

FORUM 56

DISTRICT 56 TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL – HOUSTON & SOUTHEAST TEXAS

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

Why Did You Join Toastmasters?

by Pamela McCown, DTM, District Governor

My answer to this common question is: “I joined Toastmasters to learn and grow as a communicator and leader.” We can learn and grow at every level in this organization.

As club members, we **learn** by actively participating in club meetings – by listening and evaluating, completing speech and leadership projects, and mentoring new members. We **grow** when our clubs grow. A growing club presents a stimulating, ever-changing environment where we can challenge ourselves as speakers – and that means growth. The only way our clubs grow is when we invite guests to enjoy the benefits of Toastmasters.

As club leaders, we **grow** by sharing our Toastmasters skills and making our clubs more effective at helping others learn and grow – in other words, by helping our clubs become Distinguished. While serving our clubs as officers, we **learn** and **grow** as leaders by attending club officer training each summer and winter. This is a wonderful opportunity to reach beyond our own clubs and gather productive ideas from other Toastmasters leaders.

As district leaders, we **learn** and **grow** by serving club members, by supporting Toastmasters as they stretch to reach their goals, achieve their personal best, improve

Spring Goals Center Around Educational Achievements and Contests

by Cynthia St. Dennis, DTM, Lt. Governor Education and Training

Our education and training focus this spring is twofold.

First, we want every member to achieve their educational goal. Whether it's your first Competent Communicator award or your third Distinguished Toastmaster award, tap the experience and support of your club officers, especially the Vice President Education (VPE), to help you reach the goals you've set for yourself.

- ◆ *Keep the VPE informed* of your progress.
- ◆ *Work with your VPE to schedule your speeches* on upcoming club agendas so you can reach your next goal this spring.

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their lives and enrich the lives of those around them. Each Toastmasters member has unique goals and dreams. We are here to support you and help you reach your goals as *you* learn and grow in Toastmasters.

Why did you join Toastmasters? From individual members to club leaders to district leaders, we all have plenty of opportunities to learn and grow in Toastmasters and to celebrate each others' achievements in these areas. I invite you to use your skills as a communicator and leader to boost your own growth, to support your fellow club members in learning and growing, and to take our district to new levels of growth and learning for all. Join us as we work together for Distinguished results at all levels in District 56 the rest of this Toastmasters year.

- ◆ *Receive the credit you deserve.* Submit your achievement to Toastmasters International promptly. List your manager on the form so they'll learn of your accomplishment. This is a small way to let TI help you “toot your own horn.”

Second, we want as many members as possible to enjoy the extra thrill of success that comes from participating in our spring contests: the Tall Tales Contest and International Speech Contest. Whether you compete, judge, chair a contest or serve in a supporting role, contests are a superb opportunity to learn and grow as a Toastmaster.

Please see **Spring Goals**, page 8

Talk Up Toastmasters! - Your Opportunity to Change Lives

by Eddie Merla, DTM, Lt. Governor Marketing

Has Toastmasters changed your life?

I joined Toastmasters because I had a dream: to conduct seminars in my profession, project management, and to establish my own seminar company. Great dream, but I lacked the speaking skills to make this happen. In fact, I'd never given a speech before an audience. Since joining Toastmasters four years ago, I not only have established my own seminar company, but I've conducted seminars around the globe, I've been a presenter at six global congresses of the Project Management Institute, and I've trained over 4,000 project managers in eight countries. Has Toastmasters changed my life? You bet!

TI Rewards Clubs That Talk Up Toastmasters!

The **Talk up Toastmasters! membership contest** in February and March gives you and your club the chance to change more lives. Clubs building their membership through Talk Up Toastmasters! have the chance to be rewarded and recognized by Toastmasters International.

Every Toastmasters member is encouraged to invite as many guests as possible to your club's February and March meetings. To make it easier to bring in more guests, consider conducting a special guest meeting or open house. Use this special program to showcase the benefits members receive from participating in the Toastmasters program.

Add five new, dual, or reinstated members to your roster in February and March, and your club wins in three ways:

- ◆ Your club receives a special Talk up Toastmasters! ribbon to display on its banner.
- ◆ Your club earns one module from *The Better Speaker Series*, *The Successful Club Series*, or *The Leadership Excellence Series*. Choose the best module to help your club grow.
- ◆ Your club is entered in a District 56 drawing for a video camera. The drawing will be held at the District 56 Spring Conference, May 4-5, 2007.

You don't need to apply for the Talk up Toastmasters! contest – your club is automatically entered when the first new member application is received in February.

There's also something for the individual member, in addition to the pride and satisfaction of helping your club achieve these goals. If you chair or organize your club's Talk Up Toastmasters! program – and have a fellow member evaluate your role – you can receive credit for one of the projects in the new Competent Leader manual.

Build Your Membership and Change More Lives with Easy Marketing Strategies

If your club needs help building its membership, don't miss the **Team 56 Marketing Workshop**, February 17, 2007. In this two-hour program presented by leading speakers in our District, you'll sharpen your skills with powerful, relevant strategies and tips to help you:

- ◆ Add members to your club,
- ◆ Sponsor or mentor a new club,
- ◆ Coach and rebuild a club with low membership,
- ◆ Boost your club to higher levels of success and effectiveness, and
- ◆ Help individuals achieve their dreams through Toastmasters.

You'll also interact with the District 56 leadership team and other influential Toastmasters in Houston and Southeast Texas. The Team 56 Marketing Workshop may be the best investment of your Toastmasters or personal career – and it's FREE.

EVENT: Team 56 Marketing Workshop

DATE and TIME: Saturday, February 17, 2007,
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: Fonde Community Center, 110 Sabine,
Houston, TX 77007

TUITION: FREE

RESERVATIONS: Email Eddie Merla,
lgm@toastmasters-d56.org

Sign up today – space is limited!

How can your club excel at Talk Up Toastmasters?

Just remember these important numbers: 2, 5, and 1.

- ◆ The number 2 represents the **two months** in the Talk up Toastmasters! membership building contest – February and March.
- ◆ The number 5 represents the **five (or more) new, dual, or reinstated members** your club must add to its roster during February and March to qualify for Talk Up Toastmasters! rewards.
- ◆ And 1 represents that **one individual** who has not been introduced to the benefits of Toastmasters, that one individual who truly needs Toastmasters, that one individual whose life you may change forever with a simple invitation.

Talk Up Toastmasters! to that one person today.

Membership Drive Doubles Attendance at Rebuilding Club

by Joyce Iris Foster, CTM, CL, Lunch Bunch Toastmasters Club
and Club Coach to CenterPoint Energy Communicators Toastmasters Club

When I visited CenterPoint Energy Communicators at the Reliant Energy Tower in downtown Houston, they seemed relaxed and friendly. However, attendance had dwindled to only five members with an occasional guest. What could I do to help them increase their membership?

A “Dream” Membership Drive Becomes Reality

Early one morning I found myself handing out flyers in front of the Reliant Energy Tower. When I awoke, I smiled to myself and thanked God for giving me a sign.

That day, I started bringing my dream to life. I called the building’s leasing office and asked about having a Toastmasters membership drive in the lobby. After discussing my idea with O-10 Area Governor Hettie Allsup and with the club’s officers, we developed a plan.

Club President Donald Smith liked the idea. I showed him note cards and flyers available from the Toastmasters International website for use as handouts. Donald chose one of the flyers and ordered note cards. Before the event, he and his family labeled 100 note cards with the club’s meeting and contact information. I made 75 flyers.

After further discussions with the leasing office and some rescheduling around holiday activities, we chose Wednesday, January 10, as the date for our membership drive. The leasing office provided a skirted table and two chairs on the day of the event. VPPR Greg Mayer displayed two large club posters, and Treasurer Debbie Dayton had Toastmasters manuals and magazines available. I brought candy and a sign-in sheet to keep track of our contacts.

Meeting Over 100 People Makes Time Fly

The membership drive was fast paced and lots of fun. Our table was strategically located in the lobby, visible to everyone entering the building and riding the escalators. Donald and I stood by the entrance to invite folks to our table. We asked everyone for their contact information and offered them a miniature candy bar and a *Toastmaster* magazine. Donald, Greg and Debbie answered questions about Toastmasters, the club, and membership benefits.

Before the hour ended, we had given out all the flyers and note cards. Our sign-in sheet had ten names and email addresses, and we’d collected a business card from the branch manager of the Washington Mutual Bank in the lobby and another prospect’s contact information given directly to Donald. Three people were committed to attending our next meeting on January 16.

Success = Awareness + Higher Attendance

Overall, we had a successful day connecting with new people. More important, we increased public awareness about Toastmasters activities. Many people who work in the building now know a Toastmasters club meets there.

This active, creative membership campaign was a fun yet effective way to keep members, even those who didn’t participate, interested in recruiting new members. The event allowed the officers involved to renew their own determination to rebuild their club.

The people we reached out to got our message about the value of Toastmasters. At the January 16 meeting, we had five new guests and one repeat guest (who signed up at the end of the meeting) for a total attendance of 12.

Planning Is the First Step to Growth

- ◆ **Select a membership committee.** Ours was the club president, VPPR, treasurer, and me.
- ◆ **Determine the goals and scope of the campaign.** Our goal was to have ten people sign our guest sheet, and we met that goal.
- ◆ **Decide whom you want to reach.** Be sure to include diversity in your efforts. We wanted to reach everyone who worked or had business at Reliant Energy Tower and make them aware of the open Toastmasters club in the building.
- ◆ **Plan how you will reach out to people – personal contact, phone, newsletter, email, etc.** We decided to go directly to the people in the lobby of the building where our club meets.
- ◆ **Arrange a membership kick-off event, establish a timeline and involve the entire membership.** Our first event involved three club officers, a good showing for a club with just nine paid members, only five of whom were active.
- ◆ **Plan ahead to publicize your campaign.** We will incorporate this step into the February-March Talk Up Toastmasters! campaign.
- ◆ **Evaluate your progress.** Thanks to our well-organized, well-executed event, we more than doubled our attendance at the next meeting.

Joyce Foster, CTM, CL loves a challenge, and she’s passionate about Toastmasters. If you want help tailoring a membership campaign to your club’s needs, contact her at 713-437-5233 (day) or by email at jfostertx@houston.rr.com.



It's a Fabulous 56 Fiesta - Let's Celebrate Our Success!

by Charlie Pitts, DTM, Spring Conference Chair and
Diane Niño, ATMB, CL, Spring Conference Co-Chair



What's so fabulous about the Spring Conference?

At the District 56 Spring Conference, **Fabulous 56 Fiesta**, May 4-5, 2007, **Jim Key, DTM**, the 2003 World Champion of Public Speaking, will share his golden nuggets for success. Jim is a polished and entertaining speaker who helps achievement-driven people and organizations attain higher levels of excellence. You'll take home dozens of nuggets guaranteed to foster success in your life.

What's better than a conference with Jim Key?

How about a conference with Jim Key *and* Ralph Wallace?

Ralph Wallace, DTM is the Senior International Director for Region III. A member of Toastmasters since 1990, Ralph is known for presentations bursting with his contagious passion for learning and growing.

Who should attend the Spring Conference?

The person who should attend is *you*. The district conference is your perfect opportunity to *celebrate your success* and take away cinco (5) "golden nuggets":

Golden Nugget Uno: Enrich Your Life – Your life will never be the same once you've experienced presentations from Ralph Wallace and Jim Key. In addition to demonstrating the power of public speaking, Ralph and Jim will ignite your passion for achievement and success with their motivational stories. You will leave a better Toastmaster. Your life will also be enriched by our full slate of exciting and interactive educational sessions.

Golden Nugget Dos: Rekindle the Pride of Being a Toastmaster – Your district leaders and volunteers have worked hard to showcase Toastmasters skills in every facet of this conference. Re-experience the excitement you felt at acquiring those skills, and you'll walk away proud to be a Toastmaster.

Golden Nugget Tres: Celebrate Your Success – Throughout the year, from the individual to the district level, we learn and grow by achieving goals in the Toastmasters program. The spring conference is our opportunity to celebrate those successes. You'll feel a kindred spirit with these hardworking achievers as you join our entire district in celebration. And you'll go home energized to set and reach for even higher goals.

Golden Nugget Quatro: Network with Great People – Two things in life cause you to learn and grow: the books you read and the people you meet. You'll meet plenty of people at the spring conference – Toastmasters from all over the district, people from varied back-

grounds, careers and interests. You'll even meet the Region III 2007-2009 International Director candidates, **Jack Balko, DTM** and **Charlotte Howard, DTM**.

Golden Nugget Cinco: Hear Great Speeches – The International Speech and Tall Tales contestants who win at the club, area and division levels will compete at the District 56 Spring Conference Fiesta. Just by listening to the outstanding presentations of the district's best speakers, you'll learn and grow as a speaker.

Join us for this life-changing celebration!

We're making it easy and fun to register with the Triple Cinco Deal: **Cinco People** – **Cinco New Members** – **Cinco de Mayo**.

Cinco People – Register for the full conference as part of a group of cinco (5) people, and everyone gets in for only \$114.00 per person. Plus, your club will be entered in a free drawing for one of two video cameras. Here's how the Cinco People Deal works:

- ◆ Invite four people to attend the conference with you. They can be members of your club or another club or even non-Toastmasters. Each person saves up to \$35.00 and pays only \$114.00 for the entire two-day conference.
- ◆ Register all five people together under a single club name. Use the convenient group registration form on the District 56 website (in the Members Area or the Document Center) and include your check for *only* \$570 for five people. Early bird registrants who have already signed up can be included in your group. (However, if they paid a higher conference rate, they will not get a refund for the difference.)
- ◆ For every five people a club registers, the club's name will go into a sombrero for the drawing to win a video camera. There's no limit to how many chances your club can earn – for every group of five registrants, your club receives one entry in the drawing. For instance, a club that has 15 people sign up will receive 3 entries in the drawing.

Cinco New Members – Any club that adds cinco (5) new members between February 1st and March 31st will also be entered in the free drawing for a video camera. There's no limit to how many chances to win your club can earn by signing up new members. For example, if your club adds 15 new members during February and March, that's 3 chances to win a video camera.

Please note that your club earns chances to win one of the video cameras *both* by bringing groups of five people to the conference *and* by enrolling five new members during Talk Up Toastmasters!

All clubs enrolling at least five new members during Talk Up Toastmasters! will also be acknowledged during the “Celebrate Your Success” portion of the District 56 Spring Conference.

Cinco de Mayo – All the spring conference excitement takes place on May 4th and May 5th (Cinco de Mayo). Friday night is Fabulous 56 Fiesta Fun Night – come dressed in your favorite fiesta costume. Be a lovely señorita or a señor in sombrero, a bandito, mariachi, matador, or Fabulous Flamenco dancer. When you dress up fiesta style for conference fun night, you’ll discover that fantastic treats await you.

What else is there to say?

Celebrate your success at the Fabulous 56 Fiesta. The District 56 Spring Conference is an amazing opportunity to learn and grow with your fellow Toastmasters while having fun. We look forward to celebrating with you!

More Fun Ways to Win Your Chance to Dine with a Champion at Spring Conference

Be a sweetheart to yourself, and submit your paid full conference registration to the District 56 treasurer postmarked by February 14, 2007, Valentine’s Day. Why? Early registration by that date earns you chances to win two prizes that will enhance your conference fun:

Drawing #1 – Dine with a Champion – Names of all early birds who register and pay in full by Valentine’s Day will be entered in a drawing for one of eight places at the table with Jim Key, DTM, 2003 World Champion of Public Speaking during the District 56 Tall Tales Speech Contest on Friday, May 4, 2007.

Drawing #2 – Front Row Seats at International Speech Contest – Early registrants will also be entered in a drawing for the 10 places at a “front-row” table during the International Speech Contest on Saturday, May 5, 2007.

Group registrants whose paid registrations are postmarked by February 14 will also be entered in both of these drawings.

You’re WANTED for the Spring Contest Challenge

by Shirley Gilbuena, DTM, Quality Contest Chair

Wanted: Contestants for Tall Tales Contest (2-3 minutes) and International Speech Contest (5-7 minutes) at your Toastmasters club. Must be willing to have fun and enjoy winning. Must be a member in good standing in a Toastmasters club in good standing. For International Speech, must have completed the first six speeches in the Competent Communicator Manual.

That’s right – *only* International Speech contestants must have completed their first six speeches. That’s to get them ready for the challenge of creating a substantial, yet humorous, entertaining yet inspiring contest speech.

For the Tall Tales Contest, even a brand new Toastmaster is eligible to compete. Here’s an opportunity to exaggerate as much as you want. You’re even encouraged to deviate from the truth, if you wish. This chance doesn’t come along every day so grab it while you can.

What Happens If You Win?

That depends on the contest you enter. For the International Speech Contest:

- ◆ This month, Toastmasters worldwide compete in International Speech Contests in their clubs.
- ◆ The winners of club contests will compete in area contests in March.
- ◆ Area winners move on to division contests in April.
- ◆ The division contest winners compete in the district speech contests at spring conferences in May.
- ◆ The winner of the District 56 International Speech Contest will advance to the regional contest in Irving, Texas, June 8-9, 2007. (Regional contestants must present a new speech – not the speech they gave at the club, area, division and district level.)
- ◆ Regional contest winners will compete for the title of World Champion of Public Speaking at the Toastmasters International Convention, August 15-18, 2007 in Phoenix, Arizona. (Again, they must present a new speech for the world championship.)

For the Tall Tales Contest, the top level of competition is at the district conference. If you win there, you can retire as district champ.

Challenge yourself to compete in the spring contests this year – it’s a great chance to boost your public speaking skills and have a lot of fun in the process.

May 5th Is Election Day in District 56 Nominations Due by February 15

by John Robert Behrman, ATMS
Nomination Committee Chair

Nominations are open for 2007-2008 district officers:

- * District Governor (DG)
- * Lt. Governor Education and Training (LGET)
- * Lt. Governor Marketing (LGM)
- * Division Governors for Divisions L, M, N, O, P, and Q

All candidates take note: The DEADLINE for sending nominations to me is February 15, 2007.

Elections will be held at the District Council meeting on May 5, 2007 at the spring conference. At that time the nominating committee will present its slate. Nominations may also be made from the floor. All nominees (1) must be members in good standing of any club in District 56, (2) must sign the officer agreement and release form prescribed by Toastmasters International, and (3) should have prior club and district council leadership experience.

Campaigning for election is subject to certain rules. A contested position is decided by secret ballot.

An application for nomination is posted on the District 56 website in the Members Area. Candidates, remember, you must send in your application by **2/15/07** – mail it to John Robert Behrman, 1302 Waugh Dr. #298, Houston, Texas 77019 or email to jrbehrman@alumni.rice.edu.

Club Presidents and VPEs - Make Your Club's Voice Heard Get Your Proxy Form Here

Only club presidents, VPEs and district officers are eligible to vote at the District Council meeting during the spring conference. All club presidents and VPEs are encouraged to attend the council meeting, even if they can't attend the entire conference. If you cannot attend the meeting, your vote may be cast by another Toastmasters member holding your proxy form.

For your club's voice to be heard in the district elections and other business, club leaders must be represented at the council meeting, either in person or by proxy. Download and print the proxy forms from the District 56 website – go to www.toastmasters-d56.org, then to the Document Center, click on 2007 District Spring Conference, then scroll down to Spring Conference 2007 Proxy.

Don't let your club miss the chance to have a say in District 56 business. Assign your proxy today.

Distinguished Club Success Story No One Said We Couldn't Do It!

by Wilson League, CC, President, Conroe Speaks

Conroe Speaks Toastmasters Club was chartered on January 3, 2005. Our first president, Kyle Myers, set our course, not really knowing where we were going.

Kyle visited several other clubs to learn how a club should be run. Everyone he met was talking about the Distinguished Club Plan (DCP). Kyle came to our next meeting and declared, **"We WILL be President's Distinguished!"** Little did he know what a roller-coaster ride he was initiating.

No one told us we *couldn't* become President's Distinguished in six months, so we set out to do just that! In *only five months*, we reached our goal for 2004-2005 with 9 of 10 points.

We were able to accomplish this goal because the entire club worked together.

- ◆ Each member set their own personal educational goals. We talked about our goals, acted on our goals – and reached our goals.
- ◆ The VPE worked with each person to schedule their speeches so they could follow through on their plan. Each meeting helped us use all our communication and leadership skills in many ways.
- ◆ Club members worked hard to improve their skills, yet always enjoyed having fun as well as learning.
- ◆ Some of us visited other clubs to get a different feel for what works. We often brought back ideas to share with our club.
- ◆ To increase membership, we held membership drives at The Ark Family Church, where we meet. Our members talked up Toastmasters everywhere we went.

That first President's Distinguished award set our pattern for the future.

- ◆ Within the next seven months, we reached President's Distinguished for the second time, ending the 2005-2006 term with 10 of 10 points.
- ◆ This year, for the third time in our two-year history, Conroe Speaks again reached President's Distinguished with 10 of 10 points in six months. We now have 30 members with several more who will be joining soon.

The moral of this story is this: If no one tells you that you can't do something, go ahead and do it. Declare your intention to reach that Distinguished goal, and it's yours.

Distinguished Club Success Story

Does Your Club FLAG IT! for Success?

by Kathy Miller, ACB, CL, Immediate Past President, Memorial City Toastmasters

What makes your Toastmasters Club successful? Many factors contribute to a successful club –

- F**un meetings
- L**eading-edge programs
- A**wesome members
- G**ratifying accomplishments
- I**ntriguing speeches
- T**rained officers

Memorial City Toastmasters Club possesses all the **FLAG IT!** factors and many more. Just over six months into the Toastmasters year, Memorial City achieved President's Distinguished Club status. Here's why we are successful:

Fun Meetings – The Memorial City Club is known for meetings packed full of amazement and laughter. Our Vice President Education spends endless hours filling our agenda with speeches, themes, and Table Topics to provide opportunities for everyone to speak.

Leading-Edge Programs – Toastmasters International provides all the resources to succeed. Memorial City has used these resources and added our own style to:

- ◆ A membership building program – the infamous “Toastmasters Zone” – that has proven to be a huge success time after time.
- ◆ Workshops for our members on how to evaluate effectively, held outside our club meetings using materials and tools we developed.
- ◆ Mentoring workshops where mentees and mentors share their experiences.

Awesome Members – The Memorial City Club began as a closed corporate club, only open to employees of MetroNational. In July 2006, we decided to open the club to other tenants of Memorial City Plaza, where MetroNational's home office is located.

Our members are committed professionals eager to learn – some just beginning their professional careers, some seeking to uncover hidden talents, and some eager to sharpen existing skills. They all see the benefits of Toastmasters for their success.

Gratifying Accomplishments – Like every other club, Memorial City has members whose only goal for the year is to give their Ice Breaker speech or participate in Table Topics. Other members aim to giving five or more speeches per year. Whatever their accomplishments, our members are recognized on a weekly basis.

We use a “mountain of success” to display members' speech accomplishments. After giving each speech from the Competent Communicator manual, club members move their names another step up the mountain toward the top. Names of members working from advanced manuals are up in the sky above the mountain, and they move to a higher cloud with each advanced award. Our mountain of success is a great visual not only for members, but also for guests.

When a club member achieves an award, such as Competent Communicator, we cancel our Table Topics session and hold “Toast Topics” instead. Anyone may stand up and toast the honoree on their accomplishment.

We also announce club accomplishments at the meetings and post our progress in the Distinguished Club Program on a thermometer chart. With every DCP goal achieved, we add another bar to the thermometer.

Intriguing Speeches – Our members' speeches meet their manual objectives while entertaining and informing their fellow members. We've heard speeches that:

- ◆ Encouraged us to live our lives to the fullest and conquer our fears.
- ◆ Explained how to learn English by watching Sesame Street, particularly Big Bird.
- ◆ Described how to treat your significant other and treasure each moment with your loved ones.
- ◆ Told us how to “transform” into a meeting role participant by “Dr. Frank N. Master,” the world's greatest Transformationist.
- ◆ And last but not least, shared “How to Get Even with a Cheating Husband and the Other Woman for Dummies.”

The list goes on and on. Once you think the bar is set high enough, one of our members gives another creative and intriguing speech and sets that bar even higher.

Trained Officers – Our officers, past and present, are loyal and committed to our club's excellence and to meeting every member's needs. The officers strive to make each meeting better than the last. Not only are they trained in the duties set forth by the Toastmasters program, but they also take on far more than their minimum responsibilities. They're always available to fill in gaps whenever needed. Most important, they take their leadership roles seriously but with a lot of heart.

I could go on and on about our club, but you'll have to experience one of our meetings for yourself to fully understand and appreciate our success. I invite you to stop by for a “Best of Class” meeting to see how we FLAG IT at Memorial City Toastmasters!

Happy Monday!

by Allen E. Prescott, DTM, IPDG

Rebecca Wilson, DTM, a long-time friend of District 56, passed away on February 1, 2007, of an apparent heart attack. "Happy Monday" was Rebecca's trademark. No matter what was going on in the world or in Toastmasters, she greeted everyone with, "Happy Friday," "Happy Wednesday," or whatever the day was. She volunteered at almost every district conference, but her favorite job was welcoming people at the registration area with an enthusiastic, "Happy Friday!" That phrase reflected her view of life. Every day was a happy day. She was bubbling and energetic, and those traits were contagious.

Rebecca served District 56 in many ways. She competed in numerous contests, rising to the district level with an International Speech one year. She served as District Public Relations Officer (PRO) in 1999-2000, her first experience in Toastmasters at the district level. During 2000-2001, Rebecca was Area P-3 Governor and Division P Governor the next year. During my term as District Governor in 2005-2006, Rebecca served as Chief Judge.

I, along with many other Toastmasters in and beyond District 56, will miss her. Happy Friday, Rebecca!



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, ATM-G/CL

Immediate Past District Gov. – Allen Prescott, DTM

Division L Governor – Charlie Pitts, DTM

Division M Governor – Cynthia Wagner, ATM-B/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

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

Spring Goals from page 1

Club contests kick off the contest season in February, followed by area contests in March and division contests in April (go to www.toastmasters-d56.org and click on the Events page for a list of contests). Contest season culminates at our District 56 Spring Conference, **Fabulous 56 Fiesta**, (see story, p. 4). Take advantage of early registration discounts – go to www.toastmasters-d56.org, click on the Members Area, and scroll down to the spring conference article and the link to the registration form.

If you're involved in putting on your club's contest, be sure to order your club contest package from Toastmasters International right away. Also check out the Document Center at the District 56 website for valuable tools to help you have an exciting and well-run contest.

Education and training are among the critical success factors of our Toastmasters programs. As you reach your communication and leadership goals, your club will rise to success and to Distinguished status – and a strong club, in turn, helps you keep learning and growing in Toastmasters. Let's work together to achieve our goals.

Talk Up Toastmasters! in Division O

On January 10, 2007, Lunch Bunch Toastmasters hosted a Talk Up Toastmasters! meeting for Division O. District Governor Pamela McCown, DTM opened with a Talk Up Toastmasters! cheerleader yell. Pam gave us many good ideas for spreading the news about Toastmasters:

1. Hand out cards advertising Toastmasters as the way to gain communication skills and confidence.
2. Hold a membership drive in the lobby of your building. All you need is a few volunteers, a table, and business cards inviting all to your next meeting.
3. Be sure your members earn credit toward their Competent Leadership (CL) or High Performance Leadership (AL) awards when they work on the Talk Up Toastmasters! membership program.
4. Remember that your club earns Distinguished Club Program points by adding four or eight new members, as well as special awards for adding five members during Talk Up Toastmasters!

Lt. Governor Marketing Eddie Merla, DTM offered to help anyone who finds group wanting to grow a new Toastmasters club. He will also help make contact with corporations to gain support for Toastmasters.

Thanks to this inspiring meeting, lobby membership drives are being planned throughout Division O. Contact **Area O-10 Governor Hettie Allsup**, 713-228-8282 or chemsafe9@msn.com for details.