

The Speaker's Voice



The District's Mission: *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 development opportunities for club and district officers*

Sharon Johnson — District Governor

Toastmasters of District 77,

It doesn't matter how many notes you write or how many reminders you put in your calendar. It doesn't matter how fancy or loud, how many bells or whistles you use. It doesn't get done till you do it.

We are four months into this Toastmasters year with six months to go (We don't want to wait till the last minute/month, right?). What have you done to move toward your personal success this year? You see, district success depends on your success. Are you giving speeches, working toward your next educational goal? Are you inviting people to visit your club? And then, are you inviting them to join? Are you helping to start a new club? All of these things are necessary for district success. All of these success factors depend on you. We can do it.

Sign up for Success update:

	<u>Goal</u>	<u>To Date</u>	<u>Need</u>
CC	300	34	266
AC	200	13	187
CL, AL	200	30	170
New Members	1000	230	770
New Clubs:	25	0	25

We still have some work to do.

Maybe a little incentive will help?

District Dollars – a district incentive. Complete a specific challenge (see the list on page 2) and earn district dollars. You will receive a certificate like the one shown. Then go online to the Toastmasters International (TI) store and purchase supplies, books, clothing – whatever you want – with your check or credit card. Submit the TI invoice with the district dollars and you will then be reimbursed for the amount shown on the district dollar.

OR submit the district dollars with the registration form for the TLI or spring conference to help lower the cost. Submit the registration with check or cash minus the stated amount on the district dollar certificate. All certificates will expire June 15, 2012 and must be used (sent back to the district governor with the invoice) prior to that date to receive reimbursement. [Note: certificates have no cash value on their own. Reimbursements will not exceed the value of the invoice or registration(s)]

Sharon Johnson, DTM
District 77 Governor

2011 - 2012 OFFICERS

District Governor:
Sharon Johnson

**Lt. Governor
Education & Training:**
Charles Lawler

Lt. Governor Marketing:
Rose McCall

**Immediate Past
District Governor:**
Karen Threlkeld

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Club Information

Club Incentives

Check your club Website. Is the information correct? Are you using the new Toastmasters banner? Is the contact information correct, and will a visitor get a response?

Your club Website is an important part of your club marketing program. More and more people are looking on the Web—for everything. You want your club to be found if they are looking for such an opportunity. It should be appealing, informative, and correct. To help each club ensure their Website is up-to-date, the district has an incentive program. Thanksgiving weekend, all clubs in the district will have their site reviewed. If the club is using the new TI format/banner, your club earns 5 DD. If the information about time, day and location is correct, your club earns another 5 DD. And if there is a response from the listed contact by November 30, the clubh earns another 5 DD. Total of 15 DD for having your club Website up to date. The District Dollars will be distributed at the District Winter TLI on January 7th.

For those using FreeToastHost, please be aware that there will come a point when the old FreeToastHost sites will no longer be available. We're still checking to confirm when that will be, but it may be as early as February of next year.

News for All

Discounts on Club Banners Extended!

Toastmasters International has extended the deadline for purchasing a new club banner—with the new TI brand—from the Toastmasters store. Instead of October 31st (already more than a week behind us), clubs have until December 16th to order at the reduced price.

Better Speaker Series Resources Now Available Online!

Toastmasters International is now making it possible to download free electronic versions of materials from the [Better Speaker Series!](#) If you haven't yet presented these to your club, now's the time—and now it's free!

Earn District Dollars – Here's How...

Incentive	Begins	Ends
For the months of Aug. - Dec., Clubs will receive \$20 in District Dollars for 5 or more CCs earned & posted	7/1/11	12/31/11
For the months of Dec. - Mar., Clubs will receive \$10 in District Dollars for 5 or more CCs earned & posted	7/1/11	3/31/21
For the months of Aug. - Dec., Clubs will receive \$20 in District Dollars for 5 or more ACs	7/1/11	12/31/11
For the months of Dec. - Mar., Clubs will receive \$10 in District Dollars for 5 or more ACs	7/1/11	3/31/11
For the months of Aug. - Dec., Clubs will receive \$20 in District Dollars for 3 or more CLs	7/1/11	12/30/11
For the months of Dec. - Mar., Clubs will receive \$10 in District Dollars for 3 or more CLs	7/1/11	3/31/11
For the months of Aug. - Dec., Clubs will receive \$20 in District Dollars for 3 or more ALs or DTMs	7/1/11	12/30/11
For the months of Dec. - Mar., Clubs will receive \$10 District Dollars for 3 or more ALs or DTMs	7/1/11	3/31/11
If a club had all 7 club officers trained at the summer TLI, they will receive \$10 District Dollars	7/1/11	8/31/11
If they had 6 in attendance at the summer TLI, they will receive \$5 District Dollars	7/1/11	8/31/11
If a club has all 7 club officers trained at the winter TLI, they will receive \$10 District Dollars	12/1/11	2/28/22
If clubs have 6 officers in attendance at the winter TLI , they will receive \$5 District Dollars	12/1/11	2/28/12

Celebrating Toastmasters

Speakeasy Celebrates Anniversary

The Stennis Toastmasters 'Speakeasy' Club was chartered in 1976. It has provided an environment for positive learning and leadership skill development for Stennis Space Center employees for 35 years. An anniversary celebration, with cake and ice-cream, was held on November 2, 2011. Past, present and future Toastmasters were invited! The guest speaker for the event was Dr. Tina Thomas from the 'Totally Toastmasters' club in Mandeville, La.

Dr. Thomas gave an interesting speech with PowerPoint titled, "The Secret of Happiness," to fulfill the requirements of Competent Communicator Manual, speech #7.



Helping to celebrate were (L to R) front row: Dorsie Jones, NASA Manager of Human Capital; Sheena Antoine, Lana Cagle, Leigh Schaumburg, Gigi Savona, Jacqueline Wall, Dr. Tina Thomas, Katy Nims, Division D Governor; Wes Hillstrom. Back row: Allen Lowrie, Steve Faber, Tom Loftin, Heather Carnocki, Howard Conyers, Michael Hopman. In attendance but not pictured: Lt. Col. Lori Rego, Hattiesburg Toastmasters Club.

Areas 53 and 54 Host Fright Night...



Fright Night TMD Wanda Walker and Best Speaker, Bruce Jolly.

It was a dark and scary speech – that was Fright Night on the Emerald Coast. Members from clubs across Areas 53 and 54 held a Halloween Speech-A-Thon, using a competition style. Members donned incognito costumes as transformation werewolf, Roman soldier, Captain America, gypsy woman, the Press, and zombie. They acquired a roving trophy, which will be circulated among the clubs, to be showcased at the winner's club. Clubs represented at this event with speakers and guests were, Crestview, Destin, Emerald Coast, Lake DeFuniak, Technology Park, White Sands, and Hurlburt. The Toastmaster of the Day, gypsy woman (TM Wanda Walker) did a super and scary job of announcing speakers in a ghoulish pick-a-number witch's pot. The members sat shaking in their cold seats while she randomly selected 'human specimens' from witch's pot that was brewing *just for you* – you didn't want to be called...ha ha ha ha ha! But you had to be. Voting slips were passed out and everyone voted on the Best Speaker, who was the one and only First Avenger and war hero ...Captain America (TM Bruce Jolly). He was awarded the roving trophy that went to the Emerald Coast club. Fright Night was a marvelous and scary event to be continued again.

Celebrations continued on page 5

Club Anniversaries—Let's help celebrate!

Club #	Club Name	Charter Date	Anniversary
642	Speakeasy Toastmasters Club	11/01/1976	35
4734	Baldwin Day Breakers Toastmasters	11/1/1981	30
3876	Ellyson Park Toastmasters Club	11/01/1995	16
702	White Sands Toastmasters	11/01/2000	11

Congratulations — Educational Achievements, October 2011

Award	Member	Name	Location
CL	Glass, Hugh B.	Intergraph Toastmasters Club	Madison
ACS	O'Connor, George	Gulf Coast Toastmasters Club	Gulfport
ACB	O'Connor, George	Gulf Coast Toastmasters Club	Gulfport
CL	O'Connor, George	Gulf Coast Toastmasters Club	Gulfport
CL	Walker, Wanda	Crestview Club	Crestview
ACG	Gant, Tonya R.	Western Gate Toastmasters	Pensacola
CL	Edge, Susan M.	Protective Pacesetters Club	Birmingham
CC	Elshere, Lance D.	Redstone Club	Madison
ACB	Humphreys, Mike	Bienville Toastmasters Club	Ocean Springs
ACS	Jackson, Joel R.	Eastern Shore Toastmasters Club	Daphne
CL	Jackson, Joel R.	Eastern Shore Toastmasters Club	Daphne
ALB	Jackson, Joel R.	Eastern Shore Toastmasters Club	Daphne
CC	Maumenee, Benjamin C.	Eastern Shore Toastmasters Club	Daphne
CC	Stargell, Gregory	Research Park Toastmasters	Huntsville
CL	Gershaw, Esin	Hurlburt Club	Hurlburt Field
CC	Davis, Dan L.	Florence Toastmasters	Florence
CC	Oubre, Julie Ann	Bienville Toastmasters Club	Ocean Springs
CC	Sampson, Beverly Ann	White Sands Club	Fort Walton Beach
CC	Drenning, Lisa	Vocalizers Club	Birmingham
ACB	Holt, Heath	Emerald Coast Club	Eglin Air Force Base
CC	Mohling, Andrew Blake	ALFA Econchati Club	Montgomery
CC	Helms, Rachel Marie	ALFA Econchati Club	Montgomery

Leadership Quotes to Note...

In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure.

—Bill Cosby

Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure ... than to rank with those poor souls who neither enjoy nor suffer much because they live in a gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.

—Theodore Roosevelt



*Share your news for
others to enjoy ..*

*And to get great
Ideas from!*

Celebrating Toastmasters (continued)

You're Invited...

Gulf Coast Club, #2095, will celebrate their 40th anniversary with a come one, come all party on Thursday, December 1st. All past and present Toastmasters — from all over! — are invited to join in the celebration from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Garden Park Hospital Cafeteria, 15200 Community Road, Gulf Port, MS.

If you have questions or need directions, contact [Tammy Bridenbeck](#), VPE..

Crestview Celebrates with Open House...

Club 817348, Crestview, FL, celebrated their 6th anniversary in August, and continued celebrating with an Open House/Membership Campaign on October 25. More than 25 people were on hand for the festivities, and to celebrate the completion of a 10th speech and CC requirements by Dedria Lunderman.

The club meets fro 6-7 p.m. every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at O'Sullivan Creel.



Club President DeLois Jackson congratulated TM Dedria Lunderman (right) upon completion of her 10th speech in the CC manual.

Carroll W. Puckett, DTM

Carroll Puckett, prominent Toastmaster and friend, passed away a little before 3 a.m. on Thursday, Oct 27.

Carroll W. Puckett was born on June 10, 1934 in Cason, TX. Following graduation from Pittsburg High School in Texas in 1952, he moved to Montgomery, AL, to attend college.

Mr. Puckett received

a BA from Alabama Christian College, an MA from Trinity Theological Seminary, and a JD from Jones Law School. His life and work ethic began by being raised on a farm in Texas, working his way through school and later enjoying a variety of endeavors as a businessman.

He was a positive

thinker and loved helping others. His secular encouragement continued with his involvement in Toastmasters International and the development of communication and leadership skills in himself and others.

Mr. Puckett is survived by his wife, Betty; daughter, Rebecca Johnson; two sons, Wayne and Paul

Puckett; seven grandchildren; two great grandchildren; and six siblings.



Remembering Carroll Puckett

by Charles Lawler

Fellow Toastmasters — I did not imagine some six years ago walking into the Public Library in downtown Montgomery giving my first speech that I would still be apart of this great organization. One thing that I contribution to my dedication in the organization this long was the

first evaluation Mr. Carroll Puckett was the man that day giving me this evaluation. He made me feel like I could fly after hearing his evaluation, I think I even heard R. Kelly singing in the background that day, "I believe I can fly." He really was very gracious.

Unfortunately, on

Thursday, October 25, 2011, Mr. Puckett passed away. He was a mentor and friend to many people in our District, and many of the clubs have his thumb print on them. He served as District Governor and chartered many clubs. I had the distinct honor of awarding him when we

celebrated the 55th Anniversary of my home club, Montgomery Toastmasters — #1334, one of the clubs he chartered.

Mr. Puckett left large shoes to fill and a great example to follow. District 77, and the world, is the better because of Carroll Puckett.

Nominations for 2012-2013 District Leadership Positions are being accepted now!

The 2012 District 77 Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations for District Leadership positions for the 2012-2013 Toastmasters year.

We need qualified candidates to step up and serve the District and ask that YOU give consideration to your future as a Toastmaster.

How do you become a District Leader?

The district governor, lieutenant governor education and training,

lieutenant governor marketing and division governors are all elected by the district council at the Annual Business Meeting at the District's Spring Conference.

Area Governors, public relations officer, secretary and treasurer are appointed by the district governor (subject to approval by the district council).

You must be nominated or submit a nomination for yourself if you wish to serve in

one of the elected positions. The deadline for Nominations to be submitted is February 15, 2012. Nominations for the appointed positions are also accepted during this timeframe and will be provided to the elected District Governor for consideration.

What are the rules?

To hold any elected or appointed district office, you must be a club member in good standing and meet all other minimum eligibility requirements.

District leaders must be elected or appointed by September 1 and serve through June 30 to receive credit toward the Advanced Leader Silver (ALS) award.

Forms are available on the [District 77 website](#) or you can contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Karen Threlkeld, via e-mail at karen.threlkeld.tm@gmail.com or via telephone: 205.478-5158.

Winter TLI Promises New Knowledge, New Opportunities

Mark your calendars now, and visit the [District 77 website](#) to sign up for the Winter Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI)! Your next opportunity for fun and learning will be Saturday, January 7, 2012, in Montgomery, AL.

Benefits of Attending TLI

Club officer training is an essential part of achieving success as a club officer. District 77 TLI sessions are a dynamic, interactive, information-and-idea filled day of training and networking. Officer participation in TLI contributes towards Goal #9 of the Distinguished Club Program, helping achieve club success.

- Enhance your ability to lead your club to success by attending the Training and Leadership Institute sessions. At least four officers must be trained at both the summer and winter sessions for your club to get credit in the Distinguished Club Program.
- Special recognition for clubs who get all seven officers trained.
- Attend training electives designed to enrich your understanding as a club officer. Gain tips, techniques, and other resources and tools to share with your club members and—more importantly—maintain a healthy Toastmasters club.
- Browse new manuals and others resources.

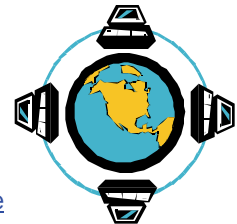
Learn about new resources your club could use to grow.

Tips for TLI

- You don't have to be an officer to attend TLI, it is more than just officer training.
- Be sure to read your officer's manual prior to attending TLI. Downloadable copies can be found through the [online resources](#) page.
- Don't forget your club number!
- Be sure to sign in for the class and include your club number. If you hold the same position in multiple clubs, be sure to list all clubs. (It helps when your [club information](#) is up to date!)
- Be an active listener.
- Share your experiences when appropriate.
- Use your Toastmaster's manners.
- Encourage other officers to attend. Special recognition goes to clubs who have all seven officers trained during each officer training period.
- Have fun.

Questions should be directed to the [Lt. Governor – Education and Training](#).

Class schedules and instructors are subject to last-minute change due to availability of trainers.



Learn more about the world of Toastmasters—and your role in all it offers—at the upcoming TLI in January 2012.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELIZABETH "BETTY" KAINZ

CELEBRATING 23 YEARS IN TOASTMASTERS



Standing behind the lectern—that's where you'll often find Betty Kainz, as she continues to learn from Toastmasters and share it with others.

My father came home one day when I was in high school to announce he had discovered a good thing. It was Toastmasters. He enthusiastically described what the organization was about, and that he planned to join. His daughter, however, took several years to make a similar decision. I was aware that Toastmasters existed, and met in the office building where I worked. However, I already had plenty to do, and was spread a little thin.

I worked in other buildings where there was no nearby club. After 10 years with the State of Minnesota, I returned to the office in which I started. My co-workers began at once to try to get me to join Toastmasters; I knew I would be among friends. Since speech was my minor in college, I should have been a "natural" for the club. Right? I joined High Nooners, at that time Club 666 in Area 11, downtown St. Paul, MN, in 1988.

The members' enthusiasm at having me for a new member, and their willingness to help, made me glad at once to belong. I discovered that there were things I had forgotten about public speaking since college. In addition to the camaraderie we experienced as

members, there were the excellent speeches, on many varied topics. Learning was paramount, and what's more, it was FUN!

As I prepared and gave speeches, I relearned speech writing and delivery in the most comfortable setting possible. Evaluations were encouraging and helpful. Members of other clubs, and area and district officers, were always available and eager to help.

My love of humor, as well as the prompting of my fellow Toastmasters, made me eager to compete in the Humorous Speech contest. I was surprised to find myself a winner at the club and area levels. At the district contest, I came in second. I learned from this first contest that even though I had not "swept" the series of competitions, I was still a winner! Before I lost one contest, I had won two! What a valuable lesson!

A speech by one of our members convinced me I could serve as an area governor-- another privilege. The clubs in my area were all in downtown St. Paul, and therefore within walking distance. This experience in leadership has served me well ever since. When we moved to Alabama, I quickly joined Coffee County Toastmasters in Enterprise.

Many club members finish the first ten speeches, and then drop out of Toastmasters. Why? Here's five reasons to stay:

1. Once you have learned a skill like public speaking, you become a resource for others. In Toastmasters, you may serve as a mentor to a new member. Your valuable experience will help that person to progress at a faster rate.
2. There is no limit of speech topics, and the learning never ends.
3. Fellow Toastmasters often become friends for life.
4. Competition continues to hone the skills of even the best speakers.
5. **You** can be the catalyst to bring out the best in another speaker.

This is why I have stayed in Toastmasters for 23 years: I believe everyone has something of value to say. If I can help another member achieve a goal, I can find satisfaction in that person's accomplishments. Toastmasters is a network of people who are willing to work together to benefit one another. Members draw on one another's strong points for support and bolster one another's personal growth through the challenges of prepared and impromptu speaking.

Because there were those before me were willing to "stay with the program" that is Toastmasters, I have learned many valuable lessons.

I hope you will experience the same benefits and, in turn, make them available to others.