



# FORUM 56

2010 ELECTION EDITION

## Legacy Leadership

*From Speaker to Messenger*

# EXTRA! EXTRA!

## Read all about it!

### Meet the Candidates

### Vote at the Spring Conference

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**Become the  
Speaker and  
Leader**



**You Want  
to Be**

## CANDIDATE FOR 2010-2011 DISTRICT GOVERNOR JAN POSCOVSKY, DTM



*Jan Poscovsky, DTM*

I am very excited about the upcoming Toastmasters year and the opportunities that lie ahead. If elected as your District Governor, I will proudly lead our District 56 to Distinguished status by concentrating on Toastmasters International's four critical success factors (1) gaining new members - retaining present members; (2) building new clubs and saving weak clubs; (3) achievement of Competent Communicator recognitions; (4) achievement of Advanced Communicator recognitions.

It was my pleasure to serve as the 2007-2008 Division M Governor and the 2008-2009 Lt.

Governor Marketing. I am thrilled to hold the current position of 2009-2010 Lt. Governor Education and Training. During my term as LGM, our Marketing Team did amazing things, helping to grow our membership, strengthening weak clubs and growing 12 new clubs for the District. As the current LGET, along with the help of my action committee, we have held innovative trainings for club members and officers, provided quality contest and judges' trainings and have coordinated area, division and district contests. TLI & Beyond was the most

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## CANDIDATE FOR 2010-2011 LT. GOVERNOR EDUCATION & TRAINING RICHARD RUCHHOEFT, DTM



*Richard Ruchhoeft, DTM*

Education is the cornerstone to growth. We all joined Toastmasters to learn – be it to speak better or lead better. The club environment helps you speak and lead. The district is here to help the clubs grow. Vote for me as Lt. Governor Education and Training to help shape the plan of growth.

Currently, I am the District 56 Lt. Governor Marketing. I have served in every club position. I have served as distinguished Area O-11 Governor in 2003-2004 and Area M-33 Governor

in 2007-2008. In 2004-2005 I became the D.O.G.—Division O—to help members grow in their education.

I wish to continue the legacy of District 56. I will use education programs that were successful in the past and supplement them with new ways of reaching our club officers and members alike. When you cast your ballot on April 24, 2010, I ask you to vote for me for Lt. Governor Education and Training for 2010-2011.

## CANDIDATE FOR 2010-2011 LT. GOVERNOR MARKETING KAREN BLAKE, DTM



*Karen Blake, DTM*

Members First. New Clubs. Stronger Clubs.

I have been a Toastmaster for nine years. For the last three years, I have served as a district officer. I served as Distinguished Area O-12 Governor, 2007-2008, as Select Distinguished Division O Governor, 2008-2009, and as District 56 DTM Mentor and Club Coach Chair, 2009-2010.

I am passionate about Toastmasters. Toastmasters has helped my career, given me many wonderful friends, and enriched my life. I know how a Toastmasters club can benefit its mem-

bers, and I know how to keep a club strong. I want to put our members first, bringing more benefits to them by building new clubs and by helping our existing clubs become stronger.

If elected, I will energize club meetings, inspire club officers, and support our district officers. I will add district recognition and incentives to the Smedley Award, Talk Up Toastmasters! and Beat the Clock membership drives. I will provide quality district training for club sponsors, mentors and coaches and serve as a resource for

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Sheryl Smith, ACS, ALB

**CANDIDATE FOR 2010-2011 DIVISION L GOVERNOR  
SHERYL SMITH, ACS, ALB**

**“Everyone is a leader because everyone influences someone. Not everyone will become a great leader, but everyone can become a better leader” (John Maxwell, 2002).** As Division L Governor, I believe that my leadership experience, combined with my strong communication skills and educational background, make me an excellent candidate to serve the needs of Division L. Thus, I stand on the premise of “Leadership Excellence,” as members are developed into leaders.

I possess an undergraduate degree in Mass Communications and I am completing a MBA in

Leadership. I recently retired from management with Continental Airlines, where I had the opportunity to be a chartering officer for CoStar Toastmasters. This role led me to achieve the award, “Outstanding Club President, 2008.” Currently, I am an instructor for Houston Community College, a member of several Toastmasters Clubs including the premiere club, Dining Out Toastmasters. I am a member of the Toastmasters Speakers Bureau and Area Governor of L-42. My love of Division L also allows me to fill the roles of Club Coach, Club Sponsor, and Mentor to a new member. I have also had the

*(Continued on page 5)*



Tim DeRosa, DTM

**CANDIDATE FOR 2010-2011 DIVISION M GOVERNOR  
TIM DEROSA, DTM**

I have been a Toastmaster since 1998 when I joined Westhollow Toastmasters. Since that time, I have since served in all the officer roles, earned several CLs and CLs and well as my DTM. I’ve also had experience as a member and officer in several other clubs including Katy Toastmasters, Dining Out, Storytellers, Master Evaluators, and Unity Toastmasters.

In the District, I’ve had the opportunity to be Area Governor for N-21 (2003-2004) and Division N Governor (2005-2006) – both roles where, with the support of the clubs and good Area Governors, I earned top recognition as

President’s Distinguished. I have also helped develop the District by serving as a club mentor twice (Speaking of Shell and InNOVators) and participating on the Marketing Team. At the TLIs, I have been a presenter several times and, for the past three years, have been the TLI registration coordinator. Remember **NOT** standing in line at the last TLI? The registration cards were my idea.

When I’ve not been a District officer, I have enjoyed competing and won the District’s Table Topics contest (2008) and was a District finalist

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Terran Kallam, CC

**CANDIDATE FOR 2010-2011 DIVISION N GOVERNOR  
TERRAN KALLAM, CC**

To some, a person’s success is defined by the number of degrees on the wall, how much money is made, or what kind of car is driven. To others, a person’s success involves less tangible experiences, such as the impact someone has on others. Some of these successful individuals have been those who have touched the most lives – Gandhi and Mother Teresa. Toastmasters have also been instrumental in impacting the lives of others – Tim Allen (star from “Home Improvement”) and Nancy Brinker (found of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation).

I became a Toastmaster in 2008 as a charter

member of The Iron Jaws. I have served as President and VP Membership for my home club. I have also served as N-21 Area Governor. In addition, I have served on the Fall Conference and Spring Conference committees.

In the 2010-2011 Toastmasters year, I want to become the Division N Governor. My goal for the upcoming year is to help others in Division N and District 56 make a positive impact in their clubs and the district. I believe that as members feel they are able to make an impact on others, the more successful those individuals (and oth-

*(Continued on page 5)*

### CANDIDATE FOR 2010-2011 DIVISION O GOVERNOR LINDA PEAKE, DTM



*Linda Peake, DTM*

As a candidate for the Division O Governor position, I would bring to the office a history of leadership both as a past educator and as a current Toastmaster who has had the pleasure of being very active in different roles within the Toastmaster organization.

In my former life as an educator, I taught math to sixth, seventh and eighth grade special education students. Yes, I taught in a middle school resource environment. In my spare time, I was also the Special Education Department Chairman. Later, after completing my Master's degree and a few hours above, I worked as an Edu-

cational Diagnostician. My job was to test the students, find their Intellectual Quotient, determine their estimated potential and determine whether they were qualified as a Learning Disabled student or were Mentally Challenged.

After testing the students, I set up meetings to disseminate information from the testing to the teachers, parents, administrators and extraneous personnel. I developed the proposed plan for the education of the student, according to the outcome of their testing information.

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### CANDIDATE FOR 2010-2011 DIVISION P GOVERNOR ERICA BERRY, ACB



*Erica Berry, ACB*

I was born in El Paso, Texas. I moved to Houston in 1992. I have a Bachelors of Science in Mathematics and a Masters in Business Administration. I also hold a Certified Manager certification. I have worked in the Aerospace Industry for over eleven years and am now an Engineering Manager.

I joined the Toastmasters organization in 2007. I have served dual officer positions, serving as the Space Team Club President and Secretary. I continue to serve as the Space Team Club webmaster. Furthermore, I have served as the Design Committee Chair for the 2009 Fall Confer-

ence. Currently, I am the Governor for Area P-3. I have obtained my ACB and will complete my ACS and CL shortly.

Joining Toastmasters has been one of the most beneficial endeavors I have embarked on in my journey of life. I have met numerous people and established several quality relationships. I have developed better leadership skills and increased my effectiveness as a public speaker. To me, Toastmasters is all about the members. Members are the key component to fostering an atmosphere of success within each club. As Divi-

*(Continued on page 6)*

### CANDIDATE FOR 2010-2011 DIVISION Q GOVERNOR JO SIMPSON, ACB, ALB



*Jo Simpson, ACB, ALB*

I first joined Toastmasters in March 2007. My home club is Talking Bull Toastmasters in Greenway Plaza. I joined Storytellers Toastmasters in August 2008 and recently added Dining Out Toastmasters to my growing list of clubs.

I have served my clubs as VP-Public Relations and VP-Membership, and am currently President of Storytellers. To round out my leadership experience, I've worked with the district marketing team, conducted TLI sessions, chaired committees for the last three conferences and served as a club mentor for Lopez Negrete Toastmasters. I am currently serving as Area Governor for

Area Q-51.

Through it all, I've been a tireless promoter of the benefits Toastmasters has to offer. My home club has grown in both size and achievement during my membership, and we recently earned President's Distinguished status for the first time in our seven-year history. This year we intend to best that record as the newest 10-for-10 club.

Toastmasters has certainly improved my public speaking skills, but the real growth I've found here has been through the leadership opportunities I've been offered. It is my wish to continue

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CANDIDATE FOR 2010-2011 DISTRICT GOVERNOR  
JAN POSCOVSKY, DTM  
*(Continued from page 2)*

recent example of unique educational offerings for both participants and presenters.

I believe that the Toastmasters Communication and Leadership tracks offer the best opportunities available for personal growth and career development. Each of us has a story to tell and wisdom to share about the benefits gained through our involvement

in the Toastmasters organization. When we add what we have learned in our travels through life, lessons of strength, courage and hope emerge. It is my wish that the sharing of such stories throughout the District will bolster our spirits and fortify our skills during this coming year.

I ask that you vote for me as your District Governor. I promise to continue to be a leader who is approachable, responsive, and attentive to your needs. Let's Tell Our Stories and Share Our Wisdom throughout District 56.

CANDIDATE FOR 2010-2011 DISTRICT GOVERNOR  
MARKETING  
KAREN BLAKE, DTM  
*(Continued from page 2)*

them once they are appointed. I will build a strong marketing team and rapidly deploy our resources to help sponsors establish

new clubs. I will foster our club coach program for clubs with 12 or fewer members, and I will expand our ambassador program for clubs with less than 20 members. I will provide district recognition and incentives for coaches and ambassadors.

I ask for your support. Please vote for me as your Lieutenant Governor Marketing, 2010-2011.

CANDIDATE FOR 2010-2011 DIVISION L GOVERNOR  
SHERYL SMITH, ACS, ALB  
*(Continued from page 3)*

opportunity to serve as Co-chair of the Energizer Committee for the 2009 Spring Conference and Chair of the Energizer Committee for the Fall Conference, 2009.

My activities also include Contributing Editor of "Virtuous Woman" magazine, Assistant Director of Priscilla's Lost & Found (mentor to women in crisis) and consultant to the Houston Urban Debate Camp.

As Division L Governor, I will bring strong values, a labor of

love, increased morale, motivation, an increase in clubs obtaining their DCP goals, assist Division L to become a Distinguished Division, well-trained area governors, increased attendance of conferences and Toastmasters Leadership Training Institute, an environment of dignity and respect and, above all else, "Leadership Excellence."

Mission: To serve Division L and the community, by fostering an atmosphere of open communication, problem-solving, development of leaders, achievement of club, area, & division DCP goals, and Leadership Excellence. All Toastmasters will be treated with dignity and respect.

CANDIDATE FOR 2010-2011 DIVISION M GOVERNOR  
TIM DEROSA, DTM  
*(Continued from page 3)*

in Evaluation (2009).

Throughout the years, one of my main regrets is my belief that most members rarely see what Toastmasters is beyond their

own club. As a new retiree, I plan to spend most of my newly free time as Division M governor supporting my Area Governors to be President's Distinguished, and to personally bring the bigger TM world to my Division's clubs.

CANDIDATE FOR 2010-2011 DIVISION N GOVERNOR  
TERRAN KALLAM, CC  
*(Continued from page 3)*

ers) will become. I want to encourage members of Division N and District 56 to . . . "Make A Positive Impact Today!"

To accomplish this goal and help Toastmasters touch the lives of others, I need your help. Vote for me on April 24, 2010, for Division N Governor. Help me help the members of Division N and District 56 **MAP IT!**

**IRS 990-N Deadline for U.S. Clubs due  
May 15, 2010**

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that any United States-based group failing to file an e-postcard lose its status as an official Toastmasters club. If you're located in the USA, protect your club.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information on the Toastmasters International.

CANDIDATE FOR 2010-2011 DIVISION O GOVERNOR  
LINDA PEAKE, DTM  
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As a member of Successfully Speaking Toastmasters for the past four years, I have held the office of VP of Membership and the role of President for two six-month terms, each. I am also the current Secretary for the Sunrise Club. During my time in the Toastmasters organization, I have been blessed to have received a few awards along the way. I achieved my Distinguished Toastmasters designation after completing the communication and the leadership goals, in September 2010.

Other awards received were as follows: Successfully Speaking Spirit Award, Susan Gormley Award, and Outstanding District

56 President for the time period between July 1 and December 31, 2008. I was the 2008/2009 Area O-13 Governor and at different times acted as Assistant to the Area O-12 and the Division O Governors. After holding these positions, official or unofficial, for the past several years, I am very aware of what is needed to be Division O Governor.

I look forward to being a very involved Division O Governor and making sure the excellence of Division O continues with emphasis on building membership within the clubs, achieving attendance at the TLIs for the club officers and continuing to work on the DCP goals for the clubs.

CANDIDATE FOR 2010-2011 DIVISION P GOVERNOR  
ERICA BERRY, ACB  
*(Continued from page 4)*

sion P Governor, I will continue to strive for Division excellence by hosting quality contests and Toastmasters Leadership Institute training sessions. I will also continue encouraging members to achieve DCP goals and to utilize all the great bene-

fits Toastmasters has to offer. Finally, as we walk through our DCP goals and aim for excellence, we must not forget that we did not build our success by ourselves, but that it is each member, officer, mentor, TLI instructor, and District Leader that continues to help us rise to new heights and soar as eagles. I look forward to continuing to learn and grow by serving as your Division P Governor.

CANDIDATE FOR 2010-2011 DIVISION Q GOVERNOR  
JO SIMPSON, ACB, ALB  
*(Continued from page 4)*

to learn, to grow and to serve in any way I can.

Division Q has an illustrious history of quality leadership, and with your vote it is my intention to carry that torch into the future. Please support my efforts to continue Division Q's tradition of achievement and excellence.

## You're Invited to the Toastmasters International Convention

For four days in August, nearly 2,000 leaders and speakers from around the world will meet in Palm Desert, Calif., to attend the 79th annual **Toastmasters International Convention**. More than 4 million people have honed their communication and leadership skills with the help of Toastmasters, and attending the Convention will offer you the same opportunity to improve your skills.

The schedule of activities includes education seminars, keynote speakers, networking opportunities and speech contests that culminate in crowning the Toastmasters World Champion of Public Speaking.

"This is going to be our biggest and best Convention yet," says Toastmasters International President Gary Schmidt. "We have some really impressive speakers and presenters. The educational programs are a perfect fit with Toastmasters' objective to help people improve both their professional and life skills."

### Highlights of the weeklong educational extravaganza:

- Ten education sessions on topics such as brand strategy, speaking persuasively and winning at work
- Two keynotes that will enlighten, entertain and inspire
- Nine semifinal speech contests with competitors from around the world

- The World Championship of Public Speaking

High-profile experts will lead the education sessions and deliver keynotes. Their programs center on communication and leadership, Toastmasters International's two signature educational programs. The presenters will offer tips and tools that everyone can benefit from, whether it's how to market your message more effectively, organize your time or be a better leader in the workplace.

The World Championship of Public Speaking is a showcase of dazzling performances, where contestants deliver speeches on wide-ranging topics and are judged on content, organization, gestures and style. The 2010 Championship boasts more competition than ever: For the first time in the event's 72-year history, semifinal speech contests will be held during the International Convention. The nine winners face off in the finals two days later.

Whether you're seeking to grow your career or enhance your communication with friends and family, the Toastmasters International Convention can help you get there. Come to Palm Desert this August and find out what everyone's talking about. Online registration is easy!

**Early-bird registration ends July 9, [register today!](#)**

## PROXY INFORMATION FOR BUSINESS MEETING



During the District 56 Spring Conference, a meeting of the District Council will take place. The District Council consists of the President and VP Education from each Toastmasters Club in the District as well as the members of the District Executive Committee led by the District 56 Governor. Attendance at the business meeting is open to all Toastmasters to at no charge; however, only those who are voting delegates may participate in the meeting. Only the District Council members (or their proxy holders) bring votes as delegates of this group. Each Toastmaster club gets two votes—one for the President and one for the VP Education. If either one of these club officers is unable to attend the business meeting, he may sign a proxy to allow another club member in good standing to attend in his or her place. Only

two club proxies may be carried by any Toastmaster and they MUST be a member of that club or clubs. If a person is the President of more than one Toastmasters club, he may still carry only two votes and should try to proxy any other votes to other members of the clubs who will attend the council meeting. If a person has the two proxies from two clubs (4 votes) and there is no one else at the Council meeting from those two clubs, he should bring in one vote from each club since the quorum is based on the number of clubs represented. Members of the District Executive Committee may not proxy their vote to someone. They must attend the Council meeting in person or their vote will be lost. Questions about proxies? Contact the Credentials Chairman, Eddie Merla.

Did you know that all Club Presidents and Club Vice Presidents Education must vote or present a proxy at the Fall Conference Business Meeting?

You may also visit the Document Center of the District 56 Website to download a copy of the 2010 Spring Conference Proxy Forms.

### Proxy

#### District 56 Toastmasters Business Meeting April 24, 2010

I hereby authorize

\_\_\_\_\_   
 A member in good standing of

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Toastmasters Club Number

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Club Name

To cast my vote at the District 56 Toastmasters business meeting in Houston, Texas on April 24, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_   
 **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 Club 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. **The signature of the club officer may NOT be reproduced. The signature must be an original signature.** A printed copy of an email from you designating a proxy is also permitted.

### Proxy

#### District 56 Toastmasters Business Meeting April 24, 2010

I hereby authorize

\_\_\_\_\_   
 A member in good standing of

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Toastmasters Club Number

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Club Name

To cast my vote at the District 56 Toastmasters business meeting in Houston, Texas on April 24, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_   
 **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 Club 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. **The signature of the club officer may NOT be reproduced. The signature must be an original signature.** A printed copy of an email from you designating a proxy is also permitted.

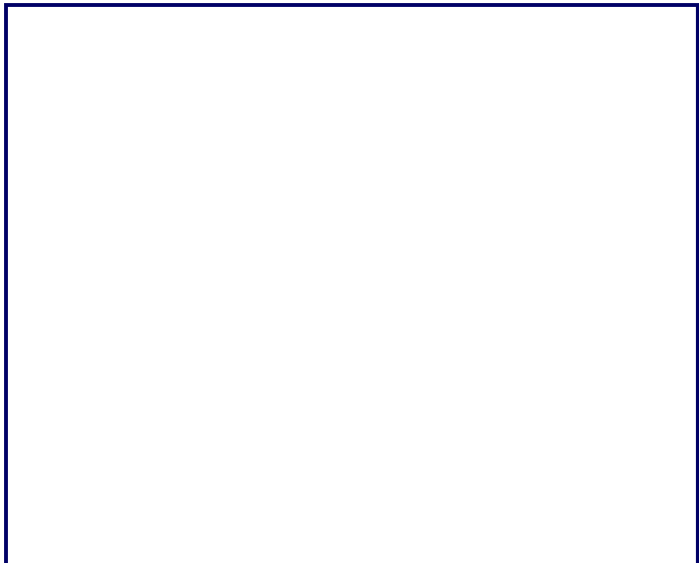


# Legacy Leadership

*From Speaker to Messenger*

## FORUM 56 NEWSLETTER

District 56 Toastmasters - FORUM 56  
P.O. Box 1515  
Conroe, TX 77305



**WE'RE ON THE WEB**  
[WWW.TOASTMASTERS-D56.ORG](http://WWW.TOASTMASTERS-D56.ORG)



### TOP THREE

**District Governor** .....Charlie Pitts, DTM  
Lt. Governor Education and Training .....Jan Poscovsky, DTM  
Lt. Governor Marketing .....Richard Ruchhoeft, DTM

### DISTRICT TEAM

Immediate Past District Governor .....Eddie Merla, DTM  
Public Relations Officer .....Jody White, DTM  
District Treasurer .....Mary B. George, CC  
District Secretary .....Diane Niño, DTM  
Parliamentarian .....Kevin Smith, DTM  
DTM Mentor .....Karen Blake, DTM  
Spring Conference Co-chair .....Hettie Allsup, DTM  
Spring Conference Co-chair .....Linda Migura, CC, ALS  
Sergeant-at-Arms .....Kyle Mitchan  
DCP Chair .....Aundrae Romeo, DTM  
District Chief Judge .....Nida Ellis, ATMS

### PRO TEAM

Webmaster.....Jessica Frost, ACB  
Chief Editor .....Sharon West, CC, CL

### CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE

Special Thanks to:  
Vicki Clakley, DTM-Editor

### The Mission of the District

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

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

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**Submit ideas, articles & photos to**  
**Sharon West**  
[newseditor@toastmasters-d56.org](mailto:newseditor@toastmasters-d56.org)