



Palmetto Toastmaster



June/July 2009



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District 58 Mission

The mission of District 58 is to enhance the performance and extend the network 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 and membership goals, by insuring that each club effectively fulfills its responsibilities to its members, and by providing effective training and leadership opportunities for club and district officers.

“Butterfly Moments” flutters its way into a win



For the fourth time in five years District 58 will be representing Region VIII at the International Speech Contest! Chakisse Newton, of Saturday AM (Club 7735), will be competing August 12-15 at the 2009 International Convention in Mashantucket, Connecticut.

Chakisse’s speech, based on the philosophical question, “if a butterfly flutters in Africa in the spring, will it create a hurricane in Florida come fall”, detailed the moments in her life that had far reaching implications.

For more information visit the Toastmasters International Convention website at: <http://www.toastmasters.org/Members/MemberExperience/Conferences/Convention/2009Convention.aspx>

Congratulations!
Chakisse Newton - Division B - Area 21 - Saturday AM (Club 7735)

From the Desk of the District Governor



Happy Toastmasters New year! It’s the middle of July and things are hopping around the district! We’ve trained most of the Area and Division Governors, we’ve had the Summer TLI, folks are planning their contests, and we’re getting things rolling on the Fall Conference. What an exciting time of the year this is! As many of us start new speech manuals, new High Performance Leadership projects, and look to help out struggling Clubs, our District looks to new horizons. We’re looking for ways to reconnect with our Clubs, but more importantly with our Members.

Now’s the time for a new beginning! Now’s the time to reaffirm why you and your other Members joined Toastmasters. We want to remind folks of the value of their Toastmasters dollar. But it’s only useful if your Club is providing each and every Member with the full benefits of what Toastmasters offers. I’ve been telling our new Area and Division Governors, if you need help, ASK! And now I’ll tell you, if your Club needs help, ASK! That’s why we’re here. Your Area, Division and Top Three Leaders all work to serve you...the Member. And you, the Members, are the link to our District. And for our Members, the District is:

The Link to your Future and to the World!

Lamanda Gaskins, DTM

Palmetto Toastmaster

The Newsletter for
District 58

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If you have information
you would like to submit
to the newsletter
email the
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**D58PRO@toastmasters-
d58.org**

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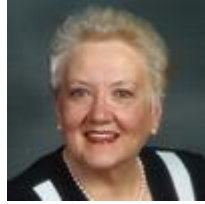
Victor Gascon, AC-S

Other Resources:

TI Website
www.toastmasters.org

District 58 Website
www.toastmasters-d58.org

From the Immediate Past District Governor



I am sure you have all heard the quote *“Shoot for the Moon, if you don’t make it at least you’ll land among the stars”*.

Well, fellow Toastmasters, we did just that. Through your hard work we achieved and surpassed many of our goals, but did not make it to Distinguished District.

The Goal for Competent Communicators was 148, we achieved 201!

The Goal for Advanced Communicators was 42, we achieved 99!

We chartered 7 New Clubs this year, that’s great!

Unfortunately we lost 13. So we missed our goal. I feel that the biggest reason was the downturn in the economy.

114 Toastmasters achieved Leadership goals

11 received Toastmaster’s highest achievement Distinguished Toastmaster.

We had 7 Distinguished Areas, 5 Select Distinguished Areas, and 1 President’s Distinguished Area. We also had one Distinguished Division and two Select Distinguished Divisions.

It was a privilege to work with a great team of District Leaders and I will always appreciate the opportunity you gave me to be your District Governor.

The New Year has started, the slate’s wiped clean. My sincere best wishes to the new leadership team. I will work with you to make the 2009-2010 year a successful one.

Patricia C. Gann, DTM

From the Lt. Governor of Education and Training



It is a new Toastmaster’s year. Every district, division, club, area and member has the opportunity for a fresh start. It is time to set new goals and decide what you would like to accomplish this membership year. If you did not reach the goals you set for yourself last year, now is the time to revise your timeline to accomplish your goal this year.

Perhaps your eyes are on a CC, AC, CL, AL or the much coveted DTM. You can make it happen!

Perhaps your goal is to become more involved outside of your club. District 58 sponsors additional training opportunities including Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) and conferences. We hope to see you during our summer and winter TLIs. You will not want to miss our Fall Conference because we will be visited by the newly elected International President. Look for registration specifics during the month of August.

Your personal goal might be to improve your delivery of a humorous speech or an effective evaluation. Did you know the best way to improve in the shortest period of time is to compete? Consider entering your club contest, you might end up on the stage in Spartanburg this fall. If you decide you are not quite ready to compete; go and observe. Watch and learn. Contests are where you see our best at their best. Don’t miss an exciting opportunity to pick up some new tricks. I am looking forward to a fabulous year of education and training.

Vida A. Jennings, DTM

DISTRICT 58 OFFICERS

DISTRICT 58 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Lamanda Gaskins, DTM
District 58 Governor

Vida Jennings, DTM
Lt. Governor of Education

Subbi P. Mathur, DTM
Lt. Governor of Marketing

Patricia C. Gann, DTM
Immediate Past District
Governor

Amber D. Goodman, TM
Public Relations Officer

Chuck Arnold
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Patricia C. Gann, DTM
Treasurer

Ralph Hightower
Sergeant-At-Arms

Karen Basso, DTM
Speaker's Bureau
Coordinator

Victor Gascon AC-S
District Webmaster

Patricia Hill, DTM
Parliamentarian

DISTRICT 58 DIVISION AND AREA GOVERNORS

Division A Governor
Phillip Woody

Area 11 Governor
John Kauth

Area 12 Governor
Taft Navarro

Area 13 Governor
Sharon Arnold

Area 14 Governor
Karen Mott

From the Lt. Governor of Marketing



It is promising to be a great year! Last year, I enjoyed working with all of you as the Public Relations Officer. I developed many lasting friendships and made contacts throughout the State of S.C. that warm my heart as I think about them. For these friendships, contacts, and caring counsel, I thank all of you. Keep giving your feedback to Amber Goodman, the new PRO, just as you have done for me.

I am now looking forward to working with you as your LGM. **Preservation, Persistence and Preparation.** Let us do it! Our Mantra will be **"No Club left behind"** and **"One new club per Area"**! Can we do it? Yes, we can! Together, we shall get the District 58 to be the best District in the whole wide world! I believe in communication. Let us keep the communication going so that our District grows and each one of us grows in our leadership ability. Rev it up, fellow Toastmasters! Big Hugs to all of you! I look forward to serving all of you as the LGM. Let us link together and have fun networking!

Subbi P. Mathur, DTM

Club Coaching: A Vital Link to our District Future!

The Growth of a toastmasters club is akin to the bell-curve. After a few years, the founding members are content. Guests are greeted, but never incorporated into the club. The club becomes social, the members become autocratic, and it begins its slow demise. Club Coach to the rescue!

A club coach is a Toastmaster who is not a member of the club and not (yet) familiar with the club or its members. This allows the coach to objectively view the club. The coach is a counselor, a source of knowledge and a fountain of ideas. As a coach one will need all of one's speaking, thinking and listening skills – as well as determination and patience. To be successful, one must build a rapport with the club leadership and members and instill enthusiasm and a sense of responsibility.

Club Coach Program Requirements: Up to two club coaches can be appointed by the district governor/LGM to assist a club that is experiencing difficulties building and maintaining membership (12 or less). The coach may not be a member of the club at the time of appointment, but may join the club after being assigned. A successful coach receives credit toward the Advanced Leader award.

Values of a Club Coach: A club coach should possess a good sense of organization, be passionate and energized. A coach should have creative thinking and problem solving skills. They should have the ability to empower others through an authentic enthusiasm and impart a sense of responsibility for the club's future. As a club coach one should avoid being dictatorial, telling club officers and members what to do, and taking over the club. Don't be negative and point out everything the club is doing wrong.

Building a Club Rescue Program: Discussion between the area governor, club officers, and the club coach is critical. Discussions should entail the club's strengths and weaknesses, formulation of an action plan, and the set up of a continuous review of progress. The club coach should continue to be an active, participating member of the rescue program, in fact, all team members must support the rebuilding effort for the program to be a success.

Action Plan for the Club Coach: There should be a statement of goals or an action plan which, at a minimum, will pinpoint the levels of growth and set a timetable for actions and programs. The plan should also establish the relationship between the club officers and the club coach.

Club's New Climate: Periodically, the club coach should re-evaluate the club using the Club Coach Troubleshooting Guide. Compare these re-evaluations to the original evaluation, and note improvements and the areas that require work.

For questions about club coaching more information is available at:
www.toastmasters.org

Subbi P. Mathur, DTM

Division B Governor
Tracy Dobson

Area 21 Governor
Sparkle Graham

Area 22 Governor
Ray Schnell

Area 23 Governor
OPEN

Area 24 Governor
OPEN

Division C Governor
Fred Medina

Area 31 Governor
OPEN

Area 32 Governor
Open

Area 33 Governor
Margaret Woodson

Area 34 Governor
Minnie Thomas

Area 35 Governor
Victor Gascon

Area 36 Governor
Carla Uter

Division D Governor
John Maloney

Area 41 Governor
Heidi McConnell

Area 42 Governor
Joy Couvillion

Area 43 Governor
OPEN

Area 44 Governor
Jackie Whaley

Area 45 Governor
Tony Stutes

Division E Governor
Linda Hill

Area 51 Governor
Charlie Crescenzi

Area 52 Governor
Nasir Ali Qureshi

Area 53 Governor
Jacqueline Malone

Division F Governor
Patricia Buckley

Area 61 Governor
Peggy Bangle

Area 62 Governor
Michael Ward

Area 63 Governor
Sudie Archibald

The Link to Your Club

Toastmasters is one of the most valuable tools I have in my toolbox. Toastmasters, and more importantly my local club, have taught me to organize my thoughts, prepare a speech, and deliver effective communication. Because my club has been such an important part of my life, the members of my club are important to me. Every time I attend my club meetings I hear 5-7 minutes about my fellow members. Whether they realize it or not, they are inviting me in to listen to a piece of their life. In turn, when I speak, I reciprocate with 5-7 minutes of what is important in my life. This builds a bond, a link if you will, between the members of my club and me.

Even with those short glimpses into my fellow club members' lives what I truly value is the time we spend off the Toastmasters grid. The discussions that take place while setting up, the conversations we have while walking to our cars, and the glimpses they allow me into their respective lives are what bring me closer together with them. It is these moments that I spend with my fellow Toastmasters that link us, for the span of a meeting, into a cohesive unit allowing us to learn from one another.

I love Toastmasters. I enjoy public speaking and Toastmasters both hones my talent and improves my skills. But the link that keeps me coming back isn't the Toastmasters club, it's my fellow Toastmasters.

Amber D. Goodman, TM

Club Considerations

Some clubs don't do well. Besides a club coach (see the article Club Coaching: It's a Do!) there are other considerations the club can look at to make positive changes.

There are physical considerations to evaluate: Specifically the meeting time, place and location. Does the club meet downtown in the late evening? In the morning in a bedroom community? Is the building easily accessible? Is the parking lot well lit? Are there too many steps to allow ease of access? Does the club meet in a "bad" neighborhood? Is the neighborhood too noisy? Often changing the meeting time, place and/or location can have a positive impact on the club's rebuilding efforts.

At a successful club meeting the club officers are responsible, dedicated, and effective. Club meetings always begin and end on time. Club programs are well planned and expertly executed. Meeting participants arrive on time and are prepared. Members and guests alike are greeted as they arrive and feel welcome. Meetings are varied, dynamic, and enjoyable. The program is fast-paced, interesting and, above all, fun. Transitions between segments are smooth. Evaluations are helpful, constructive and contribute to members' personal growth and improvement. All members present have an opportunity to participate. The club places emphasis on educational development. Members are enthusiastic and enjoy themselves.

A successful club always gives recognition for the accomplishments of individual members and encourages members to accomplish manual speeches. Club officers work to build a solid education program and an appropriate recognition system. The club doesn't let the club fall into the trap of pushing accomplishments while sacrificing the quality of the educational experience. The club officers keep the district officers informed of the club's progress. If there are any problems or questions, the club officers can and do contact the district officers or World Headquarters for assistance.

A successful club, like an unsuccessful club, has many contributing factors. Sometimes making even a small change will make a big difference.

Subbi P. Mathur, DTM

Dear Toastie,

Help! Everytime I attend my Toastmaster's club, I feel like I'm in the military! All the veteran Toastmasters use an Alphabet Soup of Acronyms and I'm too darn shy to speak up and ask questions. What do all these Toastmaster acronyms mean?

I like plain ol' Chicken Soup, TM

Dear Chicken Soup,

What a great question! As a newbie toastmaster myself, I am constantly nudging the nearest Toastmaster for tips on what the acronyms mean.

Most of the 'Alphabet Soup' acronyms have to do with Educational Achievement awards. These are awards an member earns either through speaking and/or leadership roles within Toastmasters. I have listed the earned awards in order of precedence.

CC: Competent Communicator (CC)

CL/AL: Competent Leader (CL) or Advanced Leader (AL)

ACB: Advanced Communicator Bronze (ACB)

ACS: Advanced Communicator Sliver (ACS)

ACG: Advanced Communicator Gold (ACG)

DTM: Distinguished Toastmasters (DTM)

See your manuals or check out the TI (Toastmaster's International) website for more information.

www.toastmasters.org

Toastie

District 58

The Link to your Future and to the World!

In Brief

Toastmasters International Policy and By-Law Changes

Toastmasters International has recommended substantial changes to the Bylaws and Policies. Every Toastmaster has a right and a voice to accept or reject these changes.

Club Presidents will receive a brochure which contains the "heart of the matter" along with the club's Regional and International proxies to vote on the matter. Please read, discuss, and vote.

Read the amendment to the bylaws at:

www.toastmasters.org/future

Read the proposed Policy changes at:

www.toastmasters.org/09BoardReport.aspx

Fall Contests!

The fall cycle of contests are about to begin. For more information please see the web site at:

<http://www.toastmasters-d58.org/contests/contestcalendar.shtml>

District 58 Calendar

The District 58 Calendar is quickly filling up with great information. Check it out at:

<http://www.toastmasters-d58.org/district/calendar.shtml>

Save the Date!

2009 Toastmasters International Conference

Mashantucket, CT

Aug 11-16

<http://www.toastmasters.org>

2009 Fall District 58 Conference

Oct 16-18

The Fall Conference will be held in Spartanburg, SC. The incoming Toastmaster International President will be joining us. Join us in showing TI why District 58 is the LINK TO GREATNESS. For more information, see the website at:

<http://www.toastmasters-d58.org/>

Discounted rate for early registration