



Forum 56



Editor: Jill Rowlands DTM, PO Box 310635, Houston TX 77235
713-728-4912 for District 56 Toastmasters March 2003

District 56 Toastmasters -

This newsletter is to get critical information concerning the upcoming Spring Conference on May 9th and 10th. Read the content inside to know why your club members will benefit by attending and please make sure that your club is represented at the May 10th business meeting (no charge) when your district officers for 2003 – 2004 will be elected and introduced to their customers (you).



Due to personal reasons our District 56 Governor, Jerry Pruitt, has been absent and not been able to perform her duties since December, 2002. We ask that all District 56 Toastmasters include Jerry in their thoughts and prayers. Pray for her health and problem resolution and show your support for Jerry and for the district by continuing in your "commitment to excellence" as I know that she would want you to do. Toastmasters International is now sending all District Governor communication to the senior district officer for D56 ... myself. Please do the same.

Yours in Toastmasters, - John Moffitt, LGET for 2002 - 2003

Spring Conference Highlights

By John Simpson Spring 2003 Conference Chair:

Keynote Speaker: Darren LaCroix 2001 International Speech World Champion

(<http://www.toastmasters.org/2001champsapk.asp>) will be the keynote speaker.



Darren LaCroix, of Auburn, Massachusetts, emerged victorious and claimed the title of 2001 World Champion of Public Speaking with his seven-minute speech, "Ouch." With a message of "don't be afraid to fail," the velvet-voiced LaCroix told of how he was inspired by motivational speaker Brian Tracy to pursue his dream of becoming a comedian and professional speaker – although nobody he knew considered him funny and he had a fear of public speaking.

OUCH! How I went from chump to champ!

Forever change the way you give presentations. (Continued on Page 8)

C&L Speaker: John H. Lienhard,

author and voice of The Engines of Our Ingenuity (<http://www.uh.edu/engines/jhlbio.htm>) will be our speaker at the awards luncheon on Saturday!

John H. Lienhard, author and voice of The Engines of Our Ingenuity, is M.D. Anderson Professor of Mechanical Engineering and History at the University of Houston. He is known for his research in the thermal sciences as well as in cultural history. He is an Honorary Member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).



UNITED FOR FREEDOM

The theme for our 2003 District 56 Spring Conference is "United for Freedom", in anticipation of Armed Forces Day on May 17, 2003. This theme celebrates the efforts of men and women who serve in the Army, Navy, Marines Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. (See page 2 for more information.)



CALLING ALL CLUB BULLETIN EDITORS!

Newsletter Contest: (See Page 10 for more information.)

David Brooks DTM



"I'd love to use more humor when I speak. The only problem is...I'm not funny"

If you've ever said this (and most people have), come hear what David Brooks, the 1990 World Champion of Public Speaking, can tell you about finding and using humor...even if you're humor-impaired.(Continued on Page 11)

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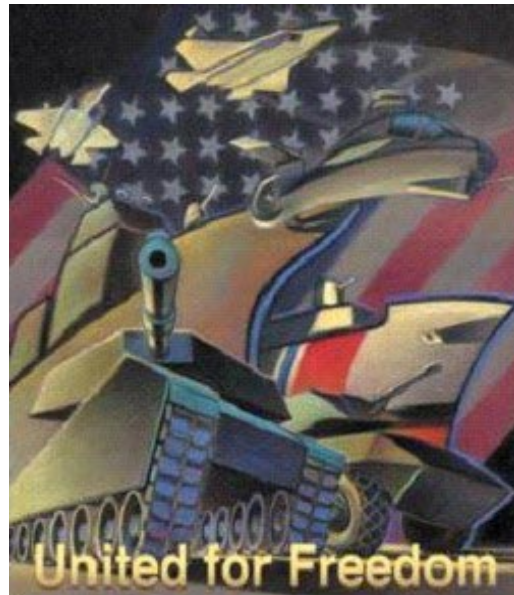
District Reminders:

Club Dues must be collected by the Club Treasurer and sent in to T.I. on April 1. Late dues may disqualify speech contestants and proxy carrying members.

Conference Donations: Any company or individual wishing to donate door prizes or conference packet give aways for promotional opportunities please contact the 2003 Spring Conference Chair, John Simpson, at jsimpson12@houston.rr.com.

United For Freedom

*The theme for our 2003 District 56 Spring Conference is “**United For Freedom**”, in anticipation of Armed Forces Day on May 17, 2003. This theme celebrates the efforts of men and women who serve in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard.*



The words of President Dwight D. Eisenhower written in 1953 remain true today: “It is fitting and proper that we devote one day each year to paying special tribute to those whose constancy and courage constitute one of the bulwarks guarding the freedom of this nation and the peace of the free world.” On Armed Forces Day, our Nation salutes the brave men and women who protect our country, defend freedom, and help make our world a better place.

During these extraordinary times, we are reminded that our achievements in peace and war stand upon the service and sacrifice of those in uniform. Today, we have troops fighting overseas to defeat terrorism. These brave men and women follow in the footsteps of previous generations who, since our Nation’s founding, have stepped forward to defend our homeland and secure liberty for our country and our friends and allies. The members of our military exemplify the true spirit of patriotism – a love of country expressed through a commitment to serve our Nation and defend our freedom. Their selfless dedication and determination are an inspiration to every American.

Excerpted from President George W. Bush’s Proclamation on May 16, 2002

We must never forget that freedom is never really free.
It is the most costly thing in the world.
Freedom is never paid for in a lump sum.
Installments come due in every generation.
All any of us can do is offer the generations that follow a chance for freedom.
- President Ronald Reagan



John R. Moffitt, DTM

Candidate for District 56 Governor

An Astrophysicist by education, John Russell Moffitt has been in Toastmasters since April of 1999, joining Toastmasters shortly after his return to Texas from living and writing in Europe. He obtained his CTM quickly, and then accepted appointment to Area Governor (1999–2000). During the 2000–2001 term, John served as Professionally Speaking Singles Toastmasters VPE & President. John was selected as the Outstanding Club President for District 56. John has worked to bring many new members into Toastmasters and has inspired others to complete manual and leadership projects.

John served as Distinguished Lt. Governor of Marketing for 2001-2002, starting 13 new clubs. John was elected Lt. Governor of Education and Training for 2002-2003 and actively serves the 118 clubs in District 56. He attends 100 percent of meetings and trainings, and is always available for questions. John is not a stranger to public speaking or leadership positions. Writing many technical papers and a frequent lecturer (paleontology and geology) at museums and conferences, John does management consulting for a living.

John Moffitt is running for the position of District Governor for 2003-2004. John believes that for Toastmaster clubs to be worth attending, the meetings must be interesting and something that people look forward to. His theme continues to be ... "Keep Fun In Toastmasters".



Max Rasquinha, DTM

Candidate for Lt Governor of Education

As an International Business Consultant, specialized in the Energy sector for Import and Export Management, Max E. Rasquinha is proud to recollect his 27 years of dedication as an active Toastmaster. He has served in different countries such as Middle East, Europe, Canada, Asia and the United States of America as a Toastmaster dealing with people of different backgrounds, religions, cultures, and nationalities. Max has served as a Toastmaster in different capacities on a 'step-by-step' basis starting from a Sergeant-at-Arms to the current position as Lt. Governor Marketing for District 56.

Teamwork is the hallmark of Max Rasquinha's life style as an International Businessman who has enjoyed the luxury of traveling on business to several countries and deal with several types of people from all paths of life. Max with his positive attitude has always a basket of success stories to unfold and share with all his daily acquaintances. He is always proud to confess the tangible and intangible benefits derived from being a Toastmaster in six different nations for the past 27 years.

Max is happily married to Jessica for 40 years, and they have two sons aged 35 and 31, happily settled in Texas. Max has also been instrumental in sponsoring and mentoring several Toastmasters Clubs, including two clubs in his native country India where he visits almost twice a year on business and pleasure.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)



Allen Prescott, ATM-B/CL

Candidate for Lt. Governor of Marketing

Allen Prescott has been a Toastmaster in District 56 since 1994. He originally joined the Clear Lake club; but he's now a member of Clear Lake Communicators, which is his home club. Allen has held all club officer positions at least once, and has been club president twice. Allen's home club has been Presidents Distinguished two years in a row and is very close to doing it again for the third year in a row! Allen says that he's proud to be a member of this club.

Allen was Area P3 Governor for the 2001-2002 year, which was a Distinguished Area. He was also the District 56 Area Governor of year. Allen is now the Division P Governor for 2002-2003 and is running for the Lieutenant Governor Marketing position for 2003-2004.

Allen is an ATM-B, CL and has two CTM's. He has a wife and two boys, ages 8 and 12, and resides in El Lago, TX.

Allen is sponsoring a club in the Clear Lake area called the Boeing Babblers, which should charter before April 2003. He's learned a lot about what to do and what not to do when chartering a new club. These lessons learned will help him during his term as Lieutenant Governor Marketing, 2003-2004.



Cynthia St. Dennis, ATM-G/CL
Candidate for Division L

Working in the world of Finance, Cynthia St. Dennis is not the average “accountant”. With her Toastmaster skills, she typically does not fit the standardized role. Her professional role as Payroll Manager & Quality Representative of an international organization and trainer is an avenue to use the communication and leadership skills learned in Toastmasters.

As a charter member of Greenspoint Area Toastmasters, since its inception October 1993, Cynthia has held each office at the club level. She then advanced to Area Governor of Area L-43 for the 2000-2001 term. She continued her service as Area Governor of L-41 for 2001-2002, and then moved up to take the challenge of Division L Governor for 2002-2003. Cynthia has worked to keep her home club alive in the struggling economy of a mobile workforce of the North Houston area around Greenspoint.

Cynthia marched up the communications track to receive her CTM within the first year and her ATM within the next two years. This of course was completed along with the leadership roles she held as officers of her home club. She received ATM-G and CL during 2002 and will earn her DTM within the next year.

As Division L Governor, Cynthia has effectively communicated and offered help to her 4 Area Governors as needed, including hosting meetings to discuss the health of the Division and goals. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)



Cecelia Rucker Marlin, CTM/CL
Candidate for Division M

A retired banker with 22 years experience in banking operations as a trainer/facilitator, Cecelia Rucker Marlin has been a Toastmaster since July 2000. Cecelia is a third generation native Houstonian. She is one of the founders of the JPMC Firm Speakers, a closed club within JPMorgan Chase Bank, downtown location. She served as VPE the first year and obtained her CTM within nine months. As VPE she encouraged and motivated other members of the club to reach for the stars and their CTM, and before the club was a year old, it could boast of 10 CTM’s! She is the immediate past president of the club, having to step down when her job went away at the end of 2002.

Cecelia walked away with the first place trophy for Table Topics in her very first entry of an area contest in 2001. For the last four years she has been a mentor for high school juniors through a program sponsored by the Texas A&M Extension Program, Empowering Teen Leaders.

One of her responsibilities every year is to present a “Communications Basics” module to the students. This task is made easy using all the things learned in Toastmasters. It is also very rewarding when the students come up and say they have been helped by some of the tips given.

Cecelia is a regular speaker at several Alief middle schools speaking to the young leaders of tomorrow.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)



John E. Simpson Jr., CTM
Candidate for Division N

John joined Katy Toastmasters (#2755) in January 1999 and obtained his CTM in June 2001. John has served his club in several capacities, including:

- VP Membership
- VP Marketing
- VP Education (twice)
- President (current)

John has mentored one-on-one in his home club and also at the club level for the members of the JPMC Corporate Communicators. Most recently, John served as co-chair for the District 56 2003 Spring Conference. Prior to joining Toastmasters, John wrote numerous articles and papers for publication in computer industry journals. John has also chaired committees for the Multibus Manufacturing Group and presented papers on multiprocessor computer design at nationally attended conferences and seminars on the subject.

John Simpson is running for the position of Division N Governor for 2003-2004. John believes in the power of positive thinking and the inherent value of the Toastmaster experience. To that end, John actively seeks to share the rewards of membership in Toastmasters by assisting other members at every level of the organization by applying the principle – “We get back what we put in.”



Pam McCown, CTM/CL

Candidate for Division O

A Charter Member of JPMorgan Chase Firm Speakers since July 2001, Pamela McCown served as the first Vice President Membership and currently serves as the Vice President Education. She obtained her CTM within the first year as a Toastmaster and achieved Competent Leader certification in October 2002.

Pam brings out the best in others with her positive attitude and her radiant smile. By taking the time to encourage people to stretch to reach their goals, Pam has been instrumental in sponsoring the fourth JPMorgan Chase Toastmasters Club in Houston. This Area O-11 club should charter by April 2003. As Co-Chair for the District 56 2003 Spring Conference, Pam made many new friends and looks forward to future opportunities to be of service to District 56 Toastmasters.

Pamela McCown, a mentor and a resource person for the people in her life, seeks your vote for the position of Division O Governor for 2003-2004. She truly believes in the power of positive thinking. Be positive, and in all things give thanks.

Pam thinks you'll agree that one of her favorite writers, the Apostle Paul, left us some priceless wisdom:

Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about.

- Philippians 4

That's worth thinking about!

Are you thinking about what you're thinking about?
- Mark Shearon



Ava G. Sloan, ATM-B

Candidate for Division P

A sales and marketing professional by trade, Ava G. Sloan has been a Toastmaster since August 1997. She is a member of two Clear Lake Area clubs at this time, Spaceland (club # 745) and Clear Lake Area Chamber (club # 6599) Toastmasters.

Since joining Toastmasters, Ava has served her clubs as Treasurer, Secretary, Sergeant at Arms, Vice President - Public Relations, and Vice President - Education.

Ava is currently serving as Area P-3 Governor. She enjoys visiting the five clubs she oversees and assisting them to reach Distinguished Status.

As a candidate for 2003-2004 Division P Governor, Ava brings a wealth of Toastmaster experience, and the attitude that we can all succeed with the right set of tools. Toastmasters provides those tools, as well as the environment for putting the tools to good use.

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Notes for members:

- Visit the District-56 web pages at
- <http://www.toastmasters-d56.org>
- Check out what is happening in the district. Don't miss special events, training dates and important notices.

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David Dewhurst, DTM

Candidate for Division Q

An engineer by education, but a speaker by choice, David Dewhurst has been in Toastmasters since the Spring of 1997. David joined Toastmasters soon after returning from an 18 months overseas assignment. David obtained his CTM in his first year and then served as a District 56 Area Governor. He has subsequently served as VP Education and Secretary for The Woodlands Toastmasters.

In 2000, as part of his DTM project, David helped form Spring Ahead Speakers, which was chartered in February 2001. He subsequently served two terms as President of Spring Ahead Speakers and then served as VP Membership and VP Education. While President of Spring Ahead, he guided the club in achieving President's Distinguished Club status in the first year of its existence.

David left his corporate management life with Shell on December 31st 2002 to devote himself to helping people through seminars, books and Toastmasters.

David is running for the office of Division Q Governor and believes that everyone, whether a domestic engineer or a corporate executive, can benefit from joining Toastmasters.

“Toastmasters United for Freedom”

District 56 Spring Conference

Friday & Saturday

May 9th & 10th, 2003

**Toastmasters in Midtown
Crowne Plaza Hotel
1700 Smith, Houston, TX 77002
713-739-8800**

District 56 is interested in Toastmasters who are **committed to excellence** for themselves and for the members of their club. There will be education sessions at this conference to help clubs with membership building and ideas for making your club's meetings more exciting and attractive to guests who might visit your club. Come see Houston's new Midtown area and meet with club leaders from the many clubs that make up District 56; share ideas with new friends. Listen to presentations and speaking advice from the 2001 World Champion of Public Speaking. Meet your district leaders and leaders from other districts. Enjoy meals with entertaining speakers and great contests. Come and support the winners of your Division Contests as they compete for fun and honor.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION — Please Print

Your Full Name: _____
Circle Your Achievement Level - TM, CTM, ATM-B, ATM-S, ATM-G, DTM, GUEST
Your Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Your Email Address: _____
Home Phone Number: _____ Work Phone: _____
Your Club Name and Number: _____
(yes-no) Volunteer? ___ 1st Conference? ___ Contestant? ___ Vegetarian Meals? ___
What subject is of most interest for educational session? _____



Make check payable to: District 56 Toastmasters

Mail check and registration form to:

FULL REGISTRATION (all meals)

Beth Horne, DTM
16130 Indian Mill Drive
Houston, TX 77082-2813
Beth.Horne@Fluor.com
Phone 281-263-3501

_____ \$105.00 March 1 - April 10
_____ \$120.00 April 11 - April 27
... based on envelope's postmark date.

NO MEAL REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER APRIL 27, 2003 (NO EXCEPTIONS). Persons wishing to attend the educational sessions or contests only (without a meal) may register and pay at the door.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (Single Event Registration.)

_____ \$ 45.00 Evaluation Contest with Dinner (Fri night)
_____ \$ 15.00 Evaluation Contest Only
_____ \$ 35.00 C & L Award with Luncheon (Sat noon)
_____ \$ 20.00 Educational Sessions
_____ \$ 45.00 International Speech with Dinner (Sat night)
_____ \$ 15.00 International Contest Only

**** Business Meeting is Free ****

Keep checking the District 56 website (toastmasters-d56.org) for continuing developments. Make sure your club members are aware of the advantages of attending and registering early.

District 56 Spring Conference Schedule

March 14, 2003 Notice To the District Council, District 56

Friday, May 9, 2003

<u>Time</u>	<u>Event Description</u>	<u>Room</u>
3:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Registration Open	Lobby
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Credentials Open	Lobby
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Bookstore Open	Whitehall Room
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Contestants/Officials Briefing	Contest Stage
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	First Timers Activity	Whitehall Room
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Dinner	Bluebonnet Ballroom
7:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Evaluation Contest	Bluebonnet Ballroom
8:30 – 9:30 p.m.	Who's Line Is It Anyway?	Bluebonnet Ballroom
9:30 – ????	Hospitality Open	Whitehall Room
	Candidate's Forum	Hotel Bar

Saturday, May 10, 2003

<u>Times</u>	<u>Event Description</u>	<u>Room</u>
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Leadership Breakfast	Hotel Restaurant
8:00 – 11:45 a.m.	Registration Open	Lobby
8:00 – 11:45 a.m.	Bookstore Open	Whitehall Room
8:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Credentials Open	Lobby
8:00 – 8:50 a.m.	First Timers Activity	Hospitality Suite
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Opening Ceremonies	Bluebonnet Ballroom
9:15 – 9:30 a.m.	Keynote Address / Darren LaCroix	Bluebonnet
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Business Meeting	Bluebonnet Ballroom
11:45 – 1:30 p.m.	Awards Luncheon/Youth Leadership C&L Speaker, Dr. John H. Lienhard	Bluebonnet
	NPR The Engines of Our Ingenuity	
1:00 – 7:30 p.m.	Registration Open	Whitehall Room
1:45 – 4:45 p.m.	Bookstore Open	Whitehall Room
EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS		
1:45 – 2:30 p.m.	-Darren LaCroix	Bluebonnet Ballroom
2:45 – 3:35 p.m.	Contests-“How to”	Bluebonnet Ballroom
3:45 – 4:35 p.m.	Membership Building	Bluebonnet Ballroom
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Contestant/Officials Briefing	Contest Stage / Session Room
6:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Reception (Cash Bar)	Bluebonnet Ballroom
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Dinner	Bluebonnet Ballroom
7:45 – 9:00 p.m.	International Speech Contest	Bluebonnet Ballroom
9:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Hospitality Open	Whitehall Room

The 2003 nominations committee comprised of Artricia Lewis, John Smelser, John Martin, Scott Holman, and myself unanimously voted to put forth the following slate of District Officers at the May 10, 2003 District 56 business meeting.

District Governor- John Moffitt
 Lt. Governor Education & Training- Max Rasquinha
 Lt. Governor Marketing - Allen Prescott
 Division L Governor - Cynthia St. Dennis
 Division M Governor - Cecilia Marlin
 Division N Governor - John Simpson
 Division O Governor - Pam McCown
 Division P Governor - Ava Sloan
 Division Q Governor - David Dewhurst



Respectfully,
 Marcia Hudgens
 Immediate Past District Governor 2001-02

(MAX RASQUINHA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

He strives to propagate the value of leadership styles and communication skills through the involvement in Toastmasters.

Max Rasquinha is running for the position of District Lt. Governor Education and Training for 2003-2004. Titles and positions are not as important for Max, as much as he values the spirit of friendship and camaraderie gained in pursuit of International peace and International understanding. In these times of complexities and tensions in the world, Max feels that Toastmasters have an important role to play, by the objective of “people helping people”, through our daily interactions in the community as well as society.

(CYNTHIA ST DENNIS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

As a member of the District council, Cynthia has actively participated in Council meetings, conferences, trainings, and is available to assist in any way. Cynthia has mentored two clubs after charter and is currently working with a club to complete that process.

Cynthia is running for Division L Governor for 2003-2004. Cynthia wants to continue to reach for her personal goals and help others achieve theirs while “Having Fun in Toastmasters”.

(CECELIA MARLIN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

Most recently she spoke at Killough Middle School on “attitude”. In semi-retirement now, she is working on getting started on a career as a motivational speaker.

Cecelia Marlin is running for the position of Division M Governor for 2003-2004. She is ready to put her enthusiasm and creativity to work to make Toastmaster club meetings the place to be. “We’re going to work hard and have lots of fun while doing it!”

Darren LaCroix

Keynote Speaker • Author • Comedian

In 2001, Darren LaCroix, The World Champion of Public Speaking, outspoke 25,000 contestants from 14 countries to win that title. Since that victory, Darren has traveled the world demystifying the process of creating a powerful speech. He has roused audiences in faraway places like Oman, Malaysia, and Taiwan with his inspirational journey from first-rate chump to first-class champ, proving anything is possible if you are willing to work for it.

Darren may have been “born without a funny bone in my body,” but he possessed the desire to learn and the willingness to fail necessary to achieve his dream. The self-proclaimed “student of comedy” is living proof that humor is a skill that can be learned.

Darren interviewed CEOs and business owners who made humor part of their business plan, culling from their successful practices innovative principles that could be applied to any company. He developed an innovative technique of “customizing” humor that reveals the common frustrations and pet peeves about an organization, giving him ammunition that has audiences laughing down to their toes.

From the Boston Globe to Northwest Flight Magazine to the LA Times, Darren LaCroix has been interviewed and quoted. Classic terms like Funsuckers—people in organizations that suck the fun out of everything— are quickly becoming part of pop corporate culture. “He’s revolutionized the way we hold meetings,” a client told Business Today.com.

His successful book, *Laugh & Get Rich: How to Profit from Humor in Any Business*, contains interviews with corporate executives who share his philosophy. Now translated into three languages, it is a mainstay on business bookshelves.

As co-founder of *The Humor Institute* and a co-creator of *The Humor Boot Camp*, Darren directs seminars that help presenters wisely use the power of humor to “lighten up” their presentations.

An award-winning producer, his film *Living and Laughing with Cancer: A Comedian’s Journey* was honored at the Worldfest Houston film festival for its groundbreaking insights into humor and healing. The inspirational documentary about his best friend’s battle with cancer, brings humor and hope to those touched by life-threatening conditions. Darren gives 10 % of all speaking income to charity

Darren’s unique brand of humor is featured in numerous corporate training videos. His extensive list of clients include Fidelity Investments, Sheraton Hotels, IBM, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Dunkin’ Donuts, Motorola, EMC2 Corporation, CVS, and ERA Key Realty Services.

D-56 CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Registration- Help to staff the tables on both Fri. & Sat.
Facilities- Sgt at Arms (Critical).
Sound System- Help set-up speakers, microphones, etc
First Timers- Need a chair for the Friday night event
Call: John Simpson, at jsimpson12@houston.rr.com..

DISTRICT 56 CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE TERM ENDING ON JUNE 30, 2003

MONTH OF APRIL All club presidents of record will receive two proxies from Toastmasters International. If you do not have a club member who is going to The Region Conference (Lubbock, TX), or International Conference (Atlanta, GA.) These proxies should be delivered to the May 10th business meeting at the D-56 Conference to insure that your club is represented.

April 1 Semiannual Dues Report Due to World HQ. Members who pay dues late should be reinstated by filling out a reinstatement membership form.

April 12 D-56 Executive Council meeting at 1150 Gemini near Nasa, Area & Division Governors are expected to attend.

April 26 David Brooks will speak at the Barbara Bush Library 68117 Cypresswood Dr., check D-56 website for more details.

April 20 Deadline for Outstanding Club Officer forms to be turned into Area Governorns and aa copy to John Moffitt Fax 713-721-6087 or mail to 6011 Dusbury, Houston TX 77035-4141.

MONTH OF MAY
FOCUS: NEW CLUBS, NEW MEMBERS, RECOGNIZE COMMITMENTS TO EXCELLENCE

May 1-30 All Clubs, no exceptions, must hold club officer elections for the period of either July 1 - Dec. 31, 2003 or July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004

May 9&10 District 56 Conference
(See the Conference Flyer on Page 6)

May 10 District 56 Council Business meeting & elections.. All District Officers, Presidents, & Educational Vice Presidents must attend or give their proxy to another club member.

MONTH OF JUNE
All clubs have until the end of June to get their club officer lists to Toastmasters International and D-56. Lists can filed on-line at TI website. For more information contact John Moffitt at jmoffitt@swampgas.com. Failure to turn lists in means critical information may not get to current officers.

June 7 This Saturday there will be free club officer training-Check D-56 website for info.

June 13 & 14 Region 3 Toastmasters Conference in Lubbock, TX. See the TI website for more information.)

June 30 Last day for club officers to turn over to new club officer all club materials who are taking officer July 1. Please give them your support

NEW TERM OF OFFICERS JULY 1, 2003-JUNE 30, 2004

July 1st New Club & District officers will begin their turn.

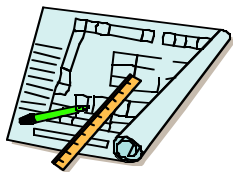
August 20-23 72nd annual International Conference in Atlanta GA. (See The Toastmaster Magazine or website for more information.)

(OUCH Continued from Page 1) Have you ever experienced a presentation that put you to sleep? Ever given one? Have you ever seen a presenter bring a boring subject to life? What's that difference? You are about to find out!

On April 26, 1992, Darren LaCroix made his stand-up comedy debut. It was, by all accounts, a disaster. Ten years later he 'outspoke' 25,000 contestants from 14 countries in an international speech contest and was crowned the World Champion of Public Speaking.

Think you can't be a great speaker? You will be inspired by watching the championship speech and Darren's first performance--proof that presenting is a learned skill.

In this program, Darren will share with you just about everything he learned along the way. When Darren studied the 10 years of World Champions contests over and over to discover what separated the person who won from the person who came in second. Darren discovered three things they had in common. Want to know what they are? Come to the program and hear it directly from Darren!



Outstanding Awards for Club Officers and Toastmaster of the Year.

Visit the D-56 website for forms for outstanding club Officers. This year each office position will be recognized. Our District Officers believe that every officer strives for excellence and should be recognized accordingly. As a result all Club Officers are asked to fill out forms for their position to document their accomplishments.

Turn in your form to the Area Governor by March 28. The Area Governor then has to forward the best officers, not necessarily from the same club, to the Division who in turn selects the best officers of the positions to the District Governor. Get these forms and the Outstanding Toastmaster of the Year forms which will be turned due in July. Go to the web at www.toastmasters-d56.org.

The Outstanding Toastmaster form is in the "Awards" section of the document center.

THE MISSION OF THE CLUB

The mission of a Toastmasters club is to 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.

HOW CLOSE ARE YOU TO YOUR GOAL?

When was the last time you had your Educational Vice President sign off on your manual? How many times have you seen members scramble to find loose evaluation forms because they forgot their book? Track your progress by bringing your manual to the meeting weekly.

Have your EVP sign off on each speech as you give it. This avoids weeks of searching and begging the current and past club secretary and Educational Vice Presidents from searching records to track down elusive data like speaking dates and speech titles. Treat your speaking progress like you would your check book or your taxes. Like anything else, nothing is complete until the paper work has been submitted.

Just think, should you be only a few speeches away from your manual completion, you will have enough time to give your final speeches and submit paperwork. Get extra recognition by having the projects completed before the District Conference in May. Don't forget, you can also request a letter from Toastmasters International to go to your supervisor to show your self-motivated efforts to improve your skills.

Many good things happen when goals are completed. You are full of speech topics and opinions. Share them in your final stretch towards rewarding goals. Educational Vice Presidents world wide initiate the cattle call for manuals so they can be signed off as needed regularly. Some may run to the exit at the end of the meeting ready to tackle speakers as they try to leave with unsigned projects. End this travesty, help your officers who want to prevent you from having to duplicate projects because of lost notes and unsigned manuals.

Do your Club President a favor by allowing opportunities to practice toasts, awards ceremonies and serious congratulatory moments. Present your final speeches then fax, mail, or have your EVP apply online for your behalf. Allow the club to share with your efforts towards successes. When you succeed, your mentors succeed, your club celebrates, and new members get inspired to emulate you. So, what are you waiting for....?

SUBMIT CTM APPLICATIONS ONLINE

Do you find the act of filling out paperwork and mailing or faxing it in to Toastmasters International Headquarters, daunting?

There is good news for procrastinators who just can't get to the mail box to post their CTM application. Have your Educational Vice President do it online! In fact, some clubs are asking the evaluator who evaluates the number ten speech of the basic manual to not return the basic manual to the owner. They are requesting that the evaluator give it instead to the Educational Vice President who can sign off on the book and input this info on the web application. This avoids long distance faxes, postage, delays and lost paperwork.

If you go to the home page, look under "Info for Members" and then got to "Submit Award Applications Online" or you can input directly the address: www.toastmasters.org/awards

Do you need help to get the last few basic manual speeches scheduled? Contact a club near you to schedule a guest speaking slot. Clubs who welcome guest speakers include, High Noon, Easy Risers, Pearland Toastmasters, and Houston Speakers Forum.

Get your CTMs in now to be recognized at the conference in May!

Excercise Your Right To VOTE!

By John Moffitt ATM-S Lt. Gov. of Education

What all Toastmaster Club Presidents and other club officers and attending members need to know about their club's representation at the upcoming District 56 business meeting on May 10th.

1. All TM clubs (in good standing) have two votes ... one for the President and one for the VPE. Either or both of these people can simply attend the May 10th business meeting and vote ... or they can make sure their club's vote gets counted by signing a proxy so that another member of their club can carry their club's important vote to the business meeting.
2. If the credentials desk at the business meeting has a report indicating that the club has failed to turn in their April 1st dues up until the time of the latest Toastmasters report available to the conference, then that club is NOT in good standing and has no votes. We currently have such a report from March!
3. If the club officer only wants to attend the business meeting and they are not interested in anything else, there is absolutely no charge to attend!
4. Only a club member can carry a proxy. Being an Area Gov. or any other district officer is not enough by itself. An Area Gov. carrying a signed proxy MUST also be a member of that club.
5. No person can carry more than three votes to the business meeting (including their own), even if they are the elected president of 5 Toastmaster clubs ... Such a person would have to proxy away two of their own votes.

6. No person entitled to vote (with or without a signed proxy) can vote at the business meeting unless they have REGISTERED at the credentials desk prior to the meeting. Warning: this desk often closes as much as 20 minutes before the business meeting starts! They are NOT forgiving.

7. It is possible that the club President or the club VPE (of a club in good standing) decided to resign before the end of their term or to NOT pay their dues on April 1st. The credentials desk will still be showing that officer who is no longer with the club (or even with toastmasters). An interim Pres or VPE should have a note from the club or the club pres stating that they are serving as an appointed or an elected interim officer, and the credentials desk should allow the vote. A person carrying a signed proxy from an interim or newly elected President or VPE should have a copy of a similar document.

8. It would be a terrific district conference if all Area Governors could make sure that every single club (in good standing) in their area is completely represented at the business meeting. I see no reason to go for anything less than 100 percent.

(Newsletter Contest continued from page 1)

All Clubs in District 56 are invited to submit three copies of their newsletter. Guidelines on newsletter content are listed The deadline for the District 56 Contest is April 10, 2003. Awards will be presented at the Spring District Conference. Contact District Public Relations Officer at rlehman1@houston.rr.com on how to submit your entr Winner announced at Spring District Conference!



D-56 CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Registration- Help to staff the tables on both Friday & Saturday.
Facilities- Sgt at Arms to help with the flow of attendees.

Your photo
could be
HERE

Area Governor Appointments for The 2003-2004 term are being considered now. Get hands on experience with effective leadership training and mentoring. Call John Moffitt @ 713-478-4555.



- **Sound System-** Help set-up the audio speakers & microphones.
- **First Timers-** Need a chair for the Friday night event.
- Call Conference Chair John Simpson to help or inquire about other opportunities.

- The cover letter must include the name, address and telephone number of the editor, as well as the club name and number.
- All three issues must be published between July 1, 2002 and April 10, 2003 and dated as such; volume numbers alone are not acceptable.
- Newsletters should be composed primarily of original, club-generated material of educational value. When articles or other items are reprinted from other sources, a credit line should be included. The judges reserve the right to disqualify any entry not resembling a newsletter. For example, one-page meeting schedules or lists of speakers will be considered fliers and do not qualify for this contest.

In Memoriam of STS-107



"The cause in which they died will continue. Mankind is led into the darkness, beyond our world, by the inspiration of discovery and the longing to understand. Our journey into space will go on."

President George W. Bush
National Address — February 2, 2003

(David Brooks Continued from page 1) Saturday, April 26, you can learn how. But only if you attend a 45-minute program David is offering to Houston-area speakers immediately following the Toastmasters Division L Contest. Best of all, David's program is free. What's the catch? There is none.

As long-time Toastmasters know, David is the last Texan to win the Toastmasters World Championship, and he earned that title as a member of District 56. In appreciation, David has generously offered to present this program to Toastmasters and non-Toastmasters alike who attend the Division L Contest.

Large corporations pay big money to bring David around the world, so we hope you won't pass up a chance to hear what this internationally recognized speaker has to say when he's here in our own backyard, giving his time and knowledge to us...for free. You'll learn a lot--including the fact that you don't have to be a funny person to get laughs when you speak.

His program will be immediately following the Division L Speech Contest which runs from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.. David's free program starts ten minutes after speech contest ends. The location is the Barbara Bush Library, 6817 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, Texas. For more information on this program, contact Cynthia St. Dennis, e-mail: cstdennis@eagle.org or phone 281-877-6534.

David Brooks, a professional speaker who travels the world teaching business professionals how to speak and write more effectively, will teach such skills as how to find and use small stories to make big points, and how to how to use humor when you speak even if you are "humor impaired."

Barbara Bush Library
6817 Cypresswood Dr.
Spring TX 77379-7705
10:30-3:00pm

For more information contact:
Cynthia St. Dennis, ATM-G
(H) 281-440-0524
(W) 281-877-6534
(E) tm_governor@sbcglobal.net

CLUB NEWS:

Greater Houston more than doubled their membership for a month of hard work. **April Lauper, Carole Cowden, Annette Williams, Cong Dinh,** and a few others dedicated members worked hard to promote the workshop in their workplace. Fourteen prospects participated, eleven joined and attracted several new members after the workshop was ending. The results are that meetings are lively, speeches are fresh, members have more fun now that they don't have to wear several hats in one meeting.

Easy Risers is looking for a few available Toastmasters who would help them rebuild. They have a lot of heart and talent with the remaining members of **Mark Barber** (D-56 Region competitor for 2002), **Floyd Guest**(long term member and experienced competitor) **Susan Taylor** a tremendous and creative talent. To help learn how to inspire prospective members and to have additional speaking opportunities for manual credit please contact Susan Taylor with Easy Risers at 281-233-7654 or 713-781-7649.

South Main Speakers, TACL & Pride of Houston focus on helping International professionals improve their communications in English. South Main has received some positive attention recently for their efforts.

High Noon recently awarded **Bruce Greek**, a 40+ year Toastmaster, a lifetime membership due to consistent participation and mentoring for numerous years.

Houston Speakers Forum offers a semi-annual program and regular mentoring which prospective speakers can come to practice their contest speeches. Four Toastmasters benefited from this mentoring and three are competing in their Division contests as a result of the help from HSF. HSF members are very experienced in both the judging and competition aspects of winning contest speeches. Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7PM at Bayland Community Center.

Division Contest Date & Times & Division Contest Location

- L Saturday morning, April 26th from 10:30 AM to 2 PM. Barbara Bush Library at 68117 Cyprus Wood Drive (2 miles north of 1960).
- M Saturday morning, April 26th from 9 AM to noon. Annex room of Bayland Community Center at 6400 Bissonnet (near Hilcroft).
- N Date and time yet to be determined-check website. At a location yet to be determined.
- O Saturday morning May 3rd from 8 AM to noon. Bayland Community Center at 6400 Bissonnet (near Hilcroft) Breakfast included with \$6 fee.
- P Thursday night, May 1st from 6 PM to 9 PM. Ryan's Family Steakhouse at 155 W. Bay Area Blvd. Meal included with \$13 fee.
- Q Saturday afternoon, May 3rd from 3 PM to 5 PM. Lonnie B. Smith Library at 3624 Scott St 77004, next to the U of H Football Stadium.

Club Proxy for District 56 Council Meeting May 10, 2003

I hereby authorize _____, a member in good standing of the Toastmasters Club number _____, to cast my vote at the District 56 Council Meeting in Houston, Texas on May 10, 2003.

Sign your name: _____,
Club Vice President Education

This proxy is for one vote only.

You, as Club Vice President Education, may designate, in writing, any other member of your club to vote in your place at the District Council meeting. Each club is entitled to two votes. One Toastmaster from your club may carry both proxies - yours and the one from the President. District Officers entitled to one vote may cast a maximum of 3 votes. All other Toastmasters are limited to a maximum of 2 votes. Reproduction of this form is acceptable. Signature must not be reproduced.

Club Proxy for District 56 Council Meeting May 10, 2003

I hereby authorize _____, a member in good standing of the Toastmasters Club number _____, to cast my vote at the District 56 Council Meeting in Houston, Texas on May 10, 2003.

Sign your name: _____,
Club President

This proxy is for one vote only.

You, as Club President, may designate, in writing, any other member of your club to vote in your place at the District Council meeting. Each club is entitled to two votes. One Toastmaster from your club may carry both proxies - yours and the one from the Educational Vice President. District Officers entitled to one vote may cast a maximum of 3 votes. All other Toastmasters are limited to a maximum of 2 votes. Reproduction of this form is acceptable. Signature must not be reproduced.

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