



FORUM 56

Serving Southeast Texas

Volume 11, Issue 11

June 2015

Inside this Issue

- A Message from the Division Governor 1
- A Message from the Lt. Governor of Education 1
- A Message from the Lt. Governor of Marketing 2
- DOT Hosts Leadership Breakfast 3
- Summer Toastmaster Leadership Institutes 4
- Evaluating TED #9 5
- Keep Guests Coming Back 6

Evaluate Your District!

Use your Smartphone App to scan the QR Code and be taken directly to the survey.



The Changing of the Guards

A Message From the District Governor— Sheryl Smith, DTM, MBA



Sheryl Smith, DTM — District Governor

As with every July 1st, comes a “changing of the guard,” thus, as we bid farewell to the outgoing leadership, let us not forget to offer the newly elected leaders

our unwavering support and commitment. Let us continue to uphold the excellence of this great District. The names may change, the titles may change, and the faces may be different, but the standards will and should always remain the same.

I remember reading a story once where the husband asked his wife why she always cuts the end of the roast. The wife responded that she didn't know, but she always saw her mother do it. The husband proceeded to ask his mother-in-law the same question and she provided the same response as the wife. With this information, he was determined to get to the bottom of this, so the husband went to his wife's grandmother. The grandmother's response was simple, she told him because a full roast would not fit in her pan.

I found that this story illustrates how most practices are intended to serve a purpose;

(Continued on page 6)

Crossing the Finish Line

A Message from the LT. Governor of Education and District Director Elect —Carol Carraway



Carol Carraway, DTM — Lt. Gov. of Education

Yes, in just a few short weeks this Toastmasters year comes to an end and a new year begins. Congratulations District 56 on what you have accomplished so far! As Toastmasters around District 56 focus on completing this year in great shape, it's not too early to be thinking about goals for the year beginning on the first of July. How will you continue to shape yourself in 2015–16? How will you contribute to your district's shape in the coming year?

For the member, what is your goal in 2015–16? Is it to achieve the Competent Communicator award? Is this the year you complete the requirements for Distinguished Toastmaster? Whatever is important to you, make a deliberate choice to get there, and stay focused on the prize throughout the year.

(Continued on page 2)

A Toastmaster Year in Perspective

A Message From the Lieutenant Governor of Marketing and Program Quality Director Elect — Martha Elias, DTM



Martha Elias, DTM,
Lieutenant Governor of
Marketing for the District

My tenure as Lieutenant Governor Marketing has been a journey and is about to come to an end. Serving Toastmasters past the club level is an experience everyone should partake of. It helps one to continue growing and improving their communication and leadership skills in ways not attainable at the club level.

We should never want to stop growing, and serving at the District level pushes one out of the comfort zone of the club to achieve

something beyond what we could already do or have mastered.

However, it is sometimes hard to take that 1st step. There is never the perfect moment or right time. However, when opportunity knocks open the door, and you will be glad you

Crossing the Finish Line

(Continued from page 1)

Newly elected club officers, what is your goal for your club? **Get back up to 20 members? President's Distinguished Club...again? Institute that mentoring program you've talked** about for so long? Be clear, be specific, and then apply your collective energy to achieving those goals. Distraction is the **enemy of success, so don't allow other fascinating but less** productive things to divert you from your mission.

At the district level, one goal district leaders will certainly want to focus on is achieving Distinguished District by June 30, 2016. What else does your district need to do to get into — or stay in — great shape? Perhaps a clear focus on low-member clubs is in order. Clarity of goal and concentration of effort on our goal will pay handsome dividends at year-end.

Regardless of where you are in this Toastmasters district, you will need to hit the ground running when the new **Toastmasters year starts. And if you're running right from the**

did. You will discover talents and abilities you never knew you possessed.

The Lieutenant Governor Marketing was responsible for all aspects of Marketing, helping charter new clubs, and member and club retention efforts. It was a challenging and rewarding experience to bring new members to the District 56 Toastmaster family. As the saying goes, it takes a whole village to charter a club. Thanks to all those who assisted in those efforts for your invaluable time. I look forward to serving the District as Program Quality Director for the 2015–2016 Toastmaster year.

When the dust settles and the smoke clears at the finish line, District 56 will emerge as a District to be reckoned with. Thanks again for all your hard work this Toastmaster year!

very start, you're bound to be in great shape as you cross the finish line!



DOT HOSTS LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST

On Sunday, May 24th, Dining Out Toastmasters hosted a Leadership Breakfast in the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel Houston Intercontinental Airport following the District 56 Spring Conference.

This special event featured a panel discussion with four very special dignitaries:

- Karen Blake, DTM
2013-2015 International Director
- Jana Barnhill, DTM, AS
2008-2009 International President
- Robert Barnhill, DTM, AS
1996-1997 International President
- Pauline Shirley, DTM
1994-1995 International President

Club President Chris Hester, DTM presided over the breakfast and Club Sergeant at Arms Pamela McCown, DTM, 2009–2011 International Director served as the panel moderator.

The panelists were each given five minutes to share leadership highlights from their experience on the Toastmasters International Board. Then the moderator asked each panelist questions previously submitted by attendees. Finally, each panelist was asked to make a closing statement before the meeting adjourned.

In addition, several past District 56 governors attended and sat at different tables in the banquet room so Toastmasters guests could also asked them about their Toastmasters journeys.

The past District 56 governors in attendance were: David Rebeles, DTM (2013–2014); Charlie Pitts, DTM (2009–2010); Allen Prescott, DTM (2005–2006); Marcia Hudgens, DTM (2000–2001); and Jean Riggs, DTM (1994-1995). Jean Riggs also served as 1996–1998 International Director.

Of course the 2014–2015 District 56 leadership trio was also present: District Governor Sheryl Smith, DTM; Lt. Governor Education and Training Carol Caraway, DTM; and Lt. Governor Marketing Martha Elias, DTM. They are also members of Dining Out Toastmasters.

Each panelist was given a special Dining Out Toastmasters



Above, left-to-right: Jana Barnhill; Pamela McCown; Robert Barnhill; and Pauline Shirley share big smiles with the photographer during the District 56 Spring Conference.

medallion as a “Thank You” for their participation in this special leadership event.

In addition, everyone who attended the Leadership Breakfast was given a booklet containing leadership lessons from current and past International and District 56 leaders to keep as a lasting memento of the event.



Above, DOT Club President Chris Hester, DTM welcomes everyone to the Leadership Breakfast.



Above, panel moderator Pamela McCown (right) presents Robert Barnhill (left) with his medallion.

Summer Toastmaster Leadership Institutes

AREA & DIVISION DIRECTOR TRAINING AND SUMMER TLI'S

Area & Division Director Training and Summer TLI's

(Toastmasters Leadership Institute) are listed on the June and July Calendars online at www.tmd56.org.

AREA & DIVISION DIRECTOR TRAINING

All incoming Area and Division Directors are requested to attend!

Attendance is FREE, but we ask that you register using the link below or on the calendar page so we can anticipate the attendance and so that proper preparations can be made for training materials, etc.

Saturday, June 27th — 9:00 am–2:00 pm

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
(Houston Intercontinental Airport)
15747 JFK Boulevard
Houston, TX 77032

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/area-division-director-training-tickets-17448557104>

UPCOMING SUMMER TLI'S

"Creating a Quality Club / Leading the Club to Success"

Attendance to all TLI's are FREE, but we ask that you register using the links below or on the calendar page so we can anticipate the attendance and so that proper preparations can be made for training materials, etc.

Division M TLI

Tuesday, August 18 — 6:00–9:00 pm

Trini Mendenhall Sosa Community Center
1414 Wirt Road
Houston, TX 77084

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/division-m-tli-600pm-tickets-17461167823>

West Regional TLI

Friday, July 17th — 5:30 pm

Weekley Community Center
8440 Greenhouse Road
Cypress, TX 77433

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/west-regional-tli-530pm-tickets-17414222408>

Central Regional TLI

Saturday, July 18th — 9:00 am

Trini Mendenhall Sosa Community Center
1414 Wirt Road
Houston, TX 77055

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/central-regional-tli-900am-tickets-17418553362>

South Regional TLI

Saturday, August 1 — 9:00–12:00 pm

Bay Area Christian Church
14550 Highway 3
Webster, TX 77598

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/south-regional-tli-900am-tickets-17459139757>

Downtown Regional TLI *

Friday, July 24th — 11:30 am

**Note: Advanced Toastmasters/Clubs only. New first-time officers are not able to get credit for this TLI.*

Downtown Public Library —Concourse Meeting Room
500 McKinney St.
Houston, TX 77002-2530

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/downtown-regional-tli-tickets-17419497185>



EVALUATING TED

Evaluating a “TED Talk” as if it were a Project in the Competent Communication Manual

EVALUATING TED – Project 9 Persuade with Power | By Rashid Kapadia, ACB, ALB

http://www.ted.com/talks/alice_goffman_college_or_prison_two_destinies_one_blatant_injustice

TED is an internationally recognized organization devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks running 18 minutes or less. It has transformed the art of keynote speeches.

TED TALK: Alice Goffman:
How we’re priming some kids for college — and others for prison.

Dear Alice Goffman:

I compliment you on having made us aware of a glaring inequity. You are a sincere, dedicated and persuasive speaker. I thank you for the excellent work you are doing.

Your objectives in this project were to (1) persuade us to adopt your **viewpoint**, (2) **appeal to our nation’s** interest, (3) and use emotion and logic to support your position. You effortlessly achieved all of these objectives. Well done.



Psychologist Kelly McGonigal urges us to see stress as a positive, and introduces us to an unsung mechanism for stress reduction: reaching out to others.

Praise

Your continuous interweaving of emotion and logic, right from the start, supported by examples and personal stories, stands out as a clear strength. You certainly made your case in a way that would persuade any jury. And your controlled emotional intensity leaves no doubt that you care deeply about the work you have dedicated yourself to.

You excelled in all areas of speech-craft: body language, gestures, vocal variety: exquisitely appropriate to the talk. Your use of only one slide, followed by a five-

second pause was novel and effective. Your use of language is compelling. Your brief summary of the problem using contrasts was very effective, “probation officers ... instead of teachers: court dates ... instead of class: emerging not with degrees ... but with criminal records” Phrases like, “This is the hidden underside to our historic experiment in punishment” mark you as a skilled speech writer.

Instruction

May I offer one suggestion to make this talk even more compelling? Consider removing one paragraph, the one from minute 10:43 to 11:20. Yes it is important, yes it is good data, but somehow, it distracted me from your message, and unfortunately disrupted the flow of my attention. I believe your talk stands every bit as credible without this paragraph. It was the only place

(Continued on page 6)

Evaluating TED #9

(Continued from page 5)

where my attention wandered and I became bit skeptical. It took me a few seconds to reengage.

Encouragement

I was most impressed with your closing: a clear call to young people to be leaders followed by the observation that, "Young people have always been leaders in the fight for equal rights, for more people to be granted dignity and for justice."

Keep on doing what you are doing. You will prevail! You have us on your side.

We Let The Good Times Roll

(Continued from page 1)

furthermore, over time even the best practices can lose their usefulness. It takes wise club members to know when to change something. The District leaders and clubs should have **the insight to recognize when it is time for innovation. I don't** believe any member of this District would dare to sew a new patch of garment on an old garment. If this were to happen, the new garment would pull away from the old making the tear worse.



It is my desire that the afore-mentioned stories illustrate why it is important to understand maintaining our standard of excellence and knowing when it is time to elevate it. If what your club did two years ago that bought great success in **adding new members is not working today, perhaps it's time** to stop cutting the end of the roast, but to change your routine and buy a bigger pot.

Keep Guests Coming Back

Why is the Competent Leadership manual important? Why should we use it?

By Jean G. Hogle, DTM

"Since starting to use the manual as intended, I have found that not only am I doing a better job in each role, my speeches are better."

In January 2006, a new member joined my club. Of course, this meant he received two manuals: Competent Communication and Competent Leadership. The new member came to me, the president, and asked how to use the Competent Leadership manual. As the advanced, experienced Toastmaster I am, I gave him the highly articulate answer of "Huh? Duh, ah, well, gee, I don't know. But I hear it's only 10 projects."

Wanting to be a good leader, I immediately ordered the manual and studied the projects. When I saw that each project consists of doing multiple roles, I panicked. How is anyone supposed to complete this? However, I began bringing the manual to each meeting and asking for an evaluator to fill in my required assignments. It was a slow process, but the roles started to gather checkmarks.

One day I read the entire Competent Leadership manual! My first reaction was "Boy, Sam needs to read this! I wish Mary would learn that!" I caught myself thinking, "Wow, I didn't know you should do that role that way! I'll start paying more attention to how I perform meeting roles." Yes, this experienced Toastmaster, already a Competent Leader (old style), learned a whole lot of new information. I've performed club meeting roles for years, but I learned many things and many new ways of looking at each role.

As I read the manual, I discovered that it's not just about leadership. It's also about how to be a good Toastmaster — a competent member of Toastmasters International. There are a couple of places where you have to specifically lead a project, but most of the manual is about how to perform the standard meeting roles.

Most roles in a Toastmasters meeting are listed in at least one

(Continued on page 7)

Keep Guests Coming Back

(Continued from page 6)

project. Most are listed in multiple projects. You may look at each project as a whole and study how the topic applies to the roles listed in the evaluation section. For example, Topic One is "Listening and Leadership." Study the information in the chapter, and then see how the skills apply to the four roles listed by looking at the questions asked in the evaluations. The roles are speech evaluator, grammarian, Ah-Counter and Table Topics speaker.

Another way to use the manual is to pick a role, (evaluator) and study each chapter/project with that role in mind. The evaluator role applies to Chapter One — **"Listening and Leadership,"** Chapter Two — **"Critical Thinking,"** Chapter Three — "Giving Feedback" and Chapter Eight — "Motivating People." There are a few other roles outside of a meeting that may be performed to complete the manual, but the majority of the projects are performed within the meeting itself. These are roles we will all perform at one time or another during our meetings, so why not learn all we can about the roles? Quite frankly, I never thought about how listening is an important skill for a Table Topics speaker.

Since starting to use the manual as intended, I have found that not only am I doing a better job in each role, my speeches are better! Not only have I learned how to perform a role in the club more efficiently and effectively, I have now learned what others are looking for in a speech. My speeches have improved as well as my other skills in the various meeting roles.



What is in the Competent Leadership manual for you? Better listening skills, better evaluating skills, better motivating skills, better time management skills, better planning, organizing and delegating skills. And better speaking skills. I believe each new member will progress faster as a Toastmaster by using the Competent Leadership manual. For veteran Toastmasters, this manual will reinforce what we already know about meeting roles, make us better speakers and better mentors of newer members.

If you are coming to Toastmasters to improve yourself and your speaking skills, use the new Competent Leadership manual. After all, one of the reasons for being a Toastmaster is our continuing education. And studying and working the Competent Leadership manual will do just that.

2014–2015 District Officers

District Governor Sheryl Smith, DTM
 Lieutenant Governor Education Training Carol Caraway, DTM
 Lieutenant Governor Marketing Martha Elias, DTM
 Public Relations Officer Harry Maurer, CC, ALB
 Secretary Jody White, DTM
 Treasurer Chris Hester, ACB, ALB

www.tmd56.org

District 56 Toastmasters

www.toastmasters.org

The names "Toastmasters International," "Toastmasters," and the Toastmasters International emblem are trademarks protected in the United States, Canada, and other

FORUM 56 Newsletter

Chief Editor Kevin Niemeyer

Articles of 200–300 words may be submitted via email to forum56@tmd56.org, or call directly to 281-345-9322 for more information.

Deadline for submissions is the first week of each month for publishing by the end of each month.

