

FORUM 56

DISTRICT 56 TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL – HOUSTON & SOUTHEAST TEXAS

**Forever Learning Always Growing in Toastmasters – FLAG IT!
Select Distinguished District, 2003-2004, 2004-2005**

Message from the 2006-2007 District Governor

Celebrate Your Success!

by Pamela McCown, DTM



What have you accomplished this year to learn and grow as a communicator and a leader?

We invite you to ***Celebrate Your Success!*** at the **Fabulous 56 Fiesta** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, May 4-5. Bring your club banner to display throughout Fabulous 56 Fiesta Weekend.

Friday night is Fiesta Night. Wear your fiesta best attire and have fun creating your fiesta name to share with everyone at your table. For example, I will be “Pah Me Lah – La Tremenda!” for the evening.

Fiesta Night kicks off with a humorous presentation by 2003 World Champion of Public Speaking Jim Key, followed by the Tall Tales Contest. After the contest, attend the candidates’ forum to interview your 2007-2008 district officer candidates.

Saturday morning, begin your day with a buy-your-own-breakfast meeting with District 56 leaders. Then, it’s off to the **District Council business meeting** to hear Region III Senior International Director Ralph Wallace’s inspirational keynote address.

At noon, we’ll Celebrate Your Success! at the Communication and Leadership Luncheon. We’ll announce the winners of the Communication and Leadership Award; Bert Mann Spirit of Success Award; David Able Standard of Excellence Award; Suzy Gormley Achievement Award; and Outstanding Club Officer Awards for the July 1-December 31, 2006 term. During lunch, meet and greet other District 56 Toastmasters and hear their success stories.

After lunch, join us for these **FABULOUS Cinco De Mayo educational sessions:**

- **Celebrate Best Practices** with International Director Candidates Jack Balko and Charlotte Howard.
- **Celebrate Club Leadership.** Get a FREE Competent Leadership Manual in the session on this newest Toastmasters manual.
- **Build on Your Success.** You might win a FREE advanced manual in the session on taking your presentations to a professional level through advanced manuals and advanced clubs.
- **Learn from the Champ.** 2003 World Champion of Public Speaking Jim Key shows how to share your stories in his session on “Maximum Impact – The Art of Using Your Story.”

At dinner on Saturday night, applaud more than 50 Distinguished Toastmasters who completed the DTM requirements during our “**50 by 50 for 56**” program – 50 DTMs by the 50th anniversary of District 56. We’ll celebrate their success with a special presentation.

After dinner, the Fabulous 56 Fiesta wraps up with the **International Speech Contest** and recognition of the newly elected 2007-2008 district officers.

Even after the conference, we still have many opportunities to create amazing success. Go back to your club and invite others to celebrate the success of Forever Learning Always Growing In Toastmasters.

District 56 Toastmasters: Simply Amazing.

(See p. 6 for how to have fabulous fun at your spring conference and p. 7 for a detailed conference agenda.)

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Your Candidates for District 56 Office, 2007-2008

Your club President and VP Education will cast their votes for the following offices at the District Council meeting on May 5, 2007. Be sure your club is represented at this key meeting. (See p. 7 for proxy forms.)

Candidate for District Governor – Cynthia St. Dennis, DTM



District 56 will celebrate its 50th anniversary during the 2007-2008 Toastmasters year. I am honored to accept the nomination for District Governor of our fine district with the privilege of serving our members during this prestigious time.

My service to District 56 began with appointments as an Area Governor within Division L for three consecutive years. I was elected Division L Governor for 3 years, then Lt. Governor Marketing, and currently am Lt. Governor Education and Training. I am a member of five different clubs in District 56, serving as President and Treasurer of two of those clubs. I joined Toastmasters in 1993.

Recognition of development enriches opportunities within our Toastmasters organization. As a leader in the ensuing year, I promise to offer potential for growth, enjoyment, and expanding our network to all members of District 56. I respectfully ask for your club's vote as your District Governor 2007-2008.

Candidate for Lt. Governor Marketing – Charlie Pitts, DTM



I originally became involved with Toastmasters to get some much-needed help but quickly found a greater sense of fulfillment by serving others. My focus has been largely aimed at helping and growing others.

As Lt. Governor Marketing, my mission is to expand the district by chartering new clubs. What is at the *HEART* of creating a new club? The heart of creating

Candidate for Lt. Governor Education & Training – Eddie Merla, DTM



Since joining Toastmasters less than five years ago, I have gained many friends, met talented speakers and incredible leaders, and witnessed firsthand the power of personal growth through the Toastmasters program. While rediscovering my own voice, I made my dream a reality – starting my own seminar company and training over 4,000 individuals in nine countries.

I am running for Lt. Governor Education and Training (LGET) because I believe many others can benefit from Toastmasters. As LGET, my mission is to ensure that the Toastmasters programs continue to enrich the lives of our members. I will focus on helping position District 56 to exceed its educational goals and to become the premier district in the world.

I was a Select Distinguished Area Governor for 2003-2004 and a President's Distinguished Division Governor for 2004-2005. I am currently serving as Lt. Governor Marketing and working on my third DTM. I ask for your vote as LGET for the upcoming year.

a new club is aimed at helping and growing more people. My mantra is "*Aiming for the Heart.*"

As Lt. Governor Marketing, I will aim straight for the heart – chartering as many clubs as possible. I will develop a team to assist with this mission. It is my vision to spread the good news of Toastmasters while growing those who assist in this process and leaving a legacy for the next generation.

A vote for Charlie Pitts is *Aimed Straight at the Heart* of helping and growing people. Please join me in taking aim.

Candidate for Division L Governor – Nora League, ACS/CL



As a founding member of Conroe Speaks Club, chartered in January 2005, I have served as Secretary-Treasurer and three terms as Vice President Education, an office I now hold in two clubs. Helping other Toastmasters reach their goals gives me feelings of great personal satisfaction.

In 2005 I organized a speech contest as my High Performance Leadership project; participated in a Speechcraft; and served as Assistant Area L-40 Governor. I reached CTM in five months and helped our club achieve President's Distinguished in six months. I will reach DTM in July 2007.

Currently, I am Area L-40 Governor, a position that has been both challenging and rewarding. While sponsoring a new club in Huntsville, we successfully chartered Noon Toasters Club. This puts Area L-40 on track to achieve President's Distinguished status.

My goal for Division L is to uphold the standards raised by previous governors. We will hold our banners high and shout to the world that in Division L, we will Educate with eXcitement while teaching Communication, Evaluation and Leadership skills. We will EXCEL with Division L.

Candidate for Division M Governor – Jan Poscovsky, ACB



I have been a Toastmaster since 1992. In 2006, I joined Sugar Land Toastmasters where I have served as Secretary, VP Public Relations, and currently Club President. I am also VP Education for the new Master Evaluators Club. I received my CTM in 1996, ACB in 2006, and am just one activity short of completing my CL.

My main objective as Division M Governor is to build on last year's success and move the division to Distinguished status. I will work closely with the Area Governors and support them in serving their clubs.

Timely and efficient communication about District events and trainings is important. This will give the clubs better access to the wealth of information and support available to them. To accomplish this goal, I will establish open lines of communication with Area Governors, make myself available to them whenever possible, and implement a reporting system that will be fun and easy to use.

My most memorable and enjoyable experiences in Toastmasters are mentoring and assisting individuals and clubs as Area M-30 Lt. Governor. I look forward to continuing this experience as Division M Governor.

Candidate for Division N Governor – Hettie Allsup, ATMS/CL



I have helped with nine speech contests during the 12 months. I can serve in any position from contest chair to sergeant at arms.

For the past three years I have worked on district conferences. My husband and I were the hospitality hosts for the 2006

Fall Conference, attended most of the preparatory meetings, did due diligence for the location, and arranged for the stage.

For the 2006-2007 term, I am serving as O-10 Area Governor.

I joined Toastmasters in 2003 to learn how to give better seminars and develop my leadership skills. I served my club, Lunch Bunch Toastmasters, as SAA for one year and Secretary for 1-1/2 terms, and I am currently club President.

Our executive committee meetings continue to be exciting, and the club officers want to invite guests to our meetings.

I will continue to help all Toastmasters enhance their communication and leadership skills. My goals are to find many new members to share the excitement of being a Toastmaster. I will help and encourage as many people as I can to become advanced leaders and Distinguished Toastmasters.

Candidate for Division O Governor – Patricia Cotton, ATMS



I am a native of San Diego, but have lived in Houston for 17 years. For 15 years I have worked for the City of Houston planning and development department. I love my job and most people.

In May 2007, I will have belonged to Lunch Bunch Toastmasters for four years, and I have enjoyed every minute in Toastmasters. I have served as club VP Membership, President and VP Education and as O-10 Area Governor. Currently I am the District 56 Facilities Coordinator.

I want to be Division O Governor because I really enjoy seeing individuals and clubs reach their highest potential, and I believe I have the ability, stamina, and enthusiasm to help each club reach that potential. I want each club and “MIPIT” (Most Important Person in Toastmasters) in Division O to successfully, willingly, and happily achieve their desired goals.

With the help, knowledge, and inspiration of other “MIPIT”s who have come before me and who stand with me to continue the Toastmasters tradition, I know I will be a successful Division Governor.

Candidate for Division P Governor – Marie Bice, ACB/CL



To me, Toastmasters is about individual progress and recognition. I joined my first Toastmasters club in February 2005. Since then I have achieved my CTM and CL (both old and new), have served as 2006 Fall Conference Registration Chair, and am now serving as Area P-1 Governor. I should have my AL and ACB by June.

Although I do enjoy setting lofty goals for myself, my greatest pleasure in being a district and club officer is to help the individuals around me achieve their goals and to honor their achievements. The variety of members involved at all levels within the district keeps me motivated.

This year I brought a TLI into Area P-1 to tailor the program to the needs of my officers. I also encouraged my area and other Division P areas to participate in a division-wide membership building contest coinciding with Talk Up Toastmasters.

I hope to continue to contribute my enthusiasm for and dedication to the individual member’s progress and recognition as next year’s Division P Governor.

Candidate for Division Q Governor – Amish Patel, ATMG



I was born in Missouri and have lived in Houston since 1986. I have BS and Masters degrees in chemical engineering from the University of Houston.

I started my Toastmasters career in 1999 at KBR with Kellogg Quality Communicators, now Greater Houston Toastmasters. After achieving ATMS and leaving KBR, I rejoined with my current club, Uptown Toastmasters. I am on the verge of achieving DTM.

Toastmasters has given me many skills and a level of confidence I would not have gained from other avenues. All the people along that journey, either helping me or receiving my help, have contributed to a worthwhile experience, and I thank them all.

As your Division Q Governor, I would like to continue to build upon this term’s successes in District 56 and in each area of Q, where I have been involved as Area Q-53 Governor. If you give me this opportunity to lead, I will continue to encourage and promote our members to strive for the success they never expected to achieve by being a Toastmaster.

THANKS to all the dedicated Toastmasters who have volunteered to serve our District in 2007-2008. Their commitment to helping all Toastmasters grow and develop as communicators and leaders is inspiring.

Division Spring Speech Contest Schedule – 2007

DIVISION L
Saturday, April 21, 2007
The Ark Family Church
450 Humble Tank Road, Conroe, TX 77303
Briefing: 9:00am Contests: 9:30am
Donations Accepted
Directions: Take Interstate 45 North to Conroe. Take Exit 85, Gladstell Road, and continue north on the I-45 feeder. Before you reach the railroad tracks, make a U-turn under the freeway. Head south on the feeder. Turn right on Ark Drive between the RV park and Motel 6. Follow Ark Drive to the church.
For more information: Div. L Governor Charlie Pitts, DTM, 281-705-9865.
DIVISION M
Saturday, April 28, 2007
Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet (near Hillcroft), Houston, TX 77074
Briefing: 9:00am Contests: 9:30am
Donations Accepted
Directions: Take Highway 59 South (Southwest Freeway) outside Loop 610. Exit at Hillcroft and turn left under the freeway on Hillcroft. Turn right on Bissonnet. Bayland Park and Sports Complex is immediately on your right. (Bayland Park is inside the Sam Houston Tollway and only 10 minutes from the Galleria.)
For more information: Div. M Governor Cynthia Wagner, ATMB, cynthia.wagner@gmail.com.
DIVISION N
Saturday, April 21, 2007
Tracy Gee Community Center
3599 Westcenter Dr., Houston, TX 77042
Briefing: 12:30pm Contests: 1:00pm
Donation: \$5.00 Includes spaghetti and lasagna dinner
Directions: Westcenter is parallel to and just inside the Sam Houston Tollway (Beltway 8) between Richmond and Westpark. Go east on Richmond from Beltway 8 (inside the Beltway). Take a right on the first street. 3599 Westcenter is on your left, on the east side of the street. Park in back of the building.
For more information: Div. N Governor Jill Rowlands Moffitt, DTM, gemsbyj@aol.com.

DIVISION O
Saturday, April 14, 2007
Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet (near Hillcroft), Houston, TX 77074
Briefing: 12:30pm Contests: 1:00 pm
Donation: \$4.00
Directions: Take Highway 59 South (Southwest Freeway) outside 610 Loop. Exit at Hillcroft and turn left under the freeway on Hillcroft. Turn right on Bissonnet. Bayland Park and Sports Complex is immediately on your right. (Bayland Park is inside the Sam Houston Tollway and only 10 minutes from the Galleria.)
For more information: Div. O Governor Nancy Reingold, DTM, 281-463-2179.
DIVISION P
Saturday, April 14, 2007
United Space Alliance Bldg.
1150 Gemini Street, Clear Lake City, TX 77058
Briefing: 8:45am Contests: 9:00am
Donations Accepted
Directions: Take I-45 South outside Loop 610. Exit Bay Area Blvd./UofH Clear Lake and turn left (east) on Bay Area Blvd. Cross Highway 3 and El Camino Real, and turn right on Buccaneer Lane. The first stop sign is Gemini. Turn left on Gemini, and the USA Bldg. is immediately on your right.
For more information: Div. P Gov. Margaret Henck, DTM, 409-370-1305.
DIVISION Q
Monday, April 23, 2007
Houston Dept. of Health & Human Services
8000 North Stadium Dr. (at Old Spanish Trail) Houston, TX 77054
Briefing: 6:30pm Contests: 7:00 pm
Donation: \$3.00
Directions: Take Highway 288 South to Old Spanish Trail (OST). Exit and turn left (west) on OST. Go past Fannin and Greenbriar to North Stadium Dr. The building is inside Loop 610 one block north of Reliant Stadium. Park in the free public parking garage on North Stadium Dr. and go to the first floor auditorium.
For more information: Div. Q Governor Brenda Thorne, DTM, 281-389-6246 or eloisa911@sbcglobal.net.

How to Have a Fabulous Time at the Spring Conference

by Charlie Pitts, DTM and Diane Niño, ACS/CL
2007 Spring Conference Co-Chairs

Toastmasters KNOW how to celebrate success, and there's no better time than the Spring Conference Fabulous 56 Fiesta, May 4-5, 2007, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Houston. Be sure you take advantage of every opportunity to have fabulous fun all weekend long. Here are some Toastmasters Tips (not necessarily in order of importance):

- **Wear your fiesta best** to kick off the celebration with a Latin flavor. Our Fiesta Fun Night, Friday, May 4, includes dinner and the Tall Tales Contest – and you dressed as your favorite Latino or Latina hero. From Antonio Banderas to Zorro, from Christina Aguilera to Selena, this is your chance to dress the part and PLAY.
- **Come prepared to laugh out loud** at the humor of 2003 World Champion of Public Speaking Jim Key, DTM. Jim will give the keynote address on Friday and an educational session on Saturday – both are sure to entertain and enlighten.
- **Come prepared to split your sides** at the Tall Tales Contest. Only the best of the best make it to the District Tall Tales Contest, and these folks are guaranteed to amuse and amaze you with their hilarious tall tales.
- **Strut your club's successes with pride.** Bring your club banner (along with the banner stand) to display during Saturday's events.
- **Get ready to cheer** for the outstanding community leaders and Toastmasters to be honored at our Saturday awards luncheon.
- **Be prepared to stand up and shout** for the 50 Distinguished Toastmasters who achieved their DTM award this past year. We'll honor those who participated in "50 by 50 for 56" – 50 DTMs by the 50th anniversary of District 56.
- **Open your heart to inspiration and motivation** by our Saturday keynoter, International Director Ralph Wallace, DTM and by the participants in the International Speech Contest. District 56 is noted for its talented speakers, and this year's crop of contestants is sure to live up to that standard – and then some.

- **First timers – double your fun.** The first timers' game is a great way to meet more Toastmasters.
- **Discover how to advance your speaking skills.** Check out the advanced club displays.
- **Greet our District's new leaders for the 2007-2008 term.**

Registration deadline is April 28, 2007. You still have time to join the celebration. Just send your completed registration form, along with your payment, to District 56 Treasurer Brook Syers, 6136 Southwell Lane, League City, TX 77573. You can save even more if you register as a group by April 14.

If you can't attend the full conference, check out the a-la-carte rates for each event listed on the registration form. The deadline for both full and a-la-carte registrations is April 28, 2007.

Visit the Members Area of the District 56 website at <http://www.toastmasters-d56.org/members.asp> to download and print a copy of the registration form.

Join the Fabulous 56 Fiesta and Celebrate Your Success! With a full weekend of festivities, you're sure to learn and grow with your fellow Toastmasters. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Attract Guests to Your Corporate Club

by Jill Rowlands Moffitt, DTM

Bellaire Oil Speakers recently held a successful PR campaign in the company lobby. All it took to find 30 new prospective members was a few key ingredients:

- Happy outgoing members to staff a table.
- Plenty of welcoming smiles and eye contact.
- Toastmasters brochures to hand out.
- Sign-up sheet to take names and contact info.

Don't forget to actually invite your prospects to a meeting. Bellaire Oil Speakers' big publicity push resulted in 36 guests at their next meeting.

Be sure your meetings are well-organized and hold visitors' interest. It's equally important to convert those guests to members by inviting them to join and processing their applications promptly and correctly. If your company subsidizes membership fees, you must know the rules for reimbursement.

Happy Recruiting!

BE THERE TO CELEBRATE!



FABULOUS 56 FIESTA CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESS! SPRING CONFERENCE AGENDA

FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2007

- 3:00-6:30 pm Registration Open
- 4:00-6:00 pm Hospitality Room Open
- 6:00-6:15 pm **First Timers' Activity**
- 6:00-6:30 pm Contestants' and Officials' Briefing
- 6:30-7:30 pm Dinner (Fiesta Attire)
- 6:45-7:15 pm **Keynote Speech, Jim Key, DTM**
2003 World Champion of Public Speaking
- 7:30-8:30 pm **Tall Tales Speech Contest**
- 8:45-9:45 pm Candidates' Forum
- 9:45 pm Hospitality Room Open

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2007

- 7:00-8:30 am **Leadership Breakfast** (Dutch treat)
- 8:00-9:00 am Hospitality Room Open
- 8:00-9:15 pm Registration Open
- 8:00-9:15 am Credentials Open
- 8:00-9:15 am Set Up Club Banners
- 8:30-6:00 pm Bookstore Open
- 8:30-8:45 am **First Timers' Activity**
- 9:00-9:15 am **Opening Ceremonies**
- 9:15-9:30 am **Keynote Speech, Ralph Wallace, DTM**
International Director, Region III
- 9:30-11:15 am **Business Meeting – FREE EVENT**
- 11:30-1:30 pm **Awards Luncheon** with C&L Award
- 1:00-7:30 pm Registration Open
- 1:45-2:30 pm Educational Session A
International Director & ID Candidates
- 2:45-3:35 pm Educational Session B and C
Choose one.
- 3:45-4:35 pm Educational Session D
Jim Key, DTM
2003 World Champion of Public Speaking
- 5:30-6:00 pm Contestants' and Officials' Briefing
- 6:00-6:15 pm DTMs' Briefing
- 6:00-6:30 pm Reception (Cash Bar)
- 6:30-7:30 pm Dinner (Semi-Formal Attire)
- 6:35 pm Grand Entrance
- 7:15-7:35 pm **DTM Recognition** – “50 by 50 for 56”
- 7:45-9:00 pm **International Speech Contest**
- 9:00-10:00 pm Victory Bash

FLAG IT!
**Forever Learning Always Growing
In Toastmasters**

BE SURE YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

President's Proxy Form for District 56 District Council Business Meeting, May 5, 2007

I hereby authorize

_____ a member in good standing of Toastmasters Club
_____, to cast my vote at the District 56 Council
Business Meeting in Houston, Texas on May 5, 2007.

Signed by: _____

Club President

This proxy is valid for one vote only.

As Club President, you may designate in writing any other member of your club to vote in your place at the District 56 Council Business Meeting. Each club is entitled to two votes. One Toastmaster from your club may carry both proxies – yours and the Vice President Education's. District Officers entitled to one vote may carry a maximum of 2 proxies. All other Toastmasters are limited to 2 votes maximum. 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.

VPE's Proxy Form for District 56 District Council Business Meeting, May 5, 2007

I hereby authorize

_____ a member in good standing of Toastmasters Club
_____, to cast my vote at the District 56 Council
Business Meeting in Houston, Texas on May 5, 2007.

Signed by: _____

Club Vice President Education

This proxy is valid for one vote only.

As Club VPE, you may designate in writing any other member of your club to vote in your place at the District 56 Council Business Meeting. Each club is entitled to two votes. One Toastmaster from your club may carry both proxies – yours and the President's. District Officers entitled to one vote may carry a maximum of 2 proxies. All other Toastmasters are limited to 2 votes maximum. 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
Houston & Southeast Texas**

District Governor – Pamela McCown, DTM

- Lt. Governor Education and Training –
Cynthia St. Dennis, DTM
- Lt. Governor Marketing – Eddie Merla, DTM
- Public Relations Officer – Linda S. Posey, CTM/CL
- Secretary – Mary M. Spain, DTM
- Treasurer – Brook Syers, ATMG/CL
- Immediate Past District Gov. – Allen Prescott, DTM
- Division L Governor – Charlie Pitts, DTM
- Division M Governor – Cynthia Wagner, ATMB/CL
- Division N Governor – Jill Rowlands Moffitt, DTM
- Division O Governor – Nancy Reingold, DTM
- Division P Governor – Margaret Henck, DTM
- Division Q Governor – Brenda Thorne, DTM

**Send club, area and division news to:
publicrelations@toastmasters-d56.org**

TM Events You Don't Want to Miss

District 56

- April 10 Club dues are due at TI – **DO IT NOW!**
- April 14 Division O Contests (p.5)
- April 14 Division P Contests (p.5)
- April 14 Deadline for Group Registration
Discount, Spring Conference (p.6)
- April 21 Division L Contests (p.5)
- April 21 Division N Contests (p.5)
- April 23 Division Q Contests (p.5)
- April 28 Division M Contests (p.5)
- April 28 Registration Deadline, Spring Conference
(p.6)
- May 4-5 Spring Conference – Fabulous 56 Fiesta,
Houston (p.1, 6 and 7)
- June 2 TLI for July-December Club Officers –
www.toastmasters-d56.org/members.asp
– click on Events Calendar for June

Region III

- June 8-9 Region III Conference, Irving, TX

Toastmasters International

- Aug. 15-18 International Convention and Speech
Contest, Phoenix, AZ

Forever Learning Always Growing in Toastmasters – FLAG IT!

District 56 – Toastmasters International
IMPORTANT – Forum 56 Spring Conference Issue
P.O. Box 751983
Houston, TX 77275-1983

DATED MATERIAL – OPEN IMMEDIATELY

