



CAN-AM LINK

YOUR NEWSLETTER FROM DISTRICT 45 TOASTMASTERS

September 2011

Issue 56, Volume 1

Editor: Kristine Smith, ACB, ALB

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WHAT IS A BOILERPLATE?

Email Kristine with your answer.

The answer will be in the next issue; along with the name(s) of members correctly answering the question.

From The Editor's Desk

By: Kristine Smith, ACB, ALB

As I sit at my computer, I'm pondering a saying I once heard, "Do what you love; love what you do." In a time of skyrocketing unemployment and plunging 401k's that seems to be an unaffordable luxury. Or is it?

This month is my 5th year anniversary with Toastmasters. I joined Blueberry Hill Toastmasters not because I was afraid of public speaking, but afraid of speaking in front of my own peers! I embraced the program and began implementing the skills outside of the club or professional setting. I became aware of each err, ah, and um in my casual conversations with my friends. I started incorporating the speech evaluation approach when talking with my teenage kids. (Hint for parents...it works!) Then I went back to school and used the Toastmasters Speech basics for each essay and writing assignment. The simple outline...opening, body with 3 supporting points, and conclusion have earned an A for each and every assignment!

I've served District 45 in the roles of Area Governor and Division Governor. I could follow in the tracks of Sue Francesco, Wendy Harding, Candice Buell, and our other great district leaders but oh nay, nay. Climbing the ladder holds no appeal for me – I'm afraid of heights! I can pursue competition, but competing against expert speakers such as Mike Harris, Tom Dowd, Charlie Vaughn, and Joe Grondin has me shaking in my snazzy shoes!

I have decided to quietly (or not so quietly) assist this year's District 45 PRO Sharon Jacques as the CanAm Newsletter editor. This does not mean that I will be writing the newsletter. The articles must come from you. However, I reserve the right to throw in a surprise or two...

Leadership Insight

By: Jim Kokochi, DTM

Our Toastmasters Club meetings offer an amazing environment. We have an opportunity to practice and develop skills in persuading, supporting, empathizing, coaching, mentoring and more. I still remember how nervous I was the first time I had to provide public feedback – an evaluation – to a fellow member. What a chance to persuade, support, empathize and coach my fellow member – and the club for that matter.

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS

If you are interested in supporting the Fall Conference, as a Toastmasters member, you can a business card sized ad in the Conference program for just \$25.

Please contact Dawn Knight at dawn.knight1871@gmail.com for details.

At each meeting our members have the chance to practice and refine these leadership skills. I hope we're all making the most of these recurring opportunities and additionally completing CL and AL projects.

You may know that I recently offered for election as Toastmasters International's Second Vice-President and after three ballots finished second with 42% of the vote to Mohammed Murad from Dubai. I plan to try again. My club experience has taught me how to finish second with grace and dignity, how to accept feedback, remain persistent, and improve next time round. Our clubs provide a truly amazing environment.

The Fun Zone

By Joe Grondin, DTM

A new Toastmaster year is upon us and many are asking the question, do I compete or not? If you were to ask Joey Grondin for his advice he would, without hesitation, say, "GO FOR IT!" Joey just returned from the 2011 World Championships in Las Vegas where he placed 3rd in his semi-final but that's not the reason he competes. He competes because of the education, because of the challenge, and because it is so much "DARN" fun. [MORE.](#)

SpeechCraft

By: Kerry Barnsley, DTM

Along my own road to DTM status I met the Speechcraft requirement for the Advanced Communicator Gold educational award. It was an easy meeting arranged in 2010 by then District 45 Governor Sue Francesco, DTM. While Sue had inspired me to achieve my own Distinguished Toastmaster Award, she had also inspired the Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services ("DES") to commence a quarterly Speechcraft workshop within the department. Sue tapped me to lead the first workshop in 2011. [MORE.](#)

Make a Positive Difference in Someone's Life the Toastmasters' Way

Permission for article from Patricia Williams, ACB, ALB

I've often thought that when I come to the end of my life, I would like to believe that I made a positive difference in the lives of others. How many of you would like to feel the same way?

Every word we speak, every action we perform has an impact on those around us. Sometimes the impact is small; other times, it can be life changing. Sometimes we know we've made an impact; other times we don't have a sweet clue unless someone tells us. Sometimes the impact is unfortunately negative but I like to think that for the most part, especially if we are making a conscious effort, it's a positive one. [MORE](#).

BREAKING NEWS ... Past District Governor Weds

They do! On Aug 18th at 4:00 pm PT, Past District 45 Governor, Wendy Harding, married her longtime sweetheart, Karl Stewart, in an intimate ceremony at the Las Vegas Wedding Chapel at the Paris Hotel. [MORE](#).

DES recognized by Toastmasters International

Submitted by Sue Francesco, DTM, Past District 45 Governor

Along my own road to DTM status I met the Speechcraft requirement for the Advanced Communicator Gold educational award. It was an easy meeting arranged in 2010 by then District 45 Governor Sue Francesco, DTM. While Sue had inspired me to achieve my own Distinguished Toastmaster Award, she had also inspired the Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services ("DES") to commence a quarterly Speechcraft workshop within the department. Sue tapped me to lead the first workshop in 2011. The last Speechcraft workshop on Hazen Drive in Concord, New Hampshire was held in 2006. It was sponsored by White Mountain Toastmasters, Sue's home club, and resulted in the formation of the Karner Blue Toastmasters club which still meets today, here at DES. [MORE](#).

Take Care of Your Current Club Members

Permission for article from Bory Stevens District 23 Governor

Many club members underestimate the importance of retaining current members. There are several reasons why focusing on retaining members is critical to your club's success.

Tenured Members:

- Serve as important role models for newer members.
- Provide incentive to guests that the club has quality and experienced members that

they'll be able to learn from.

- Prove that Toastmasters is not an overnight process but an ongoing process for continual self-improvement. [MORE.](#)

Increasing Club Membership

Permission for article from Bay Stevens District 23 Governor

If you're a member of a struggling club with less than 12 members, you probably believe that increasing membership in your club is difficult, if not nearly impossible. Conversely, a club that is member-strong with 25 or more will likely agree that acquiring new members is a pretty simple process. In fact, many clubs in this category spend very little time promoting their club and new members just seem to keep coming! [MORE.](#)

PR – Let the World Know

By: Publicity and Promotion Handbook - Toastmasters International

Good PR is vital to many activities you'll participate in throughout your lifetime. You can't run a business or expect an event to draw a large crowd without appropriate media attention. Likewise, the most vibrant Toastmasters club or district can't remain strong without attracting new members while retaining current members. The Let the World Know Publicity and Promotion Handbook is designed to introduce you to public relations – how to attract attention for your club and district events through publicity. [MORE.](#)

The CanAm Question

If you could change one thing about District 45 Toastmasters what would it be and why?

Imagine you had the power to change one thing about District 45 whether you love it or find yourself sometimes not that interested – what is the one thing you would love to change? Share your comments.

