



# THE SPEAKER'S VOICE

July 2009

Volume 3, Issue 1

DISTRICT 77  
2008 - 2009  
OFFICERS

- > District Governor—  
Jeff Mason
- > Lt. Governor  
Education &  
Training—Bryan Holt
- > Lt. Governor  
Marketing—Sharon  
Johnson
- > Immediate Past  
District Governor—  
Doris Bentley

INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE :

The Secret is Out	2
Return, Renew, Recommit	2
Where Do You Go...	3
New Club News	3
Benefits of TM	4
Region VIII Conference	6
Kudos Korner	6

## THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

HEY EVERYONE,  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

No I'm not confused... (well not about the new year anyway). This is the beginning of the 2009-2010 Toastmaster year.

It seems like it was only yesterday that we were all in Mobile at the Spring Conference and you elected me as

your new District Governor, and now here it is July already. Whew! How time flew when you're having fun!

You know, something just hit me the other day (no, it wasn't a car, train for my wife Carol) about the elections. Previously, I had just thought of it in terms of, "I won the election for District Governor", but now I realize it was so much more. It was the time when members of District 77, voting through their club officers, said "Jeff, we want you to lead us?. First let me say thank for your votes of confidence. It really means a lot to me. Secondly, I promise you I will try to honor your confidence in me by leading our

district to be one where we focus on developing quality clubs, and growing members. When I say "quality clubs" I mean clubs where members have fun, where members are setting goals and where the members are fulfilling their goals and dreams.

As the DG, one of my primary responsibilities is to be sure that the clubs are getting what they need in order to develop into or maintain their quality club. As I see it that involves several things (and not necessarily in this order):

### Quality training of all club officers.

*When this is done, the officers are better able to help the club develop. By the way, you*

*See page 5*



District 77 Governor  
Jeff Mason, DTM

## CLUB PRESIDENTS AND THEIR PROXY

The official Toastmasters International proxies for the regional and International Conventions were mailed to club presidents of record in March. Each was mailed in a blue envelope with the words "IMPORTANT PROXY INFORMATION" printed on the front of the envelope.

Take the following steps to help District 77 survive the annual proxy chase—especially important this year with a

number of major organizational changes up for a vote:

In every possible way, clubs are encouraged to update their officer information through the Toastmasters Web site (club business portal) or notify WHQ by mail, fax, or phone. Division leaders, contact your club presidents to ask if each received a proxy card and whether he or she will be sending a delegate to

*See page 4*

## THE SECRET IS OUT!!

*From Sharon Johnson, Lt. Governor of Marketing*

What we can do together in 2009-2010? ... the sky is the limit. Let's set some goals now to work towards.

### Goals

- Each member asks 4 people to visit and TM meeting.
- Each area turn in at least one idea, lead for a new club
- Each club has at least 20 members.
- Each club pay semi annual dues for all members, 15 days before the TI deadlines.

### Results

- If each member invited 4 people, odds are at least one would join, that would double the membership.
- If each area turned in at least one idea, odds are at least half would become clubs, that would be 10 additional clubs.

- If each club reached 20 members, that would mean each club was offering the best training opportunities to its members and guests.

If each club paid dues in a timely manner, odds are that District 77 Toastmasters would all truly know the value of the educational and leadership opportunities. How do we start?.... With the basics.

As individuals:

- Make sure your club contact information is correct



*See page 5*

## Return ~ Renew ~ Recommit

*From Bryan A. Holt, Lt. Governor of Education & Training*

Fellow District 77 Officers, Staff and Toastmasters,

Congratulations on your new positions as we start our new and exciting year.

**Truly "The Sky's The Limit... let reach for it... TOGETHER!"**

As Lieutenant Governor for Education and Training, my primary focus is to assist you with your new positions and reaching your goals.

As you know, the time is quickly approaching for our 2009 Summer Toastmasters Leadership Institute in Montgomery, July 18. We are excited to present our version of Toastmasters to you. More importantly, since this will be our first official meeting, we are doing everything make the event the best TLI ever.

Too, let me offer a few thoughts for our upcoming District 77 year.

First this is an excellent opportunity for fellow Toastmasters to "Return, Renew and Recommit." We will focus on the new and upcoming changes in Toastmasters.

This is also another opportunity network with your fellow Toastmasters and get involved in upcoming planned activities. I hope you will consider joining one of the Educational committees.

It is important that we as Toastmasters continue to make an effort to attend the key training events and conferences. We need to close the gaps by committing to stronger network ties while coming together for laughter and fun.

Second, let's all focus our "Each One, Reach One" campaign to get new members and assist them the Toastmasters program. Again, it is imperative we reach new members.

For example, you can bring a guest to the Summer TLI.

Remember, the purpose of Toastmasters International is to help people become better communicators and leaders, while providing an atmosphere of acceptance and assistance. By recruiting a new member in your club, you help to improve the life of the individual and gained a valuable new member to your club.

Lastly, please RSVP as quickly as possible for all upcoming scheduled events. It allows us to better plan and prepare activities for these events. **Again, let's get off to a great start.**

**I look forward to an exciting year working with you!!!**

**"The Sky's The Limit...**

**Let's reach for it... TOGETHER!"**





**Mark Your Calendars Now...**

**WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO FROM HERE?**

*Check out upcoming events for help in getting there*

Summer Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI):

SAT, JULY 18, 2009

Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church, 2673 Fisk Rd., Montgomery

International Conference:

August 12 - 15, 2009

MGM Grand at Foxwoods, Mashantucket, CT

**District 77 Achieves Distinguished Status**

*From Doris Bentley, Immediate Past District Governor*

It's been a long and challenging year, but one that's also been exciting and successful. I wish I could tell each of you personally how much your efforts in Toastmasters has meant to those around you, and to the District officers who have worked to support your efforts. It is with mixed emotions that I say farewell as District Governor. It has truly been a privilege and a great pleasure to serve you during the past Toastmaster year. We have had our share of challenges and have also enjoyed tremendous success. We have hosted 2 very successful conferences and worked hard to achieve our District goals.

I wish to thank and congratulate each member for his/her achievement; each CC, CL, AC, AL, DTM, New Member, New Club, Officer trained



and dues to Toastmasters International paid has made a significant impact on whether the District reached its goals. You made it possible to reach and, in many cases exceed, our district's goals and achieve Distinguished status for the third year in a row.

I take this opportunity to wish the incoming District 77 officers the best of luck and a year of great success in 2009/2010. I also offer my full support to the new District Trio and to all of you.

Toastmasters of District 77, I encourage you to remain focused on your goals and reach for the stars during the next Toastmasters' Year, too. I wish to personally thank all you for your commitment and dedication to continuing self development and leadership.

District 77 Goals/Progress		
Categories	Actual Achieved through 07/3//09	District '08-'09 Goal
CCs	127	114
ACs	82	32
CLs	48	60
ALs	24	25
DTMs	6	15
LDREXCs	7	12
<b>Total Clubs</b>	93	93
<b>Total Members</b>	3,378	3,344



**NEW CLUB NEWS**

Please join us in welcoming District 77's newest clubs:

**ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY TOASTMASTERS—**  
 Montgomery, AL  
 Charter Date: June 17, 2009  
 Club 1314919, Area 11, Division C

**ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY TOASTMASTERS -**  
**AAMU TOASTMASTERS**  
 Charter Date: June 30, 2009  
 Club 1362651, Area 2, Division A

**SARALAND TOASTMASTERS—**Saraland, AL  
 Chartered: June 25, 2009  
 Club 1269945, Area 14, Division D

Congratulations!  
 And Welcome to District 77!

## MORE IMPORTANT DATES

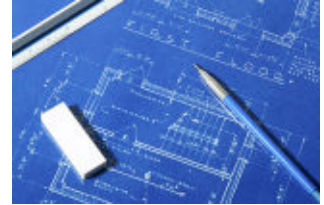
### Summer TLI (Toastmasters Leadership Institute)

Designed to help all the officers across the district to do a great job at taking care of their members. This summer's TLI will likewise be in Montgomery. The date is July 18<sup>th</sup>. Every club in the district should make an effort to have their officers attend this training. Some of the best planning stories I have

heard have focused on the car-pooling trip to District Training. It is a good way to do some team building on the way and debriefing on the way home. It is true that coming to the District Training is not the only way to be trained, but it is the only way to network with others across the district who will be

holding the same office as you. Within the next couple of weeks we will also be putting out information on registering for this event.

Be sure and see the information and registration flyer included in this newsletter and then send it in to join the fun and learning in Montgomery on the 18th!



**Plan now to follow your blueprint for success**

## CLUB PROXIES

*Continued from page 1*

the International Convention. If not, then the proxies should be tendered to the district governor or another officer.

If the president reports they did not receive the proxy card, describe the card to confirm that it was not received and set aside or accidentally thrown away.

---

## ***The Benefits of Toastmasters—from someone who knows firsthand***

Julius Rotich joined Sixth Avenue Toastmasters (SATM) in Birmingham, in March, 2009. A native of Kenya, Africa, he joined to improve his speaking and communicative abilities. The membership at SATM chooses to refer to our gathering as a "class" rather than a "meeting," because the level of training and knowledge exchange resembles a structured, classroom setting.

SATM meets twice monthly, and in just over 2 months, Toastmaster Rotich has delivered five presentations from the Competent Communication manual. His focused attention on the project objectives and the incorporated feedback received from his evaluators has produced noticeable improvement in his ability to express himself better with correct English grammar. Suggestions were also offered that he speak slower and use simpler word choices and shorter phrases. He is becoming much easier to understand and comprehend, in spite of his distinctively native Kenyan dialect. Julius is also pursuing a Ph.D in Business from Maharishi University of Management and he

has asked that a letter of recommendation be submitted by the person he affectionately calls his "Toastmaster Professor," SATM club president, Mike Reed, DTM. According to Toastmaster Rotich, "the benefits of the grammarian can not be over stated" especially for one who struggles with English as a second language and who sincerely wishes to improve.

When Professor Ralph Smedley launched Toastmasters, he probably did not envision how far reaching these learned skills can be put to practical use.

Next time somebody asks if Toastmasters can help in the real world, with the economy topsy-turvy and unemployment rates spiking, ask them to visit a Toastmasters "class" like Sixth Avenue Toastmasters in Birmingham and see for themselves. There's a pretty good chance they might learn something.

Ask fellow Toastmaster Julius Rotich. He will tell you that from his own personal experience, much learning is taking place.

## The sky's the limit

*Continued from page 1*

the members really need to encourage your officers to attend the training.

**Encouraging Involvement outside the club.** Members need to know that they are a part of a world wide organization. This all starts by members getting involved in events such as speech contests, intra club meeting, officer training and more.

**Knowing that they are not alone.** Clubs need to have Area and Division Governors regularly visiting their clubs in order to help as they need help. Also to help to train clubs about the world of Toastmasters, including leadership opportunities, how the areas, divi-

sions and district operates, and to know that they have input into those areas.

So... Members of District 77, I need you to help me do well for the district. What I require of you is communication; good, bad, or indifferent. Send it to your Area Governors, Division Governors or to me ([jmason2705@bellsouth.net](mailto:jmason2705@bellsouth.net)). The only thing I ask is this, think about it before you send it. All of us like to complain from time to time, but it is FAR better to be part of the solution, than part of the problem. If you have an issue, then send it with a suggestion for improvement. **And... it is also encouraged to**

**send notes of thanks, praise, and congratulations.** I mentioned in my campaign speech that I am all about communication and connecting across all levels of the District, we talk about toastmasters and communication skills... how about us practicing that very thing.

Lastly, as we launch in the new year all across our District, in every Division, Area and club, let set the stage by focusing on our theme for the year....

**"The Sky's The Limit! Let's Reach For It... Together!"**

## THE SECRET IS OUT!!

*Continued from page 2*

on the TI website, in the local paper calendar of events etc. Share business cards with your club information on them. Share your old Toastmasters magazines with your club contact information on them. Share your good club experiences with others.

- Be aware of possible locations and groups that could use a Toastmaster club and start one, or share the information with your Area Governor or Division Governor or me to help get that club started and offer the Toastmaster opportunity to others.

- Become a club mentor, helping a club with low membership get back to charter strength. Do it for your ALS, for it for your self, do it for your fellow club.

Plan now to get your dues payment to the club Treasurer by 1 September and be sure your Treasurer turns in the payments to TI before 15 September.

District 77:

- To help with new clubs, District 77 will establish one demonstration team per division. These teams would be available to help with club demo meetings. The team should have at least a seasoned Toastmaster, a younger Toastmaster, and a good evaluator. A team should consist of at about 5 people but more are welcome to help.

Also a Start Mentoring and Rejuvenating Team (SMART) for each Division is planned. A SMART team is similar to a demo team but they target helping established clubs with low membership with a meeting or two and encourage visitors to join.

If you are interested in volunteering for either Team or both in your area/division I need to know. Contact me at [Sharonkj@aol.com](mailto:Sharonkj@aol.com) or tell your Area or Division Governor.

It's easy, lets' start now.



### What a great idea!

Outgoing Division C Governor Alan Shotwell used local council meetings to help make sure that all clubs had the information and support they needed to be successful.

On a more granular level, that same concept might be useful for adjacent clubs or clubs within one area.

Get together to brainstorm ideas, share training, and network with others. Make it fun, too, by meeting for an afternoon snack and coffee or an early dinner.



## REGION VIII CONFERENCE REPORT

The 2009 Region VIII Conference is history now, but the effects of what was learned, shared, and said there will continue to ripple through our district (and others) for months to come.

For the incoming District Trio, the conference meant two days of intense training about the ins and outs and responsibilities of their new positions. Intermixed with that were some all-too-brief free periods that allowed time to network and learn from each others, and where many new friendships developed.

Division B Governor Karen Threlkeld played a role in training the non-district-trio participants with a workshop session entitled *Developing Your Leadership Skills*.

Outgoing District Governor Doris Bentley juggled long-distance support of ongoing efforts to wrap up completion of the district's 2008-2009 goals and took time to assist at the credentials desk, helping to record club proxies and issue ballots for the Region VIII business meeting.

Past International Director Gwen May accepted the challenging role of Chief Judge for the International Speech Contest and, of course, District 77 speech winner Everage Thomas, III, was a participant in the

regional competition.

For many, the comments of International President Jana Barnhill served as both an inspiration and a reminder of why they are in Toastmasters.

"Until I joined Toastmasters," said Barnhill, "I had never felt that anyone thought I was worth anything." But as a member, she continued, "I found the confidence I'd never known. ... Empowering people to achieve their full potential and realize their dreams," that's what Toastmasters is about.

"My club members never let me settle; never let me be 'comfortable.' They pushed me beyond what I thought I could do ... they pushed me beyond where I ever thought I could be. ... The thing about Toastmasters that we need to remember is that as long as we are working to learn and to grow, we have to hang on; we have to stick with it. No one, not one of us,

has lived up to our full potential."

And as the place where all Toastmasters learn and grow, "the clubs are the most important place in our organization. ... I thank every one of you who is taking the time to serve as a club officer; who serves our members."

Of the 1,176 clubs in Region VIII, 430 were represented at the conference—either in person or by proxy.



District 77 Governor Doris Bentley, International President Jana Barnhill, and incoming District 77 Governor Jeff Mason.

### Kudos Korner...

District 77's Everage Thomas, III placed second in the Region VIII International Speech competition, held in Greensboro, NC, on June 27.

Everage's speech, titled "Greatness is Already in Your Hand," held the audience's attention throughout and ended with a lively round of applause from the audience.

Toastmasters' International President Jana Barnhill and International Director Lee Holiday, presented the award at the close of the Saturday night banquet. Everage's wife, Mary, and son, Miles, were on hand for the presentation.

At the time and in an email to his Toastmaster friends, Everage noted that no one accomplishes great things alone. To all of us he says: "I would like to thank you for your prayers and support. The 2009 Speech Contest journey has ended for us, but I will forever cherish the awesome experiences of each moment. It was definitely a collective effort. Thank you for allowing me the time to practice in your club meetings. The honest evaluations :- ) proved to be very helpful."





## WHO YOU CAN CALL IN DISTRICT 77

### District Officers:

Jeff Mason, DG

– jmason2705@bellsouth.net

Brian Holt, LGET

– myholtba@yahoo.com

Sharon Johnson, LGM

– SharonKJ@aol.com

### Division Governors:

Division A – Monte Washburn

Division B – Karen Threlkeld

Division C – Charles Lawler

Division D – Nelson Ortega

Division E – Kevin Holcombe

## 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.

## District 77 Mission:

The mission of the district is to enhance the performance and extend the network of clubs, thereby offering greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from the Toastmasters educational program by:

- Focusing on the critical success factors as specified by the district educational and membership goals.
- Ensuring that each club effectively fulfills its responsibilities to its members.
- Providing effective training and leadership opportunities for club and district officers

---

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.toastmasters77.org](http://www.toastmasters77.org)

---

## Just so you'll know...

Registrations for this month's TLI are still coming in, but several divisions are taking the lead in making sure that all their club officers will be up to date and ready to serve. As of July 10th, here's how it stands:

Division A - 2      Division B - 24      Division C - 18      Division D - 8      Division E - 15

If you haven't yet registered, please use the attached form and get it into the mail today. And, just to make sure you're included in the snack and meal count, please send an email to Trey Henderson (trey.henderson.tm@gmail.com) to let him know it's on the way.

## TOASTMASTERS IN THE NEWS

Happy New Toastmaster Year!

As I begin my tenure as the District 77 Public Relations Officer, my aim is to get information out on items of interest and upcoming, as well as post-occurrence, of events. In addition to working with the District Staff to achieve CC and AC goals and achieve the district's membership growth goals, I will be posting your pertinent newsworthy information; so I welcome your inputs for newsletters and the District Website.

I plan to utilize the Website to make information current and available – on events and educational achievements.

Periodically I will be contacting Division Governors for

information or status on your events and/or accomplishments.

Please send information for your Clubs and Areas through your Division Governors, who in turn will notify me for publishing. Division Governors, you may want to get your information from Area Governors to eliminate duplicate information if you were to receive the same from a Club President.

Plan, Engage, Report.

Please send your information to:

June Newton  
District 77 Public Relations Officer  
[June.Newton.ctr@Eglin.af.mil](mailto:June.Newton.ctr@Eglin.af.mil)

# DISTRICT 77

*“The Sky’s the Limit”*



- ***Network with other District Leaders***
- ***Be Trained to Lead Your Club***
- ***Help earn the Club’s point toward the DCP!***



## DIRECTIONS:

- **Coming from I-65 South**  
Get on I-85 North, take Ann Street exit and turn right. The streets change names but it is a straight route: Ann S, Zelda Rd, Carter Hill Rd to 2673 Fisk Rd. The church will be on your left.
- **Coming from I-65 North**  
Turn right onto the South Blvd, turn left at Woodley Road and then take an immediate right onto Fisk Road. The church is about ½ a mile on your right.
- **Coming from I-85**  
Get on I-85 toward Montgomery, take Ann Street exit and turn left. The streets change names but it is a straight route: Ann S, Zelda Rd, Carter Hill Rd to 2673 Fisk Rd. The church will be on your left.

**Whitfield Memorial United Methodist Church**  
2673 Fisk Rd  
Montgomery, AL 36111  
(334) 281-2467  
[whitfieldumc.org](http://whitfieldumc.org)

# DISTRICT 77 TOASTMASTERS SUMMER Club Officers Training



SAT, JULY 18, 2009

Whitfield Memorial United  
Methodist Church  
2673 Fisk Road  
Montgomery, AL 36111

***“Sky’s The Limit!  
Let’s Reach For It...  
TOGETHER!”***

**AGENDA**

9:00 Registration Open/Continental Breakfast

9:30 Call to Order  
• Invocation and Pledge  
• District Mission Statement  
• Welcome and Opening Remarks  
Jeff Mason, DTM, District Governor

9:45 Introduction of Top 3

10:00 Roll Call of District 77 Clubs - Sharon Johnson

10:10 Personal Growth 3D – Bruce Pieper

10:30 Attracting and Maintaining Membership, Sharon Johnson

10:50 Motivating Achievement/DCP, Gwendolyn May, IPDG, PID

11:10 District Governor Time

11:20 Break to Serve Lunch

11:30 Achieving Success as a Club Officer  
“Breakout Sessions” – Working Lunch

1:00 Break – return for general session

1:10 Evaluate To Motivate – Bryan Holt

1:30 Invitation to 2009 Fall Conference, Conference Chair - Charles Lawler

1:35 Special Presentation – Jeff Mason  
“Member Success = Club Success”

1:45 Closing Remarks/Adjourn

2:00 ECM Division and Area Governors

**District 77 Toastmasters  
Club Officers Training**

**SAT, JULY 18, 2009**

**\$15.00 Registration Fee**

Registration includes a continental breakfast, lunch, beverages and educational sessions.

Please send your registration form AND your check payable to **District 77** by

**Friday, July 10, 2009.**

**Trey Henderson  
824 Ryefield Road  
Montgomery, AL 36117  
Email:  
henderson\_donald@bah.com  
404-808-5515**

Questions: Bryan Holt  
Lt. Governor Education & Training  
[myholtba@yahoo.com](mailto:myholtba@yahoo.com)  
334-395-5473  
Cell :334-590-2687

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

**Registration desk will be open from  
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM**

\*\*\*\*\*

If registering after July 10th, please send an email to District 77 Treasurer Trey Henderson to let him know that you'll be attending.

**District 77 Toastmasters Club Officer Training Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name/Number \_\_\_\_\_

Office (Please indicate Club Officer Position):  
 Club President \_\_\_ VPE \_\_\_ VP of Membership \_\_\_ VP of Public Relations \_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_

Treasurer \_\_\_ Sergeant-At-Arms \_\_\_ Not an officer \_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please make checks payable to **District 77**