environment is unique to Toastmasters and the club offers that opportunity through the environment of a Toastmasters club meeting.

From experience we know that the club energy level increases when membership is at, near, or exceeds twenty members. It is our role, no, our obligation at the District level to do whatever it takes to help clubs grow membership. This year utilizing the DOORS diagnostic, club coaches, club mentors, club advisors and club assistance visits, we are going to push for plenty to be twenty. Right now only 48.5% of the clubs in District 26 have twenty members or more -- we can do better.

Your opinion counts -- if you have an idea -- if you want to help, contact me at lqm0910@d26leaders.org.

Here's to another great year.



Happy New Year!

Bob Baxter, DTM IPDG *Celebrating Possibilities*

I remember when I joined Toastmasters in March of 2000. Ed Tate started a club where I worked. I thought, "A public speaking club, sounds like fun. I've always wanted to join Toastmasters, this is my **opportunity**". Little did I know that Toastmasters is so much more than a public speaking club! Toastmasters is about leadership too. It may even more be more about leadership than it is about public speaking.

As I reflect back on the past few years, I remember my thoughts as I read through the Advanced Leader requirements for the first time. Serve as a club sponsor mentor or coach? I can't do that! Serve as a District officer. I can't do that either. But with the encouragement and support of Toastmasters throughout the district, I was able to accomplish those goals and more. I was a club sponsor and a mentor too! I remember I how proud I was when John Barnes selected me to serve in the most important District Officer position of all. Area Governor. I remember how proud I was when you chose me to serve as your Denver Division Governor. Going beyond Division governor was WAY outside of my comfort zone but as my Division Governor year was drawing to a close, I received the call. Would I run for Lt. Governor Marketing? After deliberation, I decided to step out of my comfort zone. I stepped up to the plate and said yes! If you received "the call" to serve, what would you do? Would you step out of your comfort zone? Would you step up to the plate?

Toastmasters is the world's undisputed expert in communication and leadership skills development. It's also the world's greatest bargain in communication and leadership skills development. The reason why Toastmasters is such a bargain is the volunteers. The reason why the Toastmasters program is so effective is because of the volunteer **opportunities**. The Toastmasters program provides a real world laboratory in which people can learn, develop, and practice communication and leadership skills. Toastmasters provides a wealth

of books and manuals, then backs up the book learning with the opportunities to put the learning into real world practice. Leadership, communication, project management, and it's **MUCH** less expensive than an MBA too! Want to get the most out of Toastmasters? Having served the last five years as a District Officer, I have learned the way to get the most out of Toastmasters is to be a volunteer officer. Start out by agreeing to be a club officer when called upon to do so. Then be a District Officer when called upon to do so. You won't regret it. Over the past few years, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with so many wonderful people. I've always believed that Toastmasters encourage and support one-another. Your encouragement and support has reinforced my belief. I know that I could not have been a district officer without your encouragement and support. I want to thank District 26 for your encouragement and support and the honor of allowing me to serve you as your 2008/2009 District Governor. Thank you for the wonderful experience.

By the time you see this, it will most likely be July. That means, we'll be starting a brand new Toastmasters year. I will be doing everything I can to support D26 and the new leadership team by working diligently to bring in new clubs, members, plus educational and leadership awards. I ask you to do the same. My next office will be Immediate Past District Governor. My new job will be to encourage and support the new leadership team. Same thing I'm asking you to do, only I get an official title. Please join with me and give Alan Swartz and the 2009/2010 leadership team all the support and encouragement you have given me. Let's make the 2009/2010 Toastmasters year the best year ever as we begin Celebrating Possibilities.

An essential aspect of creativity is not being afraid to fail.

- Edwin Land

Nothing is more damaging to a new truth than an old error.

- Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe



Parting Thoughts

JP Snow, ACB, ALB



It's hard to believe the 2008-2009 term has already passed. I've enjoyed serving as Public Relations Officer. For me, it truly was an opportunity to "step out" (of my career field) and "step up" to give back to an organization that has given me so much. I'll close my term with three parting thoughts.

The secret to successful club-level PR is to figure out which techniques work best, and then to leverage them fully. I learned this lesson through countless discussions with club VPs of PR at TLLs, at conferences, and via e-mail. It seems simple, but too often we get lost in all of the possible PR activities, thinking we need a great website, and flyers, and public service announcements, and.... I've been surprised at how well an approach that has no effect for one club can be the only PR needed for another. Our club locations and cultures are different. Successful clubs don't all share the same PR story, but they do all share the story that they've figured out what works, and then they rely on that method continuously.

Toastmasters provides an exceptional opportunity to learn new skills. Bob Baxter highlighted this opportunity through his theme of "Step Out and Step Up." There are so many ways to get involved in skill areas that might seem interesting but also seem too much of a stretch for our normal business or other volunteer roles. This role

certainly provided such an opportunity for me. It intrigued me because it required different skills and a different way of thinking compared to my highly analytical corporate job, where the path from A to B is always clear. With public relations, you promote everywhere you can and don't ever know which efforts will pay off. I've learned a lot, and while I'm not planning a career change, I'm much more comfortable with similar projects now. I've even had some recent opportunities to work with a corporate PR team, a process which benefited significantly from my new understanding of their perspective. If there's a skill you want to learn or a type of activity that intrigues you, volunteer to get involved as a district officer, or to help with contests or conferences. You'll find the same type of support and constructive feedback as you've experienced with your speaking skills.

Thank you. Thank you to our PR team, especially Gordon Savage, our Sage editor; Gayle Laraway, our Briefing Editor; Jeff Ferrier, our District Webmaster; and Alexander Pyle, our District Technology Administrator. The district stayed connected this past year because of the hundreds of hours you volunteered. Thank you to our district leadership, who provided the direction and teamwork needed to tie it all together. And thank you to everyone who provided suggestions, feedback and words of support along the way.

One of the great joys of life is creativity. Information goes in, gets shuffled about, and comes out in new and interesting ways.

- Peter McWilliams

Creativity is the power to connect the seemingly unconnected.

- William Plomer

Realignment: Why Change?

Alan Swartz, DTM District Governor

The District Council at the business meeting approved a District Realignment. Many Toastmasters might ask why we did realignment.

The structure of the District is extremely important. It is partly driven by Toastmasters International with such guidelines as having a minimum of 4 clubs in an area and a maximum of six. These are guidelines which are difficult to implement in parts of our District that are spread far and wide.

When the realignment was proposed with the help of past DG Randy Penn, we tried to organize numbers from north to south in each division, one being at the north of the division and six or seven being the area at the south. We also tried to have a

strong club in each area to inspire the others and to allow each Area Governor a chance to be Distinguished.

The proposal also attempted to balance Divisions in terms of the number of clubs the Division Governor is responsible to manage.

Finally, the realignment attempted to take in consideration geographical proximity. That one is really difficult in our District.

Why change? To hopefully provide a better structure for success in our District. Why share this? Because every Toastmaster should understand the reasons for the decision to realign.



Reflections on Club Rebuilding in 2008-2009

Joyce Feustel, DTM DOORS Coordinator, Club Coaching Chair 2008-2009

Just over a year ago then District Governor Elect Bob Baxter approached me about developing a district initiative to provide assistance to Toastmasters clubs in District 26 that had 13-19 members. He encouraged me to build on the success of the club coach program (which serves clubs with 12 or fewer members) to serve those "middling" clubs that were not yet at 20 members and were not eligible for a club coach.

Keep in mind that the club coach program is an official program of Toastmasters International, and its parameters are very established. Heading that program primarily required identifying those clubs with 12 or fewer members who wanted some help and then recruiting Toastmasters from other clubs to provide that assistance in the capacity of serving as a club coach.

As many of the Sage readers know, I am somewhat gifted at recruiting volunteers to take on leadership roles – both at the club level and the district level. So, serving as the club coaching chair truly didn't stretch me as a leader.

However, coordinating this rebuilding effort for the 13-19 member clubs, eventually called the DOORS* program, required me to create an entire program from scratch. With the help of an amazing "think tank" of former club coaches, our current D26 "trio" of Bob Baxter, Alan Swartz and Julia Davis, plus Area D-5 Governor Laura Rayle, District Public Relations Officer JP Snow and many others, we managed to launch this program and put it on the map.

Although this program has had just scattered success in helping those 13-19 member clubs reach 20 or more members, the clubs that have used the program's diagnostic questions, made changes in the club based on what the questions revealed, and/or sought help of a Toastmasters Advisor have experienced a visceral change in the club's energy and vitality.

I am honored and delighted to have helped birth a district-initiated program that has the potential to make a tremendous impact on the health and viability of the Toastmasters clubs in District 26. Now I "hand over the baton" to incoming DOORS Coordinator Laura Rayle and the new Lt. Governor Marketing Norm Frickey as the two point people for this very important effort.

As Norm wrote in his article, the success of Toastmasters can always be traced to the experience that members have at the club level. As we embark on the 2009-2010 year, I urge all Sage readers to commit to helping every single club in our district to be vital and thriving and doing everything it can to help members achieve their goals.

***DOORS: Diagnosing** what is keeping Toastmasters clubs from being at 20 or more members and then helping clubs be **Open to Opportunities to Rebuild and Sustain** the club.



Humans hardly ever learn from the experience of others. They learn – when they do, which isn't often – on their own, the hard way.

- Robert Anson Heinlein

Making the simple complicated is commonplace; making the complicated simple, awesomely simple, that's creativity.

- Charles Mingus



I'll Make Mine a Double Chocolate Frappacino

Connie Akins CC

Creativity often consists of merely turning up what is already there. Did you know that right and left shoes were thought up only a little more than a century ago?

- Bernice Fitz-Gibbon

Creative minds always have been known to survive any kind of bad training.

- Anna Freud

Imagine sitting in a big comfy chair in the world's biggest and best Starbucks. And there is a team of baristas bringing you all the coffee, tea, lattes, espressos and pastries you want – and it's all free!!! That's what it was like to attend the educational sessions at the Regional Conference held last weekend here in Denver. I listened to many highly accomplished Toastmasters share from their wealth of knowledge and experience. I left each session excited to implement their ideas and follow in their footsteps.

Here are a few "tastes" of their delicious offerings:

Joyce Feustel, DTM, (along with Laura Rayle who will be the new DOORS coordinator) presented the DOORS program, which she has created and implemented in our district. This is a "Search and Rescue" program designed to build and strengthen those clubs who have less than 20 members. **DOORS** stands for: **D – Diagnose** what is inhibiting their growth. **O – help** the club be **Open** to new **O – Opportunities**, so they can **R – Rebuild** their club. And teach them how to **S – Sustain** that growth. Is your club struggling? Call Joyce or Laura today! They CAN help your club become that exciting, strong, vibrant place you can't wait to get to.

Hugh Curley, DTM, gave an inspiring call to developing our leadership skills. He laid out the 6 steps leaders must take to accomplish their goals:

- Create your vision
- Communicate that vision to others.
- Build your team of people who believe in your vision..

- Stay focused on the vision; and help your team stay focused.
- Use the mechanics of leadership: delegate, follow up, organize, etc...
- Build confidence in yourself and your team.

We discussed how important these steps are, not only for Toastmasters, but for all parts of our lives.

Nancy Swartz, DTM (3 times!) and past District Governor, clearly and carefully laid out the path to achieving the level of Distinguished Toastmaster. She encouraged our participation by awarding us with chocolate when we shared our thoughts. Needless to say, everyone had a lot to contribute!

Ray Pezolt, CC, CL, shared with us how he took his club from only about 5 people to over 20 in less than a year. He listed many changes they made on every level. The theme of their club is "Funner and Funner". I love that! They do a specialty meeting about every 6 weeks, including specialty locations, like right in the middle of a restaurant! As the new VP of Membership, I got all kinds of great ideas for my club.

All through the weekend I kept wishing everyone in my club was with me to "drink in" all the wonderful things I was learning. But now it's my mission to serve them these delightful concoctions I was given, and together we are going to have our best year ever.

Byron Embry takes Region!

Compiled by Genisi Sedlmayer, ACB, ALS Public Relations Officer



Byron Embry joined Toastmasters International in 2008 to develop his speaking skills, an aspiration he had considered impossible for most of his life, due to a speech impediment. Not only is he relatively new, but his first 6 months as a member afforded very little time to participate because he was wrapping up a 12-year career as a professional baseball player. That experience, which included time with the Kansas City Royals and the Seattle Mariners, provides a lot of material for his speeches. Alan Swartz commented that Byron's speeches "touch the heart and the mind and he has what it takes to be an International Speech contest winner." His district-winning

presentation encouraged the audience to "keep swinging." At Region Byron spoke to us about a friend who helped remind him that the best comes from inside of us. The tragic plane crash that took his friend inspires him to keep that encouraging mantra going for us all! Based on his early successes, Byron has launched a professional speaking career. He credits the positive environment and constructive feedback provided through the Toastmasters program as one critical source of his success. Byron grew up in Richmond, Kentucky and now lives in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He is a member of Currently Speaking (#5481) and Pikes Peak Toastmasters (#3044).



Speaking Up – Musings from the Editor



The Top of the List

Member enthusiasm is a major factor in how well a club recruits and retains members, but how do we promote enthusiasm?

Some people seem to be born with it. It bubbles out of them even when they try to suppress it. Tom Hobbs, the immediate past president of one of my clubs, is the perfect example. He brought in guests even when he knew there was little chance they would join because he couldn't help himself. Several years ago Sonja Brostrom-Lundquist and Robin Roberts used their joint enthusiasm to bring Parker Toastmasters from 8 to 35 members in the span of a Toastmasters year. Both were born enthusiasts.

Of course, we don't all have an excess of built in enthusiasm. In fact, I've met some people who seem to suck the enthusiasm out of the room when they walk in. Fortunately, we can overcome that kind of member and move them from the "dark side" to the positive side – the enthusiastic side. We can do that for all the members by socializing, by recognizing, and several other ways, but by far the top of the list is having fun meetings. Toastmasters founder, Dr. Ralph Smedley, had it right when he observed that people learn better in an enjoyable atmosphere. They are also more enthusiastic, and the effect of that enthusiasm carries over after the meeting. Guests and members want to be on hand for the next meeting to learn and to have fun again.

Are your meetings fun? Sure they need to be well organized, well run, and educational, but are they fun on top of that? When your members are achieving their goals and having fun in the process, how can they avoid being enthusiastic, and how can they avoid passing that enthusiasm on to potential new members? Start using that creativity I've quoted throughout this Sage, and put fun at the top of your list. You won't be sorry.

Red Light, Green Light

Two guys in a car drive right through a red light.

"Man, you just ran that red light!" exclaimed the passenger.

"Don't worry, my brother does it all the time," said the driver.

They continue driving through town and then proceed to drive through another stop light.

"You just ran another stop light! You're going to get us killed!" screamed the nervous passenger.

"Don't worry, my brother does it all the time," repeated the driver.

Moments later, they approached a green light and they came to a halting stop.

"Why are you stopping?" asked the anxious passenger.

The driver turned and said, "Because my brother might be coming!"

Let's pray

A couple was touring the capitol in Washington, DC, and the guide pointed out a tall, benevolent gentleman as the congressional chaplain.

The lady asked, "What does the chaplain do? Does he pray for the Senate or House?"

The guide answered, "No, he gets up, looks at both houses of Congress, then prays for the country!"

http://users.tpg.com.au/users/schleter/res_jok28.htm





District 26

The Sage

A newsletter focusing on District 26 Toastmasters covering Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming

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**Celebrating
Possibilities**

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The Values of Toastmasters International

Toastmasters International's core values are integrity, dedication to excellence, service to the member, and respect for the individual.

The Vision of Toastmasters International

Toastmasters International empowers people to achieve their full potential and realize their dreams. Through our member clubs, people throughout the world can improve their communication and leadership skills, and find the courage to change.

The Mission of Toastmasters International

Toastmasters International is the leading movement devoted to making effective oral communication a worldwide reality.

Through its member Clubs, Toastmasters International helps men and women learn the arts of speaking, listening and thinking – vital skills that promote self-actualization, enhance leadership, foster human understanding, and contribute to the betterment of mankind.

It is basic to this mission that Toastmasters International continually expand its worldwide network of Clubs, thereby offering ever-greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from its programs.

The Mission of the District

The mission of the District is to enhance the performance and extend the network of Clubs, thereby offering greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from the Toastmasters educational program.

Officer Training

If you haven't noticed, as measured by the Distinguished Club Plan the more officers trained in a club the better the members are served. The summer training period runs until the end of August. Take advantage of the available training, especially Toastmasters Leadership Institute, and get your club officers trained.

Oh yeah! Get all seven trained and your club can be in the drawing for club officer pins. Don't pass up the opportunity.

