



Message From Allen

Bigger, Better Clubs and Speech Contests in 2005-2006

by Allen Prescott, DTM, District 56 Governor



What would entice you to help another Toastmasters club? Do you want to earn your club coach award, which gives you partial credit towards your Advanced Leader award (soon to be called Advanced Leader Silver)? If a fellow

Toastmaster asked you to visit a struggling club a few times, would you do it?

All clubs have their ups and downs. All clubs have times when they have 20+ members, their meetings are fun, and the members are achieving the Toastmasters educational goals. However, clubs can go through a slump too. Clubs go through a slump for various reasons:

- a key, motivating member in the club leaves
- a great meeting location is no longer a great meeting location
- a company club loses support of management
- the club simply cannot obtain new members; etc.

I want everyone to step forward to help his or her fellow District 56 clubs that are struggling. Cynthia St. Dennis, DTM, your LGM, and I are working hard to form the District 56 Club Assistance Committee. This committee will coordinate and deliver assistance to the clubs in the district that need

help. If you want to be a part of this committee, contact Cynthia (LGM@toastmasters-d56.org), myself (DistGov@toastmasters-d56.org) or the chairperson, Steven Siegel, DTM (stevesiegel@wlgdirect.com). You will be recognized at various district events for participating in this committee. Awards will be presented to those who assist a club out of that slump.

The spring contest season begins in February 2006. This is when all of the clubs in the district hold their club contests, which are the International speech contest and the Table Topics contest. The winners advance to the Area, Division and District level. Contests are entertaining and educational. In addition, the judging of the winners should be fair and unbiased. The best way to ensure this is to make sure that the Chief Judge of your contest thoroughly briefs the judges and officials immediately before the contest. Although you may have selected the best, most experienced judges for your contest, they still need a refresher on how to fill out the judge's ballot and how to select their winners in an unbiased way. Read the article written by the District Chief Judge, Rebecca Wilson, DTM, in this issue of the Forum 56.

Finally, I want everyone to have a happy and safe holiday season!

Allen Prescott, DTM
District Governor



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The information in this newsletter is for the sole use of Toastmasters members for Toastmasters business only. It is not to be used for solicitation or distribution of non-Toastmasters materials and information.

Message from Lt. Governor Education & Training

TLIs Train Club Officers, Area Governors

by Pamela McCown, DTM, Lt. Governor Education & Training



Happy Holidays to District 56 Toastmasters! It's hard to believe the Toastmasters year is already half over! We have accomplished many good things already this year and look forward to greater success in the next 6 months. Please pay special attention to retaining your members, attracting new members, filing educational achievements for members, submitting required club reporting paperwork to

Toastmasters International, and having no less than four (4) club officers attend Toastmasters Leadership Institute training in January or February.

Note about filing Educational Achievements

Members with renewed energy and commitment to personal development goals will want club officers to submit their awards applications as soon as possible. We expect filings for educational achievements like CTM and ATM certificates to increase dramatically in the first quarter. If you have members who have completed the requirements for their awards, then please have an officer of the club log on to the Club Business section of the Toastmasters International web site at www.toastmasters.org and enter the award on line. It only takes a few minutes to complete the form. The member will receive the award in less than 10 business days and you can celebrate the accomplishment at your club meeting!

If your club officers don't know the club password, ask them to contact Toastmasters International directly to get the password. Any club officer on record at Toastmasters International can simply call and get the password on the phone by providing the club name and verifying what officer position they hold in that club.

Reminder to Update Officer Lists before December 30th

Clubs that elect new officers each six months should file the new officer list with Toastmasters International before the end of December to get the Distinguished Club Program credit for filing their officer list on time. This can also be done online under the Club Business section at www.toastmasters.org. Clubs that elect officers annually should also update their officer list if new officers have been installed since July 1, 2005 just to keep your club records updated.

Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) is open to all club members

The primary objectives of the Toastmasters Leadership Institute sessions are to (1) offer club officer training for credit towards the Distinguished Club Goals and (2) to assist your club officers in supporting the goals of the club members. There is also a benefit to members who attend. Members get to hear about upcoming District 56 events, browse the bookstore for items and save the shipping costs, and attend interesting sessions about club contests, how to translate Toastmasters accomplishments to your résumé, what's new in the Toastmasters International education programs, and much more. Check the District 56 website for upcoming TLI events in January and February. To RSVP to attend, sign on to: <http://www.toastmasters-d56.org/tli/>, click on the drop down list to choose your club name, and then follow the simple instructions to sign up to attend. The January 28, 2006 TLI is easy to find just off I-45 North near the Gladstell exit. The February 11, 2006 TLI will be held at DeVry University. Details on the February TLI will be posted to the District 56 website in January.

North Houston TLI

Conroe Area

January 28, 2006

Saturday Morning

8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Ark Family Church
450 Humble Tank Road
Conroe TX 77301-4408

(Just off I-45, 25 miles north of Beltway 8)



South Houston TLI

Near I-10 West

February 11, 2006

Saturday Morning

8:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

DeVry University Main Campus
11125 Equity Drive
Houston, TX 77041-8217

(12 miles west of Downtown Houston)



Register on-line at <http://www.toastmasters-d56.org/TLI>

If you are unable to register on-line, ask someone in your club to register for you OR contact Pamela McCown at LGET@toastmasters-d56.org or 713-427-5318.

Message from Lt. Governor Marketing

Participate in the Birth of New Toastmasters Clubs

by Cynthia St Dennis, DTM, Lieutenant Governor Marketing

Participating in the Birth of a New Toastmasters Club is exciting and rewarding.

- Do you want to help start New Toastmasters Clubs?
- Do you desire to make a difference in the lives of others?
- Do you have two hours to spare in a particular day?

If you answered “Yes” to any of the previous questions, congratulations, you are a candidate to participate in the Birth of a New Toastmasters Club.

Your next question: How do I participate, what do I have to do? The answer is simply volunteer to participate in a DEMO meeting. The participants put on an abbreviated Toastmasters meeting to demonstrate the components of a good agenda. It only takes six to eight experienced Toastmasters to “Put On a Good Show.”

A Demo meeting contains all aspects of a regular Toastmasters meeting, including Table Topics, Prepared Speech (an

Ice Breaker Speech usually from the prospect club population), and a General Evaluation which includes the Speech evaluation. The agenda includes special Table Topics questions asked of more experienced Toastmasters who are planted within the audience, and a special question is saved for the general population with hopes of a volunteer to answer, after they have witnessed others take the plunge.

Demo teams are essential throughout all geographic areas of District 56. Optimally, a Demo team within each of our six divisions would serve prospective clubs. To volunteer as a Demo Team member, contact:

Cynthia St. Dennis, DTM,
Lt. Governor Marketing 2005-2006
lgm@toastmasters-d56.org.



A New Year Challenge

Are You the Next District 56 Champion?

by Diane Niño, CTM/CL, District Public Relations Officer



Question: *What challenge have you resolved to face in 2006?*

You now have 1 to 2 minutes to give your best answer.

If your answer involves Toastmasters, perhaps you are ready to take on the challenge of the Table Topics Contest.

If you prefer to have more time to prepare your speech, then you might look into participating in the International Speech Contest.

This spring, District 56 will be looking for the best Table Topics Speaker and the best International Speech from its membership.

Are you the next District 56 champion?

If you say “Yes,” then what better time to try out your new speech ideas than with family and friends visiting during the holidays.

If you are not sure you are trophy-ready, there is still plenty of time to prepare for your New Year’s challenge.

Begin today by volunteering for Table Topics at each club meeting. Find ways to put yourself on the spot so you can formulate an intelligent and possibly entertaining answer. Ask your friends to play 20 Questions with you just so you can practice thinking on your feet.

Should you have your sights set on a more illustrious goal, begin putting your ideas down on paper. Spend your holidays and free time working on that International speech you know

will get you to the stage at the District 56 Spring 2006 Conference.

Don’t forget to involve your fellow Toastmasters. You can find mentors and evaluators in your own club to provide feedback; visit other clubs and participate in Table Topics; ask for a spot on the agenda to present your International speech; contact former contestants and winners for hints; and review the contest rules and the judging criteria to prepare yourself for what lies ahead.

Your 2 minutes are almost up.

Have you decided what challenge you are ready to face in 2006?

Let your Toastmasters experience help you prepare for the spring contest season so you shine brightly in the New Year.

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 critical success factors as specified by district educational 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.

Outstanding Club Officers for June—December Term

by Allen Prescott, DTM, District Governor 2005-2006

Is there a club officer in your club who you think is performing as an **out-standing** club officer? Would you recommend your club officer to be recognized at the Area, Division and the District levels? If so, submit their name and position to your Area Governor.

In January, I will ask all Area Governors to begin polling their clubs for nominations for outstanding club officers who served their club for the July 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005 term. Even club officers who belong to a club that elects officers annually are eligible to be nominated. There will be a form to complete where the nominated club officer receives

points for his/her achievements. The Area Governor will tally the points and select seven outstanding club officers for their Area. I want this to be a very special event and these individuals to be recognized at their respective Area Contests.

Next, each Area Governor will forward the names of their seven outstanding club officer winners along with their nomination forms to their Division Governor. The Division Governor will tally the points and after consulting with his/her Area Governors, select seven outstanding club officers for the Division. Again, I want this to be a very special event and I want these individuals to be

recognized at their respective Division Contests.

Finally, each Division Governor will forward the names of their seven outstanding club officer winners along with their nomination forms to me. I will tally the points and after consulting with my two Lieutenant Governors and with the Six Division Governors, select seven outstanding club officers for the District. The seven outstanding club officers will be recognized at the Fall District Conference. The forms are located on the District 56 website <http://www.toastmasters-d56.org> in the "Document Center" in the "Awards/Recognition" folder.

Hats off to HP Houston Toastmasters!

by Patrice Eaton ATM-S/CL, Area L-42 Governor

Several HP Houston Toastmasters demonstrated their skills while reaching out to college students with disabilities during HP Disability Days.

Andrea Barger presented a superb speech on mentoring to an audience of 40 attendees, approximately half with disabilities. Fairly new to Toastmasters, she credited her speaking success to the Toastmasters meetings



and the mentoring she has received. Andrea's speech, during the Disability Mentoring Day event, offered excellent examples of how to spark audience interest and provide encouragement.

Ken Odom, who has also been a member of HP Houston Toastmasters for a relatively short period of time, won both the Club and Area L-42



Tall Tales and Humorous Speech contests. He went on to win the Division "L" contest for Tall Tales and gave a fantastic performance at the District contest.

Through their dedication, mentoring abilities, and providing fun club meetings HP Houston Toastmasters achieved President's Distinguished Club distinction in 2005 and made a difference in helping the community.

From Charter Member to Polished Speaker

by Patricia Cotton, ATM-B/CL, Area O-10 Governor

Aimee Ismaila is a charter member of the Word Doctors Toastmasters Club, chartered in August 2005, at Enbridge Energy Company. Aimee has already completed the first five speeches in the Communication and Leadership manual and she has set a personal goal to receive her CTM and CL by June 2006.

She is very interested in promoting Toastmasters and speaking to people who are incarcerated. Aimee hopes to help charter a club early next year in a local women's center.

Aimee's employer has awarded her the "Employee Leadership Award" for her extraordinary efforts in establishing the Word Doctors Toastmasters Club, founding the "Weight Loss Wars" and developing the career day for the resi-



Aimee Ismaila explains the career day schedule to residents of The Women's Home at the Enbridge office.

dents of the Women's Center during the recent United Way Day of Caring.

"You have set a great example for others to follow and in doing so you

have raised the expectations employees have for themselves and for their peers," says Dan C. Tutcher, President of Enbridge Energy Company. "This contributes significantly to a quality work environment. I strongly believe that a great working environment allows employees to produce great work. Thanks for setting the standard!"



Aimee exemplifies the can-do attitude and community involvement that many Toastmasters strive for.

Bigger Briefings Make Better Contests

by Rebecca Wilson, DTM, District Chief Judge

Do you remember the finer points of every educational session you attended two years ago? You might, but I don't. I am one of those Toastmasters who need refresher courses, which is probably why my contest judges' briefing sessions are as thorough as I have time to make them.

In addition to a review of the contest rules and criteria, I try to include a discussion of the Judge's Code of Ethics and potential sources of bias. You shouldn't favor or penalize a contestant because they're a member of your club, or your division. Neither should their score be affected by their gender or ethnicity.

It's a little more difficult to divorce yourself from your previous knowledge of a contestant, or from judgmental reactions to their speech content. When your favorite speakers approach the stage, do you feel the same happy anticipation that I do? When a contestant chronicles their triumph over difficult obstacles, do you also admire their personal courage? These emotional reactions are natural, but they shouldn't translate into higher scores on a contest ballot.

When you are chief judge, use all of the myriad tools at your disposal to construct a Bigger, Better judges' brief-

ing. Area Governor Louis Cioletti presented a comprehensive educational session for chief judges at the December TLI. The November issue of Toastmaster magazine features the article *Don't Let 'Murphy' Ruin Your Speech Contest*, and the District 56 web site's Document Center contains a thorough checklist for chief judges. All contain a wealth of information to include in your judges' briefing. Thorough briefings take longer, but the time you spend to help ensure a fair and unbiased panel of judges is one of the best contest investments you can make.



The World's Biggest and Best Toastmasters Meeting



by John Martin, DTM, President Dining Out Toastmasters Club



Dining Out Toastmasters is planning a very special "Dining Out with the Champions" dinner gala on Saturday, February 4, 2006 at the San Luis Hotel in Galveston.

Five world champion speakers will be in Galveston on the night before their "Cruise with the Champions." David Brooks, Craig Valentine, Ed Tate, Darren LaCroix and Jim Key will all be there and ready to meet with their Houston area friends.

Nowhere outside a Toastmasters International Convention have five World Champions of Public Speaking assembled to make presentations and never before

have so many World Champions presented at the same Toastmasters meeting.

We're expecting such a large crowd that we're calling this "the World's Biggest and Best Toastmasters meeting."

Why "Biggest?"

Because we're estimating attendance at 175. There will be plenty of DOT members there, plus dozens of District 56 Toastmasters and dozens more participants from all around the USA and Canada.

Why "Best?"

Because five World Champions will be presenting. Because all the meeting functionaries will be DTMs. And because

we're going to have a world-class Table Topics session with up to forty questions asked and answered in only 15 minutes.

With so much going on and so many attendees, this will not be just a DOT meeting... it'll be a mini International Convention!

Dinner is only \$50/person. This price includes a pre-dinner reception, a three-course meal and presentations from all five champions. Mark this important day on your calendar. You won't want to miss it. February 4, 2006 -- starting at 5:30 p.m.

To purchase tickets contact:
John Martin: 281-558-9900 or
andmore@alief.com

KiQ It Up With "Q" — Renew Your Enthusiasm

by Richard Kummins, ATM-B, CL, Division Q Governor



The Holiday season is a time for giving and seeing the joy on other's faces when they receive. What better gifts can you give than the ones of encouragement, of confidence, and of helping others achieve their goals? This can be easily accomplished by active participation in your

club. Don't let the Holidays keep you from regularly attending meetings, actively seeking new members to expand the Toastmasters mission and message, working the DCP program, and lending a hand with the BIGGEST, BEST, and MOST FUN District Conference in April 2006, when the International President will be in attendance.

We are halfway through the Toastmaster year, and on track to surpass the

outstanding educational achievements of last year. Division Q, and all of District 56, are shining, like the lights of Christmas, and we will be brighter still with the renewed enthusiasm and purpose that each of you has demonstrated.

All of us in Division Q hope that the New Year brings you and your family joy, health, and peace.

You Can Be A District Officer for 2006-2007

by Allen Prescott, DTM, District Governor 2005-2006



If you plan to run for the office of District Governor, Lt. Governor Education & Training, Lt. Governor Marketing, or Division Governor, here are some TI campaign rules you should know.

You may start campaigning now at the upcoming Area and Division contests and may refer to yourself as a candidate for district office. If space is available, an area designated as the Candidates Corner will be setup. All candidates present at the contests must have equal access to this Candidates Corner to display campaign material. You may hand out campaign material at the contests; however, you may NOT place campaign materials on the walls, chairs, or tables outside of the Candidates Corner. You may NOT deliver a campaign speech at any Area or Division speech contest. At the discretion of the Area or Division Governor responsible for the speech contest, candidates may be introduced as long as all candidates present are introduced.

With that said, let's now discuss the District Nominating Committee. The pur-

pose of this committee is to ensure that at least one or two candidates are nominated for the positions of District Governor and Lt. Governor Education & Training; and that at least one or more candidates are nominated for the positions of Lt. Governor Marketing and for each of the six Division Governor positions. To increase your chances of being elected, it is highly advisable that you let the District Nominating Committee know about your intentions. The deadline for letting this committee know is February 28, 2006. The chairperson of the District Nominating Committee is Past District Governor, Kevin Smith, DTM: 281-276-2891 or kevinsmithd56@alltel.net.

The Nominating Committee consists of a representative from each of the six divisions in District 56. After February 28, the committee will begin holding meetings to discuss the qualifications of the candidates and to vote on whom to nominate. The nominated candidates will have their names announced on the District 56 website and in the April edition of the Forum 56 Newsletter to be published three weeks before the Spring Conference on April 28-29. In addition, nominees will be eligible to include an article on

the website and in the newsletter highlighting their qualifications for office. Finally, the names of the nominees will be listed on the ballots handed out at the District Council meeting held during the Spring Conference, where the voting occurs.

Candidates who were not nominated by the District Nominating Committee may still campaign according to the rules described above; still deliver a campaign speech at the Candidates Forum held at the Spring Conference; still be nominated from the floor at the District Council meeting; and still deliver a two minute campaign speech during the District Council meeting if successfully nominated from the floor and the officer position is contested (two or more individuals are running for the same position).

For more information go to www.toastmasters.org and click on "information for members." On the left hand of the screen, click on "TI's Policies and Procedures." Scroll down and locate the E-8, "Procedural Rules for the District Nominating Committee," and the E-9, "Procedure Rules for Campaigns for District Office and the Elections of District Officers" documents.

Two Kinds of Proxies

by John Martin, DTM

Between now and the Spring Conference you'll hear a lot of talk about "club proxies."

Club proxies are votes that each Toastmasters Club has to conduct the official business of Toastmasters International and District 56. Each club's votes count to determining the future of the District and of the Toastmasters organization worldwide. What are the two kinds?

District Proxies

Each Club, represented by the Club President and VP Education, has two votes at the upcoming District 56 Spring Conference. These votes are cast to elect the new officers (District Governor, Lt. Governors, Division Governors) and the votes on new alignment of clubs into areas, bylaw changes and the important issues that the district faces.

Any written and signed document that conveys the proxy will be accepted. Also, a printed copy of an email message authorizing a proxy will be accepted. Proxies must be carried by a member of the club. No one person can carry more than two proxies. (proxies on page 11)

Regional and International Proxies

Club Presidents will receive a mailing from TI WHQ that contains two postcards. One is the proxy for the Regional Business meeting that will take place in June in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The other is for the Toastmasters International Annual Business meeting that will be held in August in Washington DC.

These proxies are mailed to each Club President. They are sent to the mailing address where the president receives the Toastmasters Magazine. Proxies are mailed on March 31 (first class) and

should arrive the first week in April. Proxies arrive in a Toastmasters envelope (marked "Important") and are a long form printed on stiff paper. Only original proxies are accepted. Should the proxy be lost in the mail, TI WHQ will send one additional copy.

Regional and International proxies cast votes on important business before the membership of Toastmasters International and also to nominate and elect the new International Director from Region III and other International officers.

District 56 led Region III (and was among the best in the world) in collecting Regional and International proxies last year. Our goal this year is to collect 100% of all the proxies.

Club presidents: be on the lookout for these important documents. They should be in your mailbox in early April!

An Indian Toastmasters Speech Contest

by Max Rasquinha, DTM, Immediate Past District Governor



An active Toastmaster can and should exercise his or her leadership style in public speaking privileges whenever travelling on business or pleasure. Being a frequent traveler, particularly before or after being actively involved as a District 56 Governor, public speaking on different occasions has been a unique opportunity that I have willingly embraced.

My month-long business trip to India recently was, as usual, filled with a series of engagements that enabled me to reach out and touch many more than ever before. Many seasons in India throughout the year can render an occasion for any Toastmaster to identify himself or herself to step forward and say "I too can do it." Be it a wedding, a funeral, a community or religious festival, or even a Toastmaster gathering, India is always filled with so many opportunities where there is a room and a time to speak before a small or large audience.

At one such opportunity I spoke about Katrina and Rita. I spoke about India emerging as a global brain power as well as industrial power capable for any kind of collaborations with the United States. I spoke about the changing economic and business climates throughout the world. Most importantly, I also spoke about my pride and joy of being a Select Distinguished District Governor from an esteemed city called Houston, Texas, an Energy Capital, a Space capital, a Health capital and an Export capital of the world. Having recently proven ourselves an organized city when we became actively involved in the Katrina and Rita evacuation and relief programs, I also emphasized our role as a Humanitarian capitol. We certainly belong to a "city of joy" where leadership and talents prevail abundantly in an ever-growing multinational and multicultural environment with a growing importance on "internationalism."

My extensive travel in many cities, towns and villages of India gave me a vivid assurance that we are all moving confidently in the right direction, particularly in the field of education, business

promotion and economic expansion on a global context. People everywhere seek progress in their pursuit of daily endeavor in life. People of India in every walk of life showed their concern as to how America is prevailing after the recent major hurricane disasters. Obviously, "people helping people" is an attitude that is evidenced everywhere regardless who we are and where we are. Almost every country has been affected during the year 2005 with one calamity or another. We all are entangled in one form or another in this troubled world, yet we belong to a "small world - a beautiful world" where each of us has something to offer for the common good of mankind.

I am proud to confess that my home town called Mangalore in South India has now 3 Toastmasters clubs and six Gavel Clubs with a total membership that exceeds more than 400 who proudly consider themselves as leaders and communicators. Communities and societies are constantly being made conscious of a need for closer affiliation with a distinct purpose of listening to one another and



Max and his Speech Contest Committee in Mangalore, India.

respecting each other's view points.

The International Speech Contest that I sponsored in Mangalore on Saturday, November 26, 2005 was a grand success with nine finalists representing nine clubs. What a great talent indeed that displayed a spirit of professionalism and perfection through an effort of team work. The contest was attended by more than 300 people in an open air arena called "Kala Angann" that is dedicated for enhancement of performing art and culture in a vibrant community of nearly 250,000 people. The three-hour program included folk dances, live music, a dinner banquet and the singing of India's national anthem and "God Bless America."

Mark Your Calendar



You don't want to miss this one ... a lot of glitz and hoopla. International Speech Contest and Table Topics Contest, many interesting and exciting educational sessions to choose from, and local Communication & Leadership recipient to be announced. (Registration Form page 10 this issue)

Once every seven years a district enjoys a visit from Toastmasters International President. It is our good fortune that it is our seventh year and we will be visited by the current Toastmasters International President 2005-2006, Dilip Abayasekar.



Dilip Abayasekara, DTM
Toastmasters International President
2005-2006

Dilip will host The President's Breakfast on Sunday, April 30, after the District 56 Conference. Everyone is invited. 2005-2006 Club Presidents will receive special recognition and preferred seating. Visit the District 56 website for more details.

Announcements! Happenings! Events! Achievements!

Submit your 150-200 words article about your Club, Area, or Division!
(please include your picture)

Important Dates!

Deadline for articles: **March 24, 2006**
Next Issue publish date: **April 7, 2006**

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District Governor
Allen Prescott, DTM



Oktoberfest



Fall 2005 Conference
Saturday, October 29, 2005
8:00 AM to 8:30 PM

Sharpstown Community Center
6600 Harbor Town Drive
Houston, TX 77074



left: Lt. Gov. Education & Training
Pamela McCown, DTM, and right:
Lt. Gov. Marketing Cynthia St.
Dennis, DTM



Fall Contest Chair
Lee Ivey, ATM-S/CL



Parade of Banners



District Chief Judge
Rebecca Wilson, DTM



International Director
Ralph Wallace, DTM



Communication & Leadership Award
Lois Gibson



Business Meeting
District Parliamentarian Michael Lamothe, ATM-S/CL;
District Governor Allen Prescott, DTM; and
Acting Secretary Mary Spain, DTM



Lt. Governor Education & Training
Pamela McCown, DTM



Lt. Governor Marketing
Cynthia St. Dennis, DTM





Humorous Speech Contest
Toastmaster
Michael Plaks, ATM-B



Tall Tales Speech Contest
Toastmaster
Cynthia Wagner



2004-2005 *Forum 56* Team— Jocelyn V. Williams, Assistant Editor; Shirley Gilbuena, Chief Editor; Linda Posey, Associate Editor— are presented awards from Max Rasquinha, PDG, by Ralph Wallace, International Director.



Left to right: Allen Prescott, District Governor; Nick Barrera, **Humorous Speech Contest Winner**; and Ralph Wallace, International Director



Tall Tales Speech Contest Winner
Yolanda Bynum



Special Lifetime Award to
Marcia Hudgens, DTM



Chef Stephen Kane receives a hat and Thank You gift from Allen and Pamela.



Outstanding Area Governors 2004-2005

Left to right: Ralph Wallace, Kashmira Sutaria, Brenda Thorne, Richard Kummins, Sharian Brown-Taylor, Kimberly Muesse, Stephen Siegel and Max Rasquinha.

Congratulations!!!

The video camera was the prize offered to clubs with 5 members registered for the conference on one application. The Drawing was won by:

Deer Park Toastmasters Club



Spring 2006 District 56 Conference April 28-29, 2006



Hilton University of Houston

4800 Calhoun Street, Houston, TX 77204

In the heart of the University of Houston Campus, three miles from downtown Houston.

FEATURING

Keynote Speaker and Guest of Honor **Dilip Abayasekara, DTM, AS**

International President, 2005-2006, Toastmasters International

Join District 56 for This Unique Toastmasters Experience

Full Conference Registration –
[Includes Friday & Saturday Events plus three meals.]

\$75.00	By December 31, 2005
\$95.00	Beginning Jan. 1, 2006
\$105.00	Beginning April 1, 2006

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: APRIL 21, 2006

Name: _____

Circle Designation CTM CL ATM-B ATM-S ATM-G AL DTM

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

First Timer: Yes No **Phone:** _____
(Circle Answer)

Email: _____

District 56 Club Name: _____

Visiting from District _____ **Volunteer?** Yes No

Make Checks Payable to: District 56 Toastmasters
All registrations must include payments. Mail or give
Registration Form and Payment to the District 56 Treasurer,
Stephen Kane, 13117 Point Drive, Willis, TX 77318
(713) 366-3303 Stephen@frogland.com

Conference Highlights

Friday, April 28th

Opening Ceremony and Parade of Banners
Presentation by the International President
Table Topics Contest
District Candidates' Forum

Saturday, April 29th

Keynote from the International President
Business Meeting
Education Sessions to include presentations by
♦ Two World Champions of Public Speaking
♦ International Director Candidates Panel
Communication & Leadership Award Presentation
International Speech Contest on April 29th

Sunday, April 30th

Breakfast with the International President
[This event requires a separate registration form.]

For More Information contact the
Spring 2006 Conference Chair Eddie Merla, DTM
by email to eddiemerla@yahoo.com
or

Visit the District 56 Website at
<http://www.toastmasters-d56.org>

BIGGER, BETTER, AND MORE FUN!

**PROXIES FOR
DISTRICT 56 TOASTMASTERS BUSINESS MEETING
APRIL 29, 2006**

**Proxy
District 56 Toastmasters Business Meeting
April 29, 2006**

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 April 29, 2006.

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
April 29, 2006**

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 April 29, 2006.

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.

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It's a Banner Day!

by Patty Mayeux, ATM-S/AL, Associate Forum 56 Editor



Attention! Attention! District Governor Allen Prescott, DTM, has decreed that all clubs in his kingdom shall hold their banners high at District events!

The upcoming Toastmaster Leadership Institutes (see information on Page 2) will be your chance to show your allegiance and pride.

“Banners are the identities of the clubs,” His Majesty Prescott proclaimed, adding members should be proud to bring their banners to District events and show off their ribbons. “I’m hoping this becomes a tradition in District 56.”

In support of this decree Prescott has announced that royal banner stands will be available for banner postings. He has further made his wishes clear that clubs displaying their banners at the Toastmaster Leadership Institutes will be eligible for door prizes.

For more information or assistance, contact the District Banner Queen, Kashmira Sutaria or your Area or Division Governor.



Banner Queen
Kashmira Sutaria,

PRESIDENT'S BREAKFAST
Sunday, April 30, 2006 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM
IN THE WALDORF ASTORIA BALLROOM
 at the
Hilton University of Houston

Name: _____

Circle Designation CTM CL ATM-B ATM-S ATM-G AL DTM

2005-2006 Club President?: Yes No (Circle Answer)

Toastmasters Club Name: _____

District Number: _____

Email: _____

Check One of the Following:

<input type="checkbox"/> Club President	\$10.00
[Term ended 12/31/05 or will end 06/30/06.]	
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Club President or Guest	\$20.00

.....

Make Checks Payable to: District 56 Toastmasters
 Mail/Give Registration Form & Payment to:
 District 56 Treasurer, Stephen Kane
 13117 Point Drive, Willis, TX 77318
 (713) 366-3303 Stephen@frogland.com

District 56 Executive Committee Members and Staff 2005-2006

District Governor — Allen Prescott, DTM

Lt. Governor Education and Training — Pamela McCown, DTM
Lt. Governor Marketing — Cynthia St. Dennis, DTM
Public Relations Officer — Diane Niño, CTM/CL
Secretary — Patti Magee, ATM-S/CL
Treasurer — Stephen Kane, ATM-B/CL
Immediate Past District Governor—Max Rasquinha, DTM

Dues Increase Awareness Committee Chair—Jill Rowlands, DTM
District Communications Committee Chair—Eddie Merla, DTM
Club Officer Training Committee Chair—Tim DeRosa, DTM
Club Assistance Committee Chair—Stephen Siegel, ATM-S/CL
Quality Contest Committee Chair—TBD
DCP Awareness Committee Chair — Rasheed Hooda, ATM-S/AL
Youth Leadership Chairperson — Magoe Johnson, DTM
Speechcraft Coordinator—Eddie Merla, DTM
District Store Coordinator—Richard Ruchhoeft, ATM-S/CL
District Sergeant-at-Arms — Rafael Munoz
District Chief Judge—Rebecca Wilson, DTM
District Webmaster—TBD
CTM Mentor—John Moffitt, DTM
DTM Mentor—John Martin, DTM
Communications Track Mentor—Phil Potter, DTM
Leadership Track Mentor—Richard Lehman, DTM
Area Governor Mentor—John Martin, DTM
Fall Conference Chair—Lee Ivey Jr., ATM-S/CL
Spring Conference Chair—Eddie Merla, DTM
District Facilities Coordinator—Jill Rowlands, DTM
District Parliamentarian — Michael Lamothe, ATM-S/CL
Forum 56 Chief Editor—Shirley Gilbuena, DTM
District Historian—John Moffitt, DTM

Division L Governor—Kashmira Sutaria, DTM
Area L40—Charlie Pitts, ATM-B/CL
Area L41—David St. Dennis, ATM-B
Area L-42—Patrice Eaton, ATM-S/CL
Area L-43—Peggy Gonzales, CL
Division M Governor—Mary Spain, DTM
Area M-30—Shirley Gilbuena, DTM
Area M-31—Marcia Hudgens, DTM
Area M-32—Kirit Modi, ATM-G/CL
Area M-33—Michael Ayers, ATM-B
Division N Governor—Jocelyn V. Williams, ATM-S/CL
Area N-20—Robert Crutchfield, CL
Area N-21—John Martin, DTM
Area N-22—Ed Blythe, ATM-G
Area N-23—Liz Tramonte, CL
Area N-24—Michael Stackhouse, ATM-S/CL
Division O Governor—Shawn Lacagnina, ATM-B/CL
Area O-10—Patricia Cotton, ATM-B/CL
Area O-11—Pamela Taylor, ATM-B/CL
Area O-12—Nancy Reingold, ATMS/CL
Division P Governor—Jeannie Pullen, ATM-S/AL
Area P-01—Michael Lamothe, ATM-S/CL
Area P-02—Terry Aston, ATM-S
Area P-03—Louis Cioletti, ATM-S/CL
Area P-04—Eric Frost, CTM
Area P-05—Margaret Henck, DTM
Division Q Governor—Richard Kummins, ATM-B/CL
Area Q-50—Robert J. Galloway
Area Q-51—Caren Harris, CL
Area Q52—Tim Tindall, ATM-G/CL
Area Q-53—Jatika Manigault, ATM-S/CL
Area Q-54—Stephen Siegel, ATM-S/CL

"Bigger, Better, and More Fun!"



District 56 Public Relations Officer
c/o Diane Niño
P.O. Box 751983
Houston, TX 77275-1983

www.toastmasters-d56.org
www.toastmasters.org