



The TORCH

Light the Way!

Inside this Issue

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| District 27 Governor's Message | 1 |
| Education & Training Messages | 2 |
| Marketing Messages | 3 |
| Toastimonials | 4 |
| Experience Toastmasters | 5 |
| Experience Toastmasters | 6 |
| Toastmasters in the Community | 7 |
| Fall Conference Highlights | 9 |

I extend the warmest Holiday Greetings to our almost 5,000 member strong District 27 (D27) family. Whether we call the near year's end celebrations Ramadan, Dewali, Hanukkah, Christmas, Navidad, Kwanzaa, or some other name, year's end is a season for exchanging kind words and gifts, for decorating with lights, for celebrating love and fellowship with family and friends, for contemplating where we have been and making plans for what is to come, and for just enjoying getting together to have fun.



District 27 Governor
Paul E. White, DTM

Davidson, Humorous Speech Champion from a newly chartered CACI club in Division A and Kristen McManus, Table Topics Champion from a veteran Division J club, Alexandria Treetop Speakers. Special thanks to the many volunteers who helped make our fall 2010 Conference – Go for the Gold – a success. Thanks to all of the members who have already earned education awards and to the clubs that have met membership and other Distinguished Club Program (DCP) goals.

Fall Conference Dates

May ##, 2011 @ 6:00pm (Fri)

TBD
TBD, VA

May ##, 2011 @ 8:00am (Sat)

TBD
TBD, VA

For more information on the Spring Conference, see page ##, or visit the Conference page on the District 27 website:

<http://www.d27tm.org/D27AdminDocs/D27Conference.aspx>

Please think about giving the gift of Toastmasters (TM) to someone who is not yet a member of the D27 TM family. Think about giving the gift of an education award to your club in the coming months. Think about assisting a member or your club in some small or large way. Think about visiting and perhaps even joining a D27 club or Advanced Club. If you are an officer, commit to being trained at the winter Training Leadership Institute (TLI) so that you can better serve your club members. Think about stepping up to a new officer position or if you are not yet an officer, decide to volunteer for service. Celebrate all of your individual and club accomplishments and commit to achieving individual and club success in 2011.

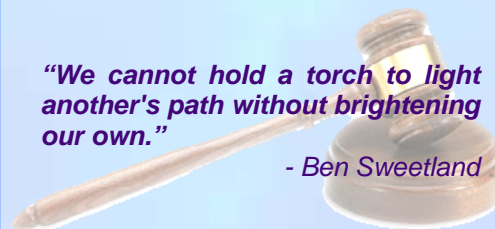
As District Governor, I extend my most sincere thanks and appreciation to all members of our District for extraordinary dedication to and love for the Toastmasters communication and leadership program. You have let your lights shine in many amazing ways over the first half of the year. Thanks to all who contributed to successful TLI and contest seasons.

From my view as District Governor, our first six months have been fabulous. We are on a success trajectory - on or above our historical trend lines on all key indicators. As we say in Toastmasters, there are always 'areas for improvement.' Look at the first half of the year as 'practice.' Now the real game begins and you have had significant experience. Use the lessons learned to make this half the best it can possibly be. My suggestions - let's focus additional attention and effort on membership issues - especially on low member clubs and on getting all of our clubs to pay. Our two Lieutenant Governor's of Marketing (LGMs) have this on their agenda. They have initiated an end-of-year program to remove non-functioning clubs from our portfolio and to institute membership building assistance activities to strengthen all clubs that are under charter strength.

Our two Lieutenant Governors of Education and Training (LGETs) are excited about the District's success in earning Advanced Communicator (AC) awards. They will be working with all of you to place additional attention and effort on Competent Communicator (CC) and Leadership award production. Our target should be to meet those critical education, club and membership targets in May. By doing so, we will be able to focus our June efforts to assure that the two new Districts - 27 and 29 - are fully prepared to begin their new year on July 1, 2011 in full success mode. This means beginning the new Toastmaster year with a full slate of trained officers, with the institutional processes and tools in place for a "fast" start and with club portfolios in place that are as strong as they can possibly be.

"We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own."

- Ben Sweetland



Congratulations to all contest participants and winners at all levels, including our District winners, George

(Continued on page 4)

Next Issue

Submission Deadline March 12
Publish Date March 26

Email submissions to:
d27newsletter@d27tm.org



LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS EDUCATION AND TRAINING



**East Lt. Governor
Education and Training
Bessie Johnson, DTM**

My fellow Toastmasters, now that we have completed the contest and conference frenzy; we can return our attention to the educational processes of the Toastmasters program. It is time to prepare for the second round of Officer Training. The winter session will run from December 1 to February 28. To quote the Toastmasters (policy & procedure) leadership manual – “Club officers must be trained by authorized district representatives in a live training session. While audiovisual aids may be used to enhance training, they may not be the sole method of training. Meaning: club officers who simply view a video tape that describes their responsibilities are not considered trained, even if the videotape was provided by a district officer.” To date we have several venues open for training and we look forward to having a successful session with every officer in every club trained by February 28, 2011.

TLI Dates for the Winter Session

Saturday, January 15, 2011

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Saturday, January 22, 2011

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Division I Sponsored at Verizon Campus

Division B Sponsored to be held at NRECA

District Sponsored/Fairfax County Government Center

Division A Sponsored at the BNA - Crystal City Metro Station

Sunday, January 30, 2011

Sunday, February 2, 2011

Saturday, February 26, 2011

Saturday, February 19, 2011

District 36 Sponsored Coaches Training at Holy Cross Church

Division F Sponsored at the John Barton Payne Building (rescheduled from 1/29/10)

District Sponsored at the Fairlington Community Center

Division G Sponsored at South County Government Center

Along with the winter training session, I'd like to remind you to work on your personal educational goals. I have promised to reward educational goals with Kisses, Hugs, and Cookies (KHC). So, if you are interested, speak with your Area Governor, Division Governor, and/or mentor to sign a pledge card indicating when I should expect to shower you and celebrate your achievement! There will be cards available at as many of the training sessions as possible. Please fill one out. Make the commitment, and return it to your Area, and/or Division Governors, so that we can help you to monitor your progress, and give you the encouragement to keep you on track to achieving your next educational goal. When you do, there will be a KHC waiting for you!



**West Lt. Governor
Education and Training
Shu Bartholomew, DTM**

Incredible as it seems, we are half way through this historic Toastmaster year already. The last six months seem to have flown by in a whirl of activity as we went through everything once. We started off with Training Leadership Institute (TLI) training, followed by club, Area and Division contests that culminated in the District Conference at Ft Belvoir. It was a picture perfect day with breathtaking views overlooking the Potomac. Our featured speakers included our newest World Champion of Public Speaking, David Henderson, as well as presenters Sam Horn, Michelle James and Annelie Weber. What an amazing and inspirational line up.

We started off our year with TLIs, but we didn't quite reach our goal of getting all 7 officers trained in all our clubs, so there is still room for improvement in this next go-around. As we start our second round of training, I hope you will mark your calendars and come out to a TLI near you. We will have more electives in addition to core training, so there are lots of opportunities to get trained, network, meet other Toastmasters and have fun. While officers are required to get trained, all Toastmasters are invited to attend.

Last summer, 36 clubs earned a Golden Toaster ribbon for having all 7 officers trained. We also had 36 clubs with 6 officers trained – just one more officer would have earned your club a Golden Toaster ribbon. Oh, so very close. Let's do it this time.

And speaking of goals, Toastmasters International tracks how well we do by setting goals for us to achieve. These goals are also known as the Distinguished Club Program, the DCP. Just as clubs have 10 goals to meet in order to become Distinguished, Districts also have goals. Toastmasters has a goal for the number of Competent Communicator (CC) and Advanced Communicator (AC) awards we, as a District, have to earn. This year, in order to be a Distinguished District, we need to earn 318 CCs. As I write this, we have 98 CCs and that means we need another 220 to reach our goal. I KNOW we can do it. We are also required to earn 91 ACs; we currently have 63.

Six years ago, Toastmasters started keeping track of clubs that have earned all 10 DCP goals and only 68 clubs, world wide, have earned 10 for 10 for the last 6 consecutive years. Three of those clubs happen to be in District 27 – they are Lake Ridge, GUTS and Bennie Bough. Way to go!

LIUTENANT GOVERNORS MARKETING

The (Marketing) Sun Also Rises in the East

A club at Deloitte in Rosslyn, one at RGS in Crystal City, possibly another at Deloitte for their WIN (Women's Initiative) group, interest at BAE, and within Parsons at 100 M, prospects, prospects, prospects... and that does not even count those prospects in the far reaches of "E" or downtown in "C" and "D"... our chances of building new clubs are strong and stronger still with your inputs Division and Area Governors. Mo and I have already chartered 9 clubs this Toastmaster year and have our sights set high to finish the year with 20 or more new clubs.

However, we have a problem, and it is NOT small. The District has over 20 clubs that have not yet paid their OCTOBER renewals. There are two-dozen [WBM] District clubs that have paid, but are under 13 members and in need of coaches! What to do? What to do? This is a District-wide issue, not just one of the East or of the West. Remember also that in June it will be District 27 that either is or is not a Distinguished District.

We know that some of the non-paying clubs have completely folded, often with nobody left to even sign a surrender of charter letter. Those clubs will drop from our roles in April when they fail to pay dues for the second time, but we are actively trying to identify these clubs now so that we know how deep a hole their departure will dig. Division and Area Governors are reaching out in every way possible to get the viable but delinquent clubs to pay their October dues.

To address the need for coaches, we have two approaches: (1) Schedule another sponsor-mentor-coach class, in the East this time, within the current TLI season; (2) Solicit help from our ALS candidates and our DTMs, even if they don't need ALS credit for coaching. We already have some of our stalwart helpers in the field coaching, but we clearly need more volunteers. Email Mo or myself if YOU can coach.

Member retention (no, make that member GROWTH) simply HAS to be our #1 priority, because if we charter 25 new clubs, but see 22 drop out, we will fail to meet our goal of being Distinguished as a District. Yes, please keep those leads and potential new clubs flooding in to Mo and myself, but go to work in your own club(s) to ensure members are happy, meeting their individual goals and progressing in the program.



**East Lt. Governor
Marketing
Bill Malthouse, DTM**

Now is the time

As we begin to turn the corner towards the second half of our Toastmasters year, I must take time to reflect. Reflection allows each individual an opportunity to pause.... and take a Mo'Mint (1) To evaluate how well we did, (2) Look at areas we still need to work on, and (3) To revise a plan of action.

How did we do?

Overall we are doing very well. Several clubs are thriving with memberships above 30! (1) The District has achieved 28 Smedley awards! (2) Several members are paying dues! (3) Members are helping members! (4) Area Governors have visited their various clubs! (5) Awards from the Marketing team have been presented to those individuals who have worked towards improving club membership! (6) And nine clubs have been chartered with seven pending in the West!

Areas that still need improvement

There are many areas in which we can work on beginning today.... to make a difference tomorrow. (1) Improve Club quality (2) Remember to put the member first (3) Keep a positive attitude (4) Become a Mentor or Coach (5) Encourage members to achieve their goals (6) Seek innovation to revive membership.

Revise a Plan of Action!

Okay, now that we have areas to celebrate and work on...it is now time to put a plan into action! Currently, we have several clubs at 12 or below.... that is not good. Our intention is not only to build, but also to maintain the clubs we have. The time is now to get geared up and rebuild the membership in our distressed clubs. You should know that I am currently working with several Area and Division Governors to proactively provide assistance and resources. Consider the incentives we have to offer to help clubs rebuild. For example did you know in December we are hosting a "New Year's Eve Countdown Contest?" Planning a great meeting in advance can really pay off and make a huge difference in your membership! For now, please enjoy the holidays, take a Mo'Mint and...REFLECT!



**West Lt. Governor
Marketing
Mo Hamilton, DTM**





...DISTRICT GOVERNOR MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

(Continued from page 1)

That is a lot to do in the six months remaining in our tenure. Our District, Lt. Governor and our Division and Area Governor teams are superb, as are our club officer teams. Our membership is vibrant and hard working. We are definitely up to the tasks that face us. However, it will take unwavering focus and concentration to be successful on both goals. Having a Core Four-focus on CCs, ACs, members and new clubs will take our unified District 27 to distinguished status. Having a forward-looking concentration on what is needed to launch two successful Districts and working to put those structures in place will assure that the two new Districts begin their year on a solid footing. We should work "smart." We also should have fun as we address these priorities. We achieve more and learn best in moments of enjoyment.

Now is the time to celebrate our first six months of achievements. At the same time, we can't dilly-dally too long on our successes. For that reason, we are preparing for a fast start in 2011 by having our

first officer training program on December 18th. Mid-year Area and Division Governor training will take place on the same day. As this year draws to a close, on behalf of our District Leadership Team, I wish every member of our District the very best Holiday Season ever. Congratulations on your many accomplishments.

Let's LET IT SHINE even brighter as we take the actions that will propel us to a successful conclusion to our tenure. At the end of June 2011, the era of District 27 as the 10th largest District in the Toastmasters world will come to an end. We will celebrate its legacy of success and also celebrate the bright new beginning of two new Districts at the Spring Conference in May. We are truly living and participating in historic times.

My Christmas wish for you:

May all that is holy, fill your heart
May all that is noble, fill your mind
May all that is possible,
spur you on to new heights in the coming year.

TOASTIMONIALS

The Season of Inspiration

Courtesy of Dr. Dilip Abayasekara, Past International President

Christmas! Hanukkah! Kwanzaa! Of all the seasons of the year, this is the season of inspiration. If we can tear ourselves away from the business of the day to day rush ... be quiet ...and listen to the voice of divinity within, we will find Inspiration. As a speaker, how do you speak inspirationally? Here are eight tips that can help you convey the magic of inspiration.

1. The Road to Inspiration Goes through the Heart

Let your heart dwell on and be soaked in inspiration and then reach out to touch other's hearts. Inspiration is not about facts and figures; it's about awakening dreams and possibilities within.

2. Hone in on the Yearnings that are Common to Your Listeners

When you articulate for your listeners that which is so very important to them, but they themselves may not have been able to put into words, you will capture and command their undivided attention.

3. Appeal to the Highest Values of Your Listeners

Skip the mundane and go to the things that express what your listeners hold dear to their hearts. Don't sell tires; sell safety to the family that rides on those tires. Don't push your values, appeal to the highest values you and your audience cherish.

4. Eloquence Sparks Inspiration

Use language that awakens your audience's imagination. Words that create images in the mind and feelings in the heart will carry your audience members with you in a tidal wave towards the shores of their dreams.

5. Speak to Your Listeners Not as They are, but as They Could Be

Help the listeners to see themselves as they could be, far beyond any limiting realities of their present struggles. Remind the listeners of their high calling and challenge them to claim their birthright by rising to live at a higher level.

6. Be on Fire with Enthusiasm for your Audience and Your Message

This is the two-prong enthusiasm requirement for great inspirational speaking. If you are not excited, your audience will not get excited. The glint in your eyes and the passion in your voice will connect with your audience and invite them to light their own fires.

7. Connect the Audience with Great Themes

Your speech becomes inspirational when it touches on great themes that cause the listeners to feel deeply and emotionally move toward greatness.

8. Leave the Audience on a High

The conclusion of your speech is your final opportunity to make an impact on your audience. If your intent is to inspire them, then the ending must lift them up and place them on a mountain top of feelings and imagination!

If you would like more details about the above points and would like to see how great inspirational speakers have used the above concepts in their speeches, visit http://www.dr dilip.com/articles/8_principles_inspirational.pdf

EXPERIENCED TOASTMASTERS

There Are Two Kinds of People in This World

By John Lesko, DTM, IPDG

While sitting with a few friends and relatives over the holiday season – watching football, playing board games and simply enjoying the ‘table topics’ shared over an extra slice of pumpkin pie – one of the in-laws asked me to explain what it was like to be a member of a Toastmasters Club. This question took me by surprise. I thought that I’d told everyone in my extended family about the joys of being a Toastmaster. Members of my immediate family quickly came up with reasons to excuse themselves from the table. Surprisingly, my brother-in-law and three other relatives remained, hoping to be entertained.

And so I began ... “It’s said that there are two kinds of people in the world today; those that sort the people in this world into two lots and those who don’t. Or said another way, there are those who are Toastmasters and those who will one day, eventually become a Toastmaster.” Well this attempt at humor served as my opening. And I found myself then quickly organizing my thoughts into three main points for the ‘body’ of this extemporaneous marketing speech. I wasn’t worried about a strong conclusion just yet for there weren’t any lights or stopwatches in my field of view. But as luck would have it, my audience was full of ‘hecklers.’ And they had questions:

Q: “Are all clubs alike?”

A: “There are two basic types of clubs in Toastmasters – community clubs and corporate clubs. Both need 20 members to get started. Clubs meet in community centers, churches, corporate meeting rooms, before work, over lunch, and after hours. In fact, it’s been said that wherever three or more Toastmasters are gathered in Dr. Ralph Smedley’s name there could be a meeting held, speeches given, and feedback shared.”

Q: “Do members in corporate clubs only speak about business?”

A: “No. Many times a member in a corporate club will talk about their family or an outside interest. And I’ve been to a few community clubs where the speeches were about

business because that particularly business man wanted to practice his sales pitch in front of friends before he was in front of his clients.”

Q: “How do people come up with ideas on what to speak about?”

A: “Well, there are two manuals which every member receives when they join Toastmasters. One manual consists of ten speech projects and once completed leads to a member earning the Competent Communicator Award. The other manual has ten chapters in it and once completed results in a member becoming a Competent Leader. There’s enough general guidance in these manuals for folks to think up a topic upon which to speak.”

Q: “That’s it? Complete two manuals and folks consider you to be competent?”

A: “Yes, but that’s just the beginning ...”

You get the idea. I started off working on a speech to inform and quickly found myself working (unofficially) from the ‘Facilitating Discussion’ advanced manual. We were in the middle of a buzz session and I was the moderator of panelists with dozens of questions.

So what’s the point? Well, throughout this holiday season I encourage you to talk about your Toastmasters experience with family members, old friends and new, neighbors, distant relatives, and even with strangers. Use your time between sips of eggnog or while at the annual corporate office party to share a few Toastmasters-related stories and anecdotes with your colleagues. Practice your ‘table topic’ skills and invite your ‘audience members’ to visit your club or help them find a club that’s a ‘good fit’ and convenient to them.

For after all ... there are two kinds of people in the world: those that are trapped talking about the traffic or the gloomy winter weather and those who enthusiastically speak about the gift of Toastmasters. Let it shine!



SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Join Us!

For information
please email:

Ken Kraft
leadership1st@yahoo.com





EXPERIENCED TOASTMASTERS

On Riddles, Puzzles, Patterns, and Statistics

By John Lesko, DTM, IPDG

Hmmm ... What do Italian land ownership at the turn of the 20th Century, membership statistics, holiday gifts sales, and Toastmaster club performance have in common? If you're interested in riddles, puzzles, patterns, and statistics read on. For those who enjoy problem-solving or looking at things in a new way, consider the following:

- The vast majority of clubs in District 27 today (roughly 80%) are corporate-sponsored clubs. In this category of clubs are also clubs sponsored by federal and local governmental agencies. The remainder of the district's clubs (approximately 17 to 20%) is comprised of community-based clubs. We have a fist full of so-called specialty or advanced clubs (< 3%).
- Most of our corporate clubs meet sometime during the business day. They usually meet over the lunch hour and many meet two times per month.
- Our community clubs tend to meet in the morning or the evening. They typically meet over a 90 to 120 minute time period. Many of these community clubs meet on a weekly basis.
- There are advantages and disadvantages, pros and cons, and/or pluses and minuses to being a member in each type club. It is not the intention here to laud the accomplishments of one type of club more so than the other. Some say that we have clubs of all flavors and that each individual should find one that they prefer which is convenient to their schedule and lifestyle. Bottom line: shop around for the 'best buy' -- not the big box store by the same name, but look for where your membership dues will purchase the best value. Usually this will be a local venue close to where you live or work.
- When you examine which clubs tend to meet or exceed the goals set forth in the Distinguished Club Program, you'll see that time and again our community clubs (on average) out-perform our corporate-sponsored clubs. In fact, Toastmasters International has identified 68 clubs, which year after year score a 'perfect' ten for ten in the DCP to become President's Distinguished clubs for six or more years in a row. Within this district, we have three of these 'Super 68' -- Lake Ridge, G.U.T.S., and Bennie Bough.

The **Pareto principle** (also known as the **80-20 rule**) truly applies to the district. This principle or law states that, for many events, roughly 80% of the effects come from 20% of the causes. Others say that 80% of the work is done by the most productive or creative 20% of the firm. A 'rain-maker' will account for money to disproportionately fall from the sky. Rain-makers are a part of the most productive 20%. A mentor of mine once suggested that within a club of 20 members you needed to have 20% attend club officer training or Toastmasters Leadership Institute. Hmmm ... That would equate to 4 of 7 officers trained. Coincidence, I think not.

So who is this fellow named Pareto? Italian economist Vilfredo Pareto observed in 1906 that 80% of the land in Italy was owned by 20% of the population. In business today a common 'rule of thumb' suggests that "80% of your sales come from 20% of your clients." This may be a stretch, but some this season may find that 80% of their excitement is likely to come from less than 20% of the total time spent exchanging gifts and/or sharing a meal with family or friends. There's a moment of truth for you. So what's the point? Allow for me to suggest three key questions and a few sample answers for all

to contemplate:

1. **What habits, patterns, and/or practices might our corporate clubs 'borrow' from our most successful community clubs to better leverage their productivity?** Members of the district's corporate think tank have suggested that Toastmasters belonging to a corporate club visit one of the

The District's Alignment and Re-Formation Committee seeks volunteers. Toastmasters with skills in map-making, demographics, statistical analysis, and/or conducting web-based teleconferencing are particularly welcome since much of our work will be conducted via teleconference, blog discussions, social networks, and other web-based tools.

We are looking for at least one representative from each of our current divisions. This committee will examine intra-district boundaries and the optimum distribution of clubs and areas so as to best serve our members. It is likely that the areas and divisions could be re-numbered as two re-formed districts result from the council's business meeting. Interested parties should e-mail John Lesko, DTM at IPDG11@d27tm.org.

'Super 68' and call this 'market research.'

2. **What case studies, examples from business, and/or lessons learned might we use to tailor the core training plans developed by Toastmasters International WHOs to better suit our corporate and organizationally-sponsored clubs?** Ideas from think tank members include advertising your club's meeting time and place thru corporate e-mail, screen savers, and via flyers posted near the coffee pot or lunch room. Develop a 'business speechcraft' program and offer this as a class sponsored by your corporate university or professional development office. Publicize each and every example of when a Toastmaster is selected for promotion and/or selected to present a paper or talk at professional societies or trade associations.
3. **Can we apply the 80-20 rule to other areas of Toastmasters?** You betcha -- but I'm bumming up against my limit for word count.

And if you'd like to join the District 27 "corporate think tank" please contact the author at IPDG11@d27tm.org and Let It Shine!

TOASTMASTERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Huntingtown High School TEAM Care Member Don't Say UM!

By First Last

Huntingtown High School TEAM Care members have been meeting weekly to learn about public speaking and the importance of feeling confident when speaking in front of a group.

Members Heather and Logan Myers, Amanda, Edward, Jacqueline and Jacob Bowen have learned from the ground up about how to give speeches. They have been learning how to outline their speeches to have a proper beginning, middle and closing, in addition to improving grammar and audience interest. Members have been holding weekly practice under the guidance of mentors Pam Myers and Mary Bowen, both of whom are members of Calvert County Toastmasters. Each week they have been focusing on practicing their timed speeches, learning leadership skills by coaching other members, improving time management, and understanding the importance of table topics, which is a fun format used in Toastmasters to practice impromptu speaking. Toastmasters International has created an entire youth program to help prepare youth in the critical life skills of public speaking and leadership. The program helps youth overcome the number one fear that people have -- speaking in public. At the end of the six-week program, Calvert County Toastmasters member Su Crutchfield evaluated the children.

Ms. Crutchfield is owner of a business called Wild Lily Design. She became a member of Toastmasters to improve her speaking skills when promoting her business. She has found Toastmasters to be just what she needed. She shared her story with the TEAM Care members about why she joined Toastmasters, to impress upon the children that public speaking is a common fear that can be overcome with effective coaching. Ms. Crutchfield was most impressed with the children being so poised, confident and professional about giving their speech. In her closing remark to the members, she told them to continue learning and to impress their teachers with their newfound skill.

Calvert County Toastmasters meets the first and third Thursday of each month at the Calvert Library at 11:30. To learn more about all the youth activities TEAM Care provides and how to get your child involved in the next youth Toastmasters mentoring program please contact Huntingtown High School TEAM Care school sponsor Mary Bowen at 301-855-4920.

TOASTMASTERS IN THE COMMUNITY

A Coffee Mug Well Worth It

By Kasey Heintz, Area H3 Governor

How are you recognizing your club members' achievements? I thought once more about this important question upon leaving a celebration at Vienna Toastmaster's club in Vienna, VA recently because I was very impressed. Toastmasters starts and ends with members. And the meeting I attended was a special celebration for one acclaimed member who was recognized for giving his 10th speech to obtain his Competent Communicator award.

Upon meeting Matt Brooker for the first time, I found him to be an amazing individual who shared with us a truly heartfelt and inspirational speech. Matt awoke everyone in the audience as he shared his experience of waking from a coma after four months. He enlightened us about traumatic brain injury by sharing that the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that 1.4 million individuals each year are victims, but he also shared his personal story about being one of these victims. Without going into detail, Matt was attacked by a group of individuals when he was a freshman at the University of Virginia many years ago and he now suffers from short-term memory loss and is disabled. He encouraged those in the room to not only support brain-trauma related research organizations, but without actually making it a part of his speech, I know through his example, he was also encouraging all in the room to push toward our own goals.

This meeting was special for many reasons. Not only was Matt's achievement honorable, but as I mentioned, the Vienna Toastmaster club sharply caught my attention. It was clear that there had been thorough planning for this event when I received the Email invitation. Because I was on the Email list, I was also copied on many of the club members' responses. Let me tell you -- I have not yet seen so much excitement and participation from club members; it was so refreshing! The club also took the time to invite the friends and family of Matt. They even called up previous Toastmasters who knew him from the past. THE ROOM WAS PACKED! The meeting was polished. One older fellow actually stood up during the meeting to congratulate the club because he was impressed by the meeting and with what the club had become.

I simply thought it was wonderful that Vienna Toastmasters took the time to recognize Matt for his awesome achievement. They presented him with a medallion and a Toastmaster coffee mug because in a previous speech he spoke of his love of coffee. I will remember his smile and hope that we as Toastmasters can continue to bring such smiles to the remainder of our members as we celebrate their accomplishments!





**Election
Time!**

Are you interested in nominating yourself or someone else for an elected district officer position –

District Governor 27 (east) and 29 (west); Lt. Governor Education & Training Districts 27 and 29; Lt. Governor Marketing Districts 27 and 29; and Division Governors for Districts 27 and 29?

If so, a [nomination form](#) and short position descriptions can be found on the District website at: <http://d27tm.bravocq.com/nominations2010/default.aspx>.

On the website you will be asked to fill out a short form with information on the person that you are nominating, including their Toastmaster educational achievements, address, telephone number and club affiliation.

You may nominate yourself, and do so for more than one position if you want. You may nominate others and you may nominate an individual for more than one position. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for more than one position, simply complete [nomination forms](#) for each individual and/or for each position.

To be nominated or elected, a person must be:

- A member in good standing of a Toastmasters club in good standing
- Meet the qualifications of the position
- Consent to being nominated



FALL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS (NOV 12-13)





District 27
Toastmasters on TV!

Mastering
Business
Communication



Available from:
The Official MBC Website at
<http://www.igroops.com/members/tmtv>

Rebecca Bustamante
Executive Producer
rebecca1@cox.net

DISTRICT 27 NEWSLETTER TEAM

Editor-in-Chief
Kasey Heintz, TM

Editor
Alesha Carter, TM

Editor
Jaime Ellis, TM

Layout Editor
Gretchen Schutte, TM

All articles are copyrighted by their respective authors, unless no author is attributed. District 27 retains the final copyright if not attributed to an author. For permission to re-use any content, please contact:

D27Newsletter@gmail.com

The names: "Toastmasters International," "Toastmasters," and the Toastmasters International emblem are trademarks protected in the United States, Canada, and other countries where Toastmasters Clubs exist. Unauthorized use is prohibited.



<http://bit.ly/lctLE>



<http://bit.ly/dqyiZI>



Track "#d27tm"
<http://bit.ly/W9aMD>

Connect with us!

District 27 Toastmasters can find information and connect with one another at social sites besides your web page (<http://d27tm.org>) and blog (<http://blog.d27tm.org>).

If you use one of these services, why not drop by and add to the conversation? You can find more district sites listed at:

<http://bitly/dbVWiQ>

If you know a site we should add, let us know.



Next Issue

Spring

submissions due by
March 12th

The District 27 Toastmasters Newsletter is produced by and for members of the District.

The Newsletter Team welcomes your contributions. Please submit your article, photos, or any questions to the editor.

D27Newsletter@gmail.com