



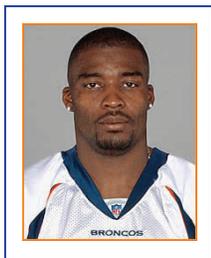
DISTRICT 26 DIALOGUE

Serving Colorado, Wyoming and Western Nebraska

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Something for everyone at the spring conference! For sports fans seeking inspiration to "tackle your dreams," check out this former Broncos favorite on page 7.



Find a club

THE BEES ARE SWARMING



The District Trio Weighs In

District 26 is swarming with exciting ideas for our branding initiative. While things may appear motionless on the surface, we assure you that the bees are buzzing in the background.

A new look and feel plus expanded training and leadership opportunities are among the many changes under development.

You, the district members, are offering feedback on the new format of the [District 26 Dialogue](#), which helps us enormously. As a result, we are developing an official style guide to ensure consistency and recognition. Our content goal is to bring "news" to the newsletter. To achieve that, we need members to submit club/ individual achievements, special events or opportunities, photos, etc. to the editor by the 15th of each month. [Read more](#)

The [Toastmasters International](#) web site is swarming with "how to" articles. D26 leaders ask that members put those tips to use and

- Submit articles of how they helped you or your club succeed.
- We want to promote "results" that will inspire others.

The web team is regrouping and we're excited not only about the new look, but also about the many features of Joomla that will soon be avail-

able for our web site. [Read more.](#)

We plan to assign a separate page for each division so your leaders can post content specific to your area.

We recognize that not everyone wants to be a public speaker so part of our brand is to promote, "No matter what your communication needs, Toastmasters can help you address them."

Our Toastmasters training will expand over time to include sessions on *all* forms of communication _

- branding
- body language
- telephone skills
- texting
- e-mail
- newsletter production
- web site design
- speech writing
- handshake
- photo composition
- marketing
- publicity
- social networking

Unlike officers training, which instructs us on our responsibilities, these mini-seminars will be available to all members of the district and are intended to provide tips and resources that will enable us to communicate more effectively in all venues, leading to greater personal success.

A brand is the intangible sum of a product or company's attributes: its name, packaging and price, its history, its reputation, and the way it's advertised."

~ David Ogilvy

One of the most famous names in advertising. [Read more](#)

A brand implies a promise of quality standards and performance that the public comes to expect. Branding is a time-consuming initiative that demands consistency in order to succeed. We, the District Trio, believe it's worth the effort and that, ultimately, every toastmaster will receive better training and leadership opportunities.

Expect to encounter some infectious enthusiasm at the spring conference when we formally introduce our brand. Meet our Region 1, international director, listen to Dana LaMon, a World Champion of Public Speaking, and rub shoulders with Rod Smith as you enjoy his international coffees. ▪

BEE there!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **May 1_** Beat the Clock membership drive begins.
- **May 7_** Northern Division Table Topics & Speech Contest
- **May 15_** April dues renewal
- **May 15_** Deadline for submissions to the *Di26 Dialogue*
- **May 20-21_** Spring Conference in Loveland, CO
- **May 31_** Deadline for submitting 2nd round of area governor visit reports

[Calendar details](#)

May 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

WAIT, DON'T SHOOT!

Carol A. Harris, ACB

Taking good photos at Toastmasters' events can be a challenge so before you ask people to say "Cheese!" take time to learn some basic elements about photo composition.



Photo composition is a combination of subject matter and how you decide that subject matter should be arranged within the area of your picture. It is one of the most artistic aspects of photography and can make the difference between a good photo and a great photo!

Simply put, it is choice. You are deciding what the subject will be and how it will be arranged in your picture.

Remember that people come in all sizes, shapes, and colors.

Let's address height_

- Be certain to line the tallest people in the back. Without "official direction", people will simply squish together without thought.

Second is shape_

- Avoid standing a full-bodied person next to someone who is exceptionally thin as both will be unhappy with their appearance when the picture is published.

Third is background_

- Do not stand a dark skinned person against a dark background or any one in front of a cluttered bulletin board.
- If you're taking individual photos, don't put a pale or older person against a neutral color such as beige. They will simply wash out, making them appear tired and anemic.
- If you're skilled in Photo Shop, it's simple to recolor the background.

Need a wide angle lens to fit them all in?

- Most people make the mistake of lining up as if it's going to be a panoramic shot.
- Photos are much more appealing when the subjects are tiered; tallest in the back, average in the middle, and

shortest, or kneeling down, in the front. Having two men in front on bended knee is one way to effectively create balance.

- Another technique for a large group is for the photographer to elevate himself above the subjects by standing on a chair.

Finally, remember that body language is a form of communication.

- Ensure that people appear friendly and interactive. Often one or two people will place themselves at greater distance from the group. This is apparent when published and you see that you must either
 - Crop these individuals out (and possibly offend them).
 - Post the photo as is, which gives the impression they were not comfortable; perhaps even "stand-offish."

Google [photo composition](#) for more resources and techniques so you can take outstanding pictures at the district conference to submit for the June newsletter. •

CHARTERING A CLUB

Pamela Herzog, ACG, ALB

Where are you in your Toastmasters journey? Are you just finishing your CC and wondering what else Toastmasters has to offer? Or are you like me, needing only the AL-S to complete my DTM? You may not be aware that our district has three advanced clubs, provided so members can work on their advanced manual projects and continually improve. I was a charter member of the third club, Spirited Speakers, last year.

What does it take to charter a club? First, it takes a group of like-minded, or like-hearted people. We noticed there was no advanced club in the south Metro area. Next, the potential members had to agree on a meeting place and time. Lastly, it took

tenacity, to hang in there! In 2010, after a burst of initial interest, it actually took us until September 16 to get the 20 dues paying members needed to charter. We bounced around between locations, but on January 25, 2011 we agreed to make the Microsoft store at Park Meadows Mall our permanent meeting place.

What makes us unique? We have technology opportunities not available elsewhere. In addition to the pull-out lectern and movable benches, we have both hand-held and headset mics, and a built-in wall screen that allows us to advance PowerPoint slides with the touch of a finger! Our meeting area is not closed off from people walking by, which helps us maintain our focus.

As advanced speakers, several members hold DTMs or are experienced district officers. The quality of feedback given during our round robin evaluations is exceptional.

We invite you to visit our club on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. We have a pretty cool group of people! ▪



2011 CONVENTION AUGUST 17-20

Held at Bally's Hotel in Las Vegas this year, the [Toastmasters International Convention](#) is always an exciting event. People come from around the world to feel the energy and support their district candidate in the World Championship of Public Speaking.

The keynote speaker, [David Logan, Ph.D.](#), is a senior partner at CultureSync, a consulting firm specializing in strategy and high performance. He is also co-author of the best-selling book *Tribal Leadership*. ▪



"BUT, THAT WAS ONE OF THE BEST SPEECHES I HAVE EVER WRITTEN. IT MUST HAVE BEEN YOUR DELIVERY."

NEW VOICES IN TOWN

Initial Announcement

El Puente (The Bridge)

A Bilingual Club!

Advanced Specialty Toastmasters Club

Experienced Toastmasters who have relocated to Denver are interested in starting an advanced bilingual club.

The first Demonstration Meeting will be held this summer at a time and place that works best for those who are interested.

The meeting will be in both English and Spanish. Individuals who are interested should have some ability in both languages, although fluency is not required.

Give yourself a new Toastmasters Challenge – Your first ice breaker in Spanish is a lot like your first ice breaker in Toastmasters!

This is an advanced Toastmasters club that you will definitely want to join! Plan on participating in the Demonstration Meeting.

For more information call: Mike or Helen at (303) 862-6036, or
E-mail: helenhankins@gmail.com or
michaelwmauser@gmail.com

Check the web site and future issues of the *District 26 Dialogue* for updates.

Road to Success Toastmasters

A new club is forming at the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and they need two more members to charter. Location: 4201 E. Arkansas Avenue Denver, CO 80222 (off of I-25 & Colorado Blvd)

Time: Every Wednesday from 12:05 pm - 1:05 pm

OPEN TO ALL

Contact Gina Talmadge for questions or conference room location. Call 303-757-9485 or 303-847-2595

Gina.Talmadge@dot.state.co.us

Check out [New Club Forms](#) where you will find all the information and resources needed to charter a new club. Being a charter member is a special distinction achieved by a fraction of toastmasters so visit these clubs to determine if they are a good fit for you and get in on the ground floor.

New clubs are encouraged to consult with Betty Chavira, club coach chair, to determine if a coach or mentor is available to assist in the early stages of development. ▪

CANDIDATES CORNER

District Officer Nominees for 2011-2012

District 26 Governor__Norm Frickey



WOW it's that time of year again – election of district leaders.

- INSPIRE
 - ENERGIZE
 - PERFORM
- have been my mantra while serving as your D26 Lt governor education & training and Lt. gover-

nor marketing.

Our district continues to grow and improve because of all the willing Toastmasters members who volunteer as area and division governors, club coaches, mentors,

demonstration meeting participants, who organize and grow clubs, as well as work with the youth.

TO ALL OF YOU – a huge round of applause and my THANKS!!

What motivates me to seek this position is to continue the journey I started five years ago when I served as an area governor. More importantly, as a member of an organization that provides the opportunity for a positive uplifting experience adds richness to my life and the lives of others. Toastmasters' gives voice to the silent – those who feel they have no voice – and empowers them to stand, speak, and deliver their message.

To develop, grow and maintain an effective organization requires good leadership. With

more than 20 years as a toastmaster and 40 years of professional experience as a manager, trainer, and leader plus more than four years in district leadership, I can honestly say I am ready to step up and take on the role of district governor. I promise to work to INSPIRE, to ENERGIZE, and to encourage everyone to PERFORM to their potential.

My Vision

- Be a distinguished district
- Continue to improve communication with clubs and governors
- Create innovative training opportunities
- Energize the club officer training program
- Coordinate effective district conferences
- Use technology to reach out to and offer assistance to clubs ▪

Foothills Division Governor__Ed Morgan



Hello! My name is Ed Morgan and I would like to be your next Foothills division governor. I have been a member of Toastmasters for 4 ½ years and currently belong to Apple Polishers and Mountain

Toastmasters clubs.

I was F6 area governor in 2009-2010, served as new club mentor, and am currently a club coach. I would like to serve District 26 as Foothills division governor because I believe that Toastmasters International is a great organization and can change people's lives. The Toastmasters communication and leadership programs

are avenues we can use to improve our public speaking skills and enhance our innate abilities.

I would like to help District 26 continue to thrive and grow. I believe our clubs are the lifeblood of our organization and we need to do all we can to assist them. I look forward to serving as your Foothills division governor! ▪

Lt. Governor of Marketing__Tom Hobbs



You, the member of Toastmasters District 26, are the only person that can argue for your own limitations. Your personal goals and your journey towards them are important.

Actively surrounding yourself with support will let you excel and enjoy the journey. Remembering the benefits of Toastmas-

ters to you will keep your club vibrant. New members are attracted to vibrant clubs. Vibrant members have more excitement and passion for their lives and are eager to share it with others.

The District 26 leadership is eager to see members go far beyond their original goals and expectations when joining Toastmasters. Unfortunately, too many members have only seen their limitations and not the benefits of Toastmasters programs.

Often a member's perspective can be easily changed with a simple reminder of the benefits to them, their family and their community. Sharing a simple spark and

enthusiasm in your success by the district leadership has drastically improved many clubs' environment this past year.

I offer this simple spark of enthusiasm to you. Taking the successes we have had the past years and adding the Enthusiasm for the Benefits of Toastmasters to our community is my passion. Increased club, contests and trainings participation in the Denver division this past year is a small sample of my results in sharing my passion. I am eager to step forward and duplicate this for all of the members of District 26 Toastmasters as your lieutenant governor of marketing for 2011 – 2012. ▪

CANDIDATES CORNER

District Officer Nominees for 2011-2012

Denver Division Governor__Glen Conrad



Realizing that being able to communicate effectively was a must as a financial professional, I decided to see what Toastmasters was about. I had no idea where Toastmasters would eventually take me when I stopped in to visit my first club meeting in

2007. Serving as VP of membership and club president for my home club, Gates to Excellence Toastmasters, has been an enriching experience.

I enjoyed serving as D1 area governor this year, supporting downtown Denver clubs by encouraging members to develop their leadership abilities, providing workshops, and helping to provide quality area contests.

The Denver division is full of motivated toastmasters that want to develop and grow. As your nominee for Denver division

governor, I'm looking forward to the opportunity to help them do that by providing support to area governors, club members, and having some fun while I'm at it.

When not toastmastering I'm camping, hiking, brewing beer, and earning my Masters in Business Administration at UC Denver. ■

Lt. Governor of Education & Training__Bea Garcia Macliz



US Air Force.

I joined Peterson Toastmasters in Nov '02 and it took me five years to leave the

comfort of the club atmosphere. I experienced the unimaginable possibility of losing a club charter. After many long hours, two fantastic club coaches, and revitalization of my own abilities, our club has flourished. We are on schedule to earn President's Distinguished Club for our third consecutive year.

I started to attend TLI for more than the officer training. I attended my first fabulous district conference. I stepped up and out of my comfort zone as an area governor. I celebrated the possibilities as a division governor and chaired a district fall

conference. I'm currently tackling my dreams of helping others achieve their dreams by sharing my experiences. I am a member of four clubs and have held all club officer positions. Other significant accomplishments include: Chairperson for the 2009 Fall Conference and awarded Distinguished Toastmaster in May 2010.

My skills are broad and diverse. This is why I want to be the next District 26 Lieutenant governor education and training. I will use all of my experiences to help each member be the example for others to emulate. ■

Lt. Governor of Education & Training__Gavin Kirton



It has been my pleasure to serve the members of this district for eight years, first as a Presidents Distinguished area governor, then as a Presidents Distinguished division governor, Division Governor of the Year, and currently the District 26 VP public relations officer.

I am an active member of three clubs, I have served in every club office, and I am

working on my second Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) award. I helped start or mentor several clubs during my ten years as a toastmaster and am currently coaching Tri Town Toasters in Frederick.

As your Lt. governor education & training, I would introduce some new concepts to help engage every toastmaster in the educational program.

I have taught officer training classes for every officer role and I know what works is practical information you can take back to your clubs. My work as area and division governor taught me that everyone wants to

do a good job, they may simply need a hand or a compliment to motivate them.

I would like to share my enthusiasm for member service to make the TLI educational program more attractive to toastmasters at all levels.

I have played an active role in several district conferences over the years, serving as registration chair, contest chair, and any other role that was necessary to make the conferences successful. I believe, as your Lt. governor education & training, I could make a significant contribution to the district's endeavor to expand training opportunities. ■

CANDIDATES CORNER

District Officer Nominees for 2011-2012

Southern Division Governor__Tom McKenna



The Southern division has some outstanding clubs and some outstanding leaders, and we also have some substandard clubs in need of better leadership. I feel that as a division we need to address this deficiency. As division governor, I feel that I

can direct the efforts of the area governors and club presidents to help identify clubs with good leadership, clubs with leadership deficiencies, and potential leaders. I believe the main emphasis of any club should be the progress of the individual member.

Regardless of the number of awards a club wins, or the level of leadership a club has; it is the individual toastmaster that should be the focus of the entire organization. We are here to help individuals to become better speakers, communicators, and leaders, and if we focus on the individual we

will in turn create better clubs, better subdivisions, and overall better organization.

My over thirty years of managerial experience along with my six years as serving toastmasters; including tenures as club president and currently as area governor will greatly enhance my qualifications as division governor. I currently hold a B.S. degree from Regis University in Business Administration, and I am beginning on a masters. ■

Eastern Division Governor__Gayle Perron-Krawetz

Toastmasters Resumé

Gayle Perron-Krawetz, DTM, MBA

- Charter member of Wry Toast
- Charter member of Speak With Ease
- Toastmasters member for 12 years
- Led Youth Leadership program three times
- Past area governor
- Served in all club offices
- Currently working on second DTM
- Current VP of membership for Speak With Ease
- Current club coach for Ball Jars to Stars

Why I want a district office:

It is essential to the success of the Toastmasters organization that people step forward and serve the organization at all levels, including the division level. Since I have been in Toastmasters for about 12 years and have only served the organization outside of the club as area governor, I thought it was about time that I stepped forward to serve as division governor.

I recognize that in order for me to grow further in my leadership skills, I need to step outside of my nice comfortable club experience, go beyond the club level, and leap into a new leadership experience. I

am ready to take that leap.

What I would like to do next year if elected:

My hope would be to help unify the area governors into a strong leadership team that will not only help them to lead their areas to become distinguished areas, but will also lead the division into becoming a distinguished division.

At the same time, my hope for myself would be to further develop my leadership skills through the process of being division governor. ■

Metro Division Governor__Elaine Love



What does leadership mean to you? The benefits of the speaking skills training sometimes overshadow the second and equal leadership track. Personally, I love to speak. Yes, that is the feminine side of me. In my professional life, leadership positions were far

more prevalent than public speaking opportunities. Those professional situations taught me leadership is not about being right, but about empowering others to stretch to reach their potential. Leadership requires diplomacy.

As M6 area governor, I am currently finishing my first DTM and over halfway to the second DTM in 31 months. Toastmasters is my priority as many of you know who have attended my TLI sessions. My goal, if elected as metro division governor, is to empower the clubs within the metro division to develop not only quality speakers,

but also top quality leaders.

Leadership is not about time, position or even educational degrees, it is all about influence. Leadership is caring more about others than personal acclaim. Toastmasters has challenged me, assisted me in growing, and provided multiple grins. Where else can you learn, progress, and enjoy fabulous companions all along the journey?

I would be honored to serve District 26 as metro division governor. ■

Have you heard the buzz?

DISTRICT 26 SPRING CONFERENCE



May 20-21

Embassy Suites

4704 Clydesdale Pkwy
Loveland, CO 80538
1-800-embassy

\$125 Registration Fee

Sign up Now!

**Deadline for on-line and mail in
registration is MAY 13**

Contact Embassy Suites
Ask for the

SPECIAL TOASTMASTERS RATE

\$119 - double
\$139 - triple
\$149 - quad

**LAST DAY to book for reduced rate is
MAY 6, 2011**

Conference registration form at www.d26toastmasters.org

Keynote Speakers

Dana LaMon, DTM joined Toastmasters in 1988 and became the Toastmasters World Champion of Public Speaking in 1992. He became a Toastmasters Accredited Speaker - the only Toastmaster to receive both honors_ in 1993.

Dana is a member of two Toastmasters clubs in Lancaster, CA, where he served as a division governor from 2004-06, leading his division to Select and Presidents Distinguished.

He has given motivational speeches for 20-years and is the author of four published books.

Emmy Hager, DTM has been a Toastmaster since 1992 and her leadership positions have included Lt. governor education & training and a district governor. She is presently serving as International director for Region 1, 2009-2011.

Speakers for Educational Sessions

Don't miss these outstanding Toastmasters who will share their broad array of experience.

Hilary Blair
Dana LaMon

Byron Embry
Dennis Ryan

Conference Agenda

Friday, May 20

- 5:00 PM Registration/credentials open
Book store open
Candidates Corner
- 7:00 PM Buffet dinner
Keynote presentation by
Dana LaMon

Saturday, May 21

- 7:00 AM Meet/greet/credentials
Bookstore open
Credentialing/registration
- 7:30 AM First-timers meet up
- 8:00 AM Opening ceremony
Keynote Speaker
- 10:00 AM Table Topics Contest
(9:30 briefing, 10:00 contest)
Winner and Awards
- 11:30 AM Educational sessions
- 12:15 PM Communication & Leadership Award Luncheon
- 1:45 PM Educational sessions
- 2:30 PM Credentialing closes
- 2:45 PM Banner Parade
- 3:00 PM Business meeting
Election of officers
- 6:00 PM Banquet
Induction of officers
- 8:00 PM International Speech
Contest
(7:30 briefing, 8:00 contest)
Winner and Awards
Closing



*Purchase your Toastmasters materials at the conference and
\$AVE shipping costs! See Niki at the D26 book store.*

AND THE AWARD GOES TO ROD SMITH

Former wide receiver for the Denver Broncos



Each year, District 26 presents the **Communication and Leadership Award** to an outstanding individual. This year we are recognizing Rod Smith for his leadership, dedication, and charitable contributions.

Football fans will remember #80 as the popular former wide receiver who played for the Denver Broncos from 1995-2006. Rod was signed by the Broncos as an undrafted free agent in 1994 and played in two Super Bowl wins.

These days, Rod devotes his time to [Rod Smith International](#) (RSI), which consists of several businesses to include Real Estate, communication, motivational speaking, travel, and the sale of international coffee.

Rod is dedicated to giving back to the community and helping others rise above their personal challenges. His contributions to charities are well known and he is currently helping *Longmont High School* students get to Japan by donating proceeds from the sales of his international coffees.

Rod is a founding member of *Drive For Life*, the annual Denver Broncos community blood drive, and has served as a spokesman since its inception in 1997.

Rod Smith is a natural and proven leader both on and off the field. His charisma and personal success inspire others and builds confidence among teams. Attend the conference to honor this outstanding athlete, spokesman, and leader. ▪

Content compiled from the Rod Smith International web site. Thanks to Gavin Kirton, our VP public relations for securing Rod's presence at the conference.

"I never understood that word_overachiever. That means you're doing something you're not supposed to be able to do, because obviously we were able to do it. It's just a matter of having the right opportunities."

DISTRICT 26 WANTS YOU TO JOIN US

As noted on the front page of this issue, the district is expanding its focus to include all forms of communication. Eventually we will offer seminars on a wide range of communication. If you are skilled in any of those listed and would like to instruct or facilitate a session, please let us know.

If there is some type of communication not listed, or other form of training that you would like us to address, send us your request. For now we want to fill a few new positions to include:

Member for web team

Assist with development of new web site, post updates, and address technical issues. We do offer bribes of home-baked cookies for rapid response to high priority needs. ☺

Toastmaster skilled in Photo Shop

Help with newsletter and web site as needed. Small sporadic projects that will primarily consist of resizing and changing background to reflect our new brand. We need a "go to" person who can provide quick turnaround.

Assistant for newsletter

Responsibilities include seeking out district news and achievements; soliciting a minimum of five articles per month from district members; follow up to ensure timely submission; researching "filler"; proof reading. This role requires networking skills and contact with numerous district leaders as well as the editor.

We are researching to confirm these volunteer positions qualify for credit in the Competent Leader manual (CL) and some may be eligible for a High Performance Leadership Project (HPL) if you are so motivated ▪

If you have an interest, email sec1011@d26leaders.org for further details.



Editor's Note

Send us your club news, announcements, and articles illustrating how Toastmasters has empowered you to "tackle your dreams." We also ask that you **evaluate** the Dialogue so that we may better serve you.

Visit the [District 26 Dialogue](#) home page for submission guidelines. Articles received by the 15th of the month will likely appear in the next issue. Sign up for [The Briefing](#).

The breeze, the trees, the honey bees -All volunteers! ~Juliet Carinreap



We are in need of packaged gift baskets or gift basket items for our silent auction at the conference. Fruit, chocolate, coffee, cheese, jellies and jams, gourmet cookies, dipping sauces, wine, and spa products are always popular. You can get some good prices on these food items at Tuesday Morning and TJ MAXX. If you, your club, or your place of business would donate to the auction it would help offset our expenses. We are also

soliciting paid sponsors. Please contact Linda Rhea at (303) 758-6641 or email her at thriveverday@gmail.com.

Tackle Your Dreams

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VISIT US at
www.d26toastmasters.org



Our Mission

We strive to create a bond among all the clubs of the district by sharing our experience, resources, and recognition through an interactive media.

Our goal is to make every toastmaster feel empowered, appreciated, and connected.

Please send your questions, tips, comments, and articles to the editor, gordonsavage@msn.com, by the 15th of each month in order to appear in the next issue. Visit the [web site](#) for submission guidelines. All articles are subject to editing to fit allotted space and submission does not guarantee publication.

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ABOUT TOASTMASTERS DISTRICT 26, REGION 1



District 26 includes Colorado, the Eastern Slope of Wyoming, and the Nebraska panhandle. It was formed in 1948, with Gordon Merrick serving as its first district governor.

Four past district 26 governors have risen to the international level:

Don Paape was international director, 1966 - 68 and international president 1972 -73. It was during his term that women were first admitted to Toastmasters International. Watt Pye was district governor from 1969-70 and international director from 1970 -72; Dorothy Chapman from 1990 - 92; and Beth Boaz from 1997-99. Marilyn Boland served as the first female District 26 governor in 1975 -76.

In 2000, [Ed Tate](#), a member of Cherry Creek Toastmasters, won the World Championship of Public Speaking. Ed is now the principal of a professional development firm that provides keynote and end-note presentations, workshops, and other training.

In 2007, [Rory Vaden](#), also a member of Cherry Creek Toastmasters, was the first runner-up in the World Championship of Public Speaking. He has since co-founded a multi-million dollar public training company and been featured on [Oprah Radio](#) with [Dr. Oz](#) and in [SUCCESS™ Magazine](#).

[Byron Embry](#) of Pikes Peak Toastmasters was a major league baseball pitcher before he became a finalist in the World Championship of Public Speaking in 2009. He later founded Closing Remarks and has become a keynote speaker and author. [Ian J. Humphrey](#) of Simply Speaking was in Toastmasters less than a year when he progressed to the final round of the World Championship of Public Speaking in 2010. Ian is now an inspirational speaker who reaches out to youth at risk.

Peter Coors joined a Toastmasters club at the Coors Brewing Company early in his career to gain the skills and confidence needed to appear as the spokesman for a series of national TV commercials. ■

MUSINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Gordon S. Savage, DTM

Shortly after I joined Toastmasters I attended my first district conference. This one was held in Fort Collins. I don't remember much of the details, but I do know I met some people who were to become an important part of my Toastmasters experience. Mostly, though, I was blown away by international president-to-be Bob Barnhill.

A keynote address sets the tone for what follows it. Bob was the keynoter for the conference. He swept down the center aisle of the meeting room, already speaking and drawing the lot of us into his presentation. He bounded onto the stage with enough energy and enthusiasm to clear any cobwebs left over from the previous night and led us on a powerful and all too brief voyage of self-discovery – and a discovery of what Toastmasters could mean to all of us. It was

“Brother Love’s Travelling Salvation Show” in secular form, and I’m confident that he touched everyone in the room. I was fired up not just for the rest of the day, but for the rest of my life. I wanted to be able to do what he had just done. I was hooked.

Since then I have attended all but one of the district conferences. I have seen good keynotes and great keynotes but few approaching the power of that speech. We can all learn to be better speakers. Part of it is regular preparation, practice, and performance. Part of it is witnessing other speakers doing their best. But most of it is motivation.

When you see someone like Bob Barnhill or Byron Embry or Ed Tate at the top of their game, you find your motivation cranked up a notch or two. One good place to see and hear great speakers at

work is at the district conference on May 20 and 21. I’ll be there. Will you? ■



“Catch on fire with enthusiasm and people will come from miles to watch you burn.” ~John Wesley

Courtesy of Datta Groover