



MESSAGE FROM MAX

Refreshing Our Toastmasters Commitment

by Max E. Rasquinha, DTM, District 56 Governor



The New Year brings new resolutions, new hopes and new aspirations. We face new challenges in 2005. At the club, area, division, and district levels, there is much we can do to serve others. Cooperation and communication play im-

portant roles in the goals we hope to accomplish as leaders and communicators. If we are willing to work together and help one another, no task will be difficult and no job will be impossible.

REGION III MID-TERM SETS TONE FOR 2005

As Toastmasters we have numerous opportunities to interact closely and form friendships. The Region III Mid-Term Conference in Austin on January 14-15 was one such opportunity. I enjoyed the chance to exchange ideas with two International Directors and the "Top 3" officers from 8 other districts. I met Toastmasters from Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming, Colorado, Oklahoma, and other parts of Texas. I learned many great things that can be applied within Toastmasters and the real world.

Toastmasters' activities are increasing throughout the district and Region III. We must continue to stress the benefits that the Toastmasters educational program provides. Our public relations efforts help others see the positive impact Toastmasters has on families, jobs, and communities. Educational accomplishments are an integral part of being a Toastmaster.

Let us remember our past officers. Toastmasters activity doesn't have to end with a term of office. We should encourage past officers to stay involved and provide service on different levels within Toastmasters. Retaining these experienced members is just as important as gaining new members and clubs.

"People Helping People" is not a slogan anymore. Our lives in this "small and beautiful world" depend on associations with others. Because of our strong commitment to help one another achieve goals, we can rest assured that District 56 will achieve distinguished status for the fourth consecutive year. We can make this happen with all your individual and group support.

Max E. Rasquinha, DTM
 District 56 Governor



At the Region III Mid-Term Conference, District 56 was acknowledged by International Directors Lark Doley and Nancy Starr-Cassidy for most member appreciation and most innovative marketing.

Inside this issue:

Message Lt. Gov. Marketing/Area Gov Training/Reach Your Goals	2
Toastmasters Energy/Lasting Habits/Highlights	3
TLI/Contest Workshop	4
Org Chart/Mission/Calendar	5
Presidents' Appreciation Day	Supplement

Theme of the Month: "RESOLUTION"



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Message from Lt. Governor Marketing Membership Is Growing in District 56

by Pamela McCown, DTM



District 56 Clubs are growing fast. Congratulations go to 7 clubs that added 5 or more members between August 1 and September 30, 2004. The following clubs receive the Smedley Award and a ribbon to add to

their club banner.

Smedley Award Winners	
Club	New Members
Toast to a Cure	6
TI Talkers	5
Woodlands	8
Seriously Speaking	5
Houston Uptown	
Professional Singles	16
Texas City Talkers	11
Aon Houston	5

NEW CLUBS CHARTERED

District 56 chartered nine new clubs during July 2004-January 2005! Each division gained at least one new club. Divisions L, P, and Q lead the new club count with 2 clubs each.

New Club	Area
Conroe Speaks	L-40
ABSolutely Articulate	L-43
What Are We Talking About	M-33
Speaking Hart to Heart	N-23
Talk Is Cheap	O-11
Texas City Talkers	P-1
Space Explorers	P-3
Dance and Toast Masters	Q-50
JHJ Elite	Q53

Another new club, Farm Talk Speakers/Sugar Land, Area M-30, held a demo meeting on January 12 and signed up 27 members. This club will charter by the end of January. Thanks to the team of experts who helped launch this club:

John Martin, Jill Rowlands, Vinicio Tapia, and Stephen Kane.

We have at least 20 new club prospects, and we are still looking for club sponsors and mentors for these new clubs. We expect to add at least 5 more new clubs in the first quarter of 2005.

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP BUILDING CONTESTS

- **Talk Up Toastmasters!** starts February 1 and ends March 30th.
- **Beat the Clock** starts May 1 and ends June 30th.

Add 5 or more new members during either one of these time periods and earn a club award.

If you have questions about new clubs, becoming a mentor or sponsor, or attracting and retaining members, contact me at LGM@toastmasters-d56.org or call me at 713-216-2648.

Area Governors Train for Success

by Jocelyn V. Williams, ATM-B/CL, Area N-20 Governor



Education and training are important components of a Toastmaster's personal and professional development. Toastmasters leaders are no exception. Last month, District 56

hosted a two-hour special training ses-

sion for area governors. The intense session was designed with success in mind.

Those who are successful always map out a plan. Session leaders John Moffitt, DTM and John Martin, DTM stressed the importance of creating the area plan to assist clubs with the Distinguished Club Program (DCP) plan. These plans are great tools for capturing events and goals, and for tracking pro-

gress. During the session, we spent time building plans or fine-tuning existing plans to serve as roadmaps to success.

This information-packed training session also provided practical ways to work smarter, not harder, and highlighted myriad available resources. As area governors, we are working for our clubs' success. We have no intention of leaving any club behind!

How to Reach Your Toastmasters Goals in a Corporate Club

by Kimberly J. Muesse, ATM-S/CL, Area M-32 Governor



How do you assure that you and your manager are on the same page regarding your commitment to achieving your Toastmasters goals? If you have your goals written into your performance management plan (aka "your

review"), your manager will support your efforts. If your manager is hesitant, use these reminders:

review"), your manager will support your efforts. If your manager is hesitant, use these reminders:

- Prepared speeches are like client presentations.
- Table topics are like client question and answer sessions.

Your Toastmasters achievements will ultimately benefit you and your com-

pany with your successful participation in client meetings.

Invite your manager to a meeting so he can see Toastmasters in action. Be sure to let your vice president education know your manager will be attending so a flawless program can be prepared to make the best impression possible. If all goes well, your club may gain your manager as a new member.

Spread Your Toastmasters Energy

by Diane Niño, CTM/CL, District 56 PRO



The new year often brings new energy to personal goals. Have you decided how you will apply your energy in 2005?

You may have decided to finish your educational goals by July to help your club become distinguished. You may be preparing for the spring evaluation and international speech contests. You may have discovered the leader inside yourself just waiting for a chance to mentor a new club.

Whatever your 2005 goals, I hope you consider an additional avenue for

expressing your energy as a Toastmaster. Your participation in Toastmasters activities not only gives you a chance to become a better speaker and leader, but it also allows you to serve as an example to others.

Find a way to share your skills beyond your club meetings this year. Take some of your new energy and spread it to your friends and family. Tell them about Toastmasters. Give those non-Toastmasters in your life a glimpse into how Toastmasters has energized you. Whether you extend your energy to your immediate community or offer it to a bigger audience, I encourage you to share your Toastmasters energy at every opportunity.

Lasting Habits Have Lasting Effects

by Patty Mayeux, ATM-B/CL, Division P Governor



It's January—exercise equipment is selling briskly. Gyms are crowded with people determined to focus on their weight-loss and fitness goals with

new resolve, otherwise known as New Year's resolutions.

If you're like me, the only resolution you ever kept was the promise to never make one. That's not to say we shouldn't set and strive to reach goals. On the contrary, the day we stop working toward something is the day we begin to dig our own grave, one lazy day or bad habit at a time.

Generalizations aside, most Toastmasters are goal-oriented and interested in self improvement. Why else would we have stepped across the threshold of a meeting room, risking humiliation and embarrassment just to improve our speaking skills? We saw an area of our lives that needed improvement, set a goal and took steps to accomplish it, one speech at a time.

I issue a new challenge to you. Throw out your New Year's resolution.

A few months from now, that resolution may serve as a symbol of failure rather than success. Instead, take a moment to write down 10 principles by which you wish to live. Put them in a spot you see every day and let them serve as gentle instructions. You'll soon be living the life you design and desire, week by week, year by year.

Toastmasters are lifelong learners. My guess is you have shelves full of books on a wide range of topics. I know I do. Many of them have served to jumpstart my list of principles. Toastmasters are volunteers. One of your own principles may reflect that spirit of helping others. Toastmasters are seekers. We all answer to a higher authority and regardless of the name given to our own brand of worship, worthy principles guide our daily lives. Toastmasters are speakers. What we say and how we say it reflects our inner being and determines our future. Speak well of yourself and others.

Toastmasters provides a means for me to practice my principles. Chances are it will do the same for you. What better way to start the year than by reflecting on things that matter most to you. Chances are you'll realize that your involvement in your club ranks high on that list.

D56 Highlights January 2005

- Jim Key, 2003 World Champion of Public Speaking gave an informative presentation at the International Speech & Evaluation Contest Workshop on January 15, 2005.
- The top 3 officers of District 56 participated in the Region III Mid-Term Conference in Austin on January 14-15, 2005. District 56 received an award of recognition for "Most Member Appreciation and Most Innovative Marketing" for the first half-term of 2004-2005.
- The Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program (TYLP) started January 23 at the Chinese Community Center. The youth and parents are excited about the program.
- Three TLIs took place this month. More than 300 club officers were trained. Additional training session will be held February 5 at Tracy Gee Community Center and February 12 at Bank of Texas Activity Center. See D56 website for details. Be sure all your officers get trained.
- Greg Hennig and Dan Gormley have accepted assignments as assistant area governors for Areas Q-51 and Q-53, respectively.
- International Director Lark Doley will be in Houston February 23-26 to visit prospective corporate clubs and conduct new club charter ceremonies.
- District Governor Max Rasquinha visited The Fountain of Praise Church on January 2 to thank them for hosting our District 56 Fall Conference.
- Two Gavel Clubs in the Texas Department of Corrections installed new officers in January. Congratulations to these groups and their new leaders.

Teaching, Learning and Interacting

South TLI Encouraged Leadership Three Ways

by Patty Mayeux, ATM-B/CL, Division P Governor

District 56 hosted a successful Toastmaster Leadership Institute (TLI) in the Clear Lake area on Tuesday, January 11. This was one of four TLIs sponsored by the district. The great news is that more than 150 officers received training in the duties of their elected office as well as a variety of general topics.

The evening began with a note of humor. The “Many Pieces Theater” presented “To Kill a Mocking Club,” a tongue-in-cheek look at the importance of well-trained club officers. The original script, complements of District 55 (Austin, San Antonio and Corpus Christi), was adapted by District 56.

With video cameras whirring, several acting-challenged volunteers played out the courtroom drama. Keep your eye on next year’s Oscar nominations. My bet is on Steve Siegel for his touching portrayal of a down-and-out sergeant at arms.

The actors must have gotten the message across because the officer training sessions that followed were well-attended and well-taught by able and

willing Toastmasters of D56.

Next, attendees chose one of three sessions: Attracting New Members to your Club, Motivating Achievement, and Annual Officers Session—new to the TLI—where Toastmasters shared comments on things that work well and suggestions for solving challenges their clubs face. After a short break, Charting a Course for Club Success, Club Constitution and Bylaws, and Judges Training were presented.

Many volunteers worked together to successfully conduct the training. A special word of appreciation goes to the committee chairs: Trace Scrivener, registration; Richard Lehman, DTM, refreshments; Jeannie Pullen, presenters for club officer sessions; Margaret Henck, DTM, evaluation forms; Louis Cioletti, skit master; and Vinicio Tapia, setup and equipment.

Of course, the success of the event reflects well on the level of leadership we have come to expect from our “Top 3,” Max, Allen and Pam.

Contest Workshop Prepares Future Winners

by Jill Rowlands, DTM, DCP Chairperson

Jim Key, 2003 World Champion of Public Speaking, mesmerized the audience with his seminar “Secrets for Building and Delivering a Winning Speech” on January 15 at the Sharpstown Community Center. He covered the difference between writing to win and writing to share your passion or message. Both goals require the use of personal stories to expand and authenticate your message. He also emphasized the importance of practice with feedback. Jim later served on the expert contestant panel with our district champion panelists.

Attendees responded favorably to the impressive contestants on the 2004 World Championship DVD. These winning speakers demonstrated much power

and impact. Thanks goes to the Houston Speakers Forum for loaning the DVD. It added tremendous educational value to the workshop.

Panelists in the judges panel session discussed the judging process, potential problem areas, and ways to resolve contest problems. The session also covered the forms required for upcoming contests. Assistant District Chief Judge Stephen Siegel continued this discussions in the Certified Judges Workshop. Stephen trained volunteer judges whose contest participation will help raise judging standards in the district.

Many volunteers contributed to the success of this workshop. Ola Joseph and I want to thank Mary Spain, Richard



Attendees at contest workshop enjoyed Jim Key’s world champion speaking style.

Photo by Richard Lehman, DTM

My First TLI

by Rasheed Hooda, ATM-B/CL

I am often asked the same questions by veteran club officers and officers elected for annual terms. “Why do I have to attend the TLI? I have already been there, so what’s the point?” My answer: Good leaders lead by example.

I will never forget my first TLI. I attended the training as the sergeant at arms (SAA) for my club. One of the people at my table was the newly elected lieutenant governor of marketing (LGM) for District 56, who was introduced earlier among the dignitaries.

The trainer came to the table, saw the LGM and said, “Oh, I didn’t know YOU were doing this session.” The LGM responded, “No, no, I am here to attend the training. I have been elected SAA for my club, and I need to get the credit for my club.”

Here was a man who had been a Toastmaster for more than 20 years, one of the top three district officers, and he was attending the officer training for sergeants at arms. Who was this LGM? None other than our current District Governor Max Rasquinha. Good leaders always lead by example.

Lehman, Stephen Siegel, Eddie Merla, Doris Brooks, Wyatt Divall, Michael Plak, Jim Key, John Moffitt, Bennie Allen-Brooks, and Shirley Gilbuena. Other volunteers included Diane Niño, Rasheed Hooda, Vinicio Tapia, April Lauper, and Tim De Rosa. Most importantly, we want to thank Allen Prescott and Max Rasquinha for suggesting and supporting the event.



Left to right: Ola Joseph, Jim Key, and Jill Rowlands.



HOUSTON & SOUTHEAST TEXAS

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Youth Leadership Coordinator — Connie Barnaba, CTM

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Spring Conference Co-Chairperson — Shannon Brown-Taylor, ATM-S

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Sergeant-at-Arms — Vinicio Tapia

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Announcements! Happenings! Events! Achievements!

What's happening in your Club, Area, Division!

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"It's a Small World — a Beautiful World"



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February

Club Contests

International Speech and Evaluation

March

Area Contests

International Speech and Evaluation

DUES ARE DUE (\$18)

April

Division Contests

International Speech and Evaluation

May

Spring 2005 Conference

May 13-14, 2005

Election of Club Officers

June

June 24-25, 2005

Region III Conference in Austin

Club Officers List to WHQ, June 30

Club Officers Training



The Mission of the District

The Mission of the District is to enhance the performance and extend the networks of clubs, thereby offering greater numbers of people the opportunity to benefit from the Toastmasters educational program by:

- Focusing on the critical success factors as specified by the district educational goals and membership goals.
- Insuring that each club effectively fulfills its responsibilities to its members.
- Providing effective training and leadership development opportunities for club and district officers.