

## A New Look or an Old Look?

You will notice a change to this issue of “The Advantage”. For one it is a pdf file and two it is full of more information. If you are member of a club that was in my area last year or a member of my home club, the format will be familiar to you. So there bodes the question, new or old? You decide.

Either way, the three staples: Educational Achievements/Announcements, Educational Tips and Membership Tips will be included in each issue. That doesn't necessarily mean that I will limit the issues to those subjects only. I am looking for innovative ideas from you. Submit your own tips and articles. I will do my best to include them.

### Congratulations!

#### September/October Educational Achievements

##### Competent Toastmasters

George Cook (Southside)  
 Gary W. Buffone (Top O' The Rock)  
 Kimberly R. Mungaray (Top O' The Rock)  
 Harold E. Quillin (Beaches)  
 Steward E. Washington (Work Source)  
 Carla Berry (Gung Ho!)  
 James B. Allen (Homeside Lending)  
 Donald W. Lemcool (Toast of Jax)

##### Advanced Toastmasters

Kathleen M. Moore (Arlington)  
 Peter Reynolds (LOGS)  
 Nandu K. Shah (Toast of Jax)  
 Johnny Duane Ledford (Work Source)  
 Coleman Stokes (Speak Up America)

##### Advanced Leader

Coleman Stokes (Speak Up America)

##### Competent Leaders

Johnny Duane Ledford (Work Source)  
 David Prince (Speak Up America)  
 Michelle Myrick (Top O' The Rock)

##### Excellence in Leadership

Joseph D. Herron (Orange Park)  
 Coleman Stokes (Speak Up America)

##### Distinguished Toastmaster

Coleman Stokes (Speak Up America)



### Happy Anniversary

We all had to go through the chartering process to become a Toastmaster Club as some point in time. The day has long past for some of us, but for others it was just a few months ago. Congratulations to all of us for making the commitment.

	<i>Charter Date</i>	<i>Yrs</i>
Daytona Beach	August 1978	24
Meadows	August 2000	2
Speak Up America	October 1990	12
Haskell	October 1997	5
Bethune-Cookman	November 1986	16
Toast of St. Johns	November 1997	5

##### Special points of interest:

- ☞ Nov 1 - Clubs begin electing new officers (for Semi-annually elected officers)
- ☞ Nov 8 - Bank of America Competition - Times Union Center, Jacksonville
- ☞ Nov 9 - National Speakers Association Seminar - Southpoint Marriott, Jacksonville
- ☞ Nov 16 - DEC Meeting - Location TBD
- ☞ Nov 28 - Thanksgiving
- ☞ Dec 31 - Club Officer lists Due to TI (for Semi-annually elected officers)

## Group me with the Rest!

District 47 has set up a Yahoo Group for District 47 Toastmasters. The purpose of the Toastmasters District 47 group is keep all D47 Toastmasters informed of happenings in the District. This Group is an easy-to-use, privacy-protected, and spam-protected environment.

Yahoo! Groups is a **FREE** service that allows you to bring together family, friends, and associates through a web site and email group. Yahoo! Groups offer a convenient way to connect with others who share the same interests and ideas.

To subscribe to this mailing list: Send a blank message to <mailto:d47all-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>

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## Tips for Preparing Note Cards

*excerpt from Between One and Many, 3rd Edition*

- *Use bright colors and large, bold lettering.* This will make your notes easier to see.
  - *Use no more than five or six lines per note card.* If you cram too much on one card, you'll end up confusing yourself.
  - *Put each part of a speech on a separate card.* For example, your introduction might go on one card, the body on another, and the conclusion on a third. That way you won't have trouble finding your main points after you complete your introduction nor will you confuse your conclusion with a main point.
  - *Number your cards.* It is easy to lose track of your place while speaking. One way to help prevent this from happening is to number each card. That way, even if you inadvertently get your cards out of order, you can quickly recover.
  - *Write on only one side of a card.* If you try to write on both sides, you compound the chances of losing your place.
  - *Highlight main ideas.* Just as you highlight key passages in books, highlight the points you wish to emphasize.
  - *Use note cards to make comments to yourself.* It is perfectly appropriate, for example, to write prompts to yourself on your notes. For example, you might write "O.H." to remind yourself to show an overhead at that point in your speech
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## Why we Stress (push) the Distinguished Club Program

Yes it is important that we have the Distinguished Club Program (DCP). Without it we would not be able to determine how effective a Club, Area, Division, District, Region or Toastmasters International is to its members. When members achieve their Competent Toastmaster (CTM) distinction, we know that they have learned and applied the basic skills of public speaking. Additionally, when that member achieves their Advanced Toastmaster (ATM) distinction, we know they are fine tuning their skills in specialized areas. If a member achieves the Competent Leader (CL) then we are aware that they are acquiring leadership skills and using them to share their knowledge to fellow members. When adding new members, we are sharing what Toastmasters has to offer to others. The more members, the more who will benefit.

Officers need to be trained. Not everyone can immediately move into a leadership role and know what they are doing. After being elected to a position, that officer needs to be trained on how to effectively fulfill their office. One could survive through trial and error, but why do that? And yes, Toastmasters does charge a nominal fee and we need to make sure that we get our dues in on time.

While your fulfilling the goals of the DCP, you might as well get recognized for it.

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# District 47 Fall Conference Highlights

**What?:** 2002 District 47 Fall Conference

**When?:** October 25-27, 2002

**Where?:** Adam's Mark Hotel, Jacksonville, Florida

**Why?:** To "Discover the Pearls of Wisdom!", network and learn

**How? . . .** How did Toastmasters from all over the state of Florida and the Bahamas "Discover the Pearls of Wisdom"? The answer is simple, by making the commitment to attend.

Southern hospitality is an art form when it comes to Toastmasters. The moment you arrived in Jacksonville, you were welcomed into a secret society of sorts. I am reminded of the television show Cheers when one of the establishments favorite patrons entered into the building they would yell, "NORM!" Everyone at the conference was a favorite patron. Names were being shouted across the room. Now I know what you are thinking, of course not everyone knew each others name. I can tell you this, one did not go un-noticed for long. Each person was instantly snatched into a world of fun, learning and camaraderie.

**Friday evening Kicked-Off the conference with a banquet and Evaluation Contest.** Contestants from 9 Divisions competed against one another to give the best effective evaluation of the test speaker (Tricia Hopkin, Toastmaster visiting from Georgia).  
1st Place: Monica Wollford (Division C)  
2nd Place: Caren Neile (Division D)  
3rd Place: Joel Verlin (Division G)  
The contest was followed by an evening of socializing in the Hospitality Room, hosted by **Division I (Bahamas).**

Wiping the sleep from their eyes, Toastmasters were in full force **Saturday morning** to attend the Opening Ceremonies beginning with the Parade of Banners. Banners displayed included Club, Area, Division and Districts. The highlight of the morning was a keynote address from the 2002 -2003 Region VIII International Director, Frank Connelly, DTM. From there each person was afforded the opportunity to select two educational sessions to attend to elevate their knowledge and re-affirm their commitment to Toastmasters.

The **Luncheon** included a Roast of last years District Governor Cathy Epler, DTM. Cathy led District 47 last year to #24 in the world among more than 75 districts. District 47 was recognized as a Distinguished District.

Following the luncheon, we were afforded the opportunity to learn the secrets to strengthening membership in the **General Session**. Presented by both Region VIII International Directors Frank Connelly, DTM and Paul Meunier, DTM, this was a session not to be missed.

Immediately following, our District Governor, Eileen Sarris, DTM presided over the District Council meeting to vote on various issues within pertaining to District 47.

The day gets even better with the **Humorous Speech Contest** that evening. Contestants had the audience laughing with antics of Personal Trainers and Big Bones.  
1st Place: Tom Kemper (Division C)  
2nd Place: David Prince (Division A)  
3rd Place: James Bussey (Division E)  
**Division I** hosted another evening of socializing in the Hospitality Room.

If you thought there couldn't possibly be more, Sunday morning District Officers hosted a **Breakfast** for Area and Division Governors. This was an opportunity for bragging and sharing.

Finally, all good things must come to an end. Following the breakfast, Toastmasters said their goodbyes and pledged to see each other at the Spring Conference. I hope to see you there too!

# Membership

## QUALITY MEETINGS IN YOUR TOASTMASTER CLUB

By Andrew Bochenek

Do you remember when you first walked into a Toastmaster meeting? What was it that impressed you the most, and how did it affect your decision to join the club? Everyone can give you their opinion from their individual perspective. If we step back a moment, we can see that our opinions can be based on either the quality of the meeting we attended, or the welcome we experienced from the club members. The combination of these two elements will decide if guests will join your club.

A quality club meeting can be defined using these following principles. One, the meetings start and end on time. Two, all of the prepared speeches are from the communication manuals. Third, the speech evaluations are constructive and helpful to the speaker. Finally, the club members attend the meetings regularly and are prepared to participate in club roles. Even low-member clubs can apply these principles when conducting a meeting with guests in the audience. The energy and pride that members exhibit in their club during a meeting will overcome any doubts a guest may have about joining. Present your guests with an opportunity to join a club in growth where they can have a say in how the meetings could be run. There is always a positive spin we can apply to the challenges we face in our clubs. It will be up to the club leaders to decide how to present their club's strengths to a potential member. Remember to have fun while you are building membership in the club, and people will want to join us in our Extreme Adventure!

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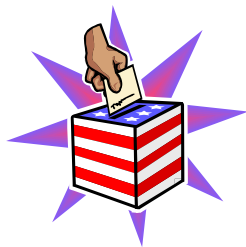
## News from around the Division...

*Daytona Beach Toastmasters* (#1134) is running television adds that is helping to increase their membership. On October 29th, Club President Sue Habel did a Pilot a Panel to help towards her ATM-Silver designation.

*Work Source Toastmasters* (#4768) is the first Club in Division A to reach Distinguished Club status! Congratulations!

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### Club Officer Elections



Clubs electing officer's on a semi-annual basis, are recommended to do so now.

**Club Officer Lists** are required to be submitted to Toastmasters International by December 30, 2002 for Distinguished Club Credit



**Club Officer Training** is required between December 1 and February 28 for a Club to get credit toward the Distinguished Club Program. Stay Tuned for more information.