

PRESIDENTS' APPRECIATION DAY

by Diane Niño, CTM/CL, District 56 PRO



District Governor Max Rasquinha, DTM and other District 56 officers hosted an appreciation day for club presidents on Saturday, December 18, 2004, at Clear Lake's United Space Alliance.

Country-western Christmas carols filled the air as our district governor greeted attendees. International Director Lark Doley, DTM was also present to congratulate club representatives and deliver a welcome address.

Santa Jill Rowlands, DTM served as master of ceremonies and discussed the progress of the District's top clubs. She introduced the presidents of the top three distinguished clubs and called for their impromptu participation in an evaluation contest. Each president evaluated a contestant in the World Championship of Public Speaking.

The competitors were Brian Nelson, CTM representing Daybreakers; Tim De Rosa, ATM-S representing Westhollow Shell; and Eddie Merla, DTM representing Talk of the Town. Richard Kummins, ATM-B was the contest toastmaster, and the audience served as judges. Brian Nelson received third place. Tim De Rosa took second and Eddie Merla won first place.

One of the day's highlights was the presentation of charter paperwork for the new Dance and Toast Masters club. The Queen of Q Brenda Thorne and King of N Steven Siegel presented the charter paperwork in a large, brightly colored package to Lark Doley, DTM and the top 3 district officers. According to club president Brenda Thorne, this new advanced club combines public speaking with dance. Club members treated attendees to a demonstration of the fox trot.

Two members of Los Pensadores de Houston, the first Spanish-speaking club in the district, made a special presentation. Maria Castro gave a manual speech in Spanish. Vinicio Tapia evaluated Maria's speech in Spanish, then translated the main points of her speech into English. Maria translated Vinicio's evaluation remarks into English for the audience.

The event also featured comedic entertainment. Cast members in the "Trial of the Century" skit acted out the importance of club officer training. This skit showcased how training contributes to a healthy Toastmasters club.

Attendees left the event with an appreciation for fellow Toastmasters' accomplishments, gifts from our district governor, and best of all — an excitement for the year to come!



Photos courtesy of Brian Nelson

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