



# Forum 56

District 56 Toastmasters Newsletter

May 2004

Toastmasters Clubs throughout  
Houston and Southeast Texas



[www.toastmasters-d56.org](http://www.toastmasters-d56.org)

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Toastmasters International

**It's like a vacation in the Caribbean. Without the plane fare.**

## District 56 Toastmasters Spring 2004 Conference

South Shore Harbour Resort & Conference Center  
2500 South Shore Harbour Boulevard • League City Texas

**May 14-15, 2004 Friday/Saturday**

Conference Admission: **\$115 in advance**

Room Rate: **\$99/room/night** up to 7 nights

Exciting two-day Toastmasters Extravaganza!

**Eloquence and Elegance: one glorious weekend...**

- \* International Speech Contest
- \* Table Topics Contest
- \* Business Meeting/Election of New District Officers
- \* Jana Barnhill: 2002-2004 International Director
- \* Educational Sessions
- \* Three prepaid meals included with your admission

**All at the drop-dead gorgeous South Shore Harbour Resort and at prices to die for: \$99 room rate includes full family access to the entire resort including swimming pools, health club, two golf courses, marina, and much, much more.**



*Details inside!*

**So close and yet so far away.  
You'll feel like you're thousands of miles from home.**

**Treat your family to a vacation resort experience like you've only dreamed about.**  
The Spring 2004 Conference at South Shore Harbour Resort is the ideal vacation getaway for Toastmasters and their families.

**On the shores of beautiful Clear Lake, less than an hour's drive from downtown Houston.**

## A Message from the District Governor



*To all District 56 members and club officers —*

For the district and for my own term, we are clearly coming down the home stretch. Our goal this term was to have 100 percent of our 127 Toastmaster clubs be distinguished at the end of the term on June 30th, 2004. In order to help your club be on that long list of fine Toastmaster clubs, I would ask each club to make sure—

1. That you are looking at the District 56 web site ([www.toastmasters-d56.org](http://www.toastmasters-d56.org)) on a regular basis.
2. That you can easily print out the performance reports on your club from the Toastmasters International web site ([www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)).
3. That you have a Distinguished Club Plan (DCP) in progress.
4. That your club has a plan in mind to have at least 20 members before end of day on June 30th ... or with an increase of 5 members over where your club stood on July 1, 2003.
5. That you know exactly what the District 56 web site says about your club, how to contact it, and how to find it. And that you are happy with what you see.
6. That you know exactly what the Toastmasters International web site says about your club, how to contact it, and how to find it. And that you are happy with what you see.
7. That you make sure that your top two club officers attend or are represented at the District Council Meeting on May 15, 2004. In addition, please bring or send in the Region and International proxy cards that will come to your club president in April.
8. That you get your club membership report and dues into

*more—*

# District 56 Toastmasters Spring 2004 Conference

## Friday, May 14, 2004

- 3:00-8:00 ..... Registration  
 3:00-8:00 ..... Credentials Open  
 5:00-6:00 ..... Social / Cash Bar Open  
 6:00-7:00 ..... First Timers Orientation  
 6:00-9:00 ..... Dinner  
 7:30-8:30 ..... Table Topics Contest  
 8:00-10:00 ..... Candidates Forum

## Saturday, May 15, 2004

- 7:30 ..... Registration Opens  
 7:30-9:15 ..... Credentials Desk Open  
 9:00-9:30 ..... Keynote Speaker  
                   Robert Barnhill  
 9:00-11:30 ..... Business Meeting  
 11:30-12:00 ... Welcome Address  
                   Jana Barnhill  
  
 12:00-1:30 ..... Luncheon  
  
 1:15-1:45 ..... Education Session  
                   Robert Barnhill  
 2:00-2:30 ..... Education Session  
                   Michael Hick  
 2:00-2:30 ..... Education Session  
                   Roger Marshall  
 2:45-3:15 ..... Education Session  
                   Linda Stiles  
 2:45-3:15 ..... Education Session  
                   Nancy Starr  
 3:30-4:00 ..... Education Session  
                   Jana Barnhill  
  
 5:00-6:00 ..... Social / Cash Bar Open  
 6:00-9:00 ..... Dinner  
 7:30-9:00 ..... International Speech  
                   Contest

(continued)

## from the District Governor

- Toastmasters International by April 1, 2004.
9. That you have club elections in the month of May and get the list of newly elected officers to Toastmasters International immediately after the election. And please make sure that all of the elected club officers attend the Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) and free club officer training at Bayland Community Center on June 5, 2004.

Let's just call the above list a checklist for your club's success. If there is any item on the above list that you do not understand completely, please contact your Area Governor or your Division Governor

immediately. If you have difficulty in locating them, please contact me immediately. I have details and directions for nearly everything on the above list.

In addition, please be aware of the fact that we are awarding special D56 star pins to each person that completes a CTM between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2004. Invite a district officer to visit your club, and encourage your members to visit outside the club. Making sure that a few of your members attend the Spring Conference and the district speech contests. And don't forget to have a little fun with all this.

Yours in Toastmasters,

— John R. Moffitt  
 District 56 Governor 2003-2004

# District 56 Toastmasters Spring 2004 Spring Conference

**SIGN UP NOW!!!**

District 56 Toastmasters Spring 2004 Conference **May 14-15, 2004**

South Shore Harbour Resort; 2500 South Shore Harbour Blvd. League City, TX 77575  
 Hotel Reservations: 800.442.5005 Toastmaster Rate \$99/room/night

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Level (circle one): TM, CTM, CL, ATM-B, ATM-S, ATM-G, AL, DTM

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Club Name/ Number/ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Club or District Officer? Which Office? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first conference?  Yes  No

Would you like to volunteer to help?  Yes  No

Share a room? Want us to help you find a roommate?  Yes  No

### Conference Fees:

The Total Package (prior to May 10) \_\_\_\_\_ \$115.00

NOTE: \$10 Rebate to everybody registered Friday night at South Shore Harbour Resort

**Individual Event Prices:** (tickets for meals must be purchased prior to May 10)

Friday Night Table Topics Contest (includes dinner) \_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00

Friday Night Table Topics Contest (no dinner) \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00

Saturday Keynote, Business Meeting and Welcome address \_\_\_\_\_ FREE

Saturday Awards Luncheon (all seats include meal) \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00

Saturday Educational Sessions only \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00

Saturday Night Int'l Speech Contest (includes dinner) \_\_\_\_\_ \$45.00

Saturday Night Int'l Speech Contest (no dinner) \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00

VEGETARIAN MEALS

Make checks payable to: District 56 Toastmasters

Mail check and registration form to: Jill Rowlands, DTM; PO Box 310635; Houston, TX 77235-0635

**Questions?** Pat London, DTM, PDG; phone: 713.572.3720; e-mail: PatLondon@swbell.net

## Max E. Rasquinha, DTM candidate for District Governor

### Previous Toastmasters Experience

SAA, Secretary, Treasurer, VP Membership, VP PR, VP Education, President, District PRO, LGM, LGET, Mentor, Sponsor



### Why are you seeking this position

To serve other leaders, and learn and earn their knowledge and experience to the world of Toastmasters and many other areas of life

### Educational background

After the College education in India, Max Rasquinha pursued his educational discipline in overseas countries such as Middle East, Europe, Canada and the U.S.A. in various spectrums, including business, economics, politics, social sciences, philosophies, psychology as well as international studies.

In the United States, Max Rasquinha has actively pursued his educational qualifications through American Management Association, Houston Community College, North Harris College, University of St. Thomas, Our Lady of Lake University in San Antonio, Houston Baptist University, University of Houston, Rice University and Kennedy Western University in California. He is also one of the member of University of Houston International Business Advisory Board.

### Business and Philanthropic involvement

Max Rasquinha has been actively involved in International Business - specialized in the Oil Field Supplies and Services - Export and Import Management spectrum, which enables him to engage in frequent travels to several areas of the United States, Canada, Europe, Middle East, Far East and Asia.

Max Rasquinha's business involvement allows him to participate actively in various business Committees of the Greater Houston Partnership as well as many other local Chamber of Commerce groups, including Asia Society, Indo-American Chamber of Commerce and Houston-Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Max Rasquinha is also an active member of Houston Central Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, Museum of Fine Arts of Houston and few other cultural affiliations.

### Toastmasters Participation

Max Rasquinha's dedication towards Toastmasters goes back to nearly three decades through active membership in the Middle East, Asia, Canada and the U.S.A. He has been responsible in establishing Libraries in his native home town Mangalore in South India where he has also sponsored and mentored two Toastmasters Clubs, two Gavel Clubs, an Amateur Speakers Club and also a Quiz Foundation for the benefit of various High School and College Students.

Max Rasquinha has assumed almost all Club Officer positions in the Toastmasters group with the

*more—*

## 2004-2005 District Officer Candidates

District 56 elects a new leadership team at the Spring 2004 Business meeting to be held at 9:30 on Saturday, May 15, 2004. Officers elected at that time begin serving their terms on July, 1, 2004 and complete those terms on June 30, 2005. Names of candidates for the elected District officer positions were put forward by the District Nominating Committee. Additional candidates may also be nominated "from the floor" at the business meeting. The business meeting is attended by all interested individuals, but especially club Presidents and Vice Presidents Education, both of who hold a vote. A quorum is required and votes may be cast either in person or by proxy. Proxies are printed in this newsletter and must be carried by another member of the same club in order to be qualified. Nominated candidates were asked to supply biographical information, and that information appears on these pages.

## Allen Prescott, ATM-S/CL candidate for Lt. Governor Education and Training

### Previous Toastmasters experience

Held all club officer positions. Was a member of Clear Lake Toastmasters for about four years. Currently, I'm a member of Clear Lake Communicators (7455), Boeing Babblers (206) and DOT (9951). I've been a Toastmaster since 1992. Area Governor (P3) 2001-2002 (AG of the year and Select Distinguished Area). Division "P" Governor 2002-2003, LGM 2003-2004. As LGM, attended the TI June 2003 LGM training and the January 2004 midyear training.

### Where were you born and raised?

Born in Freeport, TX. Raised in Lake Jackson and Houston.

### What do you do for a living (outside of Toastmasters)?

I am a software engineer. I work at United Space Alliance with the Space Shuttle Program.

### Family?

I'm happily married with two boys, ages 9 and 13. It's a zoo at our house with all of our pets. We have two basinji dogs, two gerbils, a cockatiel, a cat and seven turtles.



## Pamela McCown, CTM/CL candidate for Lt. Governor Marketing

### Previous Toastmasters experience:

Various Club Officer positions of JPMorgan Chase Firm Speakers: VPM

2001-2002, VPE 2002-2003, and President 2003-2004. District Office: Appointed in April 2003 to serve the remaining 2002-2003 term of office for Division "O" Governor. Division "O" Governor 2003-2004. Club Sponsor: Talk of Downtown Toastmasters (March 2003), ASC Wordmasters (October 2003)

### Why you are seeking this position?

Since joining Toastmasters, I have enjoyed the benefits of all that Toastmasters has to offer in District 56. I have been blessed to serve with great mentors who have inspired me to stretch to reach my leadership development goals. My vision for continued District 56 leadership service is to share some of the opportunities afforded to me by these extraordinary District 56 Toastmasters and inspire others to experience the joy of FOREVER LEARNING AND GROWING IN TOASTMASTERS (FLAG IT!).

A Charter Member of JPMorgan Chase Firm Speakers since July, 2001, Pamela McCown currently serves as the 2003-2004 Club President. She obtained her CTM within the first year as a Toastmaster and achieved Competent Leader certification as of October, 2002. In April 2003, Pamela was appointed as Division O

Governor and was elected at the Spring Conference in May to the position of Division O Governor for the 2003-2004 term.

Pamela 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, Pamela has been instrumental in sponsoring the fourth JPMorgan Chase Toastmasters Club in Houston. She also is credited with sponsoring a new Club in Division Q (ASC Wordmasters). As Co-Chair for the District 56 2003 Spring Conference, Pamela served District 56 Toastmasters and made everyone feel welcome. District 56 Toastmasters enjoyed a most memorable conference and the entire District 56 staff was included in the effort which served to get the team off to a great start for the new term. Pamela championed the Hall of Fame Games for District 56 staff and welcomed our Region III International Director, Lark Doley with a Golden Moments reception that catapulted District 56 to international recognition. Pamela looks forward to future opportunities to be of service to District 56 Toastmasters.

Pamela truly believes in the power of Toastmasters. Forever Learning And Growing In Toastmasters (FLAG IT). Pamela McCown, a mentor and a resource person for the people in her life, seeks your vote for the position of Lieutenant Governor Marketing for 2004-2005.

**Cynthia St. Dennis**  
**ATM-G/CL**  
*candidate for*  
**Division "L" Governor**



**Previous Toastmasters experience:**  
 All Club Officers since 1993, Area Governor 2000-2001, 2001, 2002, Division "L" Governor 2002-2003, 2003-2004

**Why you are seeking this position?**  
 Because I want to stay involved at this level and promote growth in Division "L", the largest Division, geographically. Maybe move up in 2005-2006.

**Where were you born and raised?**  
 Houston, TX

**What do you do for a living (outside of Toastmasters)?** I am a financial person, I've worked for 13 years for American Bureau of Shipping as their Corporate Payroll and Quality Manager within the Finance Organization. I am responsible for international payroll along with the compliance of the Finance Organization to the company's quality system. I perform internal quality audits throughout the organization and additionally I am an adjunct instructor in the company's ABS Institute, teaching finance and quality courses.

**Significant accomplishments / achievements outside of Toastmasters:**  
 Hold CPP (Certified Payroll Professional) Certification, Texas Real Estate License.

**Family?** Married, spouse David St. Dennis, 4 children, 3 boys, 1 girl, and 1st grandchild Emma Nichole born August 2003. All children are on their own, only two cats at home, Sadie and Zoe.

**Anything else non-Toastmasters you want published?** Love of sailing, corvettes, dancing, travel, reading, cats.

**Cecilia Marlin**  
**ATM-S/CL**  
*candidate for*  
**Division "M" Governor**



**Previous Toastmasters experience:** I have been President and VPE of JPMorgan Chase Firm Speakers; currently VPE of Pride of Houston and Division "M" Governor;

**Why you are seeking this position?** I am seeking this position because no one else has stepped up yet, and, because the second time around is always better.

**Where were you born and raised?**  
 Houston, Texas

**What do you do for a living (outside of Toastmasters)?** Retired banker

**Significant accomplishments / achievements outside of Toastmasters:**  
 Currently working on my business, Brighter Day Consultants, as a professional speaker.

**Family?** Life Partner, Howard Chopp; daughter Helen and grandson Derrick.

**Anything else non-Toastmasters you want published?** Mentor with Empowering Teen Leaders; Board Member of the Leadership Center, which sponsors Empowering Teen Leaders; looking for a part-time position, 8:00-12:00 close to home in Alief.

**Phil Potter**  
**DTM**  
*candidate for*  
**Division "N" Governor**



**Previous Toastmasters experience:**  
 Speechcraft North ('03-'04) Asst. LGET ('02-'03), Past Division "L" Governor (2001-02), Past Area Governor (2000-01), VPE of Crescent City TM, Crescent City California (1997-98), Sgt @ Arms of Successfully Speaking (Jan-June '99), VP PR of Frankly Speaking (Jan-June 2000), VPM of Kingwood TM (Jun-Dec '02), Current EVP of Kingwood TM, Current VPM of Dining Out TM.

**Why you are seeking this position:**  
 As an experienced Division Governor, I feel that I can bring Division "N" to the same level as I did with Division "L". This will also be a new experience in stepping outside of my home Division.

**Where were you born and raised?**  
 Jan. 20 '68 in Oakland, CA Raised In Fremont, CA

**What do you do for a living (outside of Toastmasters)?**  
 Currently a student at Kingwood College, with a goal to transfer to Sam Houston State for a Masters in Business Administration.

**Significant accomplishments / achievements outside of Toastmasters:**  
 Past Master Councilor of Fremont Chapter Order of DeMolay, Fremont CA. Past Chapter Advisor of Del Norte Chapter Order of DeMolay, Crescent City, CA

**Family?**  
 Married 5 years to Becky (CTM), and just recently adopted a daughter Kayla on Feb 17 (Born Jan 7).

**Richard Ruchhoeft**  
**CTM/CL**  
*candidate for*  
**Division "O" Governor**



**Previous Toastmasters experience:**  
 Area Governor (03-04), Club Officer (VP 03-04, Pres 02-03, VP Membership 01-02)

**Why you are seeking this position?** I think Division "O" had some great leadership in 03-04 and that it needs to continue. There is great potential for growth inside the loop and I think I can help the Area O Governors reach their potential.

**Toastmaster Biography for Richard Ruchhoeft, CTM/CL**  
 Richard Ruchhoeft has been a Toastmaster since April 2001, when he joined TxDOT Toastmasters comprised mainly of Texas Department of Transportation employees and supporting industries. He quickly rose in leadership positions at the club level, taking on the position of VP Membership in 2001-2002, President in 2002-2003, and is currently serving as VP Education. As a charter member, Richard assumed the role of Secretary/Treasurer in Dining Out Toastmasters in 2003-2004. In July 2003, Richard was appointed Area "O-11" Governor and has strived to help his clubs achieve "distinguished" status. Richard has provided District sanctioned training for all offices that he has held and strongly believes in the power of the Toastmasters Program. To a large degree, he attributes his 2004 American Society of Civil Engineer's Young Engineer of the Year Award to the skills he gained through the Toastmasters Program. Richard Ruchhoeft is running for the position of Division "O" Governor for 2004-2005. He strongly believes that the companies located within the Houston Loop could solidly benefit from their employees attending Toastmasters programs, though such will only be realized when the existing clubs have grown to their full potential with the help of district staff.

**Patty Mayeaux**  
**ATM-G/CL**  
candidate for  
Division "P" Governor



**Previous Toastmasters experience:**  
Current "P-3" Area Governor. Immediate past President and past VP PR, Treasurer of Clear Lake Communicators.

**Why you are seeking this position?**  
To continue to promote Toastmasters within the District. To encourage members and club officers to strive for excellence because I believe in the Toastmasters organization and the members' promise.

**Where were you born and raised?**  
Cleveland, Ohio. Moved to New Orleans during High School and college, then to Lake Charles when I got married and finally to the Houston area. I now LOVE living in Galveston.

**What do you do for a living (outside of Toastmasters)?** Freelance writer.

**Significant accomplishments / achievements outside of Toastmasters:** Raised two daughters to be healthy, happy and contributing members of society. Completed the MS 150 two years. Built a somewhat successful freelance writing career. Developed the curriculum for and facilitate a weekly discussion group designed to help members discover, define and pursue a life filled with purpose and passion.

**Family?** 1 husband, Steve, of 29 years. 2 daughters, Rebecca, 24 and soon to be married and Jessica, 21.

**Anything else non-Toastmasters you want published?** I am a member of this year's class of Leadership Houston and am the co-chair of our class project, which is to develop and implement a program to help at-risk 5th grade students make the transition into middle school. I am an elder of Tiki Island Chapel. Additional organizations in which I am active include various Bible studies, book groups and writing groups. I enjoy reading, playing piano and guitar. I love to sing (not very well as can be demonstrated on the Karaoke tape from a previous Spring Conference!)

**Eddie Merla**  
**ATM-S/CL**  
candidate for  
Division "Q" Governor



**Previous Toastmasters experience:**  
Area Governor for Area "L-42" for 2003-2004 term, President of Daybreakers #839 from July 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003, VP-Education of Talk of the Town #4969 since August, 2003, VP-Education of Freespeakers #6368 since July 1, 2003

**Why you are seeking this position?** I enjoy mentoring and working with other Toastmasters and Toastmaster clubs within the district. As a Division Governor, I will continue to enhance my own personal growth while helping others grow. I would like to leverage my 25 years of leadership and management experience to help Division "Q" and District 56 meet their goals.

**Where were you born and raised?**  
Born in San Diego, California, raised in San Antonio, Texas.

**What do you do for a living (outside of Toastmasters)?** Project Management Professional (PMP) in Information Technology

**Significant accomplishments / achievements outside of Toastmasters:** International Banking Project Manager supporting major projects for Banco Nacional de Mexico (Banamex) in Mexico City, American Express Bank (multiple countries), Dresdner Bank LateinAmerika (Hamburg, Germany), Mellon Bank, and Banco Santander (Miami).

**Anything else non-Toastmasters you want published?** Hobbies include traveling, photography, and writing.

## \$5 Raffle Tickets \$5

**Most Worthy Prize:** Time/Share Ownership of the Inverness II Condominium Unit #220 In building K for week 37. 1st week in September, located at Walden on Lake Conroe. Value is estimated at \$8,000.

**Most Worthy Cause:** Hardship Grants for Toastmasters to continue on the C & L track.

**Drawing July 9, 2004 at the joint Dining Out Toastmasters Easy Risers 30th anniversary celebration meeting**

**Additional Details:** The anonymous donor will sign the deed of the time/share over to the winner who will not incur any transfer fees. All 2004 fees for the condo have been paid. Options to trade the week or location may be available for additional fees. This time/share has options to trade with other condos all over the world and is available for use in 2004.

**Regarding the most worthy cause:** a condition of the donation of the item to be raffled is to help active Toastmasters continue the C&L program during difficult times. A committee will be formed to determine need, past participation/progress and evaluate future goals of applicants who need assistance with dues or materials.

**For ticket information:** contact Jill Rowlands at 713-728-4912 or [gemsbyj@aol.com](mailto:gemsbyj@aol.com) or visit District 56 website at [www.toastmasters-d56.org](http://www.toastmasters-d56.org).

(continued)

**Max E. Rasquinha, DTM**  
candidate for District Governor

exception of Treasurer post . He has actively involved in organizing Club Contests, Area Contests, Division Contests as well as District Contests. He is also a keen participant in helping various Youth Leadership programs plus many other school talents and contests.

Max Rasquinha has been actively involved as an Area Governor on three occasions, Division Governor on two occasions, District PRO, Lt. Gov. Marketing and now holding the position of Lt. Governor Education and Training.

### Family background

Max Rasquinha is happily married for 41 years to Jessica who works as a RN at the St. Luke's Hospital. They have two sons, Maximillion who lives in Dallas and Allen who lives in Houston. His family is scattered in many parts of the world. Native of India, born, raised and educated in a Catholic yet secular environment Max Rasquinha is a great believer that all religions are the same and we are all children of one God.

### Goals and Objectives

Max Rasquinha's hitherto involvement as a family minded person, as a business person and as an International person , constantly reminds him of the awareness and importance of learning and sharing from each other our knowledge, our experience, our goodwill and above all our friendship for the common good of mankind. Involvement through Toastmasters is one way to accomplish his goals and desires in life.

**Proxy**  
**District 56 Toastmasters Business Meeting**  
**May 15, 2004**

I hereby authorize

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a member in good standing of  
Toastmasters Club number \_\_\_\_\_,  
to cast my vote at the District 56 Toastmasters  
Business Meeting in League City, Texas on May 15, 2004.

Signed by:

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**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**  
**May 15, 2004**

I hereby authorize

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a member in good standing of  
Toastmasters Club number \_\_\_\_\_,  
to cast my vote at the District 56 Toastmasters  
Business Meeting in League City, Texas on May 15, 2004.

Signed by:

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**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.**

**Semi-Annual Ritual**  
**Jill Rowlands DTM D-56**  
**Treasurer 2003-2004**

*Dear Toastmaster Member--*

Please don't leave us, we will miss your clever speeches, your interesting Table Topics and your most welcomed participation. If you have relocated and can't attend your club can we help you find another one.

Dues are due in March. Club Dues must be collected by every club Treasurer and sent in to T.I. on April 1. Late payment of dues may disqualify speech contestants and proxy carrying members. It can also stop delivery of the monthly Toastmaster magazine. Members who are not able to pay on time can easily be reinstated when payment is received. Should a club be able to submit dues for at least 8 members on time they can keep the club in good standing with headquarters, they can keep their contestants eligible and they can keep The Toastmaster Magazine coming to every dues paying member. If you stop getting the monthly Toastmaster Magazine, ask why.

We don't want to lose our valuable members and dedicated clubs. So, please make sure that dues were collected from every continuing member, connect with members who have dropped out and see if there is a reason for the absence and what might bring the member back into the fold. Lastly, make sure that the dues were received by TI. Infrequent glitches can occur from the members payment to the Club Treasurer to the TI Membership department, please encourage two officers to track the flow of monies and payment of dues. The best officers for this task are the Vice President of Membership, the Secretary and the Treasurer. Confirmation from TI occurs several ways, you can call them, you can check to see if the club check was cashed, you can check the website to see if it is posted or if you pay by credit card confirmation occurs automatically within 48 hours.

Yes, TI now also accepts payment by credit card from clubs. This means either a club can have a credit or debit card or use one member's credit card for the whole transaction. Members can not pay individually by their own credit card. It takes one transaction to cover the whole

club. The club can then reimburse the member whose credit card is used. For more information go to the TI website to the "Information for Members" page or go the URL: [www.toastmasters.org/artisan/detail.asp?CategoryID=2&SubCategoryID=45&ArticleID=163&Page=1](http://www.toastmasters.org/artisan/detail.asp?CategoryID=2&SubCategoryID=45&ArticleID=163&Page=1)

Once again, we don't want to lose valuable members, should your club be inconvenient due to relocation etc. we can find a club that is near you to keep you on track with your personal and professional growth goals. Remember, should you be required to move to another club, your hard earned credits are transferable to another club if you fill out the paperwork correctly. Clubs are encouraged to submit what dues they have collected on time to keep their Distinguished Club status in line with Toastmasters' attributes of successful clubs. For questions regarding dues or other treasury concerns contact Jill Rowlands DTM at [gemsbyj@aol.com](mailto:gemsbyj@aol.com) or for relocating to a convenient club contact John Martin ATM-S at [andmore@alief.com](mailto:andmore@alief.com).

# District 56 Toastmasters Clubs by Division and Area

## Proposed Realignment for 2004-2005

(to be presented and voted on at the District 56 business meeting, May 15, 2004)

### DIVISION L

#### Area L-40

- ★ Silver Tongue
- ★ City Of Bryan
- ★ Woodlands
- ★ Exult Expressions
- ★ Evening MCs
- ★ Outspoken (Conroe)

#### Area L-41

- ★ Toast to a Cure
- ★ Kingwood
- ★ Baker Hughes Speakeasy
- ★ Escapees
- ★ Deerwood
- ★ SanJac (Coldspring)

#### Area L-42

- ★ HP Houston
- ★ 1960 North Houston
- ★ Cy-Fair Super Speakers
- ★ Tomball Community
- ★ Creek Speakers
- ★ Foundry Toastmasters

#### Area L-43

- ★ Frankly Speaking
- ★ Successfully Speaking
- ★ Spring Ahead Speakers
- ★ Greenspoint
- ★ Technically Speaking

### DIVISION M

#### Area M-30

- ★ Sugar Speakers
- ★ Articulators
- ★ Sugar Land Toastmasters
- ★ Fluor Daniel Toastmasters
- ★ Imperial Sugar
- ★ NALCO

#### Area M-31

- ★ Wordcrafters
- ★ Post Oak
- ★ Houston Speakers Forum
- ★ Bellaire
- ★ Bellaire Oil Speakers

#### Area M-32

- ★ Wilcrest Toastmeisters
- ★ TI Talkers
- ★ Jacobs
- ★ Brown Bag Speakers
- ★ Unocal
- ★ Memorial Hermann

#### Area M-33

- ★ Southwest Speakers
- ★ Sharpstown
- ★ Houston Baptist University
- ★ All Star
- ★ TACL Toastmasters
- ★ Synhrgy Sayers

### DIVISION N

#### Area N-20

- ★ Talking Heads (BP)
- ★ Park 10 Talkers
- ★ Katy Toastmasters
- ★ Speaking of Shell
- ★ Conoco Phillips

#### Area N-21

- ★ Sysco
- ★ Southwestern
- ★ Pride Of Houston
- ★ Westhollow (Shell)
- ★ Speechcrafters
- ★ HDC (Dow)

#### Area N-22

- ★ Post Oak Persuaders
- ★ Marathon Speaks!
- ★ Unity
- ★ Houston Uptown Professional Singles (HUPS)
- ★ Riverway

#### Area N-23

- ★ Bun Toasters
- ★ Talk of the Town
- ★ JPMC Corporate Communicators
- ★ TXDOT
- ★ Free Speechers
- ★ Heights

### DIVISION O

#### Area O-10

- ★ Overnights
- ★ JP Morgan Chase Firm Speakers
- ★ CenterPoint Energy Communicators
- ★ Westside (JPMC)
- ★ Skyline District
- ★ Gulf Coast Gabbers
- ★ Lunch Bunch

#### Area O-11

- ★ Easy Risers
- ★ Downtown Houston
- ★ Houston Police Dept
- ★ Talk of Downtown
- ★ 711 Toastmasters

#### Area O-12

- ★ High Noon
- ★ Greater Houston
- ★ ExxonMobil
- ★ Continental Airlines Houston
- ★ Dining Out

### DIVISION P

#### Area P-1

- ★ Anico Articulators
- ★ Brazosport
- ★ Oilfield Orators
- ★ Angleton Toastmasters
- ★ Coastal Island
- ★ Diamond

#### Area P-2

- ★ Lubrizol Texas
- ★ Deer Park
- ★ ExxonMobil Baytown
- ★ Pearland
- ★ S&B Ellington

#### Area P-3

- ★ JSC
- ★ Clear Lake Area Chamber Toastmasters
- ★ Clear Lake Communicators
- ★ Space Team
- ★ The League City

#### Area P-4

- ★ Clear Lake
- ★ Boeing Babblers
- ★ Spaceland
- ★ Boeing
- ★ UHCL

### DIVISION Q

#### Area Q-50

- ★ Project Grad
- ★ Words of Wisdom
- ★ Telephone Talkers
- ★ South Main Speakers
- ★ ASC Wordmasters
- ★ Fountain of Praise Speakers

#### Area Q-51

- ★ Astrodome Area Toastmasters
- ★ Professionally Speaking Singles Toastmasters (PSST)
- ★ Greenway
- ★ Medically Speaking
- ★ H-GAC
- ★ Talking Bull

#### Area Q-52

- ★ Daybreakers
- ★ AON Houston
- ★ Mindspeak
- ★ Uptown Toastmasters
- ★ LDN Orators (Duke)

#### Area Q-53

- ★ Elocutioners
- ★ Star Speakers
- ★ Seriously Speaking
- ★ Houston Public Works
- ★ Jesse H. Jones Elite

## Upcoming Events

### May 2004

All clubs elect new officers for the term starting July 1, 2004.  
All clubs to send new officer list to TI WHQ.

### May 14-15, 2004

District 56 Spring 2004 Conference  
South Shore Harbour Resort, League City  
Election of District officers for 2004-2005 term.  
District Table Topics contest.  
District International Speech contest.

### June 5, 2004

Club Officer Training and Toastmasters Leadership Institute  
(All club officers should attend. Cost: *free*)  
Bayland Community Center  
6400 Bissonnet near Hillcroft, Houston

### June 30, 2004

Deadline for clubs to report May 2004 club election results to TI WHQ.

### July 1, 2004

All new club officer terms begin.  
All new district officer terms begin.

### July 9, 2004

Drawing, District 56 Raffle for the hardship fund

### August 6, 2004

Roast of the outgoing District Governor



## District 56 Officers 2003-2004

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

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