

Region 8 News

Volume 1, Issue 7

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29 + 48 = 77

*Frank P. Connelly, DTM,
International Director 2001-2003*

At the February board meeting a very difficult decision was made affecting two districts within Region 8. It was decided for the benefit of the organization that Districts 29 and 48 be combined. Several hours of discussion time on the merits of consolidating both districts were consumed. However, the board determined that districts with less than 60 clubs are not as effective as districts with 60 or more clubs in serving its member clubs and in the development of a vibrant leadership pool.

I am very proud of the leadership exhibited by Norm Cyr, DG D-29, and Penny Pierce, DG D-48. Both district governors and their district teams continue to encourage their respective districts to finish the year as

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It Was a Little Chilly

*Paul Meunier, DTM
International Director 2002-2004*

It was a little chilly, at least for this Floridian. It rained off and on but really did not let go until we were finished.

We met from 10 AM until noon or so and then we adjourned for lunch. Food rules!

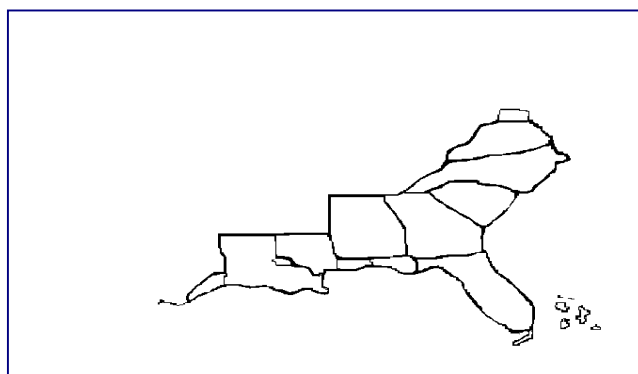
This meeting, more than any other I have attended as a Toastmaster officer, made me swell with pride at the selflessness and dedication of our District leaders in Region 8.

The meeting was held in LGET Kristie Pickle's house in Montgomery and all the top leaders were there from Districts 29 and 48. The purpose of the meeting was not to bury Districts 29 and 48 but to chart the exciting beginning of what will be this Region's newest District,

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distinguished and in enabling the transition process to District 77 to be as seamless as possible.

I am also gushing with pride on the performance of all Districts within Region 8. Region 8 is now the number 1 Region. District 14 leads all Districts within Toastmasters International. District 14 chartered 3 clubs in January and continues to lead all districts within Region 8 with 19 total clubs chartered. Congratulations to George, John and Steve and the entire District 14 team. District 29 has risen with the rankings by encouraging membership and educational accomplishments. Congratulations to Norm, Frank and Joan. District 37 has risen within the rankings to number 12 in the world by encouraging educational accomplishments. Congratulations to SaraRuth, Harold and Bob. District 47 chartered one club and rose from 17th in the world to 14. Districts 48 and 68 continue to do the right things by encouraging its member clubs to excel, we hope to hear about more on new clubs in formation. District 58 chartered 2 new clubs and is number 8 in the world. Congratulations to Will, Bill and Fred. District 66 has pulled itself out of the cellar by chartering a new club. Congratulations to Marlon, Janet and John.

Each District in Region 8 pledges to be Distinguished by May 31, 2003.

Scroll Marked V Og Mandino

I will live this day as if it is my last.

And what shall I do with this last precious day which remains in my keeping? First, I will seal up its container of life so that not one drop spills itself upon the sand. I will waste not a moment mourning yesterday's misfortunes, yesterday's defeats, yesterday's aches of the heart, for why should I throw good after bad.

Can sand flow upward in the hour glass? Will the sun rise where it sets and set where it rises? Can I relive the errors of yesterday and right them? Can I call back yesterday's wounds and make them whole?

District 77!

I credit DG Norm Cyr in part for setting the right tone after receiving the very disappointing news that the Board of Directors of Toastmasters had decided to combine his District with the one next door. The decision would have been difficult to accept in most circumstances but especially so since both Districts this year are shooting for the Excellence in Leadership Award – three consecutive years of being a Distinguished District.

I opened the meeting by observing that there will be some “grieving process” involved in combining these two storied Districts. LGM Frank Kennedy irreverently observed: “What? Did someone die?” That hit just the right note! We are not losing anyone. Clubs are not disappearing; members are not leaving. Instead, a new, vibrant District with a larger budget and greater volunteer resources is being born.

DG Penny Pierce led the meeting and did a fantastic job of prioritizing all the topics and getting us through the important ones in two quick hours.

The leaders agreed on many and varied topics, but agreement was strongest on this: Districts 29 and 48 will be in the pantheon of Distinguished Districts or better this year! I know Penny and Norm and their teams will make it happen.

I am proud to be associated with these leaders who typify the Toastmasters promise and vision.

Can I become younger than yesterday? Can I take back the evil that was spoken, the blows that were struck, the pain that was caused? No. Yesterday is buried forever and I will think of it no more.

I will live this day as if it is my last.

And what then shall I do? Forgetting yesterday neither will I think of tomorrow. Why should I throw now after maybe? Can tomorrow's sand flow through the glass before today's? Will the sun rise twice this morning?

Can I perform tomorrow's deeds while standing in today's path? Can I place tomorrow's gold in today's purse? Can tomorrow's child be born today? Can tomorrow's death cast its shadow backward and darken today's joy? Should I concern myself over events which I may never witness? Should I torment myself with problems that may never come to pass? No! Tomorrow lies buried with yesterday, and I will think of it no more.

I will live this day as if it is my last.

This day is all I have and these hours are now my eternity. I greet this sunrise with cries of joy as a prisoner who is reprieved from death. I lift mine arms with thanks for this priceless gift of a new day. So too, I will beat upon my heart with gratitude as I consider all who greeted yesterday's sunrise who are no longer with the living today. I am indeed a fortunate man and today's hours are but a bonus, undeserved. Why have I been allowed to live this extra day when others, far better than I, have departed? Is it that they have accomplished their purpose while mine is yet to be achieved? Is this another opportunity for me to become the man I know I can be? Is there a purpose in nature? Is this my day to excel?

I will live this day as if it is my last.

I have not but one life and life is naught but a measurement of time. When I waste one I destroy the other. If I waste today I destroy the last page of my life. Therefore, each hour of this day will I cherish for it can never return. It cannot be banked today to be withdrawn on the morrow, for who can trap the wind? Each minute of this day will I grasp with both hands and fondle with love for its value is beyond price. What

dying man can purchase another breath though he willingly give all his gold? What price dare I place on the hours ahead? I will make them priceless!

I will live this day as if it is my last.

I will avoid with fury the killers of time. Procrastination I will destroy with action; doubt I will bury under faith; fear I will dismember with confidence. Where there are idle mouths I will listen not; where there are idle hands I will linger not; where there are idle bodies I will visit not. Henceforth I know that to court idleness is to steal food, clothing, and warmth from those I love. I am not a thief. I am a man of love and today is my last chance to prove my love and my greatness.

I will live this day as if it is my last.

The duties of today I shall fulfill today. Today I shall fondle my children while they are young; tomorrow they will be gone, and so will I. Today I shall embrace my woman with sweet kisses; tomorrow she will be gone, and so shall I. Today I shall lift up a friend in need; tomorrow he will no longer cry for help, nor will I hear his cries. Today I shall give myself in sacrifice and work; tomorrow I will have nothing to give, and there will be none to receive.

I will live this day as if it is my last.

And if it is my last, it will be my greatest monument. This day I will make the best day of my life. This day I will drink every minute to its full. I will savor its taste and give thanks. I will maketh every hour count and each minute I will trade only for something of value. I will labor harder than ever before and push my muscles until they cry for relief, and then I will continue. I will make more calls than ever before. I will sell more goods than ever before. I will earn more gold than ever before. Each minute of today will be more fruitful than hours of yesterday. My last must be my best.

I will live this day as if it is my last. And if it is not, I shall fall to my knees and give thanks.

March Calendar

Distinguished Division and Distinguished Area Program Deadline

Follow up on Area Visits and Area Report of Club Visit forms with Area Governors. Area Governors must send forms to District Governor no later than April 30.

Distinguished Club Program Deadline

Submit Club Officer Training Reports to World Headquarters. Club Officer Training Reports for December - February period must be postmarked by March 31 for Clubs to receive Distinguished Club Program credit.

Financial Deadline

Treasurer's report for July 1 - January 31 period submitted to District Governor and Lt. Governors by March 15.

Membership and Club Growth

Charter as many Clubs as possible by March 31. Members in Clubs chartering in March will also make per capita payments for the April semiannual dues period. Semiannual reports mailed to Clubs inside the United States.

Begin follow-up of Clubs' submission of April semiannual reports. Pay particular attention to Clubs that submitted October semiannual reports late and ensure these Clubs will not be late again submitting semis.

Promote Toastmasters International's Annual Membership Program. Individual members receive recognition for sponsoring 5, 10, or 15 members during the year. Recognition is given to Clubs beginning the year under charter strength and ending the year with 20 or more members. Clubs which demonstrate net growth of 5 members also receive recognition.

Promote "Talk Up Toastmasters." Clubs adding 5 or more members February through March receive recognition.

Mission-Focused Meetings

District Executive Committee Meeting (including ongoing District officer training). Meeting should focus upon midyear adjustments made and action now needed to achieve goals in the Distinguished District, Division, Area, and Club Programs. The following also must occur at the meeting (unless acted upon at a previous District Executive Committee Meeting):

Report of the Audit Committee (Midyear Audit).
Approval of recommendations for the alignment of Clubs within Divisions and Areas. Presentation of the most recent Treasurer's Report.

Nominations and Elections

District Nominating Committee Report must be sent to members of the District Council no later than two weeks in advance of Annual District Council Meeting. Proxies for Regional Conferences and the International Convention mailed to Clubs by March 31.

Administrative/Speech Contests

Club, Area, and Division speech contests should be conducted or completed.

February 2003 - Region 8 Accomplishments

What percentage to Expect for Per Capitas Each Month, based on past history:

Month	Semi	Non-Semi	Total for Month	Total to Date
July		2.083	2.083	2.083
August		2.083	2.083	4.166
September		2.083	2.083	6.249
October	25	2.083	27.083	33.332
November	12.5	2.083	14.583	47.915
December		2.083	2.083	49.998
January		2.083	2.083	52.081
February		2.083	2.083	54.164
March		2.083	2.083	56.247
April	25	2.083	27.083	83.33
May	12.5	2.083	14.583	97.913
June		2.083	2.083	100

District	Per Capita Goal	Actual	Percentage	Variance
14	9081	5308	58.45	4.29
29	1250	676	54.08	-0.08
37	5127	2764	53.91	-0.25
47	13186	6967	52.84	-1.33
48	2007	1063	52.96	-1.20
58	3450	1962	56.87	2.71
66	3922	2021	51.53	-2.63
68	2967	1502	50.62	-3.54

What Percentage to Expect for CTM/ATM, Each Month,
based on past history:

Month	Semi	Total
July	6.36	6.36
August	6.36	12.72
September	6.36	19.08
October	6.36	25.44
November	6.36	31.8
December	6.36	38.16
January	6.36	44.52
February	6.36	50.88
March	6.36	57.24
April	6.36	63.6
May	6.36	69.96
June	30	100

District	CTM Goal	Actual	Percentage	Variance From Target
14	311	266	85.53	34.65
29	42	34	80.95	30.07
37	175	127	72.57	21.69
47	452	366	80.97	30.09
48	68	49	72.06	21.18
58	118	104	88.14	37.26
66	134	91	67.91	17.03
68	101	88	87.13	36.25

District	ATM Goal	Actual	Percentage	Variance From Target
14	89	82	92.13	41.25
29	12	9	75.00	24.12
37	50	49	98.00	47.12
47	129	158	122.48	71.60
48	19	22	115.79	64.91
58	33	41	124.24	73.36
66	38	21	55.26	4.38
68	29	34	117.24	66.36

District	Total Clubs July 1	Clubs Chartered	Paid Clubs to Date	Club Goal
14	191	19	208	196
29	35	1	33	36
37	123	8	122	126
47	276	15	277	284
48	54	2	52	55
58	91	6	93	93
66	96	4	97	98
68	76	2	76	78

Region 8 Leaders

DISTRICT 14

GOVERNOR GEORGE KAN, DTM
LGET JOHN LLEWALLEN, DTM
LGM STEVE WILLIAMS, DTM

DISTRICT 29

GOVERNOR NORM CYR, ATM-G
LGET JOAN WELDY, DTM
LGM FRANK KENNEDY, CTM

DISTRICT 37

GOVERNOR SARARUTH BARGER, DTM
LGET HAROLD BARGER, DTM
LGM BOB MICK, ATM-B

DISTRICT 47

GOVERNOR EILEEN SARRIS, DTM
LGET MARGARET WAN, DTM
LGM JIM OCQUE, DTM

DISTRICT 48

GOVERNOR PENNY PIERCE, DTM
LGET KRISTIE PICKELL, ATM-B
LGM LINDA HILL, CTM-CL

DISTRICT 58

GOVERNOR WILL MAY, DTM
LGET BILL MAY, DTM
LGM FRED MALONE, DTM

DISTRICT 66

GOVERNOR MARLON HASKELL, DTM
LGET JANET GEISLER, DTM
LGM JOHN HARMAN, DTM

DISTRICT 68

GOVERNOR JIM CHANDLER, DTM
LGET BOBBY DONLON, DTM
LGM RANDY CONLEY, DTM