

# VOICES

David Hostler, DTM • District Governor 2003 – 2004

## Spring Conference Speaker Lineup Moving Along

The 2004 Spring Conference will provide a variety of educational and entertainment opportunities for attendees.

### Just for Laughs

Darren LaCroix, 2001 World Champion of Public Speaking and comedian, was considered “least likely to ever be funny” during high school.

His championship speech was about his struggle to become a comedian when no one thought it possible — including himself. Though you will learn from him Saturday morning, take time Friday night to sit



Farmer Earl and Bessie are ready for the Spring 2004 Conference to be held May 21 and 22 at the La Quinta Conference Center in Arlington.

back and enjoy Darren’s “clean comedy” and a special bit about being a Toastmaster you’ll never forget!

### Opening Keynote

Darren LaCroix will also present Saturday morning’s keynote speech, *OUCH! How I went from Chump to Champ*, which will forever change the way you give presentations.

In 2001, Darren LaCroix outspoke 25,000 contestants from 14 countries to win his title of World Champion.

Since that victory, Darren has

traveled the world demystifying the process of creating a powerful speech. He has roused audiences in faraway places such as Oman, Malaysia, and Taiwan with his inspirational journey from first-rate chump to first-class champ, proving anything is possible if you are willing to work for it. His successful book, *Laugh & Get Rich: How to Profit from Humor in Any Business*, contains interviews with corporate executives who share his philosophy.

As co-founder of The Humor

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### District 25 Public Relations Team

#### Public Relations Officer

Earl Hill, DTM

#### Newsletter Co-Editors

Sharon Hawkins, CTM

Theresa Lubelski, CTM/CL

#### Webmaster

Chris Twichell, DTM

#### Database Chair

Jerry Kness, TM

# A World of Dreams in the Making

## Countdown to the Spring 2004 Conference Begins

There are four weeks until Spring Conference. What began as a monthly, then semi-monthly meeting back in February has evolved to once a week.

The "Strategy Room" at the La Quinta Conference Center is home to the Spring 2004 Conference Committee. Papers strewn about on tables and looks of concentration indicate a level of seriousness reminiscent of a space shuttle launch's Project Central.

Ideas buzz back and forth at a dizzying pace. Someone makes a mildly raucous comment and laughter ensues.

Another meeting of the 2004 Spring Conference Committee begins with a blend of task-oriented agendas and a humorous approach to group dynamics.

Donna Fossmeier is not new to the task of putting on a conference. She's been on several committees, as a matter of fact, but this one is special, as she is chairing this one, which requires her manage the huge project of making a district-wide event a reality.

When asked how she happened to chair this particular committee, it turns out that she was simply in the right place at the right time. "Well, Lee Alviar asked me to do it, so here I am," admitted Donna.

"Right now, it's all fun," Donna said. "The closer it gets to the conference, the more we are ready for it to be here!"

One of the more fun as-

pects of the job seems to be the brainstorming sessions.

"It's great to sit in a room and let the committee throw ideas on the table," Donna said.

The committee members seem to feed off one another's energy.

"It's a beautiful thing to see an idea, a project, come to life," Lee Alviar, Lt. Governor of Education and Training and conference committee member, said. "Once one person gets excited and shares an idea, you can hear everyone's imagination run wild. Suggestions fly out, another member picks up the ball and just runs with it. Take a room of excited Toastmasters, let their ideas run amuck, pull them back a little bit and remind them of protocol, and you know it's going to be an event to remember."

It's not all fun and games getting a conference up and running, though. Planning starts from the moment the previous conference ends.

One of the first tasks is selecting a location. The committee meets with various hotels to discover their pricing and what amenities are available.

The meeting room and amenity cost determines the registration price.

Then there is the overall theme of the conference to determine and somehow tie into the District Governor's theme.

Donna said that she and Lee Alviar had an initial brainstorming session, then she met with the full com-

mittee.

In trying to tie into David Hostler's theme for 2003-2004 of "Catch the Dream," the committee came up with "World of Dreams," as most people can relate to dreaming of visiting the various places highlighted in this year's "cruise."

This type of brainstorming activity might seem as though it could go in many directions all at once, but the Conference Committee has done a nice job of paring it down to the essential elements and staying on track.

According to Donna, the best part of her job as Conference Chair is working with such a great group of people.

"It has afforded me the opportunity to get acquainted with more members within District 25, both on the Conference Committee, as well as members attending Area and Division

contests," Donna said.

In planning a high profile event such as a conference, it takes cooperation and teamwork from the entire committee working as a functional unit. That's not to imply that everything clicks along as though on well oiled tracks, however.

"We have had to replace a few Event Chairs, but I realize LIFE happens," Lee admitted.

"With the job market being what it is, marriages, illness, etc., you have to be flexible. It is important that each Event Chair have a committee they are working with to carry out their plans. We have a great support system and try and get them as many volunteers as it takes to make their vision a success."

The Conference Committee industriously plans every minute of a conference, from the opening of the

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2004 Spring Conference Committee — Back row: Sarfaraz Nazir, DTM, Danny Bunton, CTM, Sharae Edwards, ATMS/CL, Lois Jenkins, DTM, Desorrow Golden, ATM-B/CL, Donna Fossmeier, ATM-B/CL, and Earl Hill, DTM. Seated: Lee Alviar, DTM, Maureen McDonald, DTM, David Hostler, DTM, Calvin Edwards, TM.

## World of Dreams in the Making (Cont'd)

doors on Friday night to the last farewell of Saturday.

The Committee needs to know at all times how much ahead or behind schedule various sessions are. Plans are in place now to speed up or slow down the process as needed to have programs ending on time so the next program can begin on time.

Rearranging duties and responsibilities or mapping out the minute by minute is not such a monumental task, though, and according to some committee members, they haven't hit the difficult part yet.

"Planning a conference seems intimidating at first — a giant undertaking; however, each piece seems to come together like a giant jigsaw puzzle one piece at a time," said Earl Hill. "Things get scary usually the last week or two running up to the Conference. Things

seem to fall apart, but they always work themselves out in the end. We all try to help one another makes things click so that when the final minute by minute is submitted, everyone know where they are supposed to be and when."

As many who attended the various Area and Division contests and even TLIs can attest, the Committee has gotten the word out to the District 25 membership in a unique way. Farmer Earl and his friend Bessie have taken a personal interest in letting everyone know about the conference.

How in the world does a down-to-earth person such as Farmer Earl find himself connected to a world class cruise?

According to Lee, the committee dreamed him up at one of their initial meetings. While discussing the World of Dreams and the cruise,

someone asked how they could make this stand out to the membership to generate some excitement.

"A cruise is not something everyone does," Donna said. "How many of us have gone to Acapulco, Italy, or New York? Then we thought, 'How funny would it be for someone who lives out in the country to take this cruise?'"

Earl Hill, the District Public Relations Officer and Conference Marketing Chair, thought he could speak to various gatherings as Farmer Earl with his cow, Bessie, who Lee Alviar's son, Andrew, won at Six Flags last summer.

"Farmer Earl has promoted this conference, the benefits of attending the conference, and the ease with which payments can be made with such poise that you'd never know he was from the sticks," Lee said.

"We are five weeks away from Spring Conference, yet we have more people registered early this year than at prior conferences."

The Farmer Earl skit seems to have been an effective marketing tool for the District. Add to the publicity angle the easy online credit card registration process, and it is no wonder registration is breaking records.

People seem to remember Farmer Earl. While Farmer Earl was being introduced to promote the conference at Division E Saturday, May 17th, one member nudged his neighbor and said, "Oh you're going to love this! This is funny!"

Though the information has been delivered in a humorous way, it hits the mark.

Who wouldn't remember the conference to be held on "May twenty-oneth and twenty-tooth" after they've heard Farmer Earl?

### Stay In Town

Rather than drive from one end of the District to the other during the 2004 Spring Conference, stay at the La Quinta Inn in Arlington and be right in the middle of events.

This year's Spring Conference will be so fantastic you won't want to miss one moment of the fun, the excitement, and the festivities.

Register before April 30th to take advantage of the special Toastmasters discounted rate of **\$72** per night. (Be sure to mention that you are with Toastmasters.)

## New Avenues for Getting the Word Out

The annual Entrepreneur Expo was held recently, and two of District 25's clubs, Arlington Toastmasters and Mid Cities Nooners, attended with their own booth.

Members manned a non-profit booth that displayed Toastmasters info.

According to Ann McBride, CTM, VP Ed for Arlington Toastmasters, there was a tremendous response to the District's booth.

Visitors mentioned that they had heard of Toastmasters or that they used to belong to a club and would like to find one nearby.

Ann directed them to the

Find A Club link on the International website for a club near their home or work.

Another good bit of news: One visitor's company requires their new employees to finish the CTM level.

Plus, the company is willing to pay employees' application fees and dues for one year!

This particular company realizes that Toastmasters not only gives its employees great speaking skills, but also leadership skills.

Ann has big plans for next year — she intends to have door prizes and different types of literature to attract even more people to the

Toastmasters experience.

The Expo draws in approximately 2,000 – 3,000 visitors from Ft. Worth, Waco, East Texas and many small towns in surrounding communities.

There are approximately 300 vendors with booths that participate.

This is a great opportunity for all of our clubs to get on board next year.

For more information, contact Ann McBride via email at [ma.mcbride@comcast.net](mailto:ma.mcbride@comcast.net) or by phone at

- 817-274-2479 (W)
- 817-917-3654 (M)
- 817-274-6221 (H)

## Spring Conference (Cont'd)

Institute and a co-creator of The Humor Boot Camp, Darren directs seminars that help presenters wisely use the power of humor to “lighten up” their presentations.

An award-winning producer, his film *Living and Laughing with Cancer: A Comedian's Journey* was honored at the Worldfest Houston film festival for its groundbreaking insights into humor and healing.

Think you can't be a great speaker? You will be inspired by watching the championship speech and Darren's first performance — proof that presenting is a learned skill.

### Leadership & Motivation Track



Nancy Starr, Candidate, International Director, Region III, will present *Rebuilding a Club — When Leadership Counts Most*.

All clubs experience growth cycles. When membership dips, clubs tend to lose energy and focus. Learn how you can make a difference through the new Club Coach program. Take home several ideas for helping your club regain focus, energy, and most importantly, new members.

Nancy Starr has been a member of Papago Toastmasters since 1988. Hav-

ing served as the District 3 Governor in 1997-1998, she knows the power of a team working together to accomplish a goal that benefits all members. Nancy is employed as a Senior Training Analyst at Salt River Project, a public utility in Tempe, Arizona.

### Communication Skills Track



Ola Joseph, author, speaker, and coach will provide two communication presentations: One will encompass strategies for personal and professional development in *Soaring On the Wings of Courage*, while the other will provide *Golden Nuggets of Platform Power* to empower your public speaking ability.

Your “Inborn Stubborn Vision” knows you best. While external pressures and expectations can create more uncertainty, your “Inner Stubborn Vision,” when you trust it, will guide you toward your best interest.

It gives you the courage to go after what you are meant to achieve, it empowers you to take risks, and it creatively inspires you to persevere.

Ola Joseph has presented at the Toastmasters International Annual convention

and recently presented the closing keynote at the District 60 Conference.

Ola, a United States Navy Veteran, was the 2001 National Speakers Association (Houston Chapter) Member of the Year. His persuasive presentations have raised over \$3 million for the Star of Hope Mission.

He is the author of *Soaring on the Wings of Courage* and *Voices of Courage*.

To succeed in today's business and professional environments, you must learn how to speak effectively before groups.

*Communicating with Different Learning Styles / Personalities*



Michael Goforth, DTM, District 50 Chief Judge will empower you to reach every member of your audience, no matter their various learning style or personality. Who is in your audience? How can you put your point across?

You can get the answers to these questions and more if you attend this workshop with Michael Goforth, DTM. Michael is the District 50 Chief Judge and the President of Park Central Toastmasters. He took 2nd place in the 2002 District 50 International Speech contest, and he took 3rd place in 2003.

He is employed with National Seminars, a Kansas City seminar company, as a facilitator and has traveled to all 50 states as well as internationally.

His workshop will identify the four personality groups, keys to communication, and pitfalls to avoid.

### General Session



Lark Doley, First Year International Director, Region III, will tell us how to turn dreams into reality in *Your Dreams Are Your Possibilities*. What are your personal dreams? What are your Toastmasters dreams?

What are your dreams for your club, your area, your division, your district, for our international organization?

These dreams become our possibilities when we take action. What actions will you take this year to achieve your personal and professional dreams?

How will you help your club, area, division, and district turn dreams into reality? How is our international organization taking action to turn dreams into reality?

Toastmasters International President Ted Corcoran wants us to dream, then to act on those dreams to make them come true. Lark has been a member of Toastmasters since September 1990.

## State of the District

# Kudos All the Way Around

This Toastmaster year ends June 30, 2004. It will be here sooner than you think.

Many Areas and Clubs are Distinguished already and are shooting for more.

This is a very exciting time for me. People are making their wildest Dreams from July, 2003 a reality. As a District, we in D25 have made our CTM and ATM goals.

We are still working on our club and membership goals, but with your help, we will make it. The Dream Team campaigns are of the highest importance to us.

### Dream Team Campaign

District 25 has responded incredibly to the Dream Team campaigns. It seems as though every day I hear of another club that will be receiving pins, a banner ribbon, and other goodies — just for getting more members.

Talk about your WIN-WIN-WIN situations! These clubs are improving their club environments, reaching out to help new people and, in general, making the world a better place.

Awesome!

Congratulations to all. You can still get involved and help your club, help Toastmasters International President Ted Corcoran, DTM, achieve his goal of 200,000 total members in Toastmasters, and truly help make communication a world-wide reality.

**TIP:** Check with recent visitors and former members. Ask them to become part of your exciting club again.

### D25 Dream Team

I appreciate everything everyone is doing this year. It looks like we are hitting our peak at the perfect time. The District Senior Staff has been working for your improved Toastmaster experience unceasingly all year.

I do not know how many people know what the Senior Staff does, so let me brag on them.

Heartfelt thanks to:

**Lee Alviar**, DTM, Lt. Governor Education and Training for excellent training sessions at TLI and Area Governor training and a great job in already bringing in the educational goals.

**David Himmelstein**, DTM, Lt. Governor Marketing — this is the most difficult job in Toastmasters. The Marketing process is something entirely different from what most people learn along the path. David has really gotten his hands around the position, and I know he will guide us to success.

**Earl Hill**, DTM (4), Public Relations Officer and his awesome team have provided the most top notch newsletters and, additionally, specialized support services on demand.

**Lillian Puppas**, CL, Secretary, has been my sounding board and support in addition to some demanding

technical services.

**Rebecca Harvey**, new DTM, Treasurer, has been a wonderful steward of D25's money. If we have the money, and it is for the benefit of the members, she will let me spend it. If I am off-base or there is a better way, she tells me so. Maureen McDonald, DTM, Sergeant-at-Arms, keeps us focused on the District Mis-

sion and takes wonderful care of the equipment.

Also:

Thanks to **all the Division Governors.**

Division Governors oversee the Area Governors as they support the clubs.

Thanks, **Area Governors.** Area Governors provide support and encouragement for the Club Officers. They are the front line officers and work very hard in disseminating tips and information about district contests and events.

Thanks, **Club Officers.**

Thanks, **members.** If you are being empowered to achieve, the rest of us are very gratified.

I appreciate each of you.

Be sure to send in your paperwork early to avoid disappointments.

Let's finish strong.

**PS:** Important business will be conducted at the District 25 business meeting, 3:30

PM May 22, 2004, at the La Quinta Conference Center in Arlington.

All Club Presidents and VPs-Education have a vote. We need you to be there so we can get a quorum and do business.

Be sure to check in at the credentials desk early — in the morning, if possible, but well before 3 PM, regardless. If you are there, you won't need a proxy. If you can't make it, be sure to get a District Proxy form and sign it over to a club member who is attending.

Remember, there is no charge for just attending the business meeting.

## Spring Conference Registration

You can still make the early registration rate of \$80 for the conference.

You can either download and mail in your registration (post marked by April 30th), or you can register online.

Use the Conference Registration Wizard by clicking on the Register Online rolling option from the Announcement Scroll on the districts Home Page at:

[www.d25toastmasters.org](http://www.d25toastmasters.org).

Just follow the online prompts, enter the requested information, and send in your registration.

You don't want to miss out on a World of Dreams!



# From the Candidates

## District Governor 2004-2005

### Lee Alviar

I have been a member of Toastmasters International since March 1999. I have held many club officer positions, including two terms as President. As Club President, my Club achieved Select Distinguished Club. My leadership skills were recognized when District 25 Governor Robert Richardson selected me as Area 35 Governor. During my tenure, Area 35 achieved Distinguished Area. I was fortunate to be elected the following year as Division C Governor. Under my leadership, our team achieved President Select Distinguished Division.

My leadership skills were rewarded in May 2002 when the members of District 25 elected me as Lieutenant Governor Marketing. As Lieutenant Governor Marketing, I was responsible for membership and growth of our District.

My team established 13 new Clubs. I initiated several new programs, focusing on member retention and rescue, which proved to

be extremely successful. For these efforts I received the 2003 Excellence in Marketing Award from Toastmasters International.

My journey towards District Governor continued May 2003 when the members of District 25 elected me Lieutenant Governor Education and Training. In the current capacity as LGET, I have responsibility for two of the Critical Success Factors – CTMs and ATMs. As of this writing, the District is ahead of expectations in achieving these goals. We are confident that these goals will be achieved in April 2004.

These District level positions have taught me the importance of leading by example. I have completed the communication track, the leadership track, and have achieved Distinguished Toastmaster. I have sponsored and mentored members, charted, sponsored, and mentored clubs. I have learned to set goals and manage time efficiently. I have also learned methods that work to motivate others to set and accomplish goals.

I measure my success in these positions by the accomplishments of those that I have helped, led, and mentored.

My Toastmasters experience has also enabled me to step into leadership roles in other organizations, such as the Hispanic Affairs Advisory Council as well as the Woman's Affairs Advisory Council.

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### Lolita Winters

Success Through Connection – Lolita Winters' intentions for seeking the office of District 25 Governor are an extension of the core values of Toastmasters International – integrity, dedication to excellence, service to the member, and respect for the individual.

Integrity reminds us to be open and honest in our communication with each other. Dedication to Excellence reminds us to perform to the best of our abilities. Service to the member reminds us that as District Leaders it is our responsibility to support our fellow Toastmasters as they reach for their goals. Respect for the Individual reminds us that despite our differences of opinion, personalities, and leadership styles, we should always respect one another, not only as Toastmasters, but also as individuals.

Lolita Winters will incorporate these core values as she serves as District 25 Governor. These values are imbedded in who she is, what she can do, and why she should be elected.

Who is Lolita Winters? Lolita Winters is an educated professional, Gulf War Veteran, and known by many as a Morale Engineer. An active Toastmaster for over three years, she is a Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) who meets the requirements set forth by Toastmasters International to hold the office of District 25 Governor.

What Can Lolita Winters Do

For District 25 Toastmasters? As District 25 Governor, Lolita Winters will generate purpose and meaning for the members of District 25 by providing a vision and a strategic plan for District 25 success. Her Vision is for District 25 Toastmasters to connect members with information, materials, programs, and opportunities that expand communication and leadership skills, personal and professional development, and intellectual awareness. Thus, enhancing the intellectual, recreational, and professional life of its members.

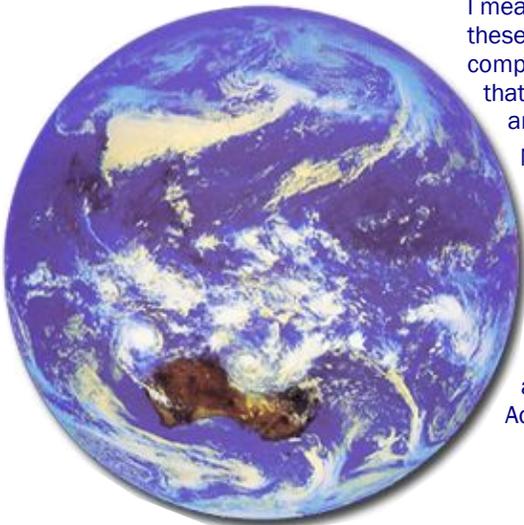
The strategic plan will be developed by the District 25 Leadership Team to support the vision and mission of Toastmasters International.

Why Vote for Lolita Winters? There are three main reasons why a vote should be cast for Lolita Winters.

1. Lolita is a naturally charismatic individual who has the personality and exceptional understanding of people to be a District 25 Governor.
2. Lolita does not allow fear to close her mind to new ideas and concepts.
3. Lolita has a very unique leadership style. She is consistent, yet flexible; trusting and compassionate, yet straightforward and firm; and an innovator and risk-taker, yet patient and calculating.

Lolita Winters' proposed theme of Success Through Connection is a reflection of what she hopes to accomplish as the District 25 Governor. As Toastmasters, we

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## BNSF Hooks Up Awards, Honors

It's been a busy nine months for BNSF Toastmasters Club (#2975), which has been honored to have various members address groups outside of Toastmasters, as well as win various awards and honors while only recently celebrating its fifth anniversary.

BNSF Toastmasters celebrated with a party on the BNSF Campus in North Ft. Worth. David Heywood, ATM-G/CL, emceed the event and spoke on the history and success of the Club.

President Steve Collier, CTM/CL, read the names of all members who earned their CTM or ATM levels.

Bryan Frazier, CTM, presented a short, entertaining speech, and Area Governor Betty Miller, CTM/CL, extended special recognition to members who have helped her this past year.

The club also recognized charter members and past-presidents. About 30 members, former members, and guests enjoyed the short program and pizza.

Just a short listing of the various awards these club members have achieved is impressive. Steve Collier won the 2001 District 25 Humorous Speech Contest. Betty Miller was selected District 25 Outstanding Club President at the 2002 Spring Conference.

Teresa Hill Granone was chosen Outstanding Club VP Public Relations at the 2003 District 25 Fall Conference. David Heywood served as Area 13 Governor 2001-2002, and Betty Miller is the current Area 13 Governor. The club also

displayed trophies, awards, and certificates other members earned. All together, BNSF Toastmasters have earned 23 CTMs and three ATMs.

Additionally, the Club banner is loaded with ribbons for awards and accomplishments. District 25 awards include two Kaizen awards. International has recognized the club with a Smedley Award, a Founders Award, and a Club Membership Award.

BNSF has been at least Distinguished in each of its first five years. It was Distinguished in 1999 and 2001, Select Distinguished in 2000, and President's Dis-

tinguished in 2002 and 2003. Club members indicate that they are committed to continuing the tradition.

Continuing in the BNSF Toastmaster practice of excellence, Bruce Butler, CTM, received the *Minority Achiever's Award* from the McDonald Branch of the Ft. Worth YMCA.

This honor recognizes Butler's outstanding accomplishments in his professional career, as well as his commitment and concern for the betterment of mankind.

Bruce, a CPA, works in the Tax Department at BNSF. He is a youth minister at

Saint Emmanuel Baptist Church in Denton, and a long-time volunteer and board treasurer of the Union Gospel Mission (UGM) in Dallas.

He is serving as the treasurer for the company's Lone Star Employee Club and has served a term as treasurer of BNSF Toastmasters. Butler is also the Chairperson of Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway's African-American Affinity Group (AANG).

On February 12, 2004, AANG hosted its annual Black History Month Celebration.

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Bruce Butler, CTM (left), is greeted by Congressman J.C. Watts during the annual AANG Black History Month Celebration this past February.

# Candidates (Cont'd)

## Lieutenant Governor of Education & Training 2004-2005

### David Himmelstein

I, David Himmelstein, DTM, am seeking the office of District 25 Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training for 2004-2005. I am asking for your vote and your support. I began my Toastmasters adventure in 1993. Several years ago an idea seized my imagination — the more I help other people, the more I help myself. This idea gave me the courage to leave the safe harbor of my club and seek out District Leadership opportunities.

In the past three years I have served as an Area Governor, a Division Gover-

nor, and am currently serving as District 25 Lieutenant Governor of Marketing. The opportunity to grow by serving others leads me to seek the office of Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training.

As your Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training, I and the Education Team, will focus on **helping every club become a healthy, strong, and thriving club**. Strong clubs effectively meet the needs of their members. Strong clubs know how to pass on their secrets of success.

Strong clubs know how to transform new members into enthusiastic and capable Toastmasters, thus ensuring the long-term suc-

cess of the member, the club, and Toastmasters International.

The Education Team will help the members of District 25 achieve success and personal growth by

- (1) providing an effective, success-oriented curriculum at both our TLI events and at our District Conferences.
- (2) Listening to members to improve the quality of our programs.
- (3) Listening to members to discover ways to help strengthen our clubs.
- (4) Honoring members who earn educational awards (CTM, ATM, etc.) as an example to all.

District 25's greatest assets

are its members — you and I. From Wichita Falls to Waco and Killeen, we are blessed with an abundance of talented, generous, and caring people who seek to excel and who willingly work to help their fellow Toastmasters.

We have an opportunity to make this District even better. We will translate talk into action and strive to help **every** member of District 25 achieve success and personal growth with a personal touch.

To help District 25 kick it up **one more notch** please vote for David Himmelstein, DTM for District 25 Lieutenant Governor of Education and Training 2004-2005. Thank you for your consideration.

## Lieutenant Governor of Marketing 2004-2005

### Earl Hill

I joined Toastmasters in the fall of 1993. Like many new Toastmasters, I suffered from the fear of public speaking and had little confidence and even less ability as a speaker or leader.

I believe in this international organization, however, because I'm living proof that great things can be accomplished with the right attitude, great support, and the training and education Toastmasters provides.

So far, I have served at the district level in the following areas the past several years:

- District Public Relations Officer
- District 25 Treasurer

- Division Governor (twice)
- Area Governor
- Member of the District Marketing Team
- Member of the District Conference Committee
- Club President (four times)

I have earned the experience to achieve District 25's Marketing goals. Furthermore, I have made the essential contacts that will ensure our District's success.

These service goals were not achieved by someone who just "let things happen." My accomplishments were attained because I had the drive, ambition, focus, tenacity, and determination to set and attain

### Priscilla Hollis

The value within District 25 is only as strong as its **Membership** and **Leadership**.

As your next Lt. Governor of Marketing, I want to positively impact our District to achieve another stellar year in **membership** and educational goals!

We've already comprised a team with a game plan in motion to support and promote a standard of excellence in fostering strong clubs, building new clubs, and encouraging maximum personal and professional growth in each member through strategic marketing and planning.

Yes! It matters!

What you:

Say	Feel
Do	Create
Think	Imagine

How you:

Love	Serve
Give	Play
Receive	Communicate

That you:

Care	Laugh
Live	Risk
Rest	Appreciate

My number one goal is to work with fellow officers and members to destine District 25 to achieve President's Distinguished. My strategic plan for the road leading to **championship** is to purpose Toastmasters critical success factors and avail extraordinary training

# Candidates (Cont'd)

## Division A Governor

### Kathy Hopkins, ATM-S/CL

I have been a member of Toastmasters since 1997. I have held several club officer positions including VP of Education, Treasurer, and Secretary.

During my tenures, I radically improved the processes of the positions and of the club. Every process and form that I created is in use today by the club.

My leadership skills have been noted with the nomination of Most Outstanding Area VP of Ed and the award of Most Outstanding Area Treasurer twice. I have also lead a successful half year as Area 15 Governor, including being the first Area to have 100% officers trained last session, completing all Area visits, and hosting a successful Area Contest with 100% participation by all of my Area clubs. On a Club level, I enjoy a reputation of high energy, consistent leadership, and dependability. I have brought many new members to Toastmasters, including the current Presi-

dent of District 50's Dallas Singles Toastmaster Club.

I am qualified to hold the position of Division A Governor because of my years of experience in Toastmasters, my proven leadership, my willingness to serve as an officer of my Club for every term since the third week of my membership, and organizational skills and my demonstrated dedication to my Club, Area, and District.

Therefore, I, Kathy Hopkins, ATM, having met all the requirements specified by TI and District 25 respectfully submit my name for consideration as District 25 Division A Governor for the 2004-2005 Toastmaster year.

### Miranda Butler-Swanger, CTM/CL

As an active club member since 2001, I have been heavily involved in Toastmasters, both at the club and area levels.

As a member of Longhorn Toastmasters, club #3178, I served as Secretary, VP of Ed, and President. During this time, I was involved in numerous club and area contests. As Area Governor, I have worked hard to assist clubs in the implementation of a Distinguished Club Plan. In fact, many of the Area 34 clubs are in the process of achieving President's Distinguished or Select

## Division E Governor

### Sharae Edwards, ATM-S/CL

I have been a member of Toastmasters since October of 2000. I have held the offices of VP of Membership and President.

I am currently serving as the Area 53 Governor in Division E and have received the following awards: Outstanding VP of Membership Division B Jan - June 2002 and June - Dec 2002; Outstanding VP Membership Area 25 Jan - June 2002; District 25 Outstanding Club Vice President of Membership Jul - Dec 2002; Area 53 Outstanding VP of Membership Jan - June 2003; and Division E Outstanding VP

Membership Jan - June 2003.

In the Spring 2003, I served as the Contest Chair for Area 25. From July 2002 - June 2003, I served as the Assistant for Marketing in Division B, working closely with the Division Governor. I have served as a Mentor for two clubs.

Over the past couple of years, I have spent a large amount of time working with various groups in Toastmasters. In my observation the most important organizational asset in Toastmasters is the club membership.

To be successful as a Division Governor, you have to

**Continued on Page 11**

## Division C Governor

Distinguished Club by June. I also served as a mentor to the newly chartered Crestmasters Club #610029.

Toastmasters has given me the opportunity to serve the community better. In 2002, I used what I have learned by serving as a judge at a local high school for a business professionals competition.

I currently serve as a docent at the Amon Carter Museum in Ft. Worth in its Art Cart Educational Program. I'd like to continue to use the skills I have to help the Area Governors of Division C work to build stronger, healthier clubs. All of this experience has taught me the importance of communication in establishing goals, developing

timelines, and delegating responsibilities. But it has also taught me about hard work, volunteering, and taking pride in a job well done.

I joined Toastmasters with no ultimate goal in mind, except to learn to speak with clarity, passion. Though I have enjoyed learning to be a better speaker, it has been the opportunity to serve others that keeps me active.

I enjoy helping people realize the valuable resource that this organization is, and I take great pride in seeing people feel better because of what Toastmasters gives them.



# Spring Conference (Cont'd)

**Continued on Page 10**

She joined Toastmasters immediately after attending the 1990 Toastmasters International Convention in Dallas, where she saw David Brooks from her home town of Austin, Texas, win the World Championship of Public Speaking.

Lark Doley, DTM, served as the first District 55 Governor in 1997-98 and then volunteered to complete the District 55 Governor term of 2000-01.

**Personal Growth Track**



Dr. Jeff Johnson, DTM, Past District 25 Governor, and Chief Judge, will present *How to Get a Job and become Unfireable*.

We all face challenges in life. Getting a job in today's economy can prove to be a tremendous challenge for many. For those that are employed, the threat of downsizing looming over us can make life miserable. Jeff Johnson, PhD will provide the much needed tools to overcome both obstacles.

He will show us how to go out and get a job today! He shares his proven methods to become unfireable.

Dr. Johnson will also share (for the desperate few) how to get fired! Known for his humor and real world approach Dr. Johnson brings the tools of Toastmasters into the workplace and gives us all a much needed sense of stability.

Jeff is a Distinguished Toastmaster and has been a member of Toastmasters International since 1989. He has held every Club, Area, and Division office. Jeff was District Governor for the year 1996-1997 in District 25 Fort Worth, TX.

He has mentored 14 clubs, rescued eight clubs, and sponsored an impressive 16 clubs, as well as 112 members. Jeff has been an educational presenter at several District and Region Conferences here and abroad and was the Spring 2002 Conference Chairman.

Furthermore, Jeff is an accomplished speaker. His humor and unique speaking style have captivated both Toastmaster and professional audiences around the world. Jeff is a highly decorated retired member of the United States Air Force and is a veteran of two wars.

Jeff has a BS in Computer Science from MIT, an MBA in Information Systems Management for East Texas State University, and PhD in Software Engineering from the University of Texas Dallas.

The former CEO of CompuSmart Inc., Jeff is currently the Enterprise Technology Manager for First Command Financial Planning, headquartered in Ft.

Worth.

Dr. Johnson has traveled the globe and visited Toastmasters clubs all over the world. He brings an enthusiasm and love of Toastmasters to everyone he meets.

**Closing Keynote**



Sarfaraz Nazir, DTM, Alternate Contestant 2000 World Championship of Public Speaking, will present the closing keynote, "If I Only Had A Dream!"

If you only had a dream, what would you do with it — catch your dream?

Based on MGM's 1939 film, *The Wizard of Oz*, Sarfaraz Nazir's presentation will show you that with a heart, a brain, and courage, you can catch your dream.

Follow the yellow brick road with Sarfaraz to the World of Dreams.

Sarfaraz Nazir is an accomplished speaker, people skills trainer, and business leader. He has a degree in Industrial Engineering and an MBA in Management.

Sarfaraz has presented papers at international conferences and conducted workshops in Toronto and many major U.S. cities.

He served as a Graduate Assistant for the Dale Carnegie course in Human

Relations and Effective Speaking.

He received the Professional Excellence Award from the American Society for Training and Development.

Sarfaraz was named District 25's Toastmaster of the Year for 1997-98 and District's Outstanding Club President (LM AeroSpeakers Club # 9916) for the July 1 to December 31, 2002 term.

Sarfaraz joined Toastmasters in 1993 and served as an Area Governor in 1994-95. He was a presenter in the Speakers' Showcase at the Toastmasters International Annual Convention in San Diego in August, 1995.

Since 1996, Sarfaraz has advanced six times to the district level in the International Speech competition. He won the D25 Evaluation contest in 1995 and competed on the same day in the district's Humorous

**Toastmasters Trivia**

1. How many speech assignments did the original CTM Manual (1977) contain?
2. In what year did Toastmasters officially become a co-ed organization?
3. When was District 25 formed?

1. 15—source: www.toastmasters.us/ma nuals

2. 1974

3. 1948

# RadioShack Club Shares Recipe for Success

By David Himmelstein, DTM

RadioShack Toastmasters has had a phenomenal year. They signed up **ten** new members between July 1 and September 30.

They will achieve all ten goals in the Distinguished Club Program, earning recognition as a President's Distinguished Club in 2003-2004. Their members are motivated. Their meetings are fun!

How did they get ten new members in three months? Their current President, Patrick Grady, ATM-B/CL, relayed their recipe for club success.

"I feel strongly about the value that Toastmasters can bring to any individual who speaks or listens in any fashion," Patrick said. "Our club is lucky to have people

from very diverse backgrounds and responsibilities (and we embrace that diversity)."

As for RadioShack Toastmaster's club culture, they have had a number of discussions concerning the concept of rigidity.

They agree that one of the things Toastmasters can teach is meeting organization, structure and managing, and understanding group dynamics.

"These are important components to experience, but if things get too rigid, people don't enjoy themselves. And if they don't enjoy themselves, they don't stay. We all have plenty of weighty responsibility — Toastmasters should be a motivating, positive experience," Patrick said.

The key to the success of RadioShack Toastmasters club has been a commitment to two simple but powerful concepts.

First, they all work to create a supportive club that provides opportunities for each of their members to participate and grow.

Second, they are committed to being positive and having fun along the way.

"I think it's our attention to these two things that results in our rarely being at a loss for speakers or helpers," Patrick admitted.

This commitment to maintaining a positive and mutually supportive environment results in strong attendance (and growing membership).

It's that simple, really. The value is self-evident: The program is fantastic, but it's

the **people** in a local club that can and will make it or break it.

It's important to avoid the temptation to buy in to negativity, participate in gossip, or enable cliques.

How do you stop a clique? You can't stop it by mandate, but rather by inclusion. It's up to the officers of the group (and the members, too) to make sure they're always looking around, seeing what people are experiencing, and learning whether people feel left out or included (making certain that it's the latter).

Active, positive, enthusiastic, and fun membership is what every member should strive for — and what he or she should get back in return.

## Division E Governor (Cont'd)

take into account what the club members want. You have to be able to successfully relay their issues and concerns to the District Officers and at the same time maintain their motivation and reach the goals outlined by Toastmasters International. You must serve with a Servant's Heart.

Serving with a Servant's Heart means meeting the needs of the club membership. To be successful in serving the membership of Toastmasters, you have to believe in the Toastmasters program. I have committed myself to the principles of the Toastmasters program, and I attempted to serve the members of my clubs and Area to the best of my ability.

### *Sharae's Vision for Division E Toastmasters: To Serve with a Servant's Heart*

- Promote, encourage members to achieve their best
- Promote, uphold the Standards set by TI
- Promote, uphold the Spirit of Excellence and Achievement of TI
- Promote, uphold the Members of Division E
- Encourage the building and development of New Clubs and New Members
- Empower Area Governors, Officers, and Members of Division E to strengthen the members and Clubs in Division E

## Don't Forget!

Club Presidents and VPs of Education are strongly encouraged to attend the District's Spring 2004 Conference Business Meeting, to be held at 3:30 PM on Saturday, May 22.

Should a club President or VP of Education be unable to attend, please submit a proxy form so that District 25 has enough members for a quorum to conduct business and elect the 2004 - 2005 District Officers.

Every club gets two votes — one from the President and one from the VP of Education. Should either officer be unable to attend, please use the Proxy Form and send a designee. The designee must present the form to vote.

You can find the Proxy Form on the District's web site at: [www.d25toastmasters.org](http://www.d25toastmasters.org)

Click on the Voting Proxy for Spring Conference rolling option from the Announcement Scroll on the District's Home Page. This will enable you to download the Proxy Form.

While only club Presidents or VPs of Education (or their designated proxies) may vote, all District members are welcome to attend the Business Meeting.

If you would like to attend the Business Meeting, please register at the Credentials Desk prior to 3 PM. (Sometime in the morning would probably be your best bet.)

# Candidates (Cont'd)

## Lee Alviar, Cont'd

By taking Toastmasters to the community, it further emphasizes the benefits I have received from Toastmasters.

This is one more reason why it is essential that I give back to this organization that has given me so much.

Every member that joins Toastmasters has his/her own agenda. They join for personal reasons and set individual goals.

Being a District Leader means more to me than just meeting some numbered expectations set by Toastmasters International — it's about getting to know members personally and doing everything possible to help them attain their individual goals.

Without our members, where would we be? Whom would we lead? As District Governor, my goal will be to help every District 25 member reach his/her maximum potential and inspire him/her to aim even higher. Therefore, I, Rosalie Alviar, Distinguished Toastmaster, having met all the requirements specified by Toastmasters International and District 25, respectfully submit my name for consideration as District 25 Governor for the 2004-2005 Toastmaster year.

Thank you for your support!

## Lolita Winters, Cont'd

are instinctively drawn to one another because we have the same purpose — to be better communicators, leaders. Once together, we travel through the Toastmasters program with communication and leadership opportunities for every member. The key element is connection. This connection will be supported by promoting three essential characteristics that enable a group to be successful — a sense of community and teamwork, a hunger for knowledge, and a tenacity for success. By promoting and supporting these characteristics in conjunction with the District and Club Mission, District 25 Toastmasters would be able to connect and travel together as one cohesive unit bound for success.

As District 25 Governor, Lolita Winters, will stay connected to the core values of TI, District and Club goals, and the goals of individual members in the district. On Saturday, May 22, 2004, cast a vote for integrity, dedication to excellence, service to the member and respect for the individual.

This vote will be the first step for a successful connection between District 25 and its members. Vote Lolita Winters, DTM, District 25 Governor 2004-05.

## Earl Hill, Cont'd

my goals in a well thought out, strategic plan. I made my goals a reality.

My goal as your District 25 Lt. Governor of Marketing is to make as many people as possible aware of what Toastmasters can do for them.

My goal for District 25 is two-fold: First, I will set a goal to charter a record-breaking number of new community and corporate clubs. These new clubs will be energized and well informed with knowledgeable mentors to help them grow and to stay strong. Second, I will develop new retention initiatives for both existing and new clubs that will keep current members viable participants within the District. Not one to "let things just happen," I've already put together knowledgeable, enthusiastic marketing teams that are ready to meet this challenge.

Toastmasters is a perfect example that "No man is an island."

I've set the bar high to achieve extraordinary goals. I can't do this alone, however. My marketing team is in place, and now I need your vote. With your vote, I'll make my next goal another reality!

Please vote for me at the Business Meeting on Saturday, May 22, 2004.

## Priscilla Hollis

and leadership opportunities to all our members, **Maximize Your Opportunities**

### Increased Membership

More Leadership Opportunities for all Members; Club and Toastmaster fellowship; Club and Toastmaster mentorship.

I strongly support effective training and leadership opportunities for all people, and want to contribute on a larger scale to "make effective communication and leadership a worldwide reality."

Together, let's Maximize Your Opportunities and make 2004-2005 the most effective, extraordinary year!

## Don't Miss It!



Darren LaCroix, 2001 World Champion of Public Speaking, will present a night of laughs with his "clean comedy" during Friday Night's *Just For Fun* session, as well as the Opening Keynote of the 2004 Spring Conference at the La Quinta Inn in Arlington.

## Quotable Quotes

"It is much more comfortable to be mad and know it, than to be sane and have one's doubts."

~G. B. Burgin

"When choosing between two evils, I always like to try the one I've never tried before."

~Mae West

## Scott & White Break the Ice One Chip at a Time

Most of us know that the purpose of an icebreaker speech is to allow fellow Toastmasters the opportunity to get to know us.

By breaking the ice, we gain experience and confidence in our ability to step out and step up to bigger things. Scott and White Toastmasters is no exception. Icebreakers are a regular event for this growing Toastmasters club since its formation in January 2001, under the sponsorship of Drs. Frank Villamaria and Scott Burk.

The club was chartered in April 2001 with 20 original members. They currently have 23 members — all at various levels in the educational programs.

As with any Toastmaster group, learning takes place in the club environment where members study and practice communication and leadership skills with others who are there for the same reason. By doing and by watching fellow club members, Toastmasters are challenged to rise to higher levels.

Even though S&W is two hours from their district home, they seem to have a strong connection with what the organization is all about, and they love to be involved!

S&W recently participated in the Area 41 speech competition. Not only did they provide the location for the contest, but for the second time in a row, they won both competitions.

Additionally, members who weren't competing attended the contest to show support for one another and to help



Rose Price and Vicki Stubbington display their first place plaques in front of the Scott & White Club Banner.

out the hosting club, Temple's Big T Toastmasters.

Those involved in the contest include Donna Evangelos, Refreshments; Bob Sims, Facilities; Tom Graf, Vote Counter; Doneva Garcia, Carlos Gamez and Brenda Lee, Sergeant at Arms; Vicki Stubbington, Table Topics; and Rose Price, Speaker.

Last Halloween, S&W Toastmaster Donna Evangelous was competing at the district level in a Toastmasters International speech contest.

A charter member of S&W Toastmasters who has held many officer positions, Donna had already won first place in evaluation at the area contest, which advanced her to the Division level in Grand Prairie.

There she again placed first to advance to the District level contest in Ft. Worth, where she made her fellow S&W Toastmasters proud by placing second.

A member of Information Systems and Focus Fellows, Donna is often asked to

make presentations to groups. Like so many others, Donna has found that Toastmasters provides a supportive and educational environment in which to improve her communication skills.

The S&W club has accomplished a great deal in the three years since it was chartered. Along with Donna's rise to district last fall, Phyllis Renfrow competed in a speech contest for the first time. Representing S&W at the area contest, Phyllis placed first in the humorous speech category.

"When I joined Toastmasters in 1999, I did it to get over my fear of public speaking. I never had any thoughts of participating in speech contests," Donna said. "As my fear subsided, I found I wanted to challenge myself further. Entering a contest was the logical next step," she added.

This past March, at the area 41 Toastmasters Spring Speech Contest, two other S&W employees placed first — Rose Price and Vicki

Stubbington.

Rose's speech "Over the Rainbow" was riveting, and Vicki was spontaneous and witty as she participated in the table topic contest. S&W President, Judy Jacobs, was proud of the way the club was represented — both by winners and volunteers.

Anyone who has been at a contest will be the first to admit that competing in the contests can be nerve-racking. But a good contest has many people working in the background to make the process a success.

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### BNSF (Cont'd)

Butler emceed the event that featured former U.S. Representative J.C. Watts as guest speaker. Watts starred as quarterback for the University of Oklahoma, represented Oklahoma in the House of Representatives, and is now on the Board of Directors at BNSF. On July 25, 2003, David Heywood, ATMG/CL, addressed the Summer 2003 graduating class of Remington College as keynote speaker. Held in Will Rogers Auditorium in Ft. Worth, approximately 900 graduates, their families, and guests attended.

Heywood spoke to the graduating class on the need for continued learning and to the pursuit of dreams. Remington College, formerly known as Education American, is located in east Ft. Worth and offers Associate degrees and certificates.

# Calendar of Dreams

## April, 2004

- 1-30 Hold Division & Area Council Meetings
- 21 Administrative Professionals' Day
- 24 Area Governor and Division Governor Follow-Up Training – Final one. Includes District Exec Committee Meeting
- 30 The first Day you can be Distinguished (April Semi Results Reported)

## May, 2004

- 1-31 Hold Division Council Meetings
- Hold Area Council Meetings
- 5 Cinco de Mayo

- 9 Mother's Day
- 17 District Executive Committee Meeting
- 21-22 Spring Conference, Arlington

## June, 2004

- 1-30 Hold Division & Area Council Meetings
- 14 Flag Day
- 18-19 Region III – Albuquerque NM
- 20 Father's Day
- 21 District Executive Committee Meeting and Transition Meeting
- 30 Last Day – Don't wait until June to reach your goals!

# Getting from There to Here

How do you get to the Spring Conference?

1. Get on 360 running through Arlington. (Highways 183, 30, and 20 all intersect with 360.)
  2. Once on 360 (going either direction), take the Lamar exit.
  3. Get onto the southbound access road of 360 heading south from Lamar.
- If you connect with 360 north of IH-30, take 230 South.
  - If you connect with 360 south of IH-30, take 360 North.
- The hotel is ahead on your right.



La Quinta is off the Lamar exit from Highway 360 near the Interstate 30 exchange in Arlington.

## S&W Breaks the Ice (Cont'd)

Phyllis Renfrow was the spring contest MC. Other volunteers include Bob Sims, Doneva Garcia, Carlos Gamez, Tom Graf, and Brenda Lee.

What is it that makes the S&W club successful? They have a plan that involves breaking the ice one member at a time. Each member has a unique strategy to accomplish their personal goals.

Most new members are scheduled to perform one speech a month, which allows the newer members opportunities and experiences in speaking. Plus, new members are immediately given a mentor.

By each individual member reaching their personal goals, the S&W club is also reaching its club goals. They always have speakers ready and willing to break the ice.

If you are interested in seeing what a successful club is all about, we highly recommend you visit S&W. We promise, if you join them, you will be met with a warm welcome and be invited to step up and speak out!

Just be careful, you might end up being their next contestant as they break records and break the ice!

## DISTRICT 25 TOASTMASTERS

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# Whatever Shall I Wear?



District 25's Spring 2004 Conference, May 21 through May 22 at the La Quinta Conference Center in Arlington, is just around the corner.

The Spring Conference, "A World of Dreams," will commence its world cruise with a Night of Comedy and a luau on the Oahu Deck.

Dress in your best Hawaiian shirt, grass skirt, and lei for a night at the comedy club.

Ensure that your attire will be able to withstand constant belly laughs, as Darren LaCroix, 2001 World Champion of Public Speaking, will have you rolling in the aisles with his "clean humor." Then get ready to watch District 25's finest

extemporaneous speakers as they show off their quick thinking and off-the-cuff flair, vying for the District's top award in Table Topics competition.

For Saturday's educational sessions, award luncheon, and Business Meeting (starting at 3:30 PM), dress comfortably in tropical business casual attire (skirts or slacks and tropical print), as we dock in Acapulco.

Saturday night will find you attending the International Speech competition and banquet.

Those attending the banquet should dress either in cocktail or formal attire for a night out on the town in fabulous New York, NY.