

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The holidays are always busy. Don't forget to give yourself the gift of a little peace and quiet during this busy time. Enjoy the holidays.

We are almost half way through the Toastmaster year. We have set goals, laid plans, begun with the first speeches and projects. Now it is time to Follow-up. That is review: Are our goals still realistic? Do we need to readjust our plan so we can achieve our goals? Now is the time to regroup to reach that goal.

Sign up for Success update:

	Goal	To Date	Need
CC	300	41	259
AC	200	17	183
CL, AL	200	30	170
New Members	1000	279	721
New Clubs:	25	0	25

Do we lower the district goals? What can we do? What can you do? Your success counts a part of the District success.

The new year is a time for new beginnings. Ask friends and strangers to visit your Toastmaster club. Look for opportunities to plant new clubs, or even just the idea of a new club. The five members listed below have already achieved the triple crown award this year. What is the triple crown? A toastmaster who has earned at least 3 education awards in 1 toastmaster year. I know you can finish your next educational level. Just give the next speech or do the next leadership project.

Member	Award Count	Awards
Jolly, Bruce	4	ALS, ACG, DTM, CL
O'Connor, George	4	ACG, CL, ACS, ACB
Jackson, Joel R.	3	ACS, CL, ALB
Van Horn, Dianna	3	DTM, CL, ACG
Walker, Wanda	3	CC, CL, ALB

There's an even longer list (on page two) of Toastmasters who have sponsored at least 3 new members since 1 July 2011. Check that out now, as it may be some of your fellow club members who deserve a pat on the back for a job well done.

DG's message continued on page 2

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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District Governor's Message *(continued)*

Member	# of Members Sponsored	Member	# of Members Sponsored
Daniel B. Chancey	9	Veronica Hudson, ACS, ALS	4
Jamison R. Warrick	6	Katy Nims, CC, CL	3
Leslie Ellen Turney	5	Sabine Simmons	3
Dan Davis, CC		Tomiko Stanford, DTM	3

All you have to do is ask someone to visit and then ask them to join. ***District 77 can be Distinguished***, if we all make the best of our Toastmaster year. We can to it.

Sharon Johnson, DTM
District 77 Governor

Message From the LGET

By Charles Lawler, ACB, CL—District 77 Lt. Gov. Education & Training

We are fast approaching the holiday season. As we near Christmas let us ***be thankful***, for the things that sometimes we do not think about. We live in a country that I believe is the greatest in history and the freedoms that we enjoy and take for granted are not seen in all parts of world. We should, ***be thankful*** for our family and the relationship that we have with them . The relationships that we each have in our individual clubs. So, ***be thankful***.

With the holiday season in mind, we quickly come upon our Leadership Institute, January 7, 2012. There will be changes reflected from the feedback after the last training. The breakout sessions will at least one hour and we will not have pizza. The theme of this TLI is "**Building Strong Clubs**." After this year the emphasis for the distinguished club program will be, clubs and that is we want to focus on going forward. I look forward to seeing everyone this coming year. Additionally, look to hear more about the Spring Conference as we finalize hotel arrangements.

Club Building Strategies

By Rose McCall, ACG, ALB—District 77 Lt. Gov. Marketing

Building a Toastmasters club is like building a house – you must have a solid foundation. Along those lines I have a few club-building tips for KEEPING a club going after you get the framework up.

1. **Commitment** – the most important element of your frame. If you have members willing to make the commitment to come to meetings you're off to a great start.
2. **Location, location, location** – if you are hard to find, then you will have trouble recruiting. Regularly update your club website if you have one. Put notices in church bulletins with your VP Education's name and phone number. MAP the club on the TI website and check it monthly.
3. **Quality Meetings** – the better the meetings the more people will want to attend. A fun place to be any time of the day means they will bring others in.
4. **Supportive and Nurturing environment** – if they feel welcome the minute they walk in the door, they will continue to come back.
5. **Management buy-in/support** – especially true for a Corporate club. For a Community or Campus club the support of the members is ESSENTIAL to survival.

One Way to Promote Toastmasters International

Create [club or district business cards](#) indicating your meeting time and place, and distribute them to friends and colleagues along with a personal comment on how Toastmasters training has benefited you.

Celebrating Toastmasters

Gulf Coast Toastmasters – 40 Years Strong

The Gulf Coast Toastmasters Club 2095 celebrated their 40th anniversary on December 1, 2011 at the Garden Park Hospital Training facility in Gulfport, MS. A crowd of 20 Toastmasters and guests enjoyed an evening of food, fun, fellowship, and shared success stories from the past 40 years of the club.

George O'Conor, the Immediate Past-President and long-term member said, "It is a privilege and honor to carry on the promise of the charter members' vision continuously from 1971, to provide a public speech and leadership training club for the central Mississippi Gulf Coast. It is our intention as members to add to that vision and to provide a 'modern toolbox' of worthy communication skills to those who seek this training."

Other Clubs represented at this gathering were the Bienville Club (Ocean Springs, MS), the VA Club (Biloxi, MS), and Speakeasy (Stennis Space Center, MS).



Members from four clubs joined in the celebration of Gulf Coasts Toastmasters' 40th anniversary.

Club Anniversaries—Let's help celebrate!

Club #	Club Name	Charter Date	Anniversary
3553	Hattiesburg Toastmasters	12/1/1962	49
2095	Gulf Coast Toastmasters	12/1/1971	40
956	Laurel Toastmasters	12/1/1980	31
1357	Toastmasters of Cordova	12/1/1997	14
1104089	Steelmasters	12/18/2007	4
1434878	Tyndall Toastmasters	12/15/2010	1

A Suggestion for Club Success

offered by Helen Holston, Area 33 Governor

Put the Distinguished Club Program information on the back of printed agendas, to keep the club informed of the progress toward success.

Congratulations — Educational Achievements, October 2011

Award	Member	Club Name	Location
LDREXC	Brown, Pat W.	CAVHCS—West	Montgomery
CC	Mundt, Sheila	ALFA Econchati	Montgomery
ALB	Maranon, Herman A.	Hurlburt	Hurlburt Field
CC	Lunderman, Dedria A.	Crestview	Crestview
ALB	Walker, Wanda	Crestview	Crestview
CC	Kay, Pete	Florence Toastmasters	Florence
CC	Bridenbeck, Tammy	Gulf Coast Toastmasters	Gulfport
ACG	O'Connor, George	Gulf Coast Toastmasters	Gulfport
CC	Cox, Terry Lane	ALFA Econchati	Montgomery
CL	Moore, Karen L.	Thomas Hospital's Toastmasters	Fairhope
ACB	O'Daniel, Jodie L.	Eastern Shore Toastmasters	Daphne
CL	O'Daniel, Jodie L.	Eastern Shore Toastmasters	Daphne
ALB	McCoy, Joel Dene	Thomas Hospital's Toastmasters	Fairhope
CL	Dozier, Cynthia L.	Protective Pacesetters	Birmingham
CC	Manci, Elizabeth Ann	Downtown Club	Mobile
ALS	Danforth, Dawn	Landrum Companies Toastmasters	Pensacola

Leadership Quotes to Note...

If it is to be, it's up to me.

—Anonymous

To lead people, walk beside them... As for the best leaders, the people do not notice their existence. The next best, the people honor and praise. The next, the people fear; and the next, the people hate... When the best leader's work is done, the people say, "We did it ourselves!"

—Lao-tsu

Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment.

—Jim Rohn

Ideas are a dime a dozen. People who implement them are priceless.

—Mary Kay Ash

I am a great believer in luck, and I find that the harder I work, the more I have of it.

—Thomas Jefferson

Many of life's failures are people who do not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.

—Thomas Edison

Ready to get your FreeToastHost 2.0 Website done?



Good to know!
Here's your chance to get help in getting your club's Website up and

Do you fall into one of the following categories:

- Your club has never had a website but you know you need to do it and are not sure where/how to start
- You've had a club website but it's on the old version of FreeToastHost and it feels like too much work to change
- You just haven't had time to look into this or maybe picked up the responsibility from someone else and need some shortcuts to get it done quickly

If any of these apply to your club, you'll want to join me for a "Get It Done" virtual workshop Saturday morning December 31st from 9 a.m. to noon. During this time I promise you you'll be able to:

- Get your new website set up so you can showcase your club's personality within the new format
- Populate it with your members' information so they can start using it right away
- Understand how to use the new tools available (agenda builder, contact management, guest and former member tracking) that make this version better

Identify how the website will interact with social media such as Facebook or a closed club's intranet. You'll also get a checklist that you can use to make sure you've completed the basics for a "launch ready" website that your club can be proud to promote and will help you (and future club members) keep up to date.

In order to participate (no travel needed) you will need:

- Computer with high-speed internet connection
- (Recommended) 2 club members to work together on this (ideal combinations are VPM & VPPR if you don't have anyone as a designated webmaster but any 2 members who are somewhat computer savvy will do—you do NOT need to have ever done a website before to learn this!)
- A selection of photos from your club meetings (group photos are best)
- A list of member names and emails (can be downloaded from the TI website by an officer)

Registration is limited to the first 6 clubs so send an email to Katy Nims at sknims@gmail.com by December 20th if your club is interested in participating. Start 2012 and come to the January TLI KNOWING that your club's website is "promotion ready".

A Toastmaster's Promise

As a member of Toastmasters International and my club, I promise...

- To attend club meetings regularly
- To prepare all of my speech and leadership projects to the best of my ability, basing them on projects in the *Competent Communication*, *Advanced Communication* or *Competent Leadership* manuals
- To prepare for and fulfill meeting assignments
- To provide fellow members with helpful, constructive evaluations
- To help the club maintain the positive, friendly environment necessary for all members to learn and grow
- To serve my club as an officer when called upon to do so
- To treat my fellow club members and our guests with respect and courtesy
- To bring guests to club meetings so they can see the benefits Toastmasters membership offers
- To adhere to the guidelines and rules for all Toastmasters educational and recognition programs
- To maintain honest and highly ethical standards during the conduct of all Toastmasters activities

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, lieu-

tenant 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 re-

quirements.

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.
- Learn about new manuals and others re-

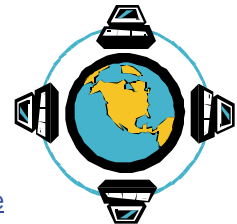
sources. Learn about new resources your club could use to grow.

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.