



The Speaker's Voice

**District 77 Fall Conference
October 23-25
Marriott Prattville At Capitol Hill, Alabama**

**2 0 0 9 - 2 0 1 0
O F F I C E R S**

- **District Governor:**
Jeff Mason
- **Lt. Governor
Education & Training:**
Bryan Holt
- **Lt. Governor Mar-
keting:** Sharon John-
son
- **Immediate Past
District Governor:**
Doris Bentley

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

JEFF MASON—District Governor

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



MONTH 2. That's where we are in our new Toastmaster year. We've hit the ground running.

So far we've had our Division and Area Governor Training, our first TLI (Toastmasters Leadership Institute) and many of you are now planning, conducting and attending make up training.

Club officers, hopefully you getting settled in your new position of leadership, dealing with not only the rewards, but also the challenges of your position.

The District Lt Governor Education & Training, Lt Governor Marketing and I attended the International Conference in Mashantucket, CT. At that conference we picked up many more tools to help us to better serve you.

In the midst of all this busy-ness we have to remember to stay focused on the most important aspect of our organization...THE MEMBERS, in this way:

- Members helping members through encouragement, mentoring, and friendliness (and not just in the hour a week meeting, but at other times as well). Remember you are a club, but you are also friends.
- Presidents, lead by example by showing concern about the members of your club and be there to begin meeting with enthusiasm and energy.
- VPEs, meet with each member to discuss their personal goals and help them to develop a plan (including dates) to accomplish that plan.
- VPMs, keep your club's membership dues coming in early and on time. Develop membership drives and have new member applications to every meeting.
- VPPRs, work to get the word out about YOUR FANTASTICT CLUB.
- Secretaries, keep an eye on what's coming up on the Toastmasters International Calendar of dates and events. You can help the other officers stay on track by reminding them.
- Treasurers, be sure to get the dues submitted on time. Look at your club's budget, perhaps you can buy some ribbons or other type of things to promote member achievement, make a recommendation to your other officers.
- Sergeant At Arms, yours is an important job too. Among other things, be there early to get things set up for the meeting, then take the time to meet and greet every member that comes in. Be sure to introduce every visitor to another member who can sit with them during the meeting. Call your meeting to order with excitement in your voice.
- Now that you all have something to do, have an executive council meeting (ECM) to see if you can pull it all together for one ultimate purpose: to promote the members achievement and help to grow and develop self confidence.

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SHARON JOHNSON —District 77 Lt Governor, Marketing

Be sure Toastmaster International website has the correct club and contact information. Check it by entering your zip code in the 'Meeting Locations, Find a club near you' corner of the home page. Verify contact information. Ask your club President or Vice President of Public Relations to make necessary changes at the Toastmaster's International website, officer resources/club business.

Is the local newspaper calendar reporting the correction club meeting and contact information? Now is the time to check it out and update the information.

Take advantage of the club's speech contests and put the information in the newspaper. Share the news about the winners with the club Twitter and/or Facebook account too.

**Tip of the Month****BRYAN HOLT— Lieutenant Governor, Education and Training****LET'S CONTINUE TO BUILD A BETTER DISTRICT**

Remember when you first joined Toastmasters? For some it was a few days ago, for some it was a few years and for some it was a few decades ago.

But whether you are new to Toastmasters, an experienced Toastmaster or a seasoned communicator, we all have something to contribute. In short, I need your help.

Our vision is to establish a District-wide environment where people look forward to coming to the meetings and events at all levels: clubs, Area, Division and the District. As Lieutenant Governor for Education and Training, Specifically, I want you to look for opportunities to serve in new capacities because of not only the value for you but for other Toastmasters as well.

As you know, Toastmasters two key areas are: communication and leadership. I encourage you to take advantage of all the opportunities Toastmasters has to offer. Too, we must ensure our members are receiving credit for their well-deserved recognition.

However, when think you have reached your limit; remember there is always room for improvement. For example, have you ever been at an event and thought I could have done a better job.

I encourage you to volunteer to serve in a new club position; asked to serve as the master of ceremonies/contest master for a key event or get involved in preparing and planning one of our upcoming activities.

At the District level, there are many such opportunities such as our Toastmasters Leadership Institutes and the upcoming Fall and Conferences to expand and enhance your knowledge of Toastmasters.

Lastly, I would like to thank all who participated in the recent Summer Toastmasters Leadership Institute. The event was a rousing success. **Let's continue to build upon this success.**

In keeping with my theme let's all get involved to renew and recommit to having a better District.

Please feel free to contact me with feedback, suggestions and recommendations.

So whether you want to improve your communications techniques, enhance your leadership skills or just gain some additional self-confidence, let's continue to reach for the sky!

A Dedication to Ann-Marie Ladner

Ann-Marie grew up near Hartford, Connecticut, and was active in music and theatre in college. Martin "Marty" Ladner proposed within weeks of meeting her, and he began a military career that led them to Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas, Spain, California, Illinois, Turkey, and finally Alabama as she earned four degrees, became a National Forensics League judge and Competent Toastmaster, raised three children, and opened a private high school. After several years running of running the school, her health broke, and a stroke took her once Mensa-level intellect. She had been a Competent Toastmaster in Illinois; so, Montgomery Toastmasters allowed her to become a member. She occasionally served as the Table Topics master, attended meetings regularly, and attended many toastmasters conferences. Although her health never improved, she retained her sweet spirit until the end.

**Ann-Marie at TLI in January 2007**

BIOGRAPHIES

Jeffrey Mason, DTM, District Governor

Jeff is a resident of Mobile, Alabama and a member of Toastmasters since 2003. Within days of joining he became the club Sergeant at Arms. He has served in every club office except Treasurer. In his last four years as a club officer (VPPR, VPE [2 years] and President), his home club, Bay Way Toastmasters achieved "Presidents Distinguished Status". He served as Area Governor for 2 years, one of which was during hurricane Katrina. In his second year, he finished with "Distinguished Area" with 7 clubs. Jeff earned the "Area Governor of the Year" award for the 2005 - 2006 year. He served as the District 77 Lt Governor Education & Training (LGET) for 2008-2009, during which time the District finished as "Distinguished District". Jeff has presented training sessions at the District Level as well as across the district at many clubs, areas, and divisions. He is a strong candidate for the "Excellence in Education & Training Award" at the International Conference in Connecticut, as the District Lieutenant Governor of Marketing.

Bryan Holt, DTM, Lieutenant Governor, Education and Training

Bryan Holt is a DTM and the current District 77 Lieutenant Governor for Education and Training, 2009-2010. Bryan has been involved with Toastmasters for more than 20 years. He currently works at FOX-TV in Montgomery as an executive manager in the sales and marketing department. Bryan received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from the University of Alabama and his Master's of Arts in Public Administration from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. He recently retired from the U.S Air Force after 25 years of service. He also lived in Turkey, Germany, South Korea and Belgium during military career.

Bryan is married to Cynthia Holt and they have one son, Remington.

Sharon Johnson, District 77, Lt Gov, Marketing

Clubs: Emerald Coast Toastmasters, Technology Park Toastmasters, Crestview Toastmasters

Joined TM: Oct 2003—plans to have DTM completed at fall conference 2009

Profession: Senior System Analyst for Oklahoma State University at Eglin AFB

Sharon's first Toastmaster experience was as a teenager in Junior Achievement and participated in a Speech Craft program. Then a friend invited her to a meeting about many years later. She joined to have an audience, but learned how much she could improve. She participated in the humorous speech contest at the club level and won, then again at the area and division level capturing the district title. After, she was asked to be a district officer, an area governor. Over the course of her 6-year toastmaster career she has achieved CTM, ACB, ACS, and plans to finish ACG by October 2009. She has also practiced leadership skills in several club roles, and has earned a new and old CL, ALB, and plans to finish the last requirement for the ALS and therefore my DTM at the fall conference, 2009. When not working with Toastmasters, she is a Systems Analyst, a mother of one, mother-in-law, and grandmother of two very cute and smart boys.

Gwendolyn May, DTM

Gwen has been an active and dedicated Toastmaster since 1997. She has served in several club offices and as an Area Governor, Division Governor and District Governor 2000-2001, where she and her team led her District to Distinguished status. Gwen was elected to Toastmasters Board of Directors in 2004. She was awarded the Toastmasters International Presidential Citation in August 2008. Gwen has also served as a presenter at several District Conferences and Region VIII Conferences.

Linda Hill, DTM, PDG

Linda works for AT&T as a Sr. Technical Director in Information Technology Operations for Enterprise Backup and Recovery. She has over 30 years service. Married to Kenny Hill and has three children, three in-law children and three grandchildren. She has been in Toastmasters since August of 1999 and served as DG for D77 in 05-06.

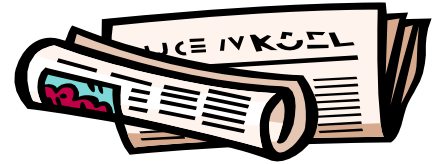
Educational Awards from July :

- Denise Johnson—Early Birds Toastmasters, Birmingham—CL and ALB
- Dave Wilson—Magic City Toastmasters, Birmingham—CC
- Rebecca Jennings—Magic City Toastmasters, Birmingham—CC
- Ron Valentine—Reddy Talkers, Birmingham—CC
- Thomas Bramhall—Strategic Speakers, Huntsville—CC
- Irina Washburn—Speak Easy, Decatur—ALS, LDREXC
- Faye Rayford-Outsey—Early Birds Toastmasters, Montgomery—CC
- Bushra Murali—Hattiesburg Toastmasters, Hattiesburg—CC
- Helen- Morris—Bienville Toastmasters, Ocean Springs—LDREXC, DTM
- Mike Humphreys—Bienville Toastmasters, Ocean Springs—ALS,DTM
- Chiao Wang—Speak Saufley Toastmasters, Pensacola—CC
- Esin Gershaw—Emerald Coast, Eglin Air Force Base—CL
- Gene Hasty—Speak Saufley Toastmasters, Pensacola—CC
- Jeremy Tinkel—Landrum Companies Toastmasters, Pensacola—CL
- Laurie Jones—Landrum Companies Toastmasters, Pensacola—CC
- Betty Sims—Lake DeFuniak Toastmasters, Defuniak Springs—CC
- Angela Vail – Clayton college of Natural Health – CC
- Thomas Mosley – Circle of Champions - ALB

Announcements

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT:

- We have a new toastmaster in area 14!
- Bryan Whatley, President of Mentor Graphics Club in Mobile and the Area 14 Governor became a father for the second time.
- Her name is Katelyn "Breanna" Whatley.



Hot off the Press

Gary Schmidt's Presidential Theme — 2009-2010

Toastmasters: Confidence. Leadership. Service.

Source: Toastmasters International website (Become the Speaker & Leader You Want To Be)

Confidence

Before we become skilled communicators and leaders, we first gain the self-assurance and belief that we can indeed become who we were meant to be. Toastmasters provides the tools to build our confidence.

Leadership

After we gain confidence, we develop our talents in leading others. Leadership is the process of influencing others to accomplish goals and objectives. Every single one of us is a leader, whether we serve as an elected officer, a mentor to a fellow club member, or simply invite a friend to visit a club. Leading others helps us lead our own lives in the direction of our dreams.

Service

With our improved confidence and leadership skills, we then serve others. When you help others achieve their goals and dreams, they help you achieve yours. Your self-confidence continues to grow and expand, as do your leadership skills, and when these are combined, your capacity to serve others is enhanced. The circle of personal development grows and continues!

Serving the World

Service extends beyond Toastmasters. With the confidence and leadership skills Toastmasters instills in each of us, it is our opportunity and responsibility to use those talents to serve and improve the world. Serve your family, your community and your profession. Make the world a better place than it was before you arrived.

Call to Action

Whether you are a new member, an officer or a past leader, keep the ideals of confidence, leadership and service ever-present in your mind through the coming year. Continue to engage in Toastmasters' education programs, achieve in the Distinguished Club, Area, Division and District programs, bring new members to your clubs, and involve yourself in all the programs and events Toastmasters International offers. With all these tools for the taking, you will improve your life, the lives of your fellow members, and the lives of all those in the world who are touched daily by the power of Toastmasters.

Toastmaster Leadership Institute, Jul 09, Montgomery





DISTRICT 77



"The Sky's the Limit"
**Come and reach for it with your fellow
Toastmasters!!!**

Marriott Prattville At Capitol Hill

District 77 Fall Conference October 23-25 Prattville, Alabama

FRIDAY FUN NIGHT:

- Presentation from DeWayne Smith, World Champion Public Speaking
- Mini training sessions to help you in your club experience

SATURDAY:

- More excellent training session
- More from the WORLD CHAMPION SPEAKER
- HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON
- The coveted DTM WALK
- TABLE TOPICS SPEECH CONTEST

SUNDAY MORNING: **SPECIAL EVENT!** BREAKFAST WITH THE CHAMP!!!!

Meals for the events:

Hall of Fame Luncheon: Salad, Chicken Breast, Rice, Green Beans, and Dessert

Humorous Speech Contest Banquet: Stuffed Pork Chop (Spinach & Tomato), Rice, Vegetable, and Dessert



Early Bird Give Away!

Registrations postmarked by September 15 will be entered in a drawing for \$50 in Toastmasters Coupons

The Sky's The Limit
Let's Reach for it... Together!



Toastmasters District 77 Fall Conference October 23-25, 2009
Prattville, Alabama

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY

Name: _____ I'm a Member I'm a Guest

Full Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

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

Email: _____ Club Name: _____ Club Number: _____

What Area are you in: _____ TM Educational Level (e.g. ACG, CL) _____

Current Club Office: _____ Is this your first District Conference? Yes No

PLEASE SELECT ATTENDANCE CHOICE (Make one selection from items 1-3)

1. **Conference Registration** (Including: Friday Night Fun Night, Education Sessions, Hall of Fame Luncheon, Table Topics Contest, Humorous Speech Contest & Dinner) **\$99.00** if postmarked by September 15th
2. **ONLY** the Saturday Hall of Fame Luncheon and Table Topics Contest: \$50.00 if postmarked by September 15th
3. **ONLY** the Saturday Evening Banquet and Humorous Speech Contest: \$50.00 if postmarked by September 15th
4. **Sunday Breakfast with the Champion: \$35.00** (This is a separate event including full breakfast and session with the 2002 World Champion of Public Speaking, Dwayne Smith, "The Speaker's Coalition")

(Add \$10.00 if postmarked after September 15th, add \$20 if postmarked after October 2nd)

MEAL INFORMATION: Menus are listed on additional conference flyers.

Check here if you are requesting a vegetarian meal.

Last date for meal orders will be October 15th, no meal orders will be taken at the conference..

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

Trey Henderson, District Treasurer, at 824 Ryefield Rd, Montgomery, AL 36117

Because some of the sessions may be recorded, we ask all attendees to sign below. "I authorize the reproduction, sale, copyright, exhibition, broadcast and/or distribution of any video, audio recording, or photographs where I am present without limitations."

Signature _____

Date _____

Hotel Reservation Deadline is: October 2, 2009

Marriott Legends At Capitol Hill, 2500 Legends Circle, Prattville, AL 36066

Book rooms under "District 77 Toastmasters" \$99.00/night plus applicable room taxes.

Phone: 866-340-5343 Link to hotel and reservations available at District 77 Website: www.toastmasters77.org

Conference questions should be directed to Bryan Holt, Lt Governor Education and Training at: myholtba@yahoo.com

Registration questions should be directed to Trey Henderson, District Treasurer at: trey.henderson.tm@gmail.com

Cancellation Policy: Registration fee is refundable, less \$5.00, if request is received by District Treasurer prior to October 2nd