Leaders Decide What Matters in Life

David McCallister, DTM - District 25 Governor

People commit to causes, not to plans. Commitment is fuelled by what we cherish. If the values about which we care deeply are vividly clear to us, then the whims of fashion and the opinion polls won't sidetrack us. A lasting legacy is built on a firm foundation of principles and purpose. This means leadership development first requires self development. Becoming a leader begins with exploration of the inner territory as we search to find our own authentic voice. Leaders must decide what matters in life before they can live a life that matters. Leaders look into the future to gaze across the time horizon and communicate to us what they see. It is about being discerning and perceptive. It is about noticing what is around the corner.

Serve with significance. Exemplary leaders are interested more in others’ success than in their own. Their greatest achievements are the triumphs of those they serve. Knowing they make a difference in others’ lives is what motivates their own giving leaders the strength to endure the hardships, struggles and inevitable sacrifices required to achieve great things. Leaders serve selflessly to meet the needs of the team members and organizational objectives. They are not jealous to see the success of their team members. Leaders encourage, inspire and motivate their team members to excel in whatever they may be doing. They groom, coach and mentor their team members to achieve success.

Serving requires feedback. When we ask, "How am I doing?" they gain valuable insights into how they affect the performance of others. By asking the members how are we performing, will help us to correct any shortcoming and to fulfill the members' needs by serving them to the best of our ability. This is what I call the "Amazing Service," to sharpen ourselves and in return we shape the world.

Serving requires that we uphold the core values. Toastmasters core values are integrity, dedication to excellence, respect for an individual and service to the members. By what we are doing, does it add value and benefit to our members and club?

Serving requires that we keep in touch with our team members. Members want to know our values and beliefs, our aims and aspirations, and our hopes and dreams. Thus it is important to have clarity of ourselves. Leadership is a relationship between those who aspire to lead and those who choose to follow. People follow people, not positions. If there is no personal relationship, then it is just less likely that people will want to follow. We need to treat every member as an individual. To be the best, we must reveal our humanity. It is the only pathway to a genuine connections with others. It is the quality of our relationship that most determines whether our relationship will be ephemeral or lasting.

Our adversaries are our best teachers. We should make it possible for people to challenge each other - up, down, in, out and sideways if we are to realize the personal growth opportunities from those that surround us. We should not strive to win every skirmish, but instead endeavor to unite our decisions so that we can win the battles that matter most.

Leaders require opening doors that are shut, walking in dark that are frightening and touching the flame that burns. I challenge you as a leader to evaluate what matters most.
Contest Season Has Arrived

David D. Martin, DTM - Lt. Governor Education & Training 2009-2010

Hurray, it’s contest time in District 25! That’s right folks, spring contest season has arrived, and throughout the District club contests have already begun and Area contests are starting! Starting February 4th we will be out on the contest trail searching for the Toastmaster with the Tallest Tale and the International Speech that carries them all the way to the world championship of public speaking.

Speech contests are a fun and vital aspect of the Toastmasters experience and a time for all Toastmasters to broaden their horizons. It’s a time to go beyond the comfort of your home club and experience a whole new venue, new crowd, new evaluators, and meet new friends all while becoming better communicators and leaders. This spring D25 will be featuring the Tall Tales and International speech contests. So, what are these contests all about?

According to Wikipedia a tall tale is a story with unbelievable elements, related as if it were true and factual. Such stories are exaggerations of actual events, fish stories (‘the fish that got away’) such as, "that fish was so big, why I tell ya', it nearly sank the boat when I pulled it in!" Other tall tales are completely fictional tales in a familiar setting, such as the American Old West or the beginning of the Industrial Age. Tall tales are often told to make the narrator seem to have been a part of the story. They are usually humorous or witty. The line between myth and tall tale is distinguished primarily by age; many myths exaggerate the exploits of their heroes, but in tall tales the exaggeration looms large, to the extent of becoming the whole of the story. The time for the speech is three (3) to five (5) minutes in length.

An International Speech is a story that inspires, intrigues, evokes emotion and often time ends with a call to action. The topics are widely varied and most winning speeches incorporate personal stories with struggle, perseverance and life changing events. Some stories are humorous involving triumph over obstacles, and others are sad, with introspective viewpoints that are poignant to their audience. The time for the speech is five (5) to seven (7) minutes in length and the winner at the International Conference is crowned as the World Champion of Public Speaking.

Speech contests are not only growth opportunities for the speaker they also offer opportunities for every Toastmaster. You may volunteer for numerous roles such as timer, vote counter, judge, sergeant-at-arms, and toastmaster as well as other supporting roles, to make a contest run smoothly.

For more information about the spring contest season and how you can play an important role please go to http://d25toastmasters.org/education/speech_contests.htm. I look forward to seeing you on the contest trail.

NOMINATE OUTSTANDING CLUB OFFICERS ONLINE!

DON’T FORGET THAT APRIL 24, 2010 IS THE DEADLINE FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE DISTRICT AWARDS LUNCHEON ON MAY 15.

www.d25toastmasters.org/awards
How to Rebuild Your Club in Eight Weeks
Diana Patton, DTM—Lieutenant Governor Marketing 2009-2010

We have had an incredible year so far by adding 13 new clubs to our District 25 family. The question for each and every club is “How can we get to or keep our club at charter strength?” Here are some helpful tips from article by David McCallister in the August 2007 District 25 newsletter.

It is no secret that membership in clubs fluctuate like the stock market. Sometimes that can be discouraging for the existing members of the club. Consider following these steps and successfully rebuild your club in eight weeks:

Week 1 – Club Assessment – evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your club. Answer the questions in moments of truth and determine your club’s weaknesses. Ask the question, “Why should we save our club?” What are our strengths? Who do we appeal to, who would be attracted to joining our club? What is our market? (Profile demographic, ages, occupations, geographic).

Weeks 2, 3 and 4 – Improve Your Club Meetings - so much that people will be compelled to join you. Using the club assessment from week 1, work immediately to improve your club meetings. Focus on meeting planning and meeting execution. A well-planned, well-run meeting is your club’s best marketing tool.

Weeks 2, 3, 4 – The A-B-C’s of Tapping into your Market
(A) Business cards provided to your friends, acquaintances and coworkers.
(B) Inexpensive advertising – Flyers posted in the right places. Creating a club identity on a website.
(C) Public service announcements placed in newspapers, newsletters, radio, and local cable channels.

Weeks 3, 4, 5 – Finding and Establishing Partnerships
What organization(s) in our proximity have members that need what we have? Create a Community Contact Team and plan demo meetings.

Weeks 6, 7, 8 -- Provide a Service to Capture New Members.
Promote and schedule educational sessions that people in your market attend. Success/Leadership modules and Speechcraft serve this function. Provide the course for the cost of becoming a member of your club.

How can YOUR District help you?
1. Have an experienced Toastmaster perform an impartial club assessment.
2. Present an improving club meetings educational session.
3. Presenting “From Guest to Member,” educational session.
4. Coaching the club to create marketing materials and a Club Community Contact team.
5. Providing a Toastmaster (working on AC Gold) to present Speechcraft or other Success/Leadership module.
6. Request a club coach be assigned from the District to help with all of the above.

Be a Hero!
Your experience and enthusiasm can be a valuable asset to a club that needs a little help in rebuilding.
For more information go to d25toastmasters.org > Marketing and Membership
D25 Phoenix Award
Eligible clubs:
Any club with 13 or fewer members on July 1, 2009

Goal: Build club to 20 members by June 30, 2010
Award: Receive a Phoenix Patch to display proudly on your banner

Welcome New Club to District 25!

TRCA Toastmasters
Club 1429458
Division A- Area 11

TRCA
3401 E. University
Denton, TX 76208

Thursday, Noon
Membership open only to employees

Neal Armstrong
Jessica Barron
Shane Blagg
Christina Christensen
Angie Christman
Robert Coffey
Brian Columbus
Dianna Fuhlendorf
Jessica Grogg
David Harding
MJ Harding
Sue Harding
Karen Hauser
Allison Hefner
John Hunnicutt
Amy Jacobs
Kellee Johnson
Amy Kern
Jaymi Lee
Phil Montgomery
EJ Morabito
Denise Runnels
Kent Warny
Sam Wilson
Brad Wohlander
Jennifer Wyche

Northwest Tarrant Toastmasters
Club 1440249
Division A- Area 15

Best Western Hotel
3920 Boat Club Road
Lake Worth, TX  76135

Wednesday, 11:00 AM
Open Club

George Arndt
Everett Arndt
Toni Allison
Cecelia Bratton
Kay Clark
Brenda Daniels
Joe Glover
Cynthia Hall
Sarah Hollenstein
Paul Hutton
Renee Kolar
Vanessa Lang
Lawana Mauldin
Gary Mock
Jon Perry
Art Rogers
Larry Thompson
Janice Tims
Mike Tipton
Jeannie Turley

Current Prospective Club Leads February 2010

UTA—Arlington
DynCorp—Ft Worth
Parmenter Realty Partners
Texas Women’s University-Denton
Omni Ft. Worth Hotel—Ft. Worth
Northwest Tarrant Chamber of Commerce

TCC-Ft Worth
Chase—Arlington
Chase-Irving
Ft Worth Housing Authority-Ft Worth
TXU Energy-Las Colinas
FEBRUARY CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

349       Plus-Two
2476      Mid-Cities Noontime
1071      Abilene Toastmasters
6850      Tanglewood Toastmasters
7274      Unique Toastmasters At Vista Ridge
2975      BNSF Toastmasters
8507      House Speakers Toastmasters
5788      Top of Texas Toastmasters
6411      Inner Voice Toastmasters
638381    Hewitt Fastenators
761119    Manna Toastmasters
879088    BNSF Expressed Toastmasters
1126301   Chrysler Financial Toastmasters
1129074   DFWAE Toastmasters

TIME TO START SENDING OUT STATEMENTS!!!!
Deadline for DCP credit is March 31st!

Remember that dues can be paid online on the TI website starting Friday, March 5, 2010. Did you know that you only need a minimum of six members to pay online? Clubs that wait to pay until they receive dues from every member risk the chance of missing the deadline and losing out on receiving DCP Credit.

Go to Club Login and enter your club number and password. Your password came with your semi annual dues report. Once onsite checkout the other activities you can do as well. Also, don’t forget that clubs paying their dues ON TIME during both semi annual dues periods will receive credit for the Five Star Club Award!

Clubs submitting dues by March 31, will receive “Early Bird” ribbon for their club banner.
GO FOR THE GOLD

The **FOUR CLUBS** with the **MOST** New Members from February 1, 2010 through March 31, 2010 will receive a set of **personalized timing lights**

The **CLUB WITH THE MOST** New Members will receive (in addition to timing lights) their choice of a complete set of manuals from:

- The Better Speaker Series
- The Successful Club Series
- The Leadership Excellence Series

**TALK UP TOASTMASTERS**

It’s that time of year again – time to Talk Up Toastmasters! During this membership building contest, encourage your club’s members to invite as many guests as possible to your club’s meetings. Consider conducting a special guest meeting – where during a regular meeting, you could also specifically discuss the benefits Toastmasters members receive as they participate. Perhaps invite and include other members’ testimonials.

Add five new, dual or reinstated members to your club between **February 1 and March 31** and receive a special Talk Up Toastmasters ribbon to display on your club’s banner. Start thinking today of who will benefit from the Toastmasters experience and invite them to your meeting. You never know: you could help change their lives!
## JANUARY 2010 Hall of Fame

**Congratulations to our fellow Competent Communicators**

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**Congratulations to our fellow Advanced Communicators**

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**Congratulations to our fellow Competent Leaders**

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Remembering Monique Pegues
Dean Lampman, CC/CL Public Health Speakers No. 1061347

Monique Pegues made a mighty impact in a short time, including impressive contributions for her employer, The T, and in The T’s Toastmasters club, T-Toasters, where members assembled to honor her January 27—just five days after she went to her eternal home at only 37 years old.

A 1994 honors graduate of the University of North Texas, Monique applied a strong work ethic and indefatigable enthusiasm to learn and master new skills. She accepted and conquered several challenging positions at The T, Fort Worth’s Transportation Authority, where she began her career in 1999 in the Employer Services Department. In 2002, she was promoted to Community Outreach Liaison in the Marketing Department, then became Grants and DBE Administrator in 2004, and was responsible for the agency’s Triennial Review.

She was appointed the T’s Director of Government Relations in 2008 and established positive working relationships with key elected officials in Washington, DC and Austin, TX. In remarks published in the Congressional Record January 26, the Honorable Michael Burgess said Monique “led an accomplished life that was exhibited to others through her love of God, family and career.” She served as President to the DFW Chapter of the Women’s Transportation Service and Chairperson to the North Central Texas Regional Certification Agency. A career highlight occurred last year when she was recognized among Mass Transit’s exclusive national list of ‘‘Top 40, Under 40.’’

T-Toasters members will always recall her as a dedicated colleague, eloquent speaker, nurturing speech evaluator, reliable leader and inspiring mentor. A three-time president of T-Toasters, she participated successfully in numerous speech contests, most recently placing second in Area 62’s Fall 2010 Speech Evaluation Contest. Here are just a few of many comments that reflect Monique’s communications and leadership skills and the respect of others she so readily earned:

“You could feel whatever she wanted you to feel when she spoke. She created vivid images of what she was trying to explain, even if it was in a table topics speech.” (Lorenzo Chess, President)

“She had a way with words and was always so encouraging.” (Eleacia Thompson, VP, Membership)

“She had a great impact on me and she impacted people all over Fort Worth. She devoted herself to so much and did it all with grace.” (LaDonda Boswell, VP, Public Relations)

“She was an amazing person who touched many hearts. She gave us her best each day she was with us.” (Juanita Martinez, Secretary)

“She had so much on her plate and she knew it, but that didn’t stop her from going out of her way to help you.” (Carl Weckenman, Sergeant At Arms)

At her last T-Toasters meeting January 13, Monique won a first-place ribbon for speech evaluation, as she had often done, by using an approach she called the sandwich—where meat (improvement ideas) comes between bread (praise). Fittingly, at the recent tribute meeting, she was awarded all the first-place ribbons (speech, evaluation, and table topics). Besides Toastmasters, Monique was extensively involved in Leadership Fort Worth, Meals on Wheels, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Salvation Army. She was also an active member of First St John Baptist Church, where she served as Special Events Coordinator for the past eight years, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (a sisterhood of more than 200,000 predominately Black college-educated women who collaborate to provide assistance and support via established programs in local communities.) While all that is admirable, those who knew Monique well said that the roles she treasured most where that of devoted wife to husband, Calvin, and loving mother to three sons, Cortlin, Colin and Carrington.

The official thought of the day given by LaDonda Boswell at the tribute meeting for Monique was “live each moment as if it were your last.” Monique met that challenge in her short time on earth—the time represented as a dash on tombstones. “I thank God for the time that He gave her to make the dash count,” concluded Lorenzo Chess. Indeed. Monique Pegues will be greatly missed by many.
Remembering David Hostler
Warren Ehn, ACS/ALS Plus Two Club No. 349


David's Toastmaster accomplishments were many: D25 Governor, Lt. Governor of Marketing from 2001-02 (setting a record for chartering the most clubs), Area Governor and Division Governor multiple times. He held every club office and many District offices at least once during his distinguished career. David was a triple DTM and had completed the requirements for a fourth DTM at the time of his death. His next project was to earn a DTM in Spanish!

David loved the Mexican and Spanish cultures and made many trips to Mexico and Central/South America. He was a member of Fiesta Bilingual Toastmasters in Dallas for many years. David made numerous speeches about his travels; if you were fortunate enough to be present at one of them, you were amazed as well as entertained. He would illustrate his speeches with mementos he brought back: a funny hat, snapshots, a soccer jersey, a poster he bought at a flea market.

David loved an adventure, and his "adventures" were legendary. In 1998, I flew to the Zona Rosa in Mexico City where David was working on assignment and attended a Mexican Toastmasters meeting for the first time (the Toastmaster is called the "Toastmaster de la Noche"). I had cabrito (goat) for the first time at an open-air marketplace, pared fresh cactus for dessert, and a bone-chilling, cold ride up into the mountains outside the City, where I got warm by drinking pulque (homemade Mexican corn liquor) at David's bemused insistence. (Yes, it worked.) Most tourists shy away from local food; David said, "Bring it on!" If it upset his stomach, he had an emergency "stash" of stomach remedies. Typical David.

I had the pleasure of driving David to club meetings for several years. I treasured our drive time together; it was 45 minutes of lively discussion on a wide range of subjects. Many times, moments after driving home, I would get an e-mail from him with a link to a Web site or blog dealing with the topic du jour. Here are just a few: (1) pictures of shrines honoring the Day of the Dead in Mexico; (2) a parlor game called "Sty in the Sky"; (3) the Goofy Gophers of Merry Melodies fame; (4) William Fulbright's book "The Arrogance of Power"; and (5) an online Texas travel planner.

Most importantly, David understood people and knew how to make Toastmasters work in the real world. He was the "consiglieri" of District 25, the one with the inside scoop on everyone and everything, from politics to personalities to ways to get projects done right. He was living proof that as long as you don't care who gets the credit, you get maximum results. David intuitively knew whether you needed a kind word, a resource, or a "tough love" kick in the pants. He understood that doing the job on your own was the most effective way to learn.

At David's funeral, I was struck by the number of people who said, "David was my mentor"; "David was the reason I got involved in the District"; "I would have quit Toastmasters that day if it weren't for David telling me X." In this way, his life and his good deeds go on.

When our Plus Two club meetings were over, David and I would stay and talk to our fellow club members. When he was ready to leave, he would sidle up to me and quietly say, "Our work here is done". Indeed so. David's work is done here. We are fortunate to have had him with us.
District 25 Calendar of Events

February 2010

1-28  Hold Area and Division Council Meetings
      Talk Up Toastmasters Promotion Begins (Ends Mar 30)

5     Area Tall Tales and International Speech Contests Begin

28    Last Day to have Club Officers trained and receive credit toward 2009-2010 DCP Goal

March 2010

1-31  Hold Area and Division Council Meetings
      Area Tall Tales and International Speech Contests Continue
      Talk Up Toastmasters Promotion Continues (Ends Mar 30)

5     First Day to pay club dues renewals online (minimum 6)

13    District Executive Committee Meeting & District Staff Training
      District Leadership Open House for 2010-2011 Year
      Marketing Workshop
      Last day to submit Semi-Annual Club Dues
      ONLINE and receive credit towards 2009-2010 DCP Goal

April 2010

1-30  Hold Area and Division Council Meetings
      Division Tall Tales & International Speech Contests begin

24    Deadline for submitting Outstanding Officer Nominations for District Awards

30    Last day for Area Visits

IRS 990-N Filing Requirement for all US clubs

All US clubs must file IRS form 990-N for any given year no later than May 15 of the following year. Failure to file by the due date could cause the club to lose their nonprofit tax exempt status as a subordinate under Toastmasters International.

Information You Will Need To File the e-Postcard

The e-Postcard is easy to complete.

Before you begin, make sure you have gathered the following information about your club:

- Employer identification number (EIN), also known as a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN).
- Tax year – Choose calendar.
- Legal name and mailing address – Legal name is the club name and the mailing address is the address of the current club president.

Want to learn leadership?  
Last Chance Officer Training!  
Toastmasters Leadership Institute

February 20 - Baylor University – Cashion Center, 4th Floor  
425 Speight Avenue, Waco, Texas 76701 9:00am  
February 20 - Vernon College – Wichita Falls, Texas 8:30am  
February 21 - Courtyard Marriott  
6400 Overton Ridge Blvd., Fort Worth, Texas 76132  
February 24 – Stacy Furniture 1900 S. Main Street  
Grapevine, Texas 76051 at 3:00pm  
February 28 – Stacy Furniture 1900 S. Main Street  
Grapevine, Texas 76051 at 3:00pm  
February 28 - Texas Wesleyan University at 3:00pm  
Baker Building, 3021 E Rosedale, Fort Worth, Texas 76105

## 2010 Spring Contest Schedule by Area/Division
### Tall Tales and International Speech Contests

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PROPOSAL A: DISTRICT BOUNDARY CHANGE

Currently District 25 and District 50 are separated by I-35E as the dividing boundary. In the efforts to simplify the boundaries with both districts and better service all members, a proposed boundary change will be presented at the District Council meeting on May 15, 2010. This has been presented and approved to the District Executive Committees of both districts. If approved, this change will be ratified by the Board of Directors in August 2010 and will go into effect on July 1, 2011. The areas that will change are highlighted in green on the picture below and in red on the text below. Keep in mind this does NOT effect the 2010-2011 District alignment. Please contact any district officer with questions.

PROPOSED BOUNDARY CHANGE

District 50 - On the West from the Texas-Oklahoma boundary southerly along the Western boundary of Grayson and Collin counties, **all of Dallas County except the Coppell, Grand Prairie, and Irving**, the Western boundary of Ellis, Navarro, Limestone and Robertson counties.

District 25 - On the East from the Texas-Oklahoma boundary southerly along the Eastern boundary of Cooke and Denton counties, **the western side of I-35E to include Coppell, Grand Prairie, and Irving within Dallas County**, and the Eastern boundary of Johnson, Hill, McLennan and Falls counties.
Becoming an Area Governor
Susanne Nickerson, ACB, ALB, Area 52 Governor 2009/2010

Why become an Area Governor? For me it started out that I had been asked for the last few years, but said no thank you, not until my youngest daughter graduated from high school. Well she did and I was asked again. My excuse went out the door. Ok, I need it for my DTM. Once I made the commitment and found an area that I actually can serve in, I considered what I wanted as a club member and club officer from my area governor. I wanted my area governor to show support to my home club, celebrate our success and recognize us within the district. What does it take to do that? Install officers in July and February. Make it special. Officers really take their role seriously when you install them and charge them with the responsibility. Visit the clubs. Members really appreciate that you take the time to show up and participate. Have a back up speech so you can fill in when needed. When you lead by example, they will follow. Help with the club contest and promote area contest. That is where you can show off your clubs, because everyone participates. It is exiting to visit a club when a guest visits for the first time. It is even more exiting when you visit the club later on again and the guest turned into a member and starts working on the CC and CL. You see the light bulb come on; you see great potential around you. Is it work to be an Area Governor? Absolutely! Is it worth to be an Area Governor? 100% Percent! Thank you to Conservative, Denton, North Texas, Lakeside and Little Elm Toastmasters for a very successful year. Let’s finish up with a bang. Wahoo Area 52!

CHANGE IS COMING!

2010 - 2011 District Club Alignment

We want your feedback! Each year the district aligns the clubs into areas and divisions ad required by Toastmasters International. The first draft is now ready and available online. Please take a moment to share this with your clubs and provide any thoughts or ideas regarding the alignment. All feedback will be submitted to the alignment committee and reviewed again in March. The final version will be presented on March 13, 2010 to the District Executive Committee for ratification. The current and proposed alignment plus the narrative of the changes are all available online:

www.d25toastmasters.org/alignment
Welcome New Members to District 25 - January 2010

2010-2011 District 25 Leadership Open House March 13, 2010

Prepare to be S-T-R-E-T-C-H-E-D!

If you are interested in serving in District Leadership during the 2010-2011 Toastmaster year and working towards completing your Advanced Leader Silver, we invite you to attend the District Leadership Open House on Saturday March 13, 2010 from 12:00—1:00 PM.

Lunch will be provided. *(for those who RSVP by March 6, 2010)

Location: Texas Wesleyan University
Baker Building
3021 East Rosedale
Fort Worth, Texas 76105

For more information and to RSVP online visit
www.d25toastmasters.org/leadership
Or contact District Governor David McCallister, DTM at 817-988-3283 or davidmccallister@d25toastmasters.org

Afterburners: Parker Arndt, Xiaochun Mou
Afterburners: Peichang Shi
Airport Toastmasters: Elizabeth Sanooval
Alliance Texas: Stephanie Martin
Big T Toastmasters: Paulino Castillo
BNSF Toastmasters: Perry Anderson
Burnt Toast: Coby Brown
Burnt Toast: Michael Crabaugh
Burnt Toast: Jane Ratliff
Cleburne: Henry Teich
DFWA Toastmasters: Julie Hicks
Eye Can Toastmasters: Myoung Choi
Eye Can Toastmasters: Way-Yu Lin
FAA Toastmasters: Miguel Granados
Fighter Enterprise: Rebecca Stokes
First Command: Melissa Avalos
Flagship Speakers: STAN IGLEWSKI
House Speakers: ANTHONY BEAL
House Speakers: CLIFFORD MOSS
House Speakers: HIYAM QUTOB

Inner Voice Toastmasters: Shontha Ruffin-Gyant
Inner Voice Toastmasters: Tommie Washington
Keller Communicators: Donald Gillis
Keller Communicators: David Stewart
Lakeside: D. Stapp
LM AeroSpeakers: Joshua Lockett
Lonestar Toastmasters: ANDRE MILTER
Lonestar Toastmasters: RUFINO PRENSA-FELIZ
Longhorn Toastmasters: Dwayne Dalco
Mid-Cities Noonite: Steve Barnes
Mid-Cities Noonite: Hector Jalomo
Mid-Cities Noonite: Glenn Vecchio
Oration Plus: Greg Tuohy
Quick Silver Express: Alex Selvarathinam
Ryan Plaza: Jesse Torres
Speak With Success: Maury Gruben
TCU Toastmasters: Annie Jessica Wacheux
Toast of Texas: John Grabarczyk
T-Toasters: Jacqueline Pickens
Waco Wordsmiths: Jennifer Webb
Improving Your “Soft Skills” to Land the Job

Dean Lampman, Area 62 Governor 2009/2010 – President Public Health Speakers

Over the years of working with job seekers, I have realized something very important. While every employer seeks a different mix of abilities and experience from its employees, there is one common thing they all look for: **Soft skills**. These are the skills that are the “intangibles” that you use every day to accomplish tasks. Communication skills, leadership skills, and teamwork are some common skills that employers screen for when interviewing job applicants. To put it simply, improving your soft skills increases your chances of being hired and keeping your job. Here are some soft skills, and ways to improve them.

**Speaking.** Verbal communication is highly valued by all professional organizations. Unfortunately, many people lack strong speaking skills. The good news is that you can easily improve with just a little practice. A great way to improve your speaking skills is to volunteer to give group presentations. Start small (within your team), then graduate to larger presentations. Another great way to enhance your speaking and presenting skills is to join Toastmasters International, which is a non-profit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills. They are located worldwide, so you should have an easy time locating a local chapter.

**Leadership.** Good leaders are hard to find. Leaders need to be aware of more than just their role within a team, but how each member in the group contributes to a common goal and how to steer the group toward that goal. Any one can learn basic leadership skills, and some people may even grow to become great leaders, while others simply exhibit these leadership qualities. All it takes is exposure to leadership principles, the desire to lead, opportunity, and practice. To improve your leadership skills, begin with reading a few books or online articles about leadership. You can also consider taking a course at a local community college or as part of an MBA program. Once you have some leadership principles ingrained, you need to practice, practice, practice. Observe leaders in your workplace, volunteer to lead small groups and team efforts, and take on additional duties if necessary. Finally, do not confuse leadership with authority. You do not have to hold a leadership position within your organization to be a leader.

The soft skills listed above are some of the most frequently asked about during interviews. However, there are many more soft skills out there and it benefits you to recognize what they are and how to improve them. You can further break down soft skills into Personal Qualities and Interpersonal Skills: Personal Qualities are those which are inherent to the way you act on a day to day basis. These include personal responsibility, self-esteem, self-management, integrity, honesty, self-motivation, self-discipline, decision making, and more. Interpersonal Skills deal with your interactions with others. Some of these include: teaching and instructing, serving client and customer needs, negotiation, persuasion, cultural awareness, conflict resolution, etiquette, and more. Think about how you perform in the workplace. Your value to your employer is often driven not only by the degrees and certifications you hold, but how well you work and interact with others. Sharpen your soft skills. Improve your professional prospects.

To read the full article visit: [http://www.iostmyjob.com/improving-soft-skills-land-job.html](http://www.iostmyjob.com/improving-soft-skills-land-job.html)
Is yours a 5-Star Club?

Five Star Club Membership Requirements:

- Dues renewal on time by October 10
- Add 4 new members
- Add 4 more new members
- Dues renewal on time by April 10
- Club has 20 members or net growth of 5 by June 30

Privileges Include:

- Exclusive ribbon for club banner
- Honorable mention in District Newsletter
- Publication in Spring Conference Program*
- Announcement on District Website Hall of Fame
- Special recognition at Spring Conference Awards Lunch*

Details: Clubs must submit dues on time during both renewal periods. Dues must be submitted no later than October 10, 2009 and April 10, 2010 to receive on-time credit. On June 30, 2010, clubs must have 20 paid members or a net growth of 5 members if the base membership was below 20 as reported on July 1, 2009. Clubs must add 4 members, which are defined as new, dual, or reinstated members, and an additional 4 members between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010. Results will be tracked from reports provided by Toastmasters International. Clubs have until June 30, 2010 to complete all five requirements.

* Clubs that complete all 5 by April 30, 2010 will be recognized at the Spring Conference Awards Lunch and in the Program.

IMPACT YOUR CLUB

Marketing Workshop

Learn how to attract, recruit, and retain members for your club. Also leave with valuable materials, handouts, and resources to help build and sustain your club membership.

Saturday March 13, 2010 1:00-2:00 PM
Texas Wesleyan University
Baker Building
3021 East Rosedale, Ft. Worth, TX  76105

Open to all members - Seating is Limited!
Attendees are asked to pre-register.
For more information or to register online, visit www.d25toastmasters.org/marketing/workshop
"The Good, the Bad and the Toasted"
Successful Speakers End of Year Event 2009/2010

As we roll into 2010, I thought I'd look back to 2009 and share a few words with my fellow District 25 Toastmasters about a very special end-of-year event that our Toastmasters Club (Successful Speakers at Abbott Labs in Irving), held on Dec 10th, 2009. We dubbed it, ‘The Good, The Bad, and the Toasted.” And as the name implies, this special meeting was a tribute to the wild West. The special meeting room was transformed into a Western scene with the walls covered by scenes of cactus and rocky outcroppings, the doors were transformed into the classic swinging doors of a saloon, and the red tablecloths transformed the meeting tables into a western buffet.

Twenty-one members attended, and twelve guests were in attendance, including our Division B Governor, Christine Hudson. Guests were greeted at the door and given a colorful bandana to wear so that teams could be formed for the skits which were performed later. After engaging in a creative and energy-filled ice-breaker activity we called the ‘Branding and Round-Up’, which had us all trying to guess which famous western character’s name was taped onto our backs, we lined up for the delicious ‘Red Hot and Blue’ barbeque and settled in for ‘Chow Time at the Chuck Wagon’. Bob Stoick, the club President and ‘Sheriff’, gave an update on the club’s ‘Great Texas Expedition.’ This is the club’s theme for 2009-2010, and this journey across the great state of Texas during the late 1800’s is being used as the backdrop for tracking the clubs goals and achievements, a.k.a., it is the DCP program with a Texas flair.

Having formed teams based on the color of our bandanas, we moved on to the main event: ‘Campfire Tales’, where each team was given a short skit to act out with only 5 minutes to prepare. Examples of skits included: The Devlin Gang trying to get the location of a gold strike out of Loose-Lip Lefty; A jail break from a small town prison; Learning how cowboys entertained themselves during those long nights on cattle drives; Reuniting 2 long-lost sisters – one is a cowboy and one is an Indian. Colorful and creative props were used to augment the stories including an oversized fish, a toy shot-
After recognizing several club members for their excellence in attendance, their outstanding work done as officers and mentors, and for their support of Area and District activities, we said farewell to a club member who was leaving Dallas for his new home in San Diego. And finally, we closed the meeting in a unique and fitting manner: by joining in a rousing chorus of ‘Happy Trails’. As the melody gently lingered on in the background, members and guests mingled and enjoyed some much deserved down time after a year of unprecedented accomplishments as a Select Distinguished Club.

Aside from being an enjoyable and unique club meeting, this event provided for numerous speaking opportunities and for leadership development. As the main speaker, I was able to earn credit for completing a manual speech in the CC manual. And as author of this article, I also completed a project in the CL manual. The co-chairpersons of the event, Anita Zvaigzne and Letha Smith, who did a superb job, completed leadership projects in the CL manual. In addition, the planning committee members also contributed to the success of the event and they also completed projects in the CL manual. The event generated considerable, positive attention within Abbott Diagnostics and attracted a large number of guests. In fact, we’ve already had one of those guests join the club during February. We had several photographers at this event, and the pictures were posted on Abbott’s website.

We are looking forward to a great 2010, and club’s goal is to be Presidents Distinguished. With the generous efforts of our creative and dedicated club members, I’m sure that we’ll have many more great meetings and special events. The meeting minutes for ‘The Good, The Bad, and the Toasted’ were brilliantly captured by our dedicated club Secretary, Iris Thompson, and can be accessed at the following link: http://ssc.freetoasthost.biz/images/ToastmastersMeetingMinutes12-10-09.pdf. I’d like to thank Abbott Labs for generously providing the appetizing barbeque, and for providing the outstanding facilities for this event.

*Article submitted by President, Successful Speakers Club - Bob Stoick*