



THE SPEAKER'S VOICE

December 2008

Volume 1, Issue 1

**DISTRICT 77
2008 - 2009
OFFICERS**

- > **District Governor—
Doris Bentley**
- > **Lt. Governor
Education &
Training—Jeffrey
Mason**
- > **Lt. Governor
Marketing—Tomiko
Stanford**
- > **Immediate Past
District Governor—
Sonja Bell**
- >

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ON OUR WAY ON THE PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE

We are halfway through the Toastmaster year and we are making great strides on our Pathway to Excellence.

This year is sure to be an exciting one, and over the past six months you have all showed me that our district has the energy and enthusiasm needed to meet your goals—whether it's your personal goals, club goals, area goals, or division goals. Without prompting, you are well on the way of helping District 77 achieve its goals, based on the

Distinguished Club program, and growing the District by building new clubs.

Your district leadership team is committed to helping clubs achieve educational awards and build memberships. As you can see in the article below, we're also going to recognize clubs for their efforts.

As you'll see on the following pages, the District is well on its way to achieving this year's goals—which include being a Distinguished District for the 3rd year in a row! But we couldn't do it with-

out you and all your hard work. So as one year draws to a close and another begins, please know we appreciate all you do and we stand ready to help in any way we can. Just give us a call or send us an email.



**District 77 Governor
Doris Bentley, DTM**

OPPORTUNITIES TO WIN ABOUND

District 77 Achievement Contest—Three Chances Remain to Win!

Nov. 1—Jan. 22:

The club with the most CCs + ACs = \$25 gift certificate and a trophy (presented at the Winter

TLI in Montgomery)

Feb. 1—March 31:

The club with the most CLs and ALs = \$25 gift certificate and a trophy (presented at the Spring Conference in Mobile)

Now until June 30, 2009:

The club with the most CCs, CLs and ALs, DTMs, and the most DCP points wins a portable banner stand with bag (\$80 value).



NEW CLUB NEWS

Those of you who attended the Fall Conference in Birmingham know this, but it may be news to others—Sixth Avenue Toastmasters was chartered as District 77's newest club in September! In recognition of their effort to charter before September 30th (as part of the *Jump to the*

Beat contest), the District presented the new club with their very own Club Banner! Sixth Avenue Toastmasters in in Area 4, Division B.

Other new clubs are in the works, and you'll hear more about those in the very near future.

District 77 Goals/Progress				
Categories	Actual Achieved through 12/20/08	District Goal through December	% of Monthly Goal Achieved	District Annual Goal
CCs	35	40	87.50	129
ACs	23	23	100.00	45
CLs	14	21	66.67	60
ALs	10	12	83.33	25
DTMs	3	5	60.00	15
LDREXCs	2	3	66.67	12
Total Overall	87	104	83.65	286

RUN THE RACE...

From Jeff Mason, Lt. Governor of Education & Training

In the days of the ancient Greeks, sporting events were very important.

Every four years, the Olympic Games were held in the stadium at Olympia. The best athletes in Greece competed in different events. The contestants were compelled to give 100% effort.

For Toastmasters, the event is the Distinguished Club Program and all those clubs, areas, and divisions have an equal opportunity to meet the standard.

Keeping an eye on the goal

The normal course was a straight path. The runner would run the length, go around a pole and then return to the end. One interesting point is that the prize would often be placed on top of a pole at the end of the track. Once the runner would make the turn at the half way point they would be able to see the award that was waiting for them should they finish first.

By keeping their eyes on the goal the runner was able to stay focused on what needed to be done and not get tripped up by thinking about what others were doing or any mistakes they had made

earlier.

For Toastmasters, the path is likewise clear. It is laid out for us what has to be done to "finish first". The goal: to be "Distinguished" is out in front for each of us to see. We know the requirements to be a Distinguished Club, a Select Distinguished Club, or a Presidents Distinguished Club. The award is out there for us to see; pride in our effort, pride in our members and pride in our club.

For those who win

The winners of events in the Olympic Games received a gold cup, or a wreath of laurel or olive leaves to wear on their heads. When they received their wreaths, the winners would shout out their names, their family, and the city where they lived.

Winners in Toastmasters' Distinguished Club Program don't usually receive a gold cup, or wreath of leaves to wear, but we do receive the knowledge that we've done our best to help our members achieve their goals, to know that as officers we have done our best for our club, and the

ribbon that can be placed proudly alongside of your club's banner. For the Area and Division Governors, you receive a plaque to remind you that your efforts were worth it. (Of course each of you that achieve the status are welcome to shout the names of your area, clubs and those who helped you to achieve.)

Winning is largely about attitude

Not unlike today's Olympic runners, those in ancient time had attitude. A Lybian athlete, Eubotas, was so confident in his ability that he had his victory statue made before the Games were held. When he won, he was able to dedicate his statue the same day.

We are half way through our Toastmaster year. We have all had challenges to overcome and things to learn. Regardless of where our club, area, or divisions currently stand, we can be like the Greeks of old; forget what is behind us, keep our eyes focused on the goal ahead, do what we must to adjust our course, and give it 100%.

Each of us must also have that winning attitude! Are you willing to have your statue made ahead of time? Are you willing to plan your "Distinguished Status Celebration Party"? LET'S ALL GO FOR THE GOLD!





Mark Your Calendars Now...

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND ON THE PATH AHEAD

As you've surely heard, an important Toastmaster event is just weeks away...

That's the Winter TLI, scheduled for January 24 from 9 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. at Gateway Baptist Church in Montgomery, AL. If you haven't already done so, turn to the last page of this month's newsletter and fill out the registration form so you can get it into the mail.

Providing effective train-

ing for club officers is one of the most critical parts of our district's mission.

Without properly trained officers, clubs cannot meet member needs or introduce the benefits of Toastmasters to others.

You won't want to miss the great training opportunities, a chance to meet and make friends, and—of course—the District 77 Evaluation Contest!

Following the Winter TLI

are a few more Toastmaster events that you won't want to miss:

District 77 Spring Conference

April 17-18 at the Ashbury Hotel & Suites, Mobile, AL.

Region VIII Spring Conference

June 25-27 in Greensboro, NC.

2009 Toastmaster International Convention

August 11-16 in Mashatucket, CT

Quote of the month:

"Why not go out on a limb? Isn't that where the fruit is?"

From Lake DeFuniak Toastmasters' club newsletter

WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?

By Silvana Wasitova, DTM

When you first joined Toastmasters, what was your goal? Have you achieved that goal? Are you pursuing new goals in your Toastmaster involvement?

This is the path that many of us have followed in our Toastmasters journeys: achieved the original purposes for

joining, only to see your involvement and targets morph into new ones along the way.

Regardless, one of the yardsticks that continue to be reliable for measuring our successes and improvements is achievement of educational goals—whether it is the next educational

level, or another Competent Communicator (CC), or another Advanced Communicator (AC). Actively working the speech projects is one sure way to nurture our Toastmaster involvement and the achievement of our next goals. Even better, by doing so we become role models for the newer members

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COMING SOON TO A CALENDAR NEAR YOU...

As the new year begins, a new round of activities begin at the club, area, division, and district level. To help make sure you know what's ahead, here's a brief look over the next few months:

December – Yes, it's almost over; but there are still things that need doing... for clubs that elect

officers semi-annually, the officer list is due to Toastmasters world Headquarters by 11:59 p.m. on the 31st. Submit the list online through the Club Officers resource page.

January – begin area and division governor club visits; mid-year review – check the Distinguished Club Program guidelines;

Area governors begin second round of club visits; area council meetings; mid-year training.

February – begin or continue International Speech Contest local competitions; complete division/area level make-up training for club officers; start collecting semi-annual dues



WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?

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among us, who may still be overwhelmed by the glare of an audience's attention and may find the prospect of scheduling one speech a month somewhat daunting. Remember, most of us where once in that predicament ourselves and we still thank those who have encouraged and nurtured our progress along the way.

So, take a moment, review our current Toast-

master (TM) educational goals and set a goal for that next one you want to achieve. Then go a step further and set a date by which to achieve that goal—yes, before June 2009. Then take one step further and encourage one of your club members to set his or her own goals.

With our own personal growth, with another Toastmaster educational goal filled, in a

concrete way we become better persons than who we were yesterday and, through that gesture, contribute towards making our world a better place to live in.

Silvana Wasitova, DTM, serves as the Lt. Governor Education & Training for District 4—which covers the San Francisco area of California.



Plan now to follow your blueprint for success

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED...

Question about Toastmasters? Sometimes we have questions, but our ego gets in the way and we fail to ask for help; or just feel stupid if we ask the question. Most of the time, one question can make difference in our family life, professional life, and educational life.

Become a Toastmaster ?

Becoming a Toastmaster can be one of the best decisions an individual makes in his or her life. For your personal and professional life, your acquaintance with Toastmasters International may be the best decision you have made in years. If you've already discovered that for yourself, invite someone else to join and benefit from the same things you have.

Become a Club Office?

Becoming a club officer is an important first step for a Toastmaster to continue in the leadership track. As Club offi-

cers we can take the office of Sergeant-at-Arms, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Vice President Membership, Vice President Education, and President. When the officer attends training and does his or her best, every club office will help the officer to become better.

Help in Area /Division Contests?

Keep your eyes open and be willing to help in Area and Division Contests. It's a great way to become more familiar with contests in general, see the best of what Toastmasters has to offer, and to meet others in your Toastmaster community. When a Toastmaster helps in the Area or Division Contest, he or she starts seeing other Toastmasters gain more learning, more and better experiences, increase in self-confidence, and gain a much better idea of what Toastmasters International is all about

Attend District Spring & Fall Conferences? Every Toastmaster should become more familiar with how our District 77 operates. We should know about business meetings, Parliamentary Procedures, and enjoying the competition of the best Toastmasters in our District 77. And it's just plain fun—fun that you don't want to miss!

Help Other Toastmasters?

One of the greatest satisfactions a person can feel is to know that he or she has helped another individual to do better in a particular endeavor. Toastmaster is no an exception, and we all feel great when we know we have helped another person. Achieve their best

Become an Area Governor?

Many people have been Toastmasters for many years and they do not know how the Areas are organized, let alone participating in it. Those who

have served as Area Governors report that it's one of the best experiences they've ever had in Toastmasters and they strongly recommend that every Toastmaster serve as an Area Governor at some point.

Become a Division Governor?

Many members are not familiar of how Toastmaster Divisions operate. Becoming a Division Governor is an excellent way to improve your leadership skills and it can be very rewarding. What a great opportunity to meet new people, help others become better, and learn more yourself.

Become a Coach or Mentor?

Sometimes Clubs have less than 12 members and they need a Coach who can help strengthen the club. Become one. Newly chartered Clubs also need a mentor to help get them off to a good start. Become one. It will help the club and the organization; and you'll benefit, too.



WHO YOU CAN CALL IN DISTRICT 77

District Officers:

Doris Bentley, DG

– dbentley@bcbsal.org

Jeffrey Mason, LGET

– Jeffrey.A.Mason@usace.army.mil

Tomiko Stanford, LGM

– ts7642@att.com

Division Governors:

Division A – Jeffrey Cox

Division B – DeWayne Williams

Division C – Alan Shotwell

Division D – Jon Juneau

Toastmasters Mission:

The mission of a Toastmasters club is provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

We're on the Web!
www.toastmasters77.org



Learning from each other

BEST PRACTICES

Looking for new ways to market your club? Some of the best ideas are available as a downloadable PDF from the District 77 Website. Simply log onto http://www.toastmasters77.org/Marketing_Ideas.pdf and see for yourself. Not only will you find good ideas, but you'll also have access (links) to the talented and dedicated folks who gathered the information for you.

Want to see what other clubs are doing and perhaps get some new inspiration or ideas? Visit the District 77 Website to find links to clubs within the District. Click one every chance you get to electronically visit and explore places you've never been before.

<http://www.toastmasters77.org/websites.asp>

FROM THE EDITOR

Send your comments, questions, corrections, or contributions to:

Dianna Van Horn, Editor
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850-834-2378

Copies of The Speakers' Voice are available by contacting the editor or downloading them from the district Web site (www.toastmasters77.org).



District 77 2009 Winter Toastmasters Leadership Institute Officer Training

Who? For every officer of every club in District 77. **PLUS...** For any active member who may be thinking about becoming an officer.

What? Training that will help you as a club officer to better serve your club. This will also fulfill the requirement for second round training toward the club's DCP goals

When? January 24, 2009, 9:00 am till 3:15 pm

Where? Gateway Baptist Church, 3300 Bell Road, Montgomery, AL.

Why? Because it will help you, and your club needs you at your best.

HOW MUCH? Read on...

\$12.00 Registration Fee

Registration includes lunch, beverages and educational sessions.

Please send your registration form AND your check payable to District 77 by
Friday, January 16 2008 to:

Bridget V Wright, District Treasurer
P.O. Box 547, Alabaster, AL 35007

Questions? Email: jmason2705@bellsouth.net

Only those paying registrations can attend the educational sessions and lunch.

Registration desk will be open from 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM.

District 77 Toastmasters Club Officer Training Registration Form

Name _____ TM Educational Level: _____

Address _____ E-mail address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Club Name/Number _____

Office (Please indicate Club Officer Position):

Club President ___ VP-Education ___ VP of Membership ___ VP of Public Relations ___ Secretary ___

Treasurer ___ Sergeant-At-Arms ___ Not an officer ___

Amount Enclosed _____ Please make checks payable to **District 77**