

# The DISTRICT DIALOGUE



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Serving Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska

December 2010

## Pep Squad

### Imagine Meets Possibility

by TM Sharon Frickey

**T**ackle Your Dreams – the theme of the Toastmaster District 26 Fall Conference – took on a new twist for me when I recognized a group of middle-school-age students sitting front row waiting for the opening session. I’d noticed them surround our keynote speaker, Albert Mensah, during registration. The rock-star status he had with these kids was unmistakable. As I introduced myself as a Toastmaster and retired high school teacher, and shook hands with each Imagine Charter School student, I wondered how these kids knew this highly successful motivational speaker. The questions would wait as Norm Frickey called us to our feet and the Toastmasters Color Guard opened the conference. District Governor Julia Davis introduced our keynote speaker who held the audience spellbound for the next 30 minutes.

When he walked out onto the stage, Albert Mensah dominated it, made it his own. Wearing the traditional Adinkra, an extraordinary long robe, elegant and beautiful, worn by men and highly respected in Ghana, his country of birth, his presence dazzled, his accent rang out from the roots of his being. He spun a storied net of dream stuff come true, the strands of the web vivid, real, and honest—

He took us on a wonderful, life-affirming journey from the jungle and dirt roads of Ghana to this strange and foreboding new world called New York City. We experienced the draw and the power of the American dream through the eyes, ears, heart and mouth of an immigrant – and storyteller extraordinaire. And no, we won’t soon forget the experience.

Now he’s giving something back to Toastmasters after placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Toastmasters International World Champion Speaker contest 11 years ago. Devastated as they announced his name for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, he slumped in his seat, refused to go on state to receive his trophy until his wife threatened him. Albert liked to win, was used to it; he had a



Imagine Charter Middle School Speech, Debate and Drama Class District 26 Fall Conference November, 2010

Front row behind Albert Mensah left to right: Shiloh Riley; Kelsey Brostrom; Alexis (Lexie) Paddock; Andrew Boswell; Josh Lyons  
 Second row left to right: Jacob Seitz; Hailey Frederiksen; Andrew Stoops; Martin Weingartner; Donna Hammond, Classroom Assistant; Maddie Carlock; James Martindale; Kim Johnson, Teacher

track record to prove it, and second place wasn’t good enough.

He worked his way up to become a top salesman for a Fortune 500 corporation. In less than a year as a Toastmaster, he competed at the championship level. Loss motivated him to tackle his dream—he quit his job to become a professional speaker. His wife gave him four months to start making an income with his speaking. He mortgaged his house, hired coaches and mentors to help him hone his skills, delivered unique presentations designed to a specific audience until he achieved the coveted Certified Public Speaker designation. He quickly grew his speaking business, The Mensah Institute, from nothing to well over \$300,000 in annual booking fees.

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## Play by Play – Calendar of Events

December	HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
Jan 8	Toastmasters Leadership Institute – Denver, Red Rocks Com. College
Jan 9-11	Mid-Year Training, for Trio
Jan 22	Toastmasters Leadership Institute – Cheyenne
Jan 29	Toastmasters Leadership Institute – Fort Collins

## Player’s Lineup

### Coach Eligible Clubs Report

By Betty Chavira, Club Coaching Chair



The following report was presented and filed with District 26 Secretary Carol Harris at the District 26 Fall Conference:

As of November 2010, Toastmasters International listed 171 clubs in District 26.

later date. This accounts for the high number of clubs showing 12 or fewer members at this time.

Any club with 12 or fewer members (as recorded with Toastmasters International) is eligible for a coach. As you can see from the list below, there are coaching opportunities in each Division and in locations throughout our District. Please contact me if you would like to work with a coach to build your membership and achieve Distinguished Club Status by June 30, 2011. Please contact me if you would like to serve as a coach and work with a club to help them develop a marketing plan and work towards Distinguished status. At the time of the Fall Conference, clubs in the following divisions were listed as having 12 or fewer members:

- 2 clubs, Anadarko Rockies and Talk @ Chuck Toastmasters clubs are new – Congratulations and may you live long and prosper!
- 7 clubs were listed as 0 members since dues had not yet been received by Toastmasters International – Please send in your dues!
- 70 clubs were coach-eligible, having 12 or fewer members with dues paid. The goal is to have at least 6 paid members by October 1, so many clubs pay for 6 members and turn in dues for the remainder of their members at a

- Denver Division: 13
- Eastern Division: 10
- Foothills Division: 13
- Metro Division: 5
- Northern Division: 13
- Southern Division: 16



#### In Memorium—Irwin Selig

District 26 is mourning the death of Distinguished Toastmaster, Past District Governor, Irwin Selig. He passed away on November 3, after courageously battling a brain tumor for 15 months. As District 26 Governor in 1987 – 1988, Irwin led the District to President’s Distinguished status, #4 in the World. Irwin never tired of recruiting new members, encouraging members to take on leadership roles, and serving as an impeccable mentor and role model. Our sympathies go out to Irwin’s wife, Billie and their children, Michelle, Jacqueline, and Jeff.

Success is not so much achievement as achieving. Refuse to join the crowd that plays not to lose; play to win.

David J. Mahoney

## Pep Squad

### Imagine Meets Possibility (Cont.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

But the story he told those front-row kids is the story we all need to hear. It's about knowing what you want to do and making it happen, your own equivalent of taking yourself from a mud hut where you sleep on a dirt floor with six siblings and your parents into a country of opportunity and promise where organizations will pay money to hear you tell your story. That's where it happens – the sharing of your dream, the telling of your story.

So what's the story about those kids? There's a humorous irony in it. On opening day of the conference at 6:30 am, Kim Johnson, long-distance teacher via skype who flew in from California for the occasion, and Donna Hammond, volunteer classroom assistant, piled 13 students into two SUV's and left the parking lot of Imagine Charter School in Firestone, on their way to hear Albert Mensah, "Prince of Possibilities," an immigrant, tell his story.

These kids were already immersed in a K-8 public charter school where possibilities came out of hard work. Determined parents chartered this alternative with a concentration in classical education where all subjects, Latin included, interact and support one another. Kim Johnson, when her son was a sixth grader, wanted middle school students to have electives—that led to the Speech, Debate, and Drama Program started as an after school enrichment class. Kim's husband, Jim, a Toastmaster in the IBM club, suggested incorporating the Leadership Program into the class. The Toastmasters program became a class as Kim added her own materials and by the end of the year all 12 students earned the Leadership Award, a first for middle school students in Colorado. Several of those students, now in their third year of the program, work toward their third certificate. Advanced students mentor beginning students, providing a peer advocate. With a new school administration a new plea was successful to allow the program to continue in the school. Supported only by volunteers, everything that runs the program—material, time, resources— is donated. Requirements in the program continually

expand. Students attend many Toastmaster events including the debate presented last year at Coal Ridge Middle School, where some of those participants acted as judges for the student debate later that year.

Networking develops momentum. A few months ago after Kim's husband told her about the 2010 District 26 Fall conference, she contacted Julia Davis, current District 26 Governor and former IBM Toastmaster club mentor when Jim was the club President. For some time, familiar with Albert Mensah's work, Kim had wanted her students to hear him speak. Surprised to learn he was the keynote speaker for the conference, Kim asked if there was any way the fee could be waived so the kids could attend. Julia obliged.

But more happened before the conference. Kim tells, "one night while listening to an online speech by Mr. Mensah I decided to send him an email asking if ...my students might meet and talk with him...at the conference....I was shocked when about an hour later I received an email from Mr. Mensah himself. We ended up corresponding for about 4 weeks prior to the conference...my students' excitement grew every week."

Finally on their way, during the hour's drive students were "drilled on behavior, decorum, even how to shake hands and how to introduce themselves. While I was registering, Mr. Mensah walked past the students and introduced himself... it was as though someone had injected each of them with adrenaline, not a foot was touching the floor."

The kids from a school called "Imagine" and a man from the jungle of Ghana who realized his dream, who imagined his own possibilities and made getting to the United States the focus of his life to become a world-class motivational speaker, met face-to-face, shook hands and exchanged words, sharing the same world for a only few short minutes. Yet each would take away something that would make life a little richer, a little more interesting, with a sense of greater possibilities. Not bad for a field trip to a Toastmasters conference.



The secret to greatness is simple: do better work than any other man in your field – and keep doing it.

Wilfred A Peterson

A man's life is what his thoughts make it.

Marcus Aurelius



## Coaches Corner

### First Quarter Stats

by Julia Davis, DTM District Governor



Whew, we made it through the first quarter of the year already and we are making strides towards our goal line. I thought this would be a good time to let you in on our current district statistics for the year. We are shooting for a distinguished district, which means we have to meet all of the goals set for us by Toastmasters International. Simply stated they expect us to have 171 paid clubs. 7041 paid membership renewals (3520 in October and 3521 in April). 331 Competent Communicator (CC) awards, 160 Advanced Communicator (AC) awards, and 182 Leadership (CL, DTM) awards. I believe we can make these goals as we already have a significant forward position in the game.

As of November 19<sup>th</sup>, Toastmasters International has posted that district 26 already has 171 clubs on record, but 9 of them are not yet paid up for October or are short dues. If those 9 clubs were to renew this month, we would meet one goal, go team! We currently have 3005 paid memberships (85% of the October goal). Assuming each unpaid club has 20 registered members, those 9 clubs would contribute 180 additional paid memberships, that gives us a total of 3185 paid memberships (90% of the October goal). If each club adds just two more new or renewing members this year (170 \* 2 = 340), that boasts the total to 3525 and we reach our second goal. Our educational goals stand at 117 Competent Communicators (CC) or 35.3% of the TI CC goal so far, 46 Advanced Communicators (AC) or 37.5% of the TI AC goal and 72 Leadership (CL, DTM) or 39.5%. All of these numbers are substantially above target so far, but we need to keep driving to the goal line.

What does this mean to you, the members? Simple, if we meet our goals, it means that your clubs are meeting their goals and every member is getting out of Toastmasters what they joined for initially, satisfaction! That is the real prize that my team is aiming for this year, the distinguished district award is just a measurement to help us gauge our progress towards the clubs' success goals.

One way to determine if your club is successful is to use the Distinguished Club Program (DCP) as a measurement. Think of the DCP as the goal post, every team needs a goal to aim for. The ten stated goals are a way to measure the growth of your club and the success of the educational program based on awards granted for projects completed. Clubs that use the DCP as a regular measurement of their success are often the best clubs rated by their membership. Is your club measuring their progress? Is your club one that your members would rate tops in satisfaction? If so, then I can confidently recognize your club as potential Distinguished Club (or better). Ask your club officers if they use the DCP when setting their club goals. If not, we would

be happy to help your club get on track towards being tops in the district. I am pleased to recognize the following clubs that are already well on their way to potentially achieving Presidents Distinguished this year:

Club Number	Club Name	Goals to Date	Members to Date
930024	The Encredible Toastmasters	4	38
2228	Daybreak Toastmasters	4	22
821	BodyShops Club	7	24
677476	Simply Speaking Toastmasters Club	5	27
1272692	Absolutely Articulate	7	30
3975	Loveland Sweet Talkers Club	5	26
5314	Noonshiners Toastmasters Club	4	24
7818	Seamasters Toastmasters Club	5	20
631413	Speak with Ease Toastmasters Club	5	21
4780	Chamber Speakeasy Club	5	26
6835	Arvada Speakeasy Club	4	22
899	Westminster Communicators	4	17
5018	Apple Polishers	5	28
4128	Toast of Inverness Club	6	20
1399	South Suburban Toastmasters	5	34
1203897	MoneyGrammers	5	22
2177	Littleton Toastmasters	4	29
844063	Wisecrackers Toastmasters Club	4	20
7326	Meridian Mid-Day Toastmasters	7	30
983609	Western Union Messengers	4	23
3680	Castle Rock Club	4	22
3044	Pikes Peak Toastmasters Club	4	38

The rest of the clubs will catch up fast, so be watching your end zones for them!

If the Fall District Conference is any measure of your enthusiasm for Toastmasters we are going to score big this year. We broke some long standing attendance statistics this conference; let's keep the momentum going strong. Let's win one for the members!

## Coaches Corner

### Half-time!

#### Norm Frickey, DTM Lt. Governor Education & Training

It's hard to believe that we're half way through this Toastmasters' Year. From my perspective District 26 is on course for another outstanding year.

Successful Fall Conference. We concluded this first six months with a very successful fall conference on November 12 and 13. One hundred ninety two of us from Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska got together, socialized, networked, were treated to an inspiring keynote speech and two workshops by world-class inspirational speaker Albert Mensah, attended four other great educational sessions and assembled at our business meeting to approve the budget and validate district officer appointments. WOW! THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED AND ATTENDED.

#### Education, Training, Contest Report July 1 – November 31 2010

##### Club officer training was successful.

5 Toastmasters Leadership Institutes were held  
627 club officers were trained (53% of yearly goal of 1174)  
117 of 166 clubs (71%) had 4 or more officers trained  
8 clubs had 7 officers trained (Morgan County TM, Artfully Speaking TM, Summit TM, Money Grammers, Double Talk, Highlands Ranch, Evening Stars, Advanced Club, Apple Polishers)

##### Education accomplishments as of November, 2010

111 Competent Communicators (32% of yearly goal)  
46 Advance Communicators (23% of yearly goal)  
72 Leadership Awards (33% of yearly goal)  
42 District Officers Trained.(98% of goal)

##### Speech contests held

36 Area contests  
6 Division contests  
1 District contest

#### Toastmasters Web Site Improvements on the Way December 16 - January 3, 2011

(From the Toastmasters International Web posting) System upgrade begins in December. Toastmasters International will upgrade its Web site over the holiday season. This action will result in a number of benefits for members, including improved online content and a greater ability to track education awards.

To accommodate this upgrade, the Toastmasters' online store will be inactive from 11:59 p.m., Pacific Standard Time, Dec. 15, 2010, until 5 a.m., PST, Jan. 3, 2011. The same will be true for the club and district business sections. In addition, members will not be able to update the "My Profile" section during this time.

Because members won't have access to the Club Officer list during this period, we are extending the deadline for Club Officer submissions to Jan. 14, 2011.

World Headquarters is conducting physical inventory from Dec. 16, 2010, through Jan. 2, 2011. During that time, the following transactions cannot be processed:

- Supply orders
- New member kits
- Charter kits
- Education award certificates (including free advanced manuals)

Orders received by 11:59 p.m., PST, Dec. 15, 2010, will be processed and shipped. Orders received after that date will be held and processed after Jan. 2, 2011.

If you are unable to submit your transaction before Dec. 16, submitting your information online – starting at 5 a.m., PST, Jan. 3, 2011 – will be the fastest way to receive your materials.

#### Revised Toastmaster Speech Contest Rulebook

The International Speech Contest season is just around the corner and just in time for this event the Toastmasters Speech Contest Rulebook has been revised and is in the mail to all clubs (assuming the officer list has been submitted and is accurate)

**Contestant eligibility error in the printed version.** On page 5 of the rulebook, being mailed, it erroneously states that contestants at all contests must have completed a minimum of six speech projects in the Competent Communication manual. This is incorrect and therefore an correction addendum to page 5 is included in the packet. This addendum correctly states that only contestants in the International Speech Contest must have completed six speech projects from the Competent Communication manual. Contestants in speech contests other than the International contest do not need to meet this requirement.

##### Other significant changes.

Contest Judges qualification. To be a judge at a Toastmasters speech contest individuals must meet all the eligibility requirements:

- At all levels, the judge shall be Toastmaster members in good standing
- At area, division, and district, speech contests:
  1. judges must be a Toastmasters member in good standing since July 1 or the previous year and
  2. judges must have completed at least six Competent Communication manual projects.

##### Contest Judging:

- At Division and District Contests no judge shall be a member of the club represented by a contestant.

**Find it online.** The updated and corrected *Speech Contest Rulebook* can be found on the Toastmasters International Web site. (<http://www.toastmasters.org/rulebook.aspx>).



Coaches Corner

# THE GIFT OF SERVICE

Jennifer Zerba, ACB, ALB  
Lt. Governor, Marketing



Have you ever been upset after not getting the food you ordered? Have you ever been the one person that always ends up doing other's work? Do you ever wish people would just do their job?

We're all familiar with leaders such as the traditional manager, clergy or politician. Other types of leaders are those that may be the most knowledgeable about a new computer software program. How about the next door neighbor who is known to be the best baker on the block? Volunteers also take on leadership roles such as in Toastmasters when you volunteer to be a club officer. Leaders are role models in all parts of our lives; however good leaders these days seem to be in short supply.

Toastmasters is a wonderful organization that helps you master being a leader whether your lead yourself, one other person, groups or communities.

Before you lead anyone you must be able to lead yourself. Can you see your goal and make it happen? Toastmasters empowers people with skills such as listening, managing time, organizing, accountability and responsibility...just to name a few. Using those skills exercises your ability to conceive a goal and achieve that goal!



*The very essence of leadership is its purpose. And the purpose of leadership is to accomplish a task. That is what leadership does—and what it does is more important than what it is or how it works.*  
~Colonel Dandridge M. Malone

You can help another transform their life. Can you visualize what is possible for a new member? Toastmasters mentoring program is the key to making sure our new members get what they want and need from our organization. You are able to expand their vision of what is possible and help them accomplish dreams they didn't know existed.

*If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.*  
~John Quincy Adams



Moving mountains is much easier with a group of people than it is by yourself. Convincing those people that the mountain needs to be moved is a whole other challenge. Serving as a club or district officer will give you proficiency to inform and persuade others to consider and embrace your ideas. You will learn how to work with different personalities, see their attributes and you will gain knowledge from them. You will also learn to understand each other's differences and contribute towards a common goal.



*The task of the leader is to get his people from where they are to where they have not been.* ~Henry Kissinger

Leaving a legacy of leadership for the community that lasts beyond your lifetime is a triumph. Because of your involvement with Toastmasters, you will leave footprints for others to follow. In all aspects of your life your courage, strength and confidence will shine through. People will be drawn to you, follow you and admire you.

*A leader must always keep the primary goal of leadership in mind: to influence people's thoughts, behaviors, emotions and most importantly, their actions to produce a result that improves the quality of their lives.* ~ Tony Robbins



'Tis the season for gift giving to those you love and care about. Consider giving the gift of service to your Toastmasters Club by being a club officer. Semi annual officer elections are being held this month and your inspiration and passion for Toastmasters is needed! Don't forget that you can have someone nominate you or you can nominate yourself. Be bold; bring pizzazz and creativity to your club! Your enthusiasm to master leadership will be a breath of fresh air to those around you. Be the leader you expect others to be. Happy Holidays Toastmasters and may you have a magnificent New Year!



*Pep Squad*

**Speechcraft Program a Resounding Success**

**Joyce Feustel, DTM Speechcraft Coordinator, Past District Governor**



1st row are the Speechcrafters: Rebecca Winters, Paul Denny, Pam Denny, Brenda TenCate, Gay Freeman, Jan Manis and Douglas Chambers (not pictured: Lois Chambers and Ginger Stainbrook)

2nd row are the Toastmaster Advisors: David Harrower, Norm Frickey, Joyce Feustel, Randy Penn, Joann Seethaler, David Lampe, and Brenda Penn (not pictured Kathleen Graff-Serino, Robert Miller, and Larry Scantland)

My motto was always to keep swinging. Whether I was in a slump or feeling badly or having trouble off field, the only thing to do was keep swinging.

Hank Aaron

“Can you transform yourself into twice as good a speaker in only 4 weeks?” weekly improvement was striking. By the last night, their confidence simply showed through as they spoke.

Participants in the Living Water Unity Church Speechcraft Program found themselves transforming in just that way over the course of four sessions in October of this year. One member was very nervous about speaking in public, since he had so little experience doing this. His progress was especially impressive in his final speech in which he provided powerful examples about the challenges of having a learning disability and the adaptations he has made.

With minimal arm twisting, I managed to recruit nine Toastmaster Advisors. They served as the assigned evaluators for the Speechcrafters, plus took turns as timer and impromptu speaking coordinator. Several of them also gave a short educational talk, covering such matters as speech delivery, topic selection, speaking with conviction, and tips for organizing a speech.

Having never led a Speechcraft program of this nature, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect. Would the Speechcraft members be willing and able to give short speeches three weeks in a row, as the program called for? Would I be able to recruit a sufficient number of Toastmaster helpers so that all the roles were filled each session?

Special thanks to Rev. David Ridge of Living Water Unity Church for supporting the Speechcraft program and opening the church to use as our meeting place. Also, heartfelt appreciation goes to the Toastmaster Advisors Norm Frickey, David Harrower, Kathleen Graff-Serino, David Lampe, Robert Miller, Brenda Penn, Randy Penn, Larry Scantland, and Joann Seethaler.

Wonder of wonders, everything fell into place in ways much better than I could have scripted. The nine Speechcrafters eagerly grabbed onto each assignment, delivering strong ice breakers, followed by powerful “speaking in earnest” and “organize your speech” speaking projects. Their

And most of all, hats off to Speechcraft participants Douglas Chambers, Lois Chambers, Pam Denny, Paul Denny, Gay Freeman, Jan Manis, Ginger Stainbrook, Brenda TenCate, and Rebecca Winters for their courage and their commitment to improving as public speakers.



# Pep Squad

## A Champion Comes to Cheyenne

Dana Morgan, DTM, Past District Governor

Cheyenne, WY Toastmasters clubs hosted World Champion of Public Speaking, David Brooks, one Nov 4<sup>th</sup>. What a great time we had!!! We had 53 attendees, not counting the young people compelled to be there by their parents. I found out later that several of them ACTUALLY enjoyed coming. Imagine that!? We laughed well over 100 times, per Dirk Kittredge's count and learned more than our brains could handle.

David's message was clear:

1. You don't have to tell jokes to be funny. Speak about your life (think about it!)
2. Keep a notebook handy to write down experiences. You may think you'll remember them, but most of us don't.
3. Prepare. Write your speeches, practice, know your time and speak from your heart.

Every club in Cheyenne participated by getting the word out and bringing food....FABULOUS food: wings, cakes, cookies, pudding, juices, and

veggies. We even had a beautiful cheese ball and crackers AND chocolate from Resource Masters in Fort Collins, CO!

Attendees came from as far away as Casper, WY (2 1/2 hours north) and Fort Morgan, CO ( well over 2 hours S/E...NOT highway driving!). Ray Pezolt, F5 Area Governor was the designated dignitary driver and Dirk Kittredge was his co-pilot both from Front Range in Thornton, CO.

David Brooks is a true champion: he has made himself available to the everyday Toastmaster and wants to reach out to Toastmaster everywhere (clearly, he came to Cheyenne!!) to help us all to improve and be better at what we do. WOW!

We'll be talking about this for a long time.



The mind is not a vessel to be filled but a fire to be kindled.  
Plutarch



From left to right: Mike Hand, David Brooks, and Craig Hiatt



Player's Lineup

Energy Capital of the Nation is Energized about 2011Events!

Vicki Kissack, Area N-1 Governor

Hello from Gillette Wyoming! We have exciting Toastmaster events planned for 2011.

Our first event is February 18th and 19th, 2011. Energy Capital and Razor City Toastmasters will host the T.L.I. training. Currently we are planning a Friday, evening social hour and keynote speaker. Saturday will begin bright and early with officer training, then onto stimulating educational breakout sessions. Lunch will be served with a keynote speaker presentation. Finally, our day will conclude with another set of breakout sessions. It is our goal to have toastmasters, family members and guests leave "full to the brim" of information, and excited about the opportunities Toastmasters has to offer. This will be a great opportunity to show off your stuff, as we are planning a grand event! Please contact us if you are interested in presenting an officer or break out training session.

Research, planning, and delegating are all components of leadership that Toastmasters are well known for; with that said, of course we were the obvious choice to host the Campbell County

Centennial Cemetery Tour. The research, team building, and organizing of such a wonderful event are in full swing. The tour will be in September of 2011. Toastmasters members will not only be historians and tour guides, we will also portray characters of our communities past. We are honored to not only host such an event, we feel honored to have the venue to further show our speaking abilities, leadership skills and community involvement.

These are the two big events we have planned, but as active members of our community both Toastmasters groups will continue to be actively involved throughout the year!

Happy Holidays from Energy Capital and Razor City Toastmasters!



No one ever gets far unless he accomplishes the impossible at least once a day.

Elbert Hubbard

The impossible is often the untried.

Jim Goodwin



Left to right: Barb Luthy - Energy Capital VP Education, Jim Naramore-(driver) -Energy Capital VP Public Relations, Rita Mashak- Razor City President

## Coaches Corner

### Toastmasters Honored at Hall of Fame Luncheon

Alan Swartz, DTM Immediate Past District Governor



District 26 honored several Toastmasters for the contributions during the Hall of Fame Luncheon at Fall Conference in Denver. Hugh Curley of Night Speakers and Double Talk clubs received the Toastmaster of the Year recognition. Hugh has been a Toastmaster for 20 years, serving as a

district officer in District 4 several years; taught at the Front Range TLI's last year; mentored four new members; chaired an Area Contest; taught at District Conferences; and lead his club Double Talk to President's Distinguished. These are only a few of Hugh's accomplishments which earned him this award.

club; and participating in several demonstration meetings to start new clubs. He is currently coaching Mountain Toastmasters.

Michelle Chapman received the Division Governor of the Year award for leading Foothills Division to Presidential Distinguished. Michelle participated in the Aspen demonstration meeting, helped throughout the district, and visited the four clubs in Montrose and Grand Junction in the absence of an Area Governor and helped them conduct a speech contest, their first in several years.

Carol Harris, D-6 Area Governor, received the District Officer of the Year award for leading her area to Select Distinguished, working very diligently to build up her clubs who were struggling, and for establishing a fantastic area newsletter which facilitated communication in her area. She also organized awesome speech contests which used outside judges to get unbiased results for the contestants.

All of these individuals are talented, enthusiastic, and exemplify what can be achieved in Toastmasters to help others grow.

### District Contestants Inspire Audience

Alan Swartz, DTM Immediate Past District Governor

District contestants in Evaluation and Humorous Speaking always inspire the audience. They have stepped out of their comfort zones to compete in the club contests, area contests, division contests, and finally at the District Conference held November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Embassy Suites in Denver. Everytime a person enters a Toastmasters contest they have to raise their level. If it's evaluation, they have to listen very carefully to the test speaker and figure out how to make a great evaluation to distinguish themselves from the other competitors. If it is humorous speaking, they have to get very creative with their thoughts and then practice and practice to have every facial expression, gesture, and pause contribute to the overall impression and message they leave with the audience.

In the District Evaluation Contest, Tyler Hart was the test speaker with her speech on

helping entrepreneurs throughout the world. Gigi DeGala was Toastmaster. Jonathan Fleck of Dawn Yawn was first in evaluation, Pam Hertzog of Spirited Speakers and Ranch Raconteurs was second, and Datta Groover of Colorado State University Toastmasters and Noonshiners was third.

The humorous contest brought many laughs with Gina Curley as Toastmaster as Mary Schmicken spoke on "Confessions of a Grammarolic"; Pam Hertzog on "Family Fun Memories"; Sherman Wiseman on "Business Trip"; Tyler Withrow on "Anthromorphism Gone Bad"; Datta Groover on "My Awkward Years"; and Judi LaPoint on "I Feel Bad About My Neck". Judi LaPoint of Summit Toastmasters placed first, Tyler Withrow of Gates to Excellence and Rocky Mountain Toastmasters was second, and Pam Hertzog was third.



Coaches Corner

Toastmaster Connie Akins Uses Pain to Create Music

Alan Swartz, DTM Immediate Past District Governor

When Woody Roseland, Connie's son, was diagnosed with bone cancer in his leg at age 16, they began a dark and painful journey of many months of doctors, drugs, chemo, surgeries, hospitalizations and struggle. During this time Connie Akins, of Simply Speaking, began playing the piano as a medicine for her soul. Out of this difficult time she created more than 30 beautiful and deeply moving songs. This led to a CD and her first concert at the Holy Love Lutheran Church in Aurora on October 23d where she used her toastmaster skills to tell stories she had written about a master glass blower and "The Girl With the Crippled Hands" interspersed with her beautiful piano songs. Gail Hamilton, a fellow Toastmaster from Toastability, shared her magnificent and classically trained voice and played her Auto Harp. In addition, Woody, now 20 years old and a junior at Metro, entertained the audience with some very funny standup comedy poking fun at cancer. Connie was supported by 15 members of her Simply Speaking Club as well as about 60 others. "The whole experience was awesome," said IPDG Alan Swartz," because Connie truly went to another level with her stories and music. She poured out her soul like I have never seen, even in her Toastmaster speeches. It was an inspirational experience for everyone who was there." Connie and Gail are planning another concert together early in 2011.



Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from indomitable will.

Jawaharlal Nehru

Just keep doing it. Everybody gets better if they keep at it.

Ted Williams



Look Ahead, Plan Ahead

- January 8 Toastmasters Leadership Institute – Denver, Red Rocks Com. College
- January 22 Toastmasters Leadership Institute – Cheyenne
- January 29 Toastmasters Leadership Institute – Fort Collins
- February 5 Toastmasters Leadership Institute – Colorado Springs
- February 18 Toastmasters Leadership Institute – Gillette, Wyoming
- February 28 Last day to complete officer training

*For the Record –***Sisters Betty Funderburke and Elinora Reynolds Achieve Top Honor in Toastmasters International****Elinora Reynolds, DTM**

Betty Funderburke, an Aurora businesswoman, has been awarded Toastmaster International's highest achievement, Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM). The award is the culmination of her four years of participation as a member of a number of Aurora local toastmasters clubs. To earn the DTM (the highest designation awarded by Toastmasters International), Betty had to give 40+ speeches and execute a number of leadership projects. Two of her favorite speeches were "Angels" and "Creation." While serving as District Secretary in 2009-2010, she and her sister, Elinora Reynolds co-sponsored a new toastmasters club in Aurora – Absolutely Articulate Toastmasters Club # 1272692 that meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month at 8:45 am at the Life Care Center of Aurora. Proudly joining her younger sister, Elinora Reynolds who earned her DTM in 2009, these sassy sisters continue to stand out in the Aurora community as role models and leaders. After joining Toastmasters International in 2003, Elinora encouraged her sister, Betty to join 3 years later. In 2009, Elinora (a local event planner and grant writer) was named Area Governor of the Year and in 2010, Betty was named Toastmaster of the Year in her home club.

Betty Funderburke currently works as a Host Home provider for developmentally and mentally challenged adults. Having received many community awards based on her community outreach work to help others, Betty's unselfish love and desire to reach out to others have proven to be helpful in her role as club co-sponsor, mentor and leader. As co-founder of the city's Annual Back Home Gospel Shout Out event and a devoted member of her church (Free Indeed Deliverance Ministry), Betty says "I credit God, my parents, and our good family rearing in Kansas City, Missouri where I was encouraged to speak up and help others as key factors that have made an impact on

*my life."* Since Betty loves to talk and meet new people, many say that it is impossible for her to meet a stranger. Past President of the Absolutely Articulate Toastmasters Club, Elinora insists that "In order for leaders to be successful, we must have the courage and the skill to speak up." Both Betty and Elinora continue to learn from accomplished Absolutely Articulate club members such as Darryle Brown, Byron Embry, Ian Humphrey, Paul Wyles and others.



On November 20, Betty and Elinora achieved another accomplishment by hosting their 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Back Home Gospel Shout Out event where they honored 10 of the city's exceptional citizens with their *random acts of kindness award*. Believing that random acts of kindness are powerful ways of changing the world one act at a time, the 2010 honorees included Sia Chandler, Zona Moore, Kelley Mymern, Cassandra Perkins, Patricia Shaver, Ruth Yamauchi and Toastmasters Gi Gi deGala, Gail Hamilton, Annette Sills-Brown and Rashad Younger.

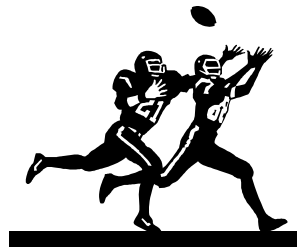
Sisters Betty and Elinora have recently downsized from 5 toastmaster clubs to only 3 local clubs including the Absolutely Articulate Club, Aurorators Club and the Simply Speaking Club in the D-6 area. Relying on God for guidance and leadership, Betty and Elinora's DTM badge reads "lift as you climb." They are currently working on a book project while enjoying public speaking engagements.

*Betty received her DTM awarded on Oct. 3rd; we did a big thing at our Absolutely Articulate Club meeting on Sat., Oct. 11th in front of a packed house when Betty also presented to every club member a "You're Special Award" for helping her make it with everyone's prayers, help and support. – E*



Keep your head and your heart going in the right direction and you will not have to worry about your feet.

Anonymous



## Candidate's Lineup

### John R. Barnes – International Director Candidate – Region 1



During my term as District Governor (2004-2005), I motivated a team of 42 leaders consisting of area governors, division governors, and the top elected and appointed positions to achieve Distinguished status. In 2009, I was selected as the Host District Chairman for the last Region 3 conference which was held in Denver. Again, motivation was key to making the conference a success.

After District leadership, I found the role of mentoring upcoming leaders and other Toastmasters. I believe mentoring is vital for all leaders

to achieve their maximum potential.

As an International Director, I will bring my mentoring and motivational skills to serve the Districts in Region 1. I also look forward to strategically planning where our organization will be in five and ten years down the road.

I ask for your support for my candidacy for International Director from Region 1.

### J. Randy Penn – International Director Candidate – Region 1



I want to serve Toastmasters as International Director because I enjoy working on the business side of fun! It takes hard work and dedication to look beyond the program, personalities and histories that make up the current organization to strategically see the future. Toastmasters must continue evolving as an organization to reach its worldwide potential, penetrate mature markets and retain members. Our Board needs to explore nontraditional alternatives. I always enjoy looking for the new way, working with a great

team and being a part of the process of growth and change.

I serve on three nonprofit Boards and three officers lines in addition to Toastmasters responsibilities. As a Colorado Society Association Executives member, I access the best practices in professional, trade, community, international and regional organizations for all.

For more information, please check out my web site [www.JRandyPenn.net](http://www.JRandyPenn.net), Facebook [www.facebook.com/JRandyPenn4ID](https://www.facebook.com/JRandyPenn4ID), LinkedIn, Twitter @JRandy14 or Skype for video calls.

*The following is paraphrased from the "Campaigning for International Officer or Director" handbook.*

Toastmasters International needs effective leaders who have the ability and foresight to guide our organization to new successes and even higher standards of quality. Candidates who are elected to the Board of Directors become part of the governing body of Toastmasters International. They are elected for the purpose of participating in the development of strategy and policy.

#### Qualities of an Effective Board Member:

- Personal integrity
- Leadership understanding and experience
- Strategic thinking and planning

- Effective listening, thinking and speaking skills
- Ability to analyze information and make decisions
- Ability to work well with others
- Experience and achievement in Toastmasters
- Understanding of Toastmasters programs
- Policy development experience
- Understanding of fiduciary responsibilities

Being a Board member offers a tremendous opportunity to expand leadership experience. Board members help guide the direction of the organization and have a positive, lasting impact on Toastmasters' future. Candidates are expected to maintain the highest level of ethical conduct while leading a positive campaign and to manage their campaigns in a professional manner at all times and with a high level of integrity displayed by all involved.

*Fall Conference 2010*



Julia Davis presents First Place trophy for the evaluation contest to Jonathon Fleck



Julia Davis presents District Officer of the Year award to Carol Harris



Julia Davis presents District 26 Toastmaster of the Year award to Hugh Curley



Julia Davis presents Area Governor of the Year award to Ed Morgan



Julia Davis presents First Place trophy for the humorous speech contest to Judi LaPoint

Fall Conference 2010



## Tail Gate – Musings from the Editor



### “Elevator Speech”

What do you say when someone asks you about your Toastmasters pin? Do you hem and haw your way through an impromptu discussion or do you reel off a brief, clear promotional for Toastmasters and your club. Most of us do the former.

A few months back I tried an experiment. As Table Topicsmaster I used a two part approach. I had every member of the club (myself included) prepare an “elevator speech” before the meeting.

What’s an “elevator speech”? Assume you have just entered an elevator and someone has noticed that you are wearing a Toastmasters pin (You do wear yours, don't you?). They ask you what it's for. You only have until the door opens on the next floor to give your answer so it needs to be short, say between 15 and thirty seconds. This requires several things: (1) You already have to know what you will say (You've prepared it and rehearsed it, preferably so it comes out without sounding mechanical and without noticeable hesitation). (2) It gives the other

person enough that they want to hear more. (3) You're prepared to elaborate but not to take a lot of their time. (4) It would be a good thing if you had a business card identifying you as a Toastmaster and a member of your club so they can contact you to get more information.

For table topics I had two participants at a time. One presented his or her “elevator speech” to the other participant. As the table topic, the other participant evaluated the “elevator speech”. The resulting “elevator speeches” included some promising ideas; however, I discovered something afterwards. You can learn an “elevator speech” quickly, but it takes frequent repetition to keep it accessible.

Whether you prepare it for Table Topics or just so you can respond to the question, an “elevator speech” is a good idea. Done right it can turn casual contacts into potential new Toastmasters. What’s your “elevator speech?”

### More Sniglets ...

Pupkus (pup' kus) - n. The moist residue left on a window after a dog presses its nose to it.

Purpitation - v. To take something off the grocery shelf, decide you don't want it, and then put it in another section.

Reled (ree led') - v. To reset all the digital clocks in the household following a power failure.

Retrocarbonic (ret ro kar bon' ik) - n. Any drink machine that dispenses the soda before the cup.

Rignition (rig ni' shun) - n. The embarrassing action of trying to start one's car with the engine already running.

Roebinks (roh' binks) - n. Those mysterious chimes you always hear in department stores.

Rovalert (ro' val urt) - n. The system whereby one dog can quickly establish an entire neighborhood network of barking.

Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

Sark (sark) - n. The marks left on one's ankle after wearing tube socks all day.

Scribblics (skrih' blicks) - n. Warm-up exercises designed to get the ink in a pen flowing.

Scribline - n. The blank area on the back of credit cards where one's signature goes.



# TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

## DISTRICT 26

### *The DISTRICT DIALOGUE*



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**We're on the web!**  
[www.d26toastmasters.org/d26cms/](http://www.d26toastmasters.org/d26cms/)

#### ***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.*

## **Toastmasters Leadership Institute**

Toastmasters Leadership Institute isn't limited to just club leaders. Besides officer training there are sessions in skills you need to be a better speaker and leader and in useful life skills. You also get to make new friends by interacting with members from other clubs. And chances are you'll find an idea or two that you can "borrow" to take back to your club.

It starts in January. **Plan to attend!**