



THE SPEAKER'S VOICE

April 2009

Volume 1, Issue 1

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ON OUR WAY ON THE PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE

Congratulations District 77 on an awesome training. You are simply the best! We are approaching near the end of our Toastmasters' year. And, with that in mind, we ask that each of you check to see where your dubs are. If your club is not where you want to be, or where you need to be -- seek out creative ways, and integrate those creative ideas to build your club to excel to a distinguished club or better.

Did you know that we have several membership contests going on? Visit our website and find out the exciting details.

Promote "Talk up Toastmasters" with your dubs. Area dub

visits should be completed by the end of April. You still have plenty of time to get this accomplished, but do not allow yourselves to be caught in a crunch. Now is the time for you to promote the DCP with all your dubs and have Distinguished Areas.

Our Spring Conference is around the corner. Our theme is "Dare to Dream!" When I think of this theme, I see stars. I'm dreaming big as I reach for every star on the "Pathway to Excellence," traveling on the yellow brick road, and knowing at the end of the journey, there is success. So dream big and think Distinguished for 2008-2009. Let's make it

happen!

Congratulations to BE&K and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama for receiving the Excellence Award from Toastmasters International for their company's support of their Toastmasters' Club. Big things are happening in District 77. We are on the move and taking our District to another level.



**District 77 Governor
Doris Bentley, DTM**

KUDOS KORNER

Vanessa Falls — from Sixth Avenue Toastmasters Club — for winning the 2009 District 77 Evaluation Contest, held Jan 24 in Montgomery.

Other winners included Tania Bayne - 2nd, Rick Walker - 3rd,

and Leszek Skulskiz - Honorable Mention

"The amazing thing about this accomplishment," said Karen Threlkeld, Area 4 Governor, "is that Vanessa is a new member of a new Toastmasters Club, recently char-

tered in September 2008. She did a great job and I encourage you all to use this story to motivate your Club Members to achieve and participate in Toastmasters. Even a new Toastmaster can achieve great things!"



NEW CLUB NEWS

Everyone is doing it!! Everyone is working together in the effort to charter new clubs: Southern Company Montgomery, AL, Hattiesburg, MS, Saraland, AL, Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University (charter paperwork submitted), Circle of Champions Toast-

masters, Alabaster, AL, Concordia College, Selma, AL, a local Law Firm, a Sales Firm, Pensacola, FL, and another Huntsville Club. New active Leads just in: University of Alabama and Southern Company (Farley Nuclear Plant). There is growth all around us!!!

District 77 Goals/Progress			
Categories	Actual Achieved through 3/31/09	% of Monthly Goal Achieved	District Annual Goal
CCs	59	51.75%	114
ACs	43	134.38%	32
CLs	27	75.00%	36
ALs	14	56.00	25
DTMs	4	33.33%	12
LDREXCs	3	30.00%	10
Total Overall	150	65.50%	229

RUNNING THE RACE...

From Jeff Mason, Lt. Governor of Education & Training

WOW! AM I EVER EXCITED! About what? About the District 77 Spring Conference in Mobile, Alabama on April 17-19. It's going to be a great time!



We've planned a full line up for you this year. Friday night kicks off with an opening address from our International Director Lee Holliday, followed up by World Champion of Public Speaking Craig Valentine.



Then some home grown talent with our District 77 Talent Show, emceed by the one and only Bob Byrd. Saturday we have



our wonderful display of club banners in our opening session, a local Boy Scout troop will be presenting the colors, followed by a beautiful presentation of the national anthem. Up next we'll again get to hear from our International Director and the World Champion of Public Speaking.



Ever wondered what a proponent of communication and leadership looked like? Be at our noon time C&L Luncheon and you'll find out. This year's C&L Award recipient will be speaking to us during that time.



Immediately after the luncheon we'll experience the awesome, the coveted, the inspiring *DTM Walk*

After a short break we'll get to hear the latest and greatest news from Toastmasters International Headquarters. Then it's time to "get down to business". Not always the most exciting part of the conference, but certainly one of most important; and one that will impact things from the district, all the way to club level. Among the business being conducted will be election of the District leadership team for the 2009-2010 year. It is very important that every club is represented for the voting.



The conference then will top off with the evening banquet, keynote speech from the International Director, and the International Speech Contest. This is a

Quote of the month:

“You can speak well if your tongue can deliver the message of your heart.”

*John Ford
Director*

OPPORTUNITIES AROUND ON THE PATH AHEAD

It's not too late to sign up for the Spring Conference in Mobile—see registration information on the last page of the newsletter or visit the District 77 site for the registration form and agenda.

Following that are a few other 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 at the Embassy Suites, Greensboro, NC.

Watch <http://www.region8tm.org/events.html> for more information

2009 Toastmaster International Convention

August 11-16 at MGM Grand at Foxwoods, Mashatucket, CT



BlueCross/BlueShield Alabama received a special visit from 1st Year International Director Sal Asad when he visited the District in January. Asad presented a special plaque recognizing the company's efforts in support of Toastmasters.

On hand for the special presentation are (L-R) Doris Bentley, Gwen May, BC/BS VP Rick King, Sal Asad, Suzanne Burnett, Sharon Fields, and Ben Howell.

Being An Area Governor Has Been Very Beneficial to Me

By Randy Cooper

I found my time as area governor to be beneficial, and I look forward to completing this term. I would recommend this for anyone who wants to learn how to motivate.

One of my biggest weaknesses before July was the ability to motivate people. Being an area governor has really helped me. This has helped me

for the following reasons: 1) being around enthusiastic, motivated people who have confidence in me, 2) seeing how people promote events through emails and in person during contests, 3) learning different ways of doing things, 4) learning the impacts of motivation.

I would recommend to any dub offi-

cer who wants to see their dub do well to be an area governor. It has helped me. I used to major on the minors when it came to Toastmasters. Now, I realize that morale is the major engine that gets the club going. I am realizing more and more that motivating people to achieve communications and leader-

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MORE NEWS ON THE STREET...

Our membership numbers have escalated to new heights! Our membership goal is 3,344 and we are at 2,403, that leaves 941 members to go! Do you believe now?

Team, we are so close!!! You are doing a tremendous job! With all of the membership

contests in the air - existing members, new members and dubs **all** are eligible to **win!**

- 55 dubs have paid to date - **FANTASTIC!!! TEAM, YOU CAN DO IT!!!!** Don't let Murphy get you...
- If your club submitted the Dues Renewal by **MARCH**

13TH then, your club earned a chance to win one of these **FABULOUS** gifts: \$50 Gift Card, Full Club Officer Pin Set, Set of 10 Outstanding Member Pins and one of 8 special International Speech Contest Winner

Speaker surprises.

- Start or update your dub's website and your dub will earn an entry into the **NEW CLUB WEBSITE CONTEST** for a chance to win two \$50 Gift Certificates. The Website contest ends on April 7th.

Being An Area Governor Has Been Very Beneficial to Me

Continued from page 3

ship awards is the most important part of VPE. All of the scheduling, training, and tracking is there to keep people motivated.

In one way, I wish I

was an area governor the previous year when I was VPE for the first term. It may have been a bit much. On the other hand, I may have saved myself quite a bit

of frustration.

However, I understand my home club a lot better, and have developed the wisdom to handle the situations at my home club.



Plan now to follow Randy's example and create your blueprint for success

New Horizons

Miko Stanford, DTM, Lt. Gov. Marketing

June is on the horizon and now is the time to stand up and shout "Toastmasters, we are on the Pathway to Excellence!" Are you marketing Toastmasters to everyone you know? When the day is done and you close your eyes – Do you Aspire to Inspire?

In my 5½ years as a Toastmaster, I have witnessed others' challenges to us. We have been asked to Find Our Voices and Serve Our World, to be Simply Amazing and to Turn Up the Heat. As we journey up the Pathway to Excellence we find that when our before meets our after, we are shining examples of what Toastmasters can do to get you everywhere you need to be.

As an example for your peers, you show them you aspire to inspire them to act on their dreams. You will draw them in to Toastmasters and at the same time set a new standard for member recruitment and retention. Sponsor one new member every quarter. Daughters invite mothers; sons invite fathers, brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents. Let's not forget about our doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, students and churches. Now is the time to win friends and influence people! Seize the opportunity to help one another create new outlets and see what happens.

Talk Up Toastmasters has been extremely suc-

cessful for many clubs and closes on March 31st. The Beat the Clock contest will begin May 1st are you ready to make it happen? We have several District 77 Membership Incentives going on right now. Our opportunity to grow our clubs and make District 77 stronger, better, sleeker and shinier is just around the corner.

The future is so bright, I have to wear shades!

Miko Stanford, DTM, Lt. Gov. Marketing

Deadlines/Important

Dates:

April 10:

April dues renewals due to WHQ for Distinguished Club Program credit

April 15:

Monthly treasurer's report (July 1 – February 28) due to District Trio

April 30:

Second-round area governor club visits should be completed

Tips for April and May:

- Confirm submissions with WHQ
- Work on club building efforts
- Stay on track
- Look ahead; what's coming up?
- Reflect over the last year on all of the club accomplishments and celebrate!
- Start planning for the transition of the officers – lessons learned is a good starting point.

Running the Race

Continued from page 2



time when you get out your best clothes, dust 'em off and put 'em on. (Oh yes, just so you know, this isn't the time for jeans!)

Last, if you able to stay till Sunday, there will be a special get together.... Breakfast With The Champ. Yes, that's right, a smaller, less formal opportunity to learn from the best.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Jeff Mason, Lt. Governor Education Training



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

Division E — Sharon Johnson



BE&K Corporation received a special visit from 1st Year International Director Sal Asad when he visited the District in January. Asad presented a special plaque recognizing the company's support of Toastmasters and its communications and leadership programs.

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

WORTH ANOTHER MENTION

Hattiesburg Toastmasters Club recently received "Best Club in Division D" for its effectiveness in helping members hone their communication and leadership skills. Organizers report that the club has enjoyed a recent surge in membership as more people learn of the many benefits of the Toastmasters experience.

Special recognition to all Toastmasters who participated, volunteered or ran in the Mercedes Benz Half or Full Marathon in February. Proceeds benefit the Bell Center and KidOne Transport charities. Over 10,000 runners converged on Birmingham and were met with cold weather (38

degrees) in the morning but the sun came and warmed us up to the mid-50's - perfect for a Sunday morning run (13.1 or 26.2 miles). If you personally know someone who participated, don't hesitate to give them a pat on the back.

Organizations around the world are focused on environmental concerns, and Toastmasters International is no exception. In an effort to combine first-rate service to members with environmental stewardship, WHQ will send future member dues renewal invoice to club officers via email, rather than through the postal service.

FROM THE EDITOR

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

Dianna Van Hom, Editor
diannavh@fairpoint.net
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).

Early Bird Give Away!
Registrations received by
March 13th will be entered for
\$50 in Toastmasters Coupons

On The Pathway To Excellence...
Dare to Dream....Big!

Toastmasters District 77 Spring Conference April 17-18, 2009
Mobile, Alabama

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY

Name: _____ Toastmaster Educational Level (e.g. ACG, CL) _____

Full Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Phone(s) (____) ____-____ Home Office Cell (____) ____-____ Home Office Cell

Email: _____

Membership: Club Name: _____ Number: _____ Current Club Office: _____

Is this your first District Conference? Yes

Full Registration (Friday Night Fun Night, Education Sessions, C&L Luncheon, International Speech Contest & Dinner, and Breakfast with the Champion.)

\$ 80.00 if postmarked by March 13th

\$ 90.00 if postmarked by March 27th

\$ 95.00 if postmarked after April 1st or at the door. (space and meals permitting)

No meal orders will be taken at the conference

If you selected "Full Registration", please indicate below your intentions to attend. (Checked box indicates attendance)

Friday night fun and fellowship **Sunday Breakfast with the Champion**

Menu For Evening Banquet (PLEASE CHECK ONE): Roast Top Round Rosemary Baked Chicken

If you are requesting vegetarian meals please check here. Yes

A La Carte Registration

Friday Fun and Fellowship Time (*Donations will be accepted at the door*)

Saturday C&L Luncheon \$ 22.00

Saturday Evening Banquet and International Speech Contest \$ 30.00

Sunday Breakfast with the Champion \$ 20.00

Educational Sessions only \$ 10.00

International Speech Contest only (no meal) \$ 12.00

Early Bird Give Away!
Registrations received by
March 13th will be entered for
\$50 in Toastmasters Coupons

Make checks payable to: *District 77 Toastmasters*. Mail check with this complete registration to:

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

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Signature

Date

Hotel Reservation Deadline is: April 1, 2009

Ashbury Hotel & Suites, 600 West I-65 Service Road (Exit 3), Mobile, Al 36608

Book rooms under "Toastmasters" \$83.00/night single occupancy, \$88.00/night double occupancy plus applicable room taxes. Room upgrades available upon request.

Phone: 251.706.3572 Toll Free: 800.752.0398, fax 251.460.0470 Website: www.ashburyhotel.com

Conference questions should be directed to Jeff Mason, Lt Governor Education and Training at: jmason2705@bellsouth.net.

Registration questions should be directed to Bridget Wright, District Treasurer at: bvwright@gmail.com

Cancellation Policy: Registration fee is refundable, less \$5.00, if request is received by District Treasures prior to April 10th.