



The Speaker's Voice

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Jeff Mason, DTM - District Governor

MONTH 3. WHY SHOULD I GO TO THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE???

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O F F I C E R S

• **District Governor:**

Jeff Mason

• **Lt. Governor**

Education & Training:

Bryan Holt

• **Lt. Governor Marketing:**

Sharon Johnson

• **Immediate Past**

District Governor:

Doris Bentley

That is the question I asked myself during my first year as a Toastmaster! And...it's a good question considering all the time constraints we live with from day to day and considering all the different things that we can be spending our money on. Let me tell you something else that may surprise you... I asked myself a similar question as recently as few weeks ago. "Why do I need to go to the International Convention?"



My (*not so short*) answer is that I see being a Toastmaster and not going to conference is like having cake without the icing. Going only to my local Toastmasters meeting and not attending the conferences only gives me the basics of why I joined. It's like watching a sporting event all season and not watching the playoffs or a cooking elimination and not bothering to see who brings home the blue ribbon..... you get my point.

When I go to conferences I see things from a different prospective, meeting new people and seeing other club's members and hear how their meetings are run, (for instance, can you believe that some clubs have Table Topics BEFORE their manual speeches?). I get fresh ideas for speeches, and attend educational sessions that sharpen my skills. Sessions like: how to make a free website for my club; how to be a better speech evaluator; how to be a better leader. Then there's the chance to hear one of the WORLD CHAMPIONS of Public Speaking THREE TIMES in one weekend! And don't miss the Talent Show, Table Topics Contest, and the Humorous Speech Contest.

These are the types of things you can see at every conference! Except sometimes it may be an International Speech Contest instead of a Humorous, and it may be a karaoke night instead of a Talent Show.

Not only that, but it's a great time to take you spouse or significant other out to a nice hotel and dinner.

Going to our District Conference in a couple weeks is a great experience that will change how you see Toastmasters. It helps you see that you are part of something much bigger than you imagined.

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IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE IT IT'S NOT TIT'S NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE IT O OUR FALL CONFERENCE! Go to our district website (www.toastmasters77.org), for information. *HERE'S A LITTLE SECRET:*

The early bird price, you can send your info now with a "sticky note" on the registration saying, "I need to be at the fall conference", and still register for the price of \$99.00. But hurry, this will only last till the 10th of October, and because the rooms are on a space and rate available basis after October 2nd.

ONE MORE THING..... My experience on going to the International Conference in August...AWESOME! Yes it was time consuming, yes it was "pricey", but IT WAS WORTH IT! I conducted the district business that was needed and learned a lot to help me do my job as District Governor, PLUS ...I found out that Toastmasters International is in 106 countries world wide. I saw the flags from each of those countries one by one being brought to the platform. I got to speak to people from all around the world (including a chance to refresh my German that I had forgotten). And the World Championship of Public Speaking contest... WOW!! Every Toastmaster needs to go to at least one International Conference; it will rock your world!

I hope to see YOU at the fall conference... Jeff Mason, District Governor



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

BRYAN HOLT, DTM — Lieutenant Governor, Education and Training

Are You Excited About the Fall Conference?

As the Lieutenant Governor for Education and Training, I'm excited our upcoming District 77 Fall Conference, October 23-25, in Prattville, Alabama and I look forward to seeing you at the Conference.

This year, the conference will be held at a great location for a wonderful getaway weekend, located on the world-renown Robert Trent Jones Golf Complex. The resort provides extraordinary venue, world-class facilities and much more, all in a private and intimate wooded setting.

I encourage you to make plans to join the fun, activities, excitement and the educational benefits. District 77 will also enjoy the pleasure of the World Champion Speaker Dwayne Smith. In addition to being a World Champion Speaker, Dwayne Smith is Motivational Speaker, Poet and Author. This is a great opportunity for you to hear and learn from the best.

As usual, we will have our exciting District Table Topics Contest and Humorous Speech Contest. Come support your division winner and listen to the best in the District.

The conference is also great for networking with other Toastmasters from Alabama, Mississippi and Florida.

Lastly, we are working hard to ensure all of our venues are first-rate. We are enhancing our educational sessions and we will recognize our outstanding Toastmasters.

There is excitement in the air as we approach the conference date.

Come have fun...Come Learn...Come and support your fellows Toastmasters...Come enhance your Communication and Leadership skills...Come!

If you have not done so already, make register for the conference and your reservations at:

Marriott Legends At Capitol Hill,
 2500 Legends Circle, Prattville, AL 36066
 Book rooms under "District 77 Toastmasters"

Link to hotel and reservations available at:
 District 77 Website: www.toastmasters77.org

Let's have a SUPER conference!

SHARON JOHNSON — Lieutenant Governor of Marketing

What is the role of the Lt Governor of Marketing?

Excellent question, check out the new e-learning at the Toastmaster International website

<http://www.toastmasters.org/Ses1DORoles.aspx> Click "Launch Session" in the middle of the page for a short training module. This gives an overview of the responsibilities of the District Trio, District Governor, Lt Governor Education and Training and Lt Governor Marketing.

To answer the question more directly it is to help promote membership and club growth. But I can't do it alone. We need to work together. Here are a few things we can do.

- Pay dues.
- Attend meeting regularly and help make the meeting the best it can be.
- Invite someone to the meetings.
- Find an opportunity to start a new club.
- Volunteer to be part of a kick-off team to demonstrate the structure and value of a Toastmaster meeting.

District 77 Fall Conference is only days away. It is a great opportunity to meet a World Championship Speaker, Dwayne Smith and learn great tips to be a better speaker. And it will be greatly entertaining. Check out <http://www.dwaynegsmith.com/index.htm> to learn more about Dwayne Smith. There will be training sessions about using FreeHostToast.org, about Toastmaster Coaching program for the club and the coach, about Leadership and about Evaluations. Plus there is the District Table Topics contest and the District Humorous Speech contest. And of course there is the business meeting, the talent show, and networking. Check out the district website for a registration form. Fill it out, send it in, and come to the District Fall Conference in Prattville, Alabama, 23-25 October.

What can we do together? Our District goals are to increase membership by 3 per cent. Why because there are people that can benefit from this great organization. We need to be sure we offer Toastmasters to everyone, to reach potential members who will take advantage of the opportunities to learn and grow in Toastmasters.

Our District goal is to increase the number of clubs by 5, one per division.

We need to replace clubs that fail, build up the clubs that are struggling add a few more. There are plenty of locations that should be able to support a healthy 20 member club. There are businesses that can benefit from a company club. Help us identify those locations and people. Contact your Area Governor or Lt Gov Marketing with your hot leads and let's start a few clubs. About half of the clubs in the district are below 12 members. This can be a problem; this is an opportunity for a coach to be added to the 'tools' the club officers can utilize to make their club successful. What is successful? To Toastmasters International it means completing the Distinguished Club Program successfully.

Check out theta District Performance Reports:

http://reports.toastmasters.org/reports_new/reports.cfm?d=77. Successful is most importantly having the members achieve their goals, becoming better speakers by giving speeches, becoming better leaders by practicing at club meetings and club, area, and district leadership roles. What can we do together? We can reach the district goals... we can reach our individual goals...We can succeed.

Congratulations Early Dues Payment Contest Winners

These clubs paid their membership fees to Toastmasters International by 7 September. The President and Treasurer of these clubs win priority seating at the fall conference luncheon. And they earned ½ DCP point for their club

Club Number	Div	Area	Date dues paid	Club Name	City
1380024	A	2	09/01/09	SAIC Huntsville Toastmasters	Huntsville
1932	A	1	09/02/09	Redstone Club	Huntsville
1104089	A	3	09/02/09	Steelmasters	Trinity
3934	B	8	09/02/09	Round Table Advance Toastmasters Club	Birmingham
4945	C	11	09/02/09	Coffee County Toastmasters Club	Enterprise
3876	E	16	09/02/09	Ellyson Park Toastmasters Club	Pensacola
2974	B	8	09/03/09	Vestavia Club	Birmingham
925499	E	17	09/03/09	GED Toastmasters Club	Gulf Breeze
3693	E	19	09/03/09	Technology Park Toastmasters Club	Ft Walton Beach
9626	A	3	09/04/09	Speaking Easy Club	Decatur
2459	C	11	09/04/09	Blue-Gray Club	Montgomery
817348	E	18	09/06/09	Crestview Club	Crestview
1357	E	16	09/01/09	Toastmasters Of Cordova Club	Pensacola

The following clubs did an honorable job and paid their membership fees to Toastmasters International by 15 September, the District suggested deadline. To these clubs we say "Thank you so much for doing such a great job for the team, District 77". And congratulations on earning ½ DCP point for your club:

Club Number	Div	Area	Date dues paid	Club Name	City
9990	D	12	9/08/2009	Bienville Toastmasters Club	Ocean Springs
1756	B	8	9/09/2009	Social Voices Toastmasters Club	Birmingham
8334	D	12	9/09/2009	VA Gulf Coast's Club	Biloxi
2186	A	1	9/10/2009	Mason-Dixon Club	Huntsville
512	B	8	9/10/2009	Vulcan Voices Toastmasters Club	Birmingham
5175	B	4	9/13/2009	Vocalizers Club	Birmingham
1325394	B	6	9/14/2009	Circle of Champions Toastmasters	Alabaster

Club Num	Div	Area	Date dues paid	Club Name	City
944094	E	16	9/14/2009	Gulf Breeze Toastmasters	Gulf Breeze
1326384	B	7	9/15/2009	Corsini's Rainmakers & Leaders Club	Birmingham
6614	B	7	9/15/2009	Early Birds Toastmasters Club	Birmingham
673826	C	10	9/15/2009	Talk of the Town Toastmasters Club	Opelika
956	D	13	9/15/2009	Laurel Toastmasters Club	Laurel
7395	E	17	9/15/2009	Spirited Speakers Club	Pensacola
4119	E	17	9/15/2009	Western Gate Toastmasters	Pensacola
4252	D	20	9/15/2009	Bay Way Toastmasters Club	Mobile
2815	D	20	9/15/2009	Downtown Club	Mobile

Other clubs who have met the 29 Sep TI deadline for dues payments and earn ½ of a DCP are:

724908	E	19	9/16/2009	Destin Toastmasters	Destin
1057656	B	5	9/17/2009	Golden Voices	Fairfield
663841	E	16	9/17/2009	Landrum Companies Toastmasters Club	Pensacola
851515	E	18	9/18/2009	Lake DeFuniak Toastmasters Club	Defuniak Springs
9309	B	8	9/21/2009	Power Speakers Toastmasters Club	Birmingham
873049	D	14	9/21/2009	Mentor Graphics	Mobile
2552	E	17	9/21/2009	Downtown Club	Pensacola
1269945	D	20	9/22/2009	Saraland Toastmasters	Saraland
3963	A	2	9/23/2009	Hi-Noon Toastmasters Club	Huntsville
6054	A	2	9/23/2009	Strategic Speakers Club	Huntsville
7864	B	4	9/23/2009	Data Center Toastmasters Club	Birmingham
4386	B	4	9/24/2009	BE&K Toastmasters Club	Birmingham
1235772	B	4	9/24/2009	Sixth Avenue Toastmasters	Birmingham
2806	B	6	9/24/2009	Southern Style Speaker Club	Birmingham
1334	C	9	9/24/2009	Montgomery Toastmasters	Montgomery
1153	C	11	9/24/2009	Maxwell AFB Club	Montgomery
3553	D	13	9/24/2009	Hattiesburg Toastmasters	Hattiesburg
1919	E	18	9/24/2009	Emerald Coast Club	Eglin AFB
9783	A	2	9/25/2009	Lunar Nooners Toastmasters	Huntsville
5539	E	17	9/25/2009	Speak Saufley Toastmasters Club	Pensacola
572	B	7	9/27/2009	Magic City Toastmasters Club	Birmingham
4258	C	9	9/27/2009	Capitol Toastmasters	Montgomery
3191	E	16	9/27/2009	Monday Nite Toastmasters Club	Pensacola
3126	B	6	9/28/2009	Protective Pacesetters Club	Birmingham
1258	D	12	9/28/2009	Gulf Coast Advanced Club	Ocean Springs
3235	A	1	9/28/2009	Speakeasy Club	Huntsville
2837	D	14	9/28/2009	Top Cats Club	Mobile
4734	D	15	9/28/2009	Day Breakers Club	Fairhope
8422	D	15	9/28/2009	Eastern Shore Toastmasters Club	Fairhope
6534	C	10	9/29/2009 C	AVHCS East Toastmasters Club	Tuskegee
9478	E	18	9/29/2009	Hurlburt Club	Hurlburt Field

BIOGRAPHIES

Twila Mercan, ACB, CL

CAVHCS East Toastmasters Club 6534, Tuskegee, Alabama

Military veteran. U. S. Army. Served three years active duty, five years in the Army National Guard. Employed at Central Alabama Veterans Health care System (V.A. Medical Center) since 1989.

Personal:

Mother, three children; grandmother to five children

Active with church and community activities in the Phoenix City, AL and Columbus, GA area.

Member: CAVHCS East Toastmasters Club—past club president, 2008-2009. Now serving as Club Secretary and District 77 Area 10 Governor, 2009-2010.

Hobbies: watching old movies, traveling, making crafts.

Karen Threlkeld, DTM

Speakers Club at Alabama Power Company and the Round Table Advanced Club where she serves as VP -Membership

She has been a Toastmaster since 2003 and completed her term as Area 4 Governor for 2008-2009 and is now serving as Division B Governor for 2009-2010.

Karen is a Project Management Professional (PMP) and Master Project Manager (MPM). She has achieved her Advanced Communicator-Silver (ACS) and Competent Leader (CL) awards and plans to complete the Advanced Communicator-Gold (ACG), Advanced Leader-Silver (ALS), and Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) awards this year.

Yolanda Turner ACB, CL

Power Speakers club at Alabama Power. She has been a toastmaster member for about 3 1/2 years. She has served as VP of Education and President of her club. During 2008-2009 year she served as District Secretary. She is currently the Area 8 Governor. She has a BS degree in Human Resources Management and a MS in Public and Private Management, both from Birmingham Southern College. She manages a small event planning and decorating business, provides consultant service in human resources and conducts job training for youths in the Birmingham area. She volunteers for several community organizations.

David McCaig, ACB

Gulf Breeze Toastmasters

District SAA

David has been a Toastmaster since 2003.

He has been a member and Sergeant At Arms for Gulf Power Club, and Achievers Extraordinaire Advanced Club, and Gulf Breeze Toastmasters Club. He is currently the President of Gulf Breeze Toastmasters. David is one project away from achieving the CL award which will be completed in September.

Joetta McCaig ACG, ALB

Gulf Breeze Toastmasters

Area 16 governor.

Joetta has been a Toastmaster for nine years. She served as Secretary for "Sunrisers Club" in Minneapolis. After moving to Gulf Breeze, Florida she had the roles of VPE and VPM for Gulf Power Toastmasters. Joetta is charter member of the Advanced Toastmaster Club "Achievers Extraordinaire" and "Gulf Breeze Toastmasters" of Gulf Breeze. Gulf Breeze Toastmaster Club has earned President's Distinguished status each year since chartering. For the year 2008-2009 Joetta served as VPE and was voted by the club as "Toastmaster of The Year".

BIOGRAPHIES CONT

Linda Hill, DTM, PDG

I work for AT&T as a Sr. Technical Director in Information Technology Operations for Enterprise Backup and Recovery. I have over 30 years service. Married to Kenny Hill. We have three children, three in-law children and three grandchildren.

I have been in Toastmaster since August of 1999. I've served as DG for D77 in 05-06.

Also serves as:

Round Table - Treas & Sec

Speech Crafters - Treas, Sec & S@A

Just for you, the reader.

For the first division governor to email me with this phrase "People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care." included in the email to show you have read this newsletter will receive a prize from me at the fall conference. Also, the first five area governors to email me with the quote above included in an email will receive a prize from me at the fall conference. Finally, any Toastmaster (non district officer) who emails me with the quote before 7 October 2009 will receive a prize at the fall conference. Look for the display table at the fall conference, (probably at the information desk) to collect your prize. You will have to sign for it. My email is sharonkj@aol.com.

KUDOS AND THANKS To JAVA JAAYS

From Club member, Dean Grafton, about JAVA JAAYS:

"Our club in Decatur is so fortunate to have a place like Java Jaays and we should support them in anyway that we can. To have a place that is as nice as Java Jaays and for them to let us come in and use the facilities as we do is something that was hard to find at the time our group met at Athens."

REMINDER: Send any thanks to sponsors or businesses who offer assistance to your clubs, to District 77 Public Relations Officer, June.newton@eglin.af.mil



District 77 Fall Conference

October 23-25, 2009

Prattville, Alabama



“The Sky’s the Limit”
Come and reach for it with your fellow
Toastmasters!!!

Marriott Prattville At Capitol Hill
COME EARLY, STAY LATE, MAKE IT A VACATION!

FRIDAY FUN NIGHT:

-2nd Annual District Talent Show
COME DRESSED IN YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS ATTIRE!!!

SATURDAY:

- Excellent training sessions
- 2002 World Champion of Public Speaking; Dwayne Smith
- HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON
- The coveted DTM WALK
- TABLE TOPICS SPEECH CONTEST

SATURDAY EVENING: HUMOROUS SPEECH CONTEST AND BANQUET

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
Vegetarian Meal on request (See Registration Form)



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