

District 26 — Tackle Your Dreams

The DISTRICT DIALOGUE



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Serving Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska

September 2010

Pep Squad

Ian Humphrey at International

Email from Connie Akins

Dear Beloved Family,

As most of you have heard, Ian Humphrey went to Palm Desert as District 26's International Speech Contestant and SHOOK things up!!!! He was outstanding in his semi-final round on Thursday and easily won first place. Darryle and I screamed like a house on fire! All of us from D26 watched 2 other rounds and didn't see anyone who was any competition at all for him. (There were 9 rounds all together. But they were set up in groups of 3 at a time, in 3 different meeting rooms.)

Saturday dawned, full of promise. I was so nervous I could barely eat. Finally it was TIME for the International Speech Contest World Championship Finals! At 1:00 pm about 2000 Toastmasters gathered from literally ALL over the world, all the top brass, many past World Champions, friends, families, AND Ian's 4 kids! Katy's parents surprised Katy and Ian by bringing their kids just to watch their dad do his magic on the world's stage. When I saw those 4 beautiful kids and the loving grandparents, I started to cry and didn't stop until long after the event was over. (I'm crying now just remembering it.)

There were nine speakers. All of them were excellent. Ian was speaker 6. His name was announced, "Ian Humphrey, 'It's Not About the Knockdown', 'It's Not About the Knockdown', Ian Humphrey" We all shouted and cheered our hearts out. He walked across that HUGE stage with strength and confidence, shook hands with the Toastmaster, took his place at center stage and then LIT up the room with his brilliant smile. "BAM!!!!" He began. He was wonderful! Funny, strong, sincere and eloquent. He spoke like the champion we all know that he is. He



DELIVERED! And when he finished, the room roared!

There were 3 speakers after him and then endless waiting and announcements. I just about peed my pants. Unfortunately, Ian did not place in the top three. Though I was not a judge, I felt VERY STRONGLY that Ian earned a trophy. And this is not just my opinion. Many told me that they thought he was the 2nd best. (The winner was truly phenomenal) I was disappointed that he didn't have that trophy in his hands. But that's all I was disappointed by. Because Ian was so strong and amazing and spoke his message with such power and conviction, how could I be anything but a SUPER-SUPER PROUD MOTHER HEN!!! Afterwards, when it was crazy mayhem, Ian told us he was happy with his performance and at peace with the outcome of the contest. (I can learn a lot from him!)

I wish you all could have been there! It was a beautiful and momentous experience. I feel so honored, as I know you all do too, to be Ian's club members, friends and supporters. Ian, you are OUR champion! And I am proud to say I am your number one fan!

Special points of interest:

- International Convention
- Advanced Clubs
- The Value of Failure
- Debate Draws Interest
- Conversing with your audience
- Introducing Brian Lewis

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Play by Play – Calendar of Events

Sep 1	Collect dues for next six months
Sep 30	Smedley Award membership building contest ends
Oct 1	Oct dues renewals due to TI
Oct 9	Northern Division Humor and Evaluation Contest
Oct 10	Oct dues renewals due to TI for Distinguished Club Program credit
Oct 16	Foothills/Eastern Division Humor and Evaluation Contests
Oct 23	Denver/Metro Division Humor and Evaluation Contests
Oct 30	Southern Division Humor and Evaluation Contest
Oct 31	Area Governor complete first round club visits (report due November 30)

For the Record –

Dear District 26,

From Ian J. Humphrey

It is with a grateful heart that I write this note. I things I will never forget. want to thank the wonderful people in our district While I did not win the who provided me with the support to compete in competition, I was able to the Toastmasters International Competition in deliver a message that is Palm Desert. Your support came in the form of true to who I am and feel many things, words of encouragement, offering a I was successful as many spot at your club to practice, and monetary gifts. told me they found Being in this competition was a journey that saw inspiration in my words. I many highs and lows. The one thing that never was honored to represent wavered was the people of district 26 and their district 26 and hope that outpouring of support I received throughout the I did our district proud. entire process. The fundraisers that were held to On behalf of my family help relieve the financial burden of my trip, the and myself, thank you! feedback I received from many clubs, and the many e-mails and calls from concerned people are



"I never learned from a man who agreed with me."

Robert A. Heinlein

Coaches Corner

The Kick-off

Julia Davis, DTM District Governor



It was HOT! Really, it was hot in Palm Desert, California, at the 79th annual Toastmasters International Convention. Both the temperatures and the energy soared as Toastmasters from all over the world poured into the hotel to register. The news reported temperatures in excess of 110 degrees and hundreds of delegates and guests boiled over with enthusiasm to renew old friendships and establish new ones.

District 26 was well represented at the conference with over 15 people in attendance. This was the first time that we met our fellow members from Region I. Previously we were part of Region III which was made up of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, part of Oklahoma, and District 26. Now we are part of a region that stretches from Alaska to Nebraska and Colorado to California. Here are the Julia chronicles.

Tuesday 7:00 AM: Training started early as we poured into the classrooms to be instructed on the new policies and procedures that Toastmasters International was initiating as well as basic training for those that had never been to this level of training. It was a long day, but well worth the information I learned and the relationships I forged with our new Region I partners and the rest of the world. I spent my time between and after class meeting dignitaries, candidates, world champion speakers, and just plain Toastmasters.

Wednesday 7:00 AM: Training continued through most of the day. The evening started with an impressive flag ceremony where each country that has a Toastmasters presence paraded their flags about the huge auditorium. It was a stirring sight as the United States flag, last in the parade, was brought up on stage. They were supposed to play the star spangled banner, but a technical glitch prevented the music from playing. After a brief moment of silence, someone in the audience started singing the national anthem and the entire audience joined in to make it a memorable and stirring moment for me. Outgoing International President, Gary Schmidt, gave the state of the organization report followed by the keynote address expertly delivered by Todd Newton. Afterwards I got to hobnob with the candidates

running for various international offices at the candidate's reception.

Thursday 9:00 AM: Hall of Fame presentations were conducted for everyone that achieved a distinction last year. It was phenomenal, the number of people, clubs, areas, divisions, and districts recognized for achievement. Although District 26 did not make distinguished, I was recognized for the educational successes that we posted last year. I view this award as a team effort and I share it with each and every one of you that worked hard to accomplish your personal goals – way to go team! The educational sessions sponsored were extraordinary. Our own Rory Vaden was an instructor ("Great Leaders are Great Speakers: Bringing your leadership A.L.I.V.E."). By three o'clock I was re-energized as the International Speech semi-finals started. Nine sessions of nine districts competing for the coveted opportunity to be a contestant in the World Champion of Speaking contest. Our winner, Ian Humphrey, participated and won his semi-final competition (in fact I overheard some people say he nailed it). I judged the last contest at 8:30 PM. All I can say is I am really glad I did not have to compete against any of them, they were all dynamite.

Friday featured more sterling educational sessions, too difficult to choose which one would benefit me the most; I wanted to go to them all. The Golden Gavel dinner started right on time at 7:00 PM and the recipient was Carolyn Kepcher, executive vice president of the Trump organization (you might remember her from the television show "The Apprentice"; she was the one that fired the people who did not succeed.). Now she dispenses career advice in a column of the New York Daily News, is a published author with her best seller "Carolyn 101" and her latest business endeavor "WorkHerWay.com".

On the last day, Saturday, the famous (and infamous) business meeting started at 7:00 AM (I promise not to do that you at the District Conference). We elected new Regional Advisors and new slate of top officials including a new International President. The International Speech Contest (aka the World Championship of Speaking) started just after lunch and it was a thrill ride for me, watching the ten most talented speakers in the world compete for the number one position. Unfortunately, Ian Humphrey did not win, but he could have, and he did this District proud. If you have never heard him speak, you should invite him to come to your club and wow you with his charm and sophistication. He is still ranked one of the



"Everything is theoretically impossible, until it is done."

Robert A. Heinlein

(Continued on page 4)

Coaches Corner

The Kick-off Cont.

(Continued from page 3)

Top Nine Speakers in the World by Toastmasters International, and we are so fortunate to have his talent in District 26. The International Presidents Dinner Dance was presided over by Jana Barnhill, Past International President. The incoming President spoke on her plans for the coming year. Exhausted and well satisfied by the experiences of the week, I packed my bags and left on Sunday morning, relieved it was over and saddened that it was so short. I hope each and every one of you will attend next year's International Conference in Las Vegas; it's an experience of a lifetime.

Medical Marijuana: Yes, I Guess

Alan Swartz, DTM Immediate Past District Governor



Cybele Antonow of Simply Speaking Toastmasters at the Thornton city hall. Organized by debate coordinator Dirk Kittredge for his DTM project, over 50 people attended a unique Toastmasters meeting.

Debates are speaking events in which two sides use reasoned discourse to argue the subject, in this case, medical marijuana. The debate involves 10 minute presentations, pro and con, by each speaker. After an intermission, the teams can regroup and each speaker has 5 minutes to refute the opposition's points. A team of judges judge the

"Resolved: That the USA should recognize medical marijuana as a legitimate form of medicine and legalize its distribution as a medicinal substance." That was the Great Debate question debated on August 19th by the affirmative team of Lori High and Earl Allen of Front Range Toastmasters and the negative team of Christen Roberts and

debate, and the chief judge, who was Gigi Degala of Simply Speaking, collects the ballot. Michael Bray was the debate facilitator. He kept everyone informed on the rules and introduced the debaters much as a Toastmaster at a meeting does. The event happened because Darryle Brown of Simply Speaking challenged the Front Range Toastmasters, who have had several debates in the past, to a debate.

The debate handbook by Toastmasters International was used to guide the debate and the judging. It is a very creative way to get more members and to develop new speaking skills. The teams both researched the question with Simply Speaking using a research team to find key points for their team to make.

Julia Davis, district governor, recognized Dirk at the end of the meeting for achieving his DTM with this project.

Oh, yes! The winning team was the affirmative, Front Range Toastmasters on this night. What a fantastic evening a group of Toastmasters experienced because leaders in the two clubs soared to the next level of creativity. I encourage you to look at our district web site for ideas to spice up your next meeting.

"I am free because I know that I alone am morally responsible for everything I do."

Robert A. Heinlein



Alan Swartz and Carolyn Kepcher

*Coaches Corner***Is It Communication?****Norm Frickey, DTM Lt. Governor Education & Training**

"One of the sanest, surest, and most generous joys of life comes from being happy over the good fortune of others."

Robert A. Heinlein



"What? ...how could you not know about the meeting? I emailed you the information."

"How could you not know the purpose of the meeting? It was in the E-news."

"Why didn't you come to the celebration? I sent you an E-vite."

"Didn't you receive the Text alert?"

"Late again! You should have been able to plan for the meeting it was on the Google Calendar."

Sound familiar? Well, if you live in the same world I do, one or more of those questions/situations confronts you at least once in 25 hours. (Would that extra hour really make a difference?) Just as early man and woman put words and meaning to sound and struggled to be understood, we face the same challenge today - being understood. Everyday I try to improve the way I communicate ... sometimes successfully, sometimes not so. Today the task is easier and faster.... or is it? I tap a few characters on my smart-phone or computer to send a message to everyone on my address list and go about my business knowing "the message" is out, delivered, and understood. Maybe or maybe not.

Just to make sure I'll write and publish it as a memorandum or policy then everyone will know for sure what the policy is.

Then to insure complete understanding I'll just tell you. I'll get up on the podium, behind the lectern and say it, and you hear it ... message delivered. Maybe, maybe not.

None of these communication methods guarantees delivery with the message received and understood as intended. As Toastmasters we know (or should know) none of these methods is the panacea so we keep working to solve the complexity of human communication. This is difficult enough in our own club where we most often use the same language

base ... add to the mix dozens of dialects within a language and dozens of different languages and you have the Toastmasters International Convention at Palm Desert, California.

From August 10 to August 14, it was my honor to represent District 26 at the Toastmasters International Convention, an event billed as a milestone meeting. For the first time district leaders from around the world met, trained, learned, and worked together to improve communication skills. Together we watched the flags of our 116 countries paraded to the stage. We broke bread together and played together. We elected our international officers and together we listened to the nine top speakers deliver their message. Together we selected one to be dubbed "World Champion of Public Speaking." In my mind they were all winners. I witnessed the power of Toastmasters as I watched our own Ian Humphrey stand and wow the audience as he took first place in the Semi-final contest by reminding us all that life is like a marathon...it's not about winning, it's about finishing the race. On Saturday I, along with several thousand in attendance, was entranced as he spoke about life being similar to a prize fight where it's not about the knock down, it's about the getting up after the knockdown that matters. Though not judged to be one of the top three speakers in the international contest, Ian's solid performance and his powerful message proved that the power of the spoken word is still important in this fast paced, internet-based world in which we live.

What I learned from those few days in the desert is that even though we have email, E-vite, and texting, the power of the spoken word is alive and well and more important than ever. I experience first hand that "International" is really a part of our Toastmasters' world and I saw that even though our cultures differ, we share a common dream to be better communicators and leaders. Our common desire is to communicate more effectively and to make Toastmasters International a positive influence in that process regardless of where we live or how we choose to deliver our message.

Thanks District 26 Toastmasters for giving me this opportunity and allowing me to represent you.

Coaches Corner

Advanced Clubs Provide Opportunities

By Alan Swartz, DTM Immediate Past District Governor

In our district advanced clubs, which are for individuals who have achieved their Competent Communicator recognition, provide formal evaluations by assigned evaluators opportunities for Toastmasters to give longer speeches, advance through the recognition audience. This combination gives additional levels faster, and to get more thorough feedback via round robin evaluations. Spirited Speakers, one of the clubs I participate in, was formed through the leadership of Jana Axline. It meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, at generally at the Koelbel library. It not only provides additional opportunities to speak but also improves the learning experience through combined with round robin evaluations by the assigned evaluators. Don't miss this opportunity to hone your skills at an advanced club. You can email jcbell_00@yahoo.com or Randon Rocks Axline. It meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, at Randon.jkrouse@farmersagency.com if you would like more information.



Player's Lineup

Excelsior Advanced Club Celebrates 10th Anniversary!

By Betty Chavira, Excelsior VP Education

Excelsior Advanced Club No. 3247 was chartered in 2000 by 20 Toastmasters members who had achieved 'Competent Toastmaster' status; i.e., their first speaking manual. The club focused on improving skills in advanced manuals and offered round robin evaluations in addition to an oral evaluation for each speaker. Initially, the club was thriving, with a membership around 20; however membership waxed and waned over the years, making Excelsior coach-eligible (12 or fewer members) in 2009. In their 10th year, Excelsior, under the successful coaching arrangement with Mary Mirable (new DTM!) and for a time co-coach Win Suseno, gained 5 new members and achieved Distinguished Club status. See the related article under the "Coaching Corner".

This club deserved to celebrate! What makes this club special? At least 7 members are Distinguished Toastmasters (Judy Lloyd, Nancy Swartz, Joyce Feustel, Alan Swartz, Laura Rayle, Gordon Savage, and Mary Mirable)...several Excelsior members have achieved multiple DTMs! These folks are engaged Toastmasters dedicated to a lifetime of learning. Four members have previously served District 26 as District Governors (Nancy Swartz, Judy Lloyd, Joyce Feustel, and Alan Swartz).



The 10th anniversary party was hosted by Judy Lloyd, Tom Lloyd, and Nancy Swartz. Charter members in attendance included Judy Lloyd, Nancy Swartz, and Gordon Savage. Spouses, children and friends were in attendance for a delicious luncheon complete with anniversary cake, and a program of **commemoration** (also the word of the day) by Nancy Swartz, and 2 fine speeches by Alan Swartz and Carol Kolesnikoff. Table Topics master Joyce Feustel challenged members to recall other anniversaries in their lives and relate their stories.

The celebration of success, endurance, flexibility and rededication to excellence in the 10th year of operation was well deserved and the club invites you in advance to celebrate their 20th anniversary

"Don't ever become a pessimist; a pessimist is correct oftener than an optimist, but an optimist has more fun—and neither can stop the march of events."

Robert A. Heinlein

Player's Lineup

Club Coaching Success Featured in Weekly Newsletter!



By Betty Chavira, Club Coaching Chair

Congratulations to Mary Mirable, DTM (Club Coach); Joyce Feustel, DTM (Excelsior President, FY2010) and Excelsior Toastmasters for a successful coaching relationship from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 that resulted in Excelsior Club No. 3247 gaining 5 new members (net growth from a baseline of 12 members on July 1, 2009) and achieving Distinguished Club Status!

This successful coaching relationship was the result of a serious, diligent, sometimes challenging partnership between the coach, officers, and the club. Their success story is featured in the publication ***Club Coach Weekly***, produced by District 8's John Murphy and Patricia Hill. Please access the full article at: <http://www.dist8tm.org/clubcoach.html>

An innovative synergistic partnership was forged between the coach Mary Mirable and the Club President Joyce Feustel. Joyce forged a **High Performance Leadership Project** (HPL) around working with a coach to bring the club out of coach-eligible status to become a Distinguished Club. As a successful coach, Mary gained **Advanced Leader Silver credit**.

Excerpts from this success story are included below, from the 5th edition of the ***Club Coach Weekly***, dated July 31 – August 1, 2010. The article was contributed by Joyce Feustel.

"At its July 2009 meeting the club's membership voted to request that the District Governor assign the club a club coach. Two individuals had already been identified as possible club coaches. Both of them attended that club meeting as well as the club officer meeting that was held immediately afterwards. The District Governor appointed them as club coaches a few days later." [Originally, 2 coaches were assigned. Win Suseno, a co-coach could not complete his coaching year due to business commitments. bjc]

"At the club officers meeting in July, the club officers, assisted by the club coaches, had a wide ranging discussion of what was going well at the club and where improvements could be made...The leadership determined that the club must showcase itself in the best possible manner at each meeting, keeping in mind that the club has just 12 times a year to offer its product to potential members."

"Club coach Mary Mirabile suggested having club business cards printed. She also helped with the design and content of the cards. Both coaches worked with the club's leadership to develop a club motto: "Excelsior Invites You to Excel." This motto

was featured on the business cards and used in invitations to special membership-building open house meetings. Two of those meetings were held over the course of the year. Club members also distributed the business cards at a demonstration meeting club members conducted after the January Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) with 17 guests at that meeting. Providing free food was a big draw. This TLI was held in the suburb where Excelsior meets and served Toastmasters throughout the Denver metro area."

"At that same TLI several club members conducted a session that was dubbed "Speech Boot Camp." There were four presenters: two from Excelsior and two from another advanced club in the Denver metro area. Each presenter spoke about how to research, write and deliver a particular type of speech. The types represented were informative, entertaining, inspirational, and persuasive."

*"Excelsior became a Distinguished club, because the membership rose from 12 to 17 members by the end of the Toastmaster 2009-2010 year, and the club achieved five of the ten Distinguished Club Program goals...Promoting the club name and the advanced club concept in every possible way added momentum to the club's growth...For the most part, the new members who joined Excelsior had heard about the club through personal contact with a current club member. Some of these individuals had been interested in the club but their schedule had not permitted them to join in the past. Others had not heard of an advanced club until a member approached them at their club meeting or at an area or division contest or other district activity and suggested they see if Excelsior might be a good fit for them...Most of the membership recruitment efforts were done by the club president and by club coach Mary Mirabile." **

The success of this coaching experience can be attributed to persistence, flexibility in trying various ways to make Toastmasters aware of the existence of this advanced club, and evaluating the club's unique strengths and focusing on those strengths to attract new members. Patience was certainly required as the membership building process was slow.

Congratulations again to Mary Mirabile, Joyce Feustel, and Excelsior for a successful venture!

* Please see the entire article in ***Club Coach Weekly*** for more information.

"The supreme irony of life is that hardly anyone gets out of it alive."

Robert A. Heinlein

Pep Squad

It's All About Conversation - Or Is It?

by Datta Groover, DTM



You've probably heard that a speech should be a conversation. Some presenters agree with that, and some don't. Whether we like it or not, however, successful speaking involves conversation. If we ignore that, we might just "die" on stage. Neither we, nor our audience wants that to happen.

The literal source, or etymology, of conversation, means to "have dealings with others."

There are many kinds of conversation that take place with every presentation. When you talk about a bad day you once had, and some of your audience nod — that is a conversation. When you ask for a volunteer, and get one — that is a conversation. When you ask questions to the audience, and get a response, that is also a conversation. The title of this article is a conversation. Most importantly, your audience members will constantly have conversations going on within their heads as you speak. Those are conversations you can't control, but you can influence them. Based on that influence, those "internal" conversations will determine the success or failure of your presentations because they are

what connect you to your audience. Your message will only be "taken home" by people if they connect with you.

When you share a conversation you had previously, one you might have in the future, or even put into words what the audience is (or may be) thinking — those are all ways to use conversation. How you use these conversations, how often you use them, and when you use them are all up to you — and should be considered in light of your particular audience.

Next time you're getting ready to give a speech, consider this: If you were in your audience, what would you prefer — to listen to



someone's speech or to participate in a conversation? Think about it. Your audience will probably have the same preference.

Thanks for tuning in!

Hanlon's razor is an adage which reads: "Never attribute to malice that which can be adequately explained by stupidity."

Wikipedia (Also mentions Heinlein)



Player's Lineup

Do you want more active members in your club?

Tom Hobbs, ACG, ALB Denver Division Governor

"To be matter of fact about the world is to blunder into fantasy -- and dull fantasy at that, as the real world is strange and wonderful."

Robert A. Heinlein



Do you want more active members in your club?

Then go tell someone to FAIL!

Many people love to quote eloquent speakers. Martin Luther King, "I have a Dream..." Mahatma Gandhi, "Be the change you want to see in the world." I love the absurd. I seem to understand it better. So I quote Darren LaCroix, "Nobody comes to Toastmasters to be better speakers at Toastmasters." We have goals to be better speakers for our community, our business or to give a Toast at our daughter's wedding. They may be very lofty goals to some of us, but we need a safe environment to practice them. A place to screw-up and then recover, rebuild and try again. Our club culture is built upon that safe environment to stretch, grow, and fail a few times. Without taking a few risks we will stay in our own safe bubble and never grow.

OK, Tom, again with that psychobabble. How can I get more active members in my club?

Take the opportunity to visit other clubs, meet-ups, networking events (chamber of commerce events work really well). When given the chance to share your Elevator speech, state very strongly and loudly. "I invite you to come to Toastmasters and Fail!" That alone should increase your listening audience by 5. Repeat it once again, "I invite you to come to Toastmasters and Fail!" Someone will blurt out, "Why would you want me to fail?" Now you can explain how Toastmasters creates a safe environment for you to take risks in speaking and

leadership skills. This is a laboratory for your own speaking and leadership experiments. Build upon your successes. Identify your areas to improve. Take a few risks here before you go to your daughter's wedding and be less than excellent.

A good friend was just elected club president of a well-established Toastmasters club with a large membership. I told her how excited I was for her. I knew her enthusiasm would shift the club to greater active participation. Guests would eagerly return to visit at 7am. Members who hadn't participated for a while would become more active. Then I said, "Joan, I will be bragging about you when you tell me the 3 times you Screwed-up. The 3 times you took a risk no one else had taken in your club. The times you stretched, risked and grew. Think about it. Five years from now will it really matter that you changed the room layout, made the chairs face 45 degrees to the right and someone complained?"

OK, Tom, again, how can I get more active members in my club?

Take some risks in your club. Annoy a few old curmudgeons with something new. Invite the person behind you at Starbucks to Come to Toastmasters and Fail. Over the past 6½ weeks I have had numerous opportunities to speak before non-Toastmaster groups and 9 Toastmasters clubs. I have invited face to face 78 people to come fail. So far this has resulted in 3 new members and 11 guests. It's not hard and a lot of fun. Email me with when you Failed in your club and know what you are doing with that experience.

Cheers,

Tom

The man in the Hat

Tom@TomHobbsONLINE.com



The ladies in the picture on page 10, padmini Samarasinghe and Nilanthi, are from Sri Lanka. Nilanthi started 75 clubs, 50 in India and 25 in Sri Lanka. Now that's salesmanship.

International Convention 2010



Golden Gavel award winner Carolyn Kepcher



Out going International President Gary Schmidt
and Immediate Past District Governor Alan Swartz



Webmaster Joseph Esler, Past DG Dana Morgan,
Past DG John Barnes, D-6 Governor Darryle Brown



Sharon and Norm Frickey (LGET)



Australian Flag Bearer (Seven pointed stars)



padmini Samarasinghe, Joseph Esler, and Nilanthi

Player's Lineup

"The universe never did make sense; I suspect it was built on government contract."

Robert A. Heinlein

**District 26 Player Card**

Brian Lewis
Speaker Bureau Chief
Stats and Facts

Toastmaster for how long?	7 years
Member of what club(s)?	Rocky Flats Toastmasters
Toastmasters Communicator Level?	Advanced Communicator Bronze
Toastmasters Leadership Level?	Advanced Leader Bronze
Why did you join Toastmasters?	I was a young manager at IBM seeking new experiences and working on my speaking confidence. I constantly found myself being assigned to manage technical teams involved in critical situations that put the spotlight on my team.
What are your plans for the organization?	My plans for the speakers bureau are to ensure that the members are actively engaged and aware of the opportunities in both our community and Toastmasters. I want to recruit everyone I can to provide a diverse and compelling list of topics that would be available to anyone who asks for a speaker.
Personal Toastmaster Goals?	Travel the world writing speeches and helping young people to be more effective communicators.
How has Toastmasters changed your life?	Toastmasters has helped broaden my perspective on all facets of life and gain insight to how people think, feel, and act. I use Toastmasters as one of my creative outlets, something I seemed to lose sight of while in college.
Anything else?	I have an identical twin brother, so you'll never know which one of us will be speaking next time we meet.

Coaches Corner

My Take

Jennifer Zerba, ACB, ALB Lt. Governor Marketing

Passengers please remain seated with your seat belts fastened until the captain turns off the sign. While the flight attendants were explaining evacuation plans before take off, a thought occurred to me, there is no way I can use my seat as a floatation device since we didn't even have room for our knees between our seat and the one in front of us. This is insane and someone really should rethink the design of the plane or rethink evacuation plans. I was really tired of stinky airports, planes, and passengers after traveling through six states to reach my final destination

the best. Maybe I am a little biased, but his speech was remarkable. He was the last one and listened to every one before him. He didn't hesitate a bit; he stepped up on the stage and had everyone in the audience in the palm of his hand by the end of his speech.

Palm Desert, CA!



Toastmaster District officers are required to be trained for two days prior to the convention and I kept hearing that this was a pivotal point in Toastmasters history. This was the first year that all District Governors and Lt. Governors were trained from around the world. To be exact 250 of us were taught with the same power-points, the same handouts, and the same Regional Advisors. I was able to learn and work together with other LGM's from places like New Zealand, Mexico, Belgium, and India just to name a few! I came away with the knowledge and confidence that together we have a unified goal: to make Toastmasters better for every member.

The Toastmasters International Convention 2010 started Wednesday evening with opening ceremonies. 117 countries were represented and their flags stood on stage during the entire Convention. My favorite part of that evening was when the Star Spangled Banner wouldn't play. For a few minutes we all waited but nothing. Then from the back of the room someone started to sing it, and then we all joined in. Tears were streaming down people's faces. It was so moving!

The educational sessions were amazing and I have decided to take Rory Vaden up on his tour: Take the Stairs. I learned how different brands affect us and who we are and how to be more creative about marketing, not just my business or Toastmasters but also myself!

The Semi-final speech contests were wonderful, but I have to say Ian Humphrey's Semi-final was

The business meeting was early, real early 7:00AM and I was glad we started early because we were there until 11:45 almost noon. Over 17,500 ballots had to be counted EVERY time we voted and the second vice president race took three counts! I was so glad we had made appointments with the candidates throughout the week and taken the time to talk with them about our concerns and get to know them! It made knowledgeable voting much easier.

The World Champion of Public Speaking Contest was incredible with an audience of 1500 Toastmasters! Ian represented our District with passion, sincerity, and heart. We are all so very proud of him. The President's dinner dance was wonderful with the induction of International Officers and the International President's Speech. Unfortunately we had an early flight and couldn't stay to dance the night away, but maybe next time!

2011 International Convention will be in Las Vegas at Bally's. Make plans to go because it will change your prospective of Toastmasters, and give you the extra oomph to move forward in your life!

Passengers please prepare for landing. As we were waiting for our car to arrive, I sat enjoying the Denver 85 degrees and preparing myself for the 4½ hour drive home ahead of me. When I got home and started to unpack I had so many business cards from fellow Toastmasters that they kept falling out of my bag! I met distant relatives and family I didn't even know I had. Toastmasters is changing humanity one member at a time!

"By cultivating the beautiful we scatter the seeds of heavenly flowers, as by doing good we cultivate those that belong to humanity."

Robert A. Heinlein



Tail Gate – Musings from the Editor



Advanced Clubs

You've probably noticed that there are two articles in this issue that deal with advanced clubs. With the formation of Spirited Speakers there are three such clubs in the Denver metro area. What is the significance of such clubs? Alan touched on it in his article, but it boils down to opportunity – the opportunity to expand your speaking and leadership skills.

As with regular clubs each advanced club is somewhat different. There's a club in Las Vegas that focuses on developing professional grade speakers. There's a club in New York that focuses on developing acting skills. On the other hand the differences can be simply the product of the members involved, but they all have the common characteristic that experienced Toastmasters are sharing their individual skills, experiences, and talents to help each other become better presenters, listeners, and leaders.

Since you joined Toastmasters to develop at least one of those capabilities, are you ready to settle for what you can get in a regular club? Most people are, and that's fine, but for the ones who want to expand their boundaries there are advanced clubs out there who will welcome you with open arms. If you even think that you might want to take on the challenge of raising your personal bar, check out the local advanced clubs. They have a lot to offer and you have nothing to lose.

Advanced Clubs in the Denver Metro Area

Spirited Speakers: Jana Axline at jcbell_00@yahoo.com or
Randon Rocks at Randon.jkrouse@farmersagency.com

Evening Stars: <http://eveningstarstm.freetoasthost.us>

Excelsior: <http://excelsior.freetoasthost.ws>

Marketing Speak

While working on the presidential campaign Tipper Gore discovered that her husband's great great uncle, Gunther Gore, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Tennessee in 1889.

The only existing photograph shows him standing on the gallows. On the back of the picture is this inscription: "Gunther Gore; horse thief. Sent to Tennessee Prison 1883, escaped 1887. Robbed the Tennessee Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged in 1889."

After letting President Clinton's large staff of professional image consultants review this discovery, they took the following actions to assist Al's campaign to become our next president. They decided to crop Gunther's picture, scan it in as an enlarged image, and edited it

with image processing software so that all that is seen in the final picture is a head shot. Along with this enhanced photo, the accompanying biographical sketch was sent to the Associated Press:

"Gunther Gore was a famous cattleman in early Tennessee history. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Tennessee railroad company. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to service at a government facility, finally taking leave to resume his business enterprise with the railroad. In 1887 he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889 Gunther regrettably died suddenly during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform on which he was standing collapsed."

Running from the Law Free Jokes



DISTRICT 26

The DISTRICT DIALOGUE



**Tackle Your
Dreams**

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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.

Contest Season

If your club hasn't scheduled its fall contest, now is the time to start planning and running them. Many of the area contests have already been scheduled. Some of them have been posted on the District 26 calendar. If yours isn't there, contact your area governor.

Don't forget, besides the opportunity to participate as a contestant, chairing and organizing club contests are two requirements for competent leader. See your VP Education to volunteer.