

The DISTRICT DIALOGUE



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Serving Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska

November 2010

Pep Squad

A Backward Meeting Was Anything But

John Gies, DTM

Fellow Toastmasters, if you have ever felt that your regular meetings have gotten a little stale (I know that is hard at a Toastmaster meeting) or that you wanted to stretch outside of your comfort zone? You may want to consider a backwards meeting.

On October 18th, Titan Toastmasters hosted a backwards meeting. It was funny, it was a stretch, and it demonstrated the talent and commitment inherent in a Toastmaster. This was my 3rd backward meeting in three years. For the previous meetings we had a remarkable set of last minute excuses not to participate. On the 18th we had a record crowd. I counted 19 including two guests.

So what is a backward meeting? Well unlike a regular meeting we begin by adjourning the meeting. We then work backward, setting up next week's agenda, presenting the thought of the week from last weeks best speaker, presenting the general evaluation of the meeting followed by the evaluations and then the speeches. We continue backwards until we call the meeting to order.

What makes this so interesting is that when the General or Chief Evaluator comments on how the Toastmaster opened the meeting with a particular phrase or gesture, when the Toastmaster gets to that point and remembers to insert that, it is a demonstration of listening and creativity.

For example, as the Grammarian when I delivered my ending report, I commented upon how the various table topic participants used interesting words. Then when they were given their table topics a little later, almost all of them were able to use the word I had selected for them. One new member gave his response to the question and then said, "You know I don't know why but I am compelled to use the word Hiatus." The word he was evaluated on.

Our Toastmaster of the evening Lillie Ben did a remarkable job of literally reading sentences backward in the delivery of her duties. Our speakers were able to craft their evaluator's comments into their speeches in ways that were effective and funny. Each member that participated, from our 25-year veterans to our new members, were able to participate, stretch and have fun.

So what made this one work where others have not? I have to credit our President and VP of Education. They worked for several weeks to plan this. I was asked 4 weeks in advance to prepare for the Grammarian role. Then the evaluators all took time to meet with the speakers to get a sense of where they were going with the speech so they could contribute in a way that would not disrupt.

Now here is the kicker. As I observed the room there was not a dry eye. We were all laughing so hard we had tears running down our cheeks. Our guests were suitably impressed and wanted to come back to see what a real meeting looked like. You'll want to do this in your club.

Special points of interest:

- Lively meeting
- Recognition
- Thoughts on judging
- Making yourself and your club better
- On being distinguished
- Bi-lingual club
- Ian's speech to a school

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Play by Play — Calendar of Events

- Nov 12-13 District 26 Fall Conference, Embassy Suites, Aurora
- Nov 15 October dues renewals due for Distinguished Area Program Credit
- Nov 30 Area Governor First Round Club Visit Reports Due at WHQ
- December HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Coaches Corner

Being a Better Judge

Alan Swartz, DTM Immediate Past District Governor



As Toastmasters, we can always improve. That is what I have loved about the experience of Toastmasters over the years. Judging is an area where we continually have to work to improve ourselves. Why? Because we owe it to our clubs and contestants to make the very best decisions about who should advance to the next level. Otherwise

they will be discouraged and not participate the next time there is a contest.

I have judged and practice judged hundreds of times during my time in Toastmasters. I practice judge by filling out a ballot on the contest program and trying to pick 2 of the 3 top contestants. That's how you get better, self-training.

Judging is both subjective and objective. For the objective, you write the name on the right side of the ballot of the first contestant. Then you score that person on how the audience reacted; did they laugh; did the contestant use any body language; did they use vocal variety; did they speech have a message, an opening, a conclusion; a humorous speech shouldn't be just a series of jokes.

I always write the title at the top above the speaker's name. Otherwise you may not remember what the speaker talked about after 5 other speakers have performed. I take notes during the speech to help me remember some details and use those in putting an objective score on the speaker. Then I fold over the ballot and write in the next contestant's name on the top with their speech title. Otherwise, I will score each contestant a little higher doing a comparison. This is a major problem in much of our judging, the last or the next to last contestant wins by default. We should be better than that.

I take notes on the evaluation contestants before I score them also. That helps me to remember what suggestions they had and whether their suggestions were the same or different from other contestants. If they were brutal in their evaluation, I try to remember that is not what Toastmasters is about and score them accordingly.

Finally, it is time to make a subjective judgment , using the objective scores, my notes and how the evaluation or speech flowed, did they use notes or not use notes, etc. I want to pick the very best contestant to advance. I consider it an obligation as a judge. I hope you do, too.



Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it. Autograph your work with excellence.

Anonymous

Footnote — An article about James and Jenny Davenport and their award as parents of the year appeared in the November 1st edition of the Denver Post.

Coaches Corner



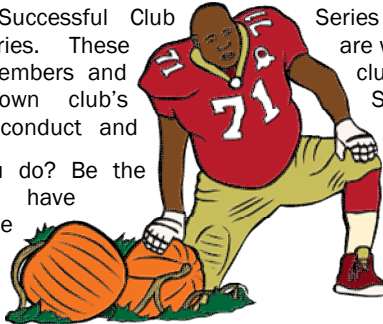
Congratulations on getting the 1st round of Area Visits completed! I hope everyone enjoyed working with each other. This is the beginning of a wonderful relationship that will blossom into a trusting and learning relationship where everyone will have the opportunity to grow. You may be wondering how your Area governor can continue to help, how you can help them and what your advantage is.

Now that you know who your Area governor is, utilize them! Ask them for advice and help because they are a wonderful resource. There are so many opportunities available for members. Consider doing a Youth Leadership Program with your local 4-H club.

Make use of The Better Speaker Series, The Successful Club Series and The Leadership Excellence Series. These are wonderful modules to help your fellow members and club perk up their skills. Start your own club's Speakers Bureau! Your Area Governor will be thrilled to help you conduct and promote these activities.



What can you do? Be the leader you expect others to be. If you have concerns... have solutions. If you have ideas step up and volunteer to chair the committee to make your ideas happen. We are an organization that thrives on creativity! Be creative and think outside of the box. How can I promote my club? How can I help more people benefit from Toastmasters? How many people will I invited to a meeting? How many flyers or brochures can I hand out? Imagine if everyone in your club worked together for the common good? You don't have to be a club officer to make a difference. Tell your club and Area Governor that you would like to help. Put me in coach, I am ready to play!!!



How are you going to benefit? It is all up to you. To tackle your dreams, set goals and make a plan for yourself. Work with your mentor, club and Challenge yourself to the next level. When you have the occasion to give a speech outside of your club...take it! Have a fellow Toastmaster evaluate it. Always get credit for the work you do. So many times we do projects or speeches without filling out the leadership manual or communication manual. When in doubt if what you are doing will work for a project, ask. Only you can make this world a better place. As I appreciate you and everything you do to make this world a better place. As a Toastmasters we are doing it one member at a time. I leave you with this quote by Bruce Barton: "Nothing great has ever been achieved except by those who dared believe something inside them was superior to circumstances." Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!



Area governor to follow the plan. Only you can make this world a better place. As a Toastmasters we are doing it one member at a time. I leave you with this quote by Bruce Barton: "Nothing great has ever been achieved except by those who dared believe something inside them was superior to circumstances." Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

If you want to succeed, you should strike out on new paths rather than travel the worn paths of accepted success.
John D. Rockefeller

Coaches Corner

Does the DCP matter?

Norm Frickey, DTM Lt. Governor Education and Training



YES, it should matter to everyone in the club. People join Toastmasters because they want to learn to communicate better and the club provides that Venue. How does the club fulfill its obligations to its members? Look no further than the club's performance against the Distinguished Club Plan. Over the years

Toastmasters has developed a plan that if followed will cause the club (and the members) to be successful. The club that meets or exceeds **50% or more** of the goals is meeting the basic needs of the members – it's that simple

- Goal 1 – 2 Competent Communicators.
- Goal 2 – 2 more Competent Communicators

This indicates members are doing manual speeches and progressing through the projects that will make them better speakers.

- Goal 3 – One Advanced Communicator
- Goal 4 – One more Advanced Communicator

This indicates members are doing speeches from one of the challenging and fun Advanced Manuals

- Goal 5 – One CL, ALB, ALS or DTM
- Goal 6 – One more CL, ALB, ALS or DTM

This indicates members are experiencing the benefits of Toastmasters proven leadership program

- Goal 7 – Four new members
- Goal 8 – Four more new members

New members are the life-blood of the club

- Goal 9 – Four officers trained every six months

Trained officers provide better club leadership

Goal 10 – Dues renewals and officer list submitted by deadline

Reflects attention to detail.

- Achieve five of 10 goals Distinguished Club
- Achieve seven of 10 goals Select Distinguished Club
- Achieve nine of 10 goals President's Distinguished Club

The DCP ensures productive meetings. Focusing on the educational goals of the DCP will keep us moving through the education program. When members earn communication and leadership awards, they gain much more than just a certificate or points toward the DCP; they gain the satisfaction and confidence that comes from completing a goal. They also provide an inspirational example for other clubs, who can see the transformation that has occurred as a direct result of Toastmasters training. Other aspects of the DCP help keep meetings productive, too. Keeping club membership at or above 20, for example, will fill club meeting roles and maintain the energy level needed for a successful meeting.

The DCP provides structure and guidance. Clubs that perform well in the DCP always know who should be doing what and when they should be doing it. The club officer training requirements of the DCP, for example, help ensure that club business is conducted fairly, efficiently and in accordance with Toastmasters policy. Similarly, the educational goals of the DCP provide direction and incentive for all s to achieve individually as well as collectively

The DCP increases the enthusiasm of the club. The goal is not for clubs to compete against one another; it's for all clubs to strive to achieve the same standards of excellence. Nonetheless, striving for achievement in the DCP program is a way to engage the spirit of friendly competition that can help motivate club s to perform their duties with gusto.

You really can change the world if you care enough.
Miriam Wright Edelman
Good enough never is.
Debbi Fields



Pep Squad

The spirit, the will to win,
and the will to excel are
the things that endure.
These qualities are so
much more important
than the events that
occur.

Vince Lombardi

There's a New Club in Town!

Helen Hankins, DTM

¡Buenos Días! Hello!

Now, you can practice your speaking, thinking, listening, and leadership skills and polish that high school or college Spanish! A new bi-lingual Toastmasters club will soon charter in the Lakewood-Wheat Ridge area. New members are welcomed!

The club meets for from noon to 1 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of the month at 2850 Young field Street – across from McDonalds. The group has been meeting for about six weeks. Several members have already given their icebreakers and some are working on their second speech. The

introductory portion of the meeting is in both Spanish and English. The prepared speeches and evaluations are in Spanish and English – each individual has to determine their comfort level in either language. Table topics and the word of the day are presented in Spanish and English. Members respond in English or Spanish. Come and visit and enjoy yet another mind-expanding experience in Toastmasters. (The club could use at least two more Toastmasters to be charter members of this club!) For more information call the club sponsors, Helen Hankins and Mike Mauser at 303 862 6036. Helen and Mike are members of a bi-lingual club in Phoenix Arizona.)

For the Record –

DTM's to Be Recognized at District Conference

Alan Swartz, DTM Immediate Past District Governor

Eighteen DTM's who achieved the recognition during 2009-2010 will be recognized at the Hall of Fame Luncheon. They include

Bea Macliz, Pueblo Toastmasters;
Darcy Lewis, Body Shops;
Mary Davis, Aurorators;
Judy Lloyd, Thunderbolt Orators;
Hugh and Gina Curley, Double Talk;
Michelle Chapman, Apple Polishers;
Nikii Moore, Currently Speaking;
Robert Davis, Razor City;
John Mullin, TLC Club;

Alan Swartz, Summit;
Laura Rayle, WRY Toast;
Chuck Maher, Artfully Speaking;
Susan Schleuder, Highlands Ranch;
Chris Swanson, Toastmasters at Memorial Hospital;
Karen Kitzky, Toastmasters at Memorial Hospital;
Julia Davis, Night Speakers;
Elinora Reynolds, Absolutely Articulate.

Congratulations to all these Toastmasters.

Clubs Achieving President's Distinguished Status

Alan Swartz, DTM Immediate Past District Governor

Ten Years in a Row

3044 Pikes Peak Toastmasters

Nine Years in a Row

2977 Cherry Creek Toastmasters

3577 Speakeasy II

2177 Littleton Toastmasters

Eight Years in a Row

1518 High Noon Club

Seven Years in a Row

4128 Toast of Inverness

Six Years in a Row

3680 Castle Rock Club

644254 Toastmasters at Memorial Hospital

Five Years in a Row

9375 Talking Ideas

Four Years in a Row

1399 South Suburban

631413 Speak with Ease Club

873616 Ranch Raconteurs Club

889564 Lunch Out Loud

Three Years in a Row

3654 Savvy Speakers

5314 Noonshiners

2228 Daybreak Toastmasters Club

821 Body Shops Club



Pep Squad

Be Ian-Spired

Sharon Frickey, ACB. CL Flatirons View TM

The buzz of voices from the 500 seventh graders at Prairie Middle School waiting on the bleachers at assembly was enough to intimidate the coolest of motivational speakers. But as counselor Tami Watkins walked out onto the gym floor, quiet came almost instantly, “Your teachers heard a speaker who inspired us by what he had to say. We invited him back to share his story with you. Please welcome Ian Humphrey.”

Obviously, Ian had connected with the adults, the authority in the school. I was interested to see how he would inspire these kids.

Ian stepped onto the polished hardboards with a confidence gained from rising to a challenge not one time, but again and again and again and not just to survive each time, but succeed. I’d seen him tell his story superbly in demanding situations. The last time I’d heard him speak was in August 2010 at the Toastmasters International Conference at Palm Desert. After the first round he placed in the top nine speakers in the world, and again the next day, with a different speech, was speaking to 1600 Toastmasters assembled from 106 countries. At stake was the title of TM’s World Champion Speaker. His passion for the message he brought to Palm Desert was as hot as the 115 temperature outside.

Ian didn’t win the title, but as a new-to-Toastmasters competitor, he scored an incredible victory. He’d beat the 1-350,000 odds against making it into the top ten speakers in the world.

Now, here in front of these kids, he had the opportunity to tell his story, to “Ian-spire” them.

“I’m here to talk to you today about three things: one, peer pressure; two, overcoming challenges; and three, never give up ... I didn’t know I could be successful, I thought you were born to either be successful or not, I didn’t know success was a choice.”

Ian related his early life with autobiographical matter-of-fact details. Born into the toughest neighborhood in Los Angeles two months premature when his mom was attacked by a neighbor, after months in the hospital, Ian survived. Three years later, he found and swallowed a bottle of prescription medicine, went into a coma, doctors didn’t believe he’d recover, again, Ian survived. Because of that incident, the state blamed his mom and she lost custody of him. He was placed in a foster home where locked inside a closet, he was mentally and physically abused.

The foster mom would periodically open the door to the dark closet and scream, “YOU’RE STUPID and you ain’t gonna never amount to nothing.”

But, as Ian put it, “I was still standing.” Then, “At age eleven I knew my mom was close to regaining custody of me....but before that could happen she passed away BOOM! “... I went down ... I started feeling sorry for myself and giving up on life. I surrounded myself with the wrong people. Their bad habits became my bad habits.”

Even though Ian graduated high school, the hood and his companions kept the odds for his not succeeding high. Convicted after participating in a robbery, at age 19 he was locked in prison to serve fifteen years

When his cell door slammed shut, Ian fell on his knees, and for the first time in his life, he cried.

“Ashamed of the person I had allowed myself to become, I began to plead for help. A counselor, Charles Lyles, saw something in me that I didn’t see in myself and said, ‘Mr. Humphrey, you can get out of here and do great things. This doesn’t have to be your life.’ Before he stood up and walked away, Mr. Lyles looked at me and said, ‘I believe in you.’ That was the first time I heard those words.”

After serving four years of the robbery conviction, Ian was paroled. As Ian walked out from behind the barbed wire of the prison, he wasn’t sure he would make it on the outside. The voice of his foster mom still haunted him, her words “you’re stupid” still hung in the air. The voice of the prison guards, “We’ll see you when you get back.” had the truth of statistics –seven out of ten inmates eventually return to prison, many within the first three months. “Those were the voices I heard every time a potential employer said, “We can’t hire you”

“I began to believe that going back to prison was easier than my struggle with rejection. Easier than asking another friend or family member for a handout or a place to sleep on their floor – I spent many night contemplating whether I should just quit.”

From a speech Ian had given in competition, he shared something with the seventh graders listening so intently to what this passionate man had learned – something that helped him believe he could succeed. “My sliver of hope was a small piece of paper I carried with me everywhere I went ... I’d written some of my hopes and dreams – things I associated with success – a house, a career. Wife and kids ... and I don’t know why, but

To be nobody-but-yourself in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else—means to fight the hardest battle which any human can fight; and never stop fighting.

e.e. cummings



Player's Lineup

Future Leaders Rap Gavel For Parliamentary Procedures!

Vicki Kissack, Area N-1 Governor

Two raps from the President's gavel sent the audience shuffling to their seats. President, Taite Johnson announced, "The meeting room will come to order." A respective hush falls in the room. President Johnson continues, "Will the Secretary please read the minutes from the last meeting?" Secretary, Aleesha Gladson, assertively stood and began reading, as Treasurer, Brandon Winterholler, and Committee Chair, Ezra Coleman, looked on.

Razor City Toastmasters Club #6397 joined with the Gillette FFA Chapter to host a one of a kind Parliamentary Procedure Workshop on October 28th, 2010 in Gillette, Wyoming. Karen Trigg, high school agricultural education teacher and FFA Parli-Pro Coach was the speaker and educator for the workshop.

The workshop started with the high school FFA students presenting a mock meeting. Mrs. Trigg then followed up with discussion among attendees about the frustrations they experience at meetings they are involved in. The discussion set the ground work as the workshop proceeded to give the audience tools to improve the efficiency and

productivity of a meeting. Finally, the students worked as co-educators in interactive breakout sessions.

"It was exciting to see the youth of our community in these roles, we learned a lot from them. I am proud of them and wish them luck at state!" Rita Mashak, President of Razor City Toastmasters.

As Toastmasters we are trained to look outside of the box, reach out to people, and encourage leadership. On this autumn day in a small room, in an iconic library, our nation's future leaders, jumped outside the box, extended their hands, and not only encouraged but educated a group of active community members as well as Toastmasters.

Remember: "If you always do what you've always done, you will always be what you've always been"



Be Ian-Spired (cont.)

(Continued from page 6)

as a little boy growing up in South Central L.A., I believed all wealthy people owned a Persian cat. I knew one day I wanted to become wealthy. So can you guess what I had written down on my piece of paper. Persian cat."

Oh, by the way. Ian said, "I have everything I wrote down on that piece of paper...everything except that dang cat Persian Cat — can you believe my son Quincy is allergic to cats?"

Ian called six brave student volunteers out of the audience to reveal what they envisioned as their number one goal in life. These students along with everyone else would get a "Be Ian-Spired" bookmark with a place for their goal — along with the six principles for success to reach that goal. The first girl up was struck with stage fright, but three wanted a college education and a good career, one wanted to go to Harvard and be a scientist, the sixth girl wanted to be a doctor. After

each one shared their goal, they read one of the six steps toward success printed on the bookmark.

At the end of the assembly kids surrounded Ian — some got autographs, some told him what they were too shy to tell in front of the packed bleachers, some just wanted to touch him or shake his hand — the last boy waited until all the other kids were gone and said, "I just want to be a baseball player. My family says I'm no good at playing ball and I'll never be a baseball player." Ian bent down and spoke quietly and earnestly, and though I didn't hear the words, the impact of what Ian said was apparent on the boy's face and his body language.

I watched as Ian's wife walked out with him and thought of the three daughters and son that watched him give his speech at the Toastmasters International Speech Contest in California. The irony of that event taking place only a little over a hundred miles from where his journey from prison to success started years ago was poignant.

The progress of the world is the history of men who would not permit defeat to speak the final word.

J. R. Sizoo

In every thought and action, think excellence.

Byrd Baggett

Player's Lineup

No More Volunteers For Me!

Tom Hobbs, ACG, ALB Denver Division Governor

Wasn't your last visit to the Dr.'s office fun?

You walk in the door the receptionist tells you to fill out a form. Then tells you to sit and wait. Then tells you to go sit in a room and wait. The Dr. tells you what to do to get better. He tells you to take this medicine every day until you are better. You leave with a feeling of success. I went to the Dr. He told me what to do to make my life better.

Wow.

Did this happen when your car started making terrible sounds. The mechanic told you to fix the front shock, replace the steering linkage outer tie rod end, align the front end and drive safe. Then you paid him to do the repairs and you drove safer on the roads. He told you what to do and you felt better.

Wow.

You went to work. You were told to do a job. You earned money. You fed your family. You felt better.

Wow.

Did the Dr. ask for volunteers to sit in a cold room in an open backed gown? Did the Mechanic ask for volunteers to sit in his shop that smelled of 63 different petroleum products? Did your boss ask for volunteers to be away from their loved ones? The common theme is that at times we need to be told what to do by someone of knowledge and confidence. When the decision is made, we do it. We will feel better.

So would we want someone to ask us to volunteer to do something uncomfortable like speaking in front of a group? In Toastmasters you have signed your application, paid your dues and are now sitting in the meeting. Do you want someone to ask you to

Volunteer to do something they are uncomfortable with to do something you are uncomfortable with?

I can hear the silence in the room. No one volunteers to be Uncomfortable!

I have made a commitment to be in this room. I want to improve my speaking and leadership skills. Help me. If I am asked to volunteer, I may chicken out, not raise my hand. When I am told to step forward, I know I could say no or renegotiate, but I remember I made a commitment to improve myself. Someone with knowledge and confidence told me what to do. I trust them. They have knowledge and confidence. I will feel better.

You can be an empowering leader by eliminating "Volunteers" from your vocabulary. You have knowledge and confidence. Tell people what they need to do and let them do it. Remember they can renegotiate or say no. Likely they will be better for doing what a knowledgeable and confident person told them to do and not regret it.

I was told by a knowledgeable and confident pretty woman to take the Area governor leadership position. I was uncomfortable, and I feel much better now for doing it. I tell you, "Ask for no more volunteers. Tell us what to do." You have your unique knowledge, now share it with confidence.

Be a leader by example. Help us make the choices in our lives, tell us what to do. We will feel better because of you.



Champion the right to be yourself; dare to be different and set your own pattern; live your life and follow your own star.
Anonymous



Coming Soon —
District 26 Fall Conference
Are you ready for some fun?

Tail Gate – Musings from the Editor



Why Go to a Conference?

Shortly after I joined Toastmasters, I attended my first conference. It was in Fort Collins and the visiting International Director was Bob Barnhill (who went on to become an International President). He gave the keynote address for the conference. It was a powerful, inspiring presentation that got us all involved and enthusiastic. At the time I had never heard a speech with such passion and such stirring message. I was hooked, and I've been a regular attendee and participant ever since.

Now, I grant that not all of our conferences have such dynamic and motivational keynotes, but from my experience with listening to International Speech contest participants, I suspect that the keynoter for this upcoming conference is going to be close. If you don't know anything about Albert Mensah, go to his [website](http://www.albertmensah.com/) <<http://www.albertmensah.com/>> and check him out.

Over the years I've been a Toastmaster, I have met and become friends with a lot of people at the district conferences. I've watched, enjoyed, and learned from some really solid contest performances. I've also participated in the humorous speech contest (I mention that for those of you who think you can't be funny) and the evaluation contest – didn't win, but I learned. I've attended some powerful educational sessions. I've watched several past district governors get their turn on the spit. I even presented at one of the roasts. Overall, they have been terrific experiences, and I'm looking forward to the fall conference.

If you haven't signed up for the fall conference, I encourage you to come. As of this writing you only have a few days to sign up at the reduced rate, but whether you pay \$40 or \$50, you'll be glad you attended. See you there!

Sniglets* Words that don't appear in the dictionary, but should.

110 At The Equator (won' ten at the ek way' tawr) - n. Any burning sensation experienced directly below the navel when putting on a pair of jeans straight from the dryer.

Accordionated (ah kor' de on ay tid) - adj. Being able to drive and refold a road map at the same time.

Adam 69: n. : Two police cars, parked next to each other, facing opposite directions, in such a way that the drivers side doors are only inches from each other, allowing the officers to chat with each other while waiting for a traffic violation to happen.

Aeroma (ayr oh' ma) - n. The odor emanating from an exercise room after an aerobics workout.

Aeropalmics (ayr o palm' iks) - n. The study of wind resistance conducted by holding a cupped hand out the car window.

Airdirt (ayr' dirt) - n. A hanging plant that's been ignored for three weeks or more.

Anaception (an a sep' shun) - n. The body's ability to actually affect television reception by moving about the room.

Animalanche: When you kick your stuffed animals in your sleep and they fall all over you or the floor. (from Kaffit, age 9)

Anticiparcellate (an ti si par' sel ate) - v. Waiting until the mailman is several houses down the street before picking up the mail, so as not too appear too anxious.

Aquadextrous - adj. Possessing the ability to turn the bathtub faucet on and off with your toes.

Aqualibrium (ak wa lib' re um) - n. The point where the stream of drinking fountain water is at its perfect height, thus relieving the drinker from (a) having to suck the nozzle, or (b) squirting himself in the eye.

Arachnidiot (ar ak ni' di ot) - n. A person, who, having wandered into an "invisible" spider web, begins gyrating and flailing about wildly.

Attrynyl (a try' nil) - n. (chemical symbol: At) A black, bulletproof, totally inflexible type of plastic, used primarily in covers of pay phone directories.

* A *sniglet* is a word that should be in the dictionary but isn't. *Sniglets* are the brainchild of comedian Rich Hall who, with a little help from his friends, wrote a series of books containing *sniglets* in the mid-eighties. While Rich Hall invented the word "*sniglet*" itself, *sniglets* are actually a long-running popular joke in which people make up their own humorous words to define things or concepts that have no "official" definitions. More information can be found at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sniglet>

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL

DISTRICT 26

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We're on the web!
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.

Fall Conference

The District 26 Fall Conference is just around the corner. Scheduled for November 12 and 13, it features a roast of the Immediate Past District Governor, the Evaluation Contest, the Humorous Speech Contest, a very special guest speaker, educational sessions you won't want to miss, **and** the fall business meeting.

If cost has been an issue for you in the past, you'll love this: **\$40 for the whole show** if you sign up by November 5. Go to the District 26 website (www.d26toastmasters.org/d26cms/) and sign up online or download the mail in form. Don't wait!