



Forum 56

District 56 Toastmasters Newsletter

Electronic Edition • November 2003

Toastmasters Clubs throughout
Houston and Southeast Texas



www.toastmasters-d56.org

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Toastmasters International

★ From the District Governor

District 56 Toastmasters —

The three most immediate important things to District 56 clubs at this time are as follows:

1. All clubs that elect club officers twice a year must have their club elections in November.
2. In order to make sure that the members of your Toastmasters club are not short changed, please make sure that your club is fully represented at the November 15 business meeting.
3. Please make sure that you are electing club officers that will take advantage of the free club officer training that will be held on Saturday, December 6.

If possible, elect your new club officers early in the month, and make sure that they attend the November 15 one-day conference. Please check on the District web site for details and why you will want to be there.

Every Toastmaster club in District 56 is allowed two votes at the District Council Business meeting from 9 to 11 on Saturday, November 15. There is no charge to attend this meeting at Bayland Community Center on Bissonnet just a few feet west of Hillcroft. This meeting is free and we would prefer that both the President and VPE of each club show up to vote. If they cannot make it, any member of their club can attend and vote for either or both of these officers. In order for a club member to vote for the President or VPE, they must either have a signed proxy (included here) or have an email from that officer indicating that this member is carrying the club vote for that person. Yes, one member can carry both votes, but even the President would need a proxy or email to vote for the VPE.

We are trying a new paradigm for District Conferences, starting with a one-day Fall 2003 Conference: short, maximum fun, inexpensive, informal (a little goofy), and yet with an educational slant right on the times and extremely practical. Bayland Community Center is a great place that will accommodate our expected turnout of more than 200 toastmasters: an attendance that is itself a record for District 56. Then, we finish up the year with an elegant, longer, more formal, resort location (but still keeping a sharp eye on people's budgets), and hopefully with special guests (like Jana Barnhill, International Director) that will attract more audience.



The best news from District 56 is that we have a fully functioning team of leaders. All 100 percent of the district officers who were appointed and elected are still in their office and still working together. And we're having fun doing it! We've all worked together to turn district meetings from a dreadful monthly chore into something that people are looking forward to. We are in the process of trying out lots of new ideas; many are of a team-building nature. People are working together: Area Governors are no longer range-wandering cowboys going it alone.

I'm very pleased to report that 100 percent of the district officers have been trained, and two subsequent trainings have been conducted. In addition, we are mentoring everybody on district staff toward their DTM, and we expect as many as 30 to 35 in the coming year, as opposed to our normal 2 or 3. The district is now only a few clubs off the goal of achieving 100 percent club visits by area governors. We will make this goal!

In short, as District Governor I have a strong vision. It is a great high for me as I watch this vision take shape and form into a reality, and people are enjoying what is happening. That is more than enough thanks for me to take on this great volunteer task. During my eight days of training to be a District Governor, we have often discussed what a leader is. I was always strong on having a vision, and working with a team to carry out that vision.

Part of my vision deals with so many people who are out of work, about to get laid off, concerned about getting laid off, and generally concerned about the economic climate. I feel strongly that hard times demand that you differentiate yourself from the rest of the pack, and Toastmasters is the best way to do that. Our educational sessions this year will reflect this, and Lark Doley is going to give us a hand with it. Many people are already getting excited about what we are doing with this. Let's all turn this negative economy into a positive for Toastmasters!

Thanks,
John R. Moffitt, DTM
District 56 Governor 2003-2004
Keep Fun In Toastmasters!

★ Outstanding!

an article by Mary Spain, CTM/CL, Area M-32 Governor

Are you out standing in a field? Or are you an Outstanding Toastmaster? There's a way to figure that out. Just go to the District 56 web site's Document Center (www.toastmasters-d56.org) and download the "Outstanding Toastmaster" file in the "Awards/Recognition" section.

Every year at the fall conference District 56 honors the Outstanding Toastmaster in the District. Each Area and Division will also choose an Outstanding Toastmaster, Rookie of the Year, and Outstanding club officers for each term.

So who is considered for these honors and how are they chosen?

That's where you need the form. You must submit your own application, and you are ranked based on the number of points you have earned in the previous year. Now is the time to start looking at the application and see what you can do to maximize the points you earn between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2004.

There are nine forms, one for each category, so you'll only need to print the ones that you qualify for. Points for Outstanding Toastmaster and Rookie of the Year are earned over a twelve-month period. If your club elects officers every six months, the outstanding club officer honors are awarded for each term.

Forms must be submitted soon after the close of each qualifying term — deadline dates will be on the District 56 web site at www.toastmasters-d56.org. The documents in the "Awards/Recognition" section are the forms that were used in July 2003, but the criteria are substantially the same from year to year. There could be new forms next July — check the web site for details then.

If you have questions, call your Area Governor. Don't just stand out there in the field - be Outstanding!

Welcome New Clubs

Houston Works USA

Area: O-12
Club Number: 590863
Charter Date: 08/22/2003

Synhrgy Sayers

Area: M-33
Club Number: 591700
Charter Date: 09/02/2003

ASC Wordmasters

Area: Q-50
Club Number: 603366
Charter Date: 10/17/2003

★ Club Officer Elections

For those clubs that meet weekly and elect new officers twice a year, the new slate of officers should be elected during November to serve from January 1, 2004 to June 30, 2004.

Officer training conducted by the District will be held on **December 6, 2003**. Check the District web site at www.toastmasters-d56.org for details.

★ New Membership Form

There's a new official Toastmasters membership form effective July 2003. To pickup an electronic copy on the TI WHQ web site:

- go to www.toastmasters.org
- click on "information for members"
- click on "forms and documents"
- click on "new member and promotion forms"
- click on "membership form for districted clubs"

Or enter "<http://www.toastmasters.org/pdfs/400.pdf>" in your browser.

★ Changed Your Address Lately?

Moved? Want to keep Toastmaster WHQ informed so you don't miss out on your Toastmasters magazine and other information? To update your contact information on the world headquarters web site:

- go to www.toastmasters.org
- click on "information for members"
- click on "name and address changes"

Or enter "<http://www.toastmasters.org/infchange.asp>" in your browser.

It's time to find out...



WHO IS THE

funniest person

AND

WHO IS THE

biggest liar

IN DISTRICT 56?

It's one full day jam-packed with Toastmasters fun

- ★ **Keynote speech** by the 1990 World Champion of Public Speaking, District 56's own **David Brooks**
- ★ **Welcome address** by International Director **Lark Doley**
- ★ Exciting educational sessions on **"Using Your Toastmasters Skills in the Workplace."**
- ★ **Two great contests** where winners from six divisions compete for bragging rights as **"The Funniest Person"** and **"The Biggest Liar"** in District 56
- ★ **Unlimited opportunities** to meet and greet your fellow Toastmasters from all around Houston and southeast Texas



Join us for a full day of Fun in Toastmasters!

District 56 Fall Conference

November 15, 2003 • 9:00am - 7:00pm

Bayland Community Center

6400 Bissonnet near Hillcroft • Houston Texas

\$45 at the door • **\$35 before November 1, 2003**

One price gets you the full day of Toastmasters Fun or... pay for admission for individual events:

Keynote Speech (David Brooks) -----	free
Business Meeting -----	free
Welcome Address (Lark Doley) -----	free
Luncheon -----	\$10
Tall Tales Contest -----	\$10
"Building Up Club Membership" session -----	free
Educational Sessions (total for all sessions) -----	\$10
Dinner -----	\$10
Humorous Speech Contest -----	\$10

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

how many tickets: _____

your name _____

Circle Your Achievement Level: TM CTM ATM-B ATM-S ATM-G DTM GUEST

address _____

city/state/zip _____

email address _____

phone (day) _____ (nite) _____

club name/number _____

Volunteer to help? yes no 1st D56 Conference? yes no

Make check payable to District 56 Toastmasters. Mail with registration form to Jill Rowlands, DTM • PO Box 310635 • Houston TX 77031

District 56 Toastmasters 2003 Business Meeting & Fall Conference November 15, 2003

Agenda

8:00 am Conference Registration Opens
Credentials Desk Opens

8:30 am Bookstore Opens

9:00 am Opening Remarks
District 56 Governor, John R. Moffitt, DTM

9:15 am Keynote Speaker
World Champion of Public Speaking 1990
David Brooks, DTM

9:45 am Business Meeting (quorum required)

11:00 am Bookstore Closes

11:00 am ... Welcome Address
International Director 2003-2005
Lark Doley, DTM

11:40 am ... Lunch
Lunchtime entertainment featuring
Pam McCown, CTM/CL; Kevin Smith, DTM
and Luke Lyons, ATM-B

12:30 pm ... Who is the Biggest Liar in District 56?
(Tall Tales Contest)

1:15 pm Bookstore Opens

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

1:35 pm Presenter: World Champion of Public
Speaking 1990 David Brooks, DTM

1:35 pm "Building Up Club Membership"
Presenter: Allen Prescott, ATM-S/CL

2:25 pm "Turning Toastmaster Skills Into a Career"
Panel Discussion, Allen Prescott ATM-S/CL,
Moderator

2:25 pm "Judging Workshop - Contest Questions"
Presenter: Kevin Smith, DTM

2:25 pm "Spring Conference Preview"
Presenters: Mary Jay Yusuf, CTM/CL and
Marcia Hudgens, DTM

3:15 pm "Using Your Toastmaster Skills to Obtain a Job"
Panel Discussion: International Director 2003-
2005 Lark Doley, DTM; Richard Kummins,
ATM-B; Alicia Russell, CTM; Beth Horne,
Moderator

3:15 pm "Finding Your Passion"
Presenter: Linda Stiles, DTM

3:30 pm Bookstore Closes

4:00 pm Dinner

5:00 pm Who is the Funniest Person in District 56?
(Humorous Speech Contest)

6:30 pm Closing Remarks
Clean-up of facilities



**Proxy
District 56 Toastmasters Business Meeting
November 15, 2003**

I hereby authorize

_____ a member in good standing of
Toastmasters Club number _____,
to cast my vote at the District 56 Toastmasters
Business Meeting in Houston, Texas on November 15, 2003.

Signed by:

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 56 Toastmasters Business Meeting. Each club is entitled to two votes. One Toastmaster from your club may carry both proxies - yours and the one from the Vice President Education. 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.

A printed copy of an email from you designating a proxy is also permitted.

**Proxy
District 56 Toastmasters Business Meeting
November 15, 2003**

I hereby authorize

_____ a member in good standing of
Toastmasters Club number _____,
to cast my vote at the District 56 Toastmasters
Business Meeting in Houston, Texas on November 15, 2003.

Signed by:

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 56 Toastmasters Business 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.

A printed copy of an email from you designating a proxy is also permitted.



District 56 Calendar of Events

November 2003							December 2003						
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	29
16	17	18	19	29	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
30													

Fall 2003 Conference

Saturday, November 15, 2003

★ District 56 2003 Fall Conference

- Fall Conference 9:00am-7:00pm
Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet
- Keynote by David Brooks 9:15am
- Business Meeting 9:45am
- Biggest Liar in District 56
(Tall Tales) 12:30pm
- Funniest Person in District 56
(Humorous Speech) 5:00pm

Club Officer Training / TLI

Saturday, December 6, 2003

★ District 56 Club Officer Training /
Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI)

- Fountain of Praise Church
13535 South Post Oak Road
Houston TX 77045
- Registration and free refreshments ... 8am
- Club officer training (free) 9am
- Adjourn 1pm

For complete details and up-to-the-minute changes, visit the District 56 web site at www.toastmasters-d56.org

★ 2003-2004 District 56 Officers

Your Top 6 District officers are here to help. Feel free to contact any District officer with your questions, comments, or suggestions:

John R. Moffitt, DTM
District 56 Governor
713-478-4555
distgov@toastmasters-d56.org

Max Rasquinha, DTM
Lt. Governor, Education & Training
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Lt. Governor, Marketing
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John Martin, ATM-S/CL
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Jill Rowlands, DTM
District Treasurer
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Richard A. Lehman, ATM-S/CL
District Secretary
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lehman1@houston.rr.com