



December 2014 Newsletter Volume 51 Issue 3

WOW! CONGRATULATIONS DISTRICT 35



Going into the October 1st dues renewals, we knew that there were three clubs in the District that were going to fold, and they did. On the other hand, of the remaining clubs, we achieved 100% renewal of 8 or more members so that every club remains active. That puts District 35 in **FIRST PLACE** in Region 5 and **NINTH PLACE IN THE WORLD!**

You, the members, are absolutely awesome. Your energy, enthusiasm, and attitude makes being a District Officer in District 35 enjoyable and fun. Thank you.

As we move forward into the new calendar year, your Lt. Governor Education and Training Rhonda Williams and the five Division Governors Barbara Weisenberger, Douglass Anderson, Keith Cumiskey, Linda De Clute, and Peggy Lee Hanson are putting together some wonderful Toastmasters Leadership Institutes (TLI's). Remember that the TLI's are open to all District members, not just club officers. Start watching the District calendar for the dates in your area and make plans to attend. Plan your car pools in advance and bring two, three, four or more carloads of members and attend these informative, entertaining, and enjoyable sessions. I have a pretty good idea of what topics will be presented and I know you will be impressed.

Our Spring 2015 Convention will be held in Marshfield, WI on May 1 and 2, 2015. The Hotel Marshfield is super easy to get to (four lane highways right to the front door) and has just undergone a multi-million dollar renovation. The place is beautiful and the food is outstanding.

And if that isn't enough to entice your attendance, District 35 will host Jim Kokocki, Toastmasters International President Elect. Jim is from Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. I met Jim in Kuala Lumpur and actually had a most pleasant conversation with him. Very knowledgeable, very cordial, and a great conversationalist. We are honored to have been chosen to be the host District for his visit and I encourage each and every one of you to come, meet him, and learn from him.

How are you coming on your educational award goals? Remember, every member of the District has been asked to complete at least one educational goal this year. We have a Revitalized Education Program (REP) coming sometime in the future, but the exact release date has yet to be determined. Once it is released, everyone will have two years in which to finish any of the current educational manuals in which they are working. Don't worry about the REP coming. Keep learning, improving, and growing by completing another educational award.

As we move into the upcoming holiday season, I wish each of you on a personal, one to one basis, a Merry Christmas, a Happy Chanukah, a Joyous Kwanzaa, or whatever celebration you observe. I hope your holidays are joyous, festive, and filled with family and friends. If you are traveling, please be safe.

Yours in service and
gratitude,

Craig W. Carpenter, DTM
District Governor





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HOW DO SPEECH CONTESTS MEASURE UP?

January 1 marks the beginning of the District 35 Club Level Speech Contests. This spring the District will hold a district level competition for the International and Tall Tales contests at the Spring Convention in Marshfield on May 1-2, 2015. The Tall Tales Contest hasn't been held at the district level for a few years, so please make sure you understand how the judging criteria differ from other contests. A brief summation follows.



Evaluation Contest

- Analytical Quality 40%
- Technique 15%
- Recommendations 30%
- Summation 15%

Humorous Speech Contest

- Content 55% (broken into Speech Development 15%; Effectiveness 10%; Speech Value 15%; Audience Response 15%)
- **Delivery 30% (broken into Physical 10%; Voice 10%; Manner 10%)**
- Language 15% (broken into Appropriateness 10% and Correctness 5%)

International Speech Contest

- Content 50% (broken into Speech Development 20%; Effectiveness 15%; Speech Value 15%)
- **Delivery 30% (broken into Physical 10%; Voice 10%; Manner 10%)**
- Language 20% (broken into Appropriateness 10% and Correctness 10%)

Tall Tales Contest

- Content 30% based on Speech Development
- **Delivery 55% (broken into Speech Techniques 25%; Physical 15%; Voice 15%)**
- Language 15% based on Appropriateness

Contest dates are:

- Club contests: January 1 – February 7, 2015
- Division Contests: March 15 – April 11, 2015
- District International Speech Contest: May 2, 2015
- Area Contests: February 8 – March 14, 2015
- District Tall Tales Contest: May 1, 2015

Both the Tall Tales and International contests will be held at the District Convention in Marshfield. The winner of the District International Speech Contest will represent District 35 at the semifinals in Las Vegas, NV in August.

Rhonda Williams
Lt. Governor Education and Training

Quick Links:

[Conduct Quality Speech Contests](#)

[Speech Contest Tutorials](#)

[Speech Contest Rulebook](#)





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Good News for District 35



We are almost halfway through our Toastmasters year and District 35 is well on its way to success for 2014–2015.

From July 1 through December 12, we have already achieved:

168 educational awards
(87 since October)

9 Triple Crown awards
(8 since October)

4 new clubs chartered
(2 since October)

7 prospective clubs

**What can we
achieve next?**

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR VISITS DISTRICT 35

Alan Shaner, Toastmasters International Director, represented Toastmasters International (TMI) at the District 35 Fall Conference held at the Chula Vista Resort, November 7-8, 2014 in the Wisconsin Dells. As a “working ambassador” for TMI, Alan visits Toastmasters districts to assist in the development of new clubs, provide recognition



to corporate clubs who are delivering the Toastmasters experience, as well as just have fun with fellow Toastmasters.

As Lt. Governor Marketing for the District, I had the honor of working with a great team to plan Alan’s visit: Craig Carpenter, District Governor, Rhonda William, Lt. Governor Education and Training, and Holly Pitas, PR Chair for the 2014 Fall Conference.

Alan’s visit had three main Toastmasters missions—Marketing, Recognition, and Increase Overall Awareness of Toastmasters in the District.

1. Marketing

Visit groups/corporations that are in the process of developing a Toastmasters club and provide insights and support

2. Recognition

Present Corporate Recognition Awards to corporations that sponsor and support Toastmasters in the workplace

3. “Spread the Word” about Toastmasters

Through press, radio and other media outlets, share Toastmasters and District 35 with the larger community.

The trip was a great success; here are some highlights:

- Alan and I did a one hour “drive time” radio show on WPRQ/FM in the Baraboo/WI Dells Area. We discussed the impact of Toastmasters and pumped up the Fall Conference at the Chula Vista Resort
- Awarded Corporate Recognition Awards to American Family Insurance and Harley-Davidson Motor Company for their support of Toastmasters in the workplace.
- Met with Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Leadership as they plan to roll out several company-sponsored clubs in early 2015.
- Met with Robert Mann and Leah Thompson from the Ho-Chunk Nation as they begin the process of developing a Toastmasters club. Robert was this year’s recipient of the Communication and Leadership Award from District 35.

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TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR VISITS DISTRICT 35

Mann and Thompson are excited about working with the District and the Board of Directors from the Ho-Chunk Nation through this process.

Alan also provided a keynote and educational session to the Conference attendees. Alan's visit was an exciting part of the Fall Conference – and we appreciate the time and care he took to represent both Toastmasters and District 35.

Start now to plan to attend the Spring Convention in Marshfield, WI on May 1–2, 2015. District 35 will be welcoming Jim Kokocki, DTM, TMI International President-Elect!



What an incredible opportunity for all the Toastmasters in District 35!

See you there!

Cindy Laatsch
Lt. Governor Marketing

NET5 — CONGRATULATIONS!

At the Fall Conference in Wisconsin Dells, 20 Toastmaster clubs were congratulated and recognized for achieving NET5 for the 2013-2014 Toastmaster year and were presented the NET5 ribbon to add to their banner. The NET5 award is earned by clubs that increase their overall membership by five members or more. The clubs recognized were:



Division	Area	Club Number	Club Name
E	3	9143	Bay De Noc Club (MI)
S	1	7833	Brookfield Toastmasters
N	4	6173	Chippewa Valley Club
M	1	739100	Cream City Communicators
C	1	9769	Expressions Club 9769
S	2	879726	Generally Speaking Toastmasters
C	4	1983	Janesville Toastmasters
E	2	7589	Kimmunicators Club
M	1	1188276	Menomonee Falls Toastmasters
S	2	834	Oconomowoc Toastmasters Club
M	2	3891	Rockwell Automation A-B Club
M	4	3589328	Rumble Don't Mumble Toastmasters
E	1	2121	Sheboygan Club 2121
M	2	1416954	Smokey's Sensations
N	2	570	Stevens Point Toastmasters Club
E	3	3834	Superiorland Toastmasters Club (MI)
E	3	1214450	Talk of the Town (De Pere)
M	4	1274042	The Breakfast Club
S	2	1173	Waukesha Toastmasters Club
M	1	3490	Wisconsin Club

How did they accomplish this feat? Through the retention of their members and inviting guests to their meetings who become new members! Here are some methods the clubs above shared on what made them successful this past year:

- Hold Open Houses! A great way to invite guests and show them what a Toastmaster meeting is like. Important—follow up with the guests afterwards and ask for feedback. Do not be pushy on having them become members.
- Have a strong mentoring program! Members who have been in Toastmasters for a while can gain much from helping others to learn the program and get started with their speeches.

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NET5

- Meetings are structured, well organized, supportive, and fun! The whole environment is encouraging and welcoming. All members come together to make this happen.
- Get the word out—social media, newspapers, outside speaking opportunities, MeetUp. Personally invite people to visit the club.
- Have a current and welcoming website. Show updated pictures from meetings and club officers and members.
- Engage all the members in the meetings. Have members set goals and as a club support the member in achieving their goals.

These are a few of the actions the clubs used to retain their membership and bring in new members. There are also Speechcraft, member packets, Moments of Truth, and a good meeting location. As a club, see how you can add these activities. If you have lower membership, these are great steps to start taking now to begin building up membership and holding quality meetings.

By following in the footsteps of those who have gone before us, we can make our clubs more focused on meeting our member's needs, have a fun and safe environment where learning and growth happens, and welcoming to guests. Then, NET5 happens!

Enjoy one another and best wishes for the Holidays. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Submitted by:
Richard Boomsliter, ACS, ALB
rboomsliter@yahoo.com
NET5 Chair
District 35

AN UPDATE TO THE REVITALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM

By Kathy Shine, DTM, Chief Ambassador

I'm excited to share with you the latest update regarding the upcoming changes to the Revitalized Education Program (REP).

Currently, when a new member joins any Toastmaster club, they are treated exactly the same. As soon as a Club submits the new member's application via Club Central, the member receives their kit in the mail which contains the Competent Communication and Competent Leadership manuals. Regardless of the member's reason for joining, or what their individual focus is, each member is asked to develop the same set of skills based upon the projects in the two manuals.

When the REP is in place, the new member will complete a personal assessment BEFORE the member receives materials. Why? Toastmasters International wants each member to prioritize and concentrate their focus on the core competencies they wish to develop. Based upon each individual member's interest, one of five possible areas of learning will be identified. The illustration below highlights these five learning categories.

We'll introduce you to the learning paths and core competencies that will accompany these categories in the REP during the winter TLI sessions.





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WINTER TOASTMASTERS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (TLI)

Are you looking for something to put a spark in the winter doldrums? Plan to attend Winter TLI! This leadership training is sure to kick start the new year by inspiring you to grow by leaps and bounds. While club officers are expected to attend, the program is open to all Toastmasters.

The sessions are hosted by our 5 Divisions. While there are a few variations in the programs, there will be four basic education sessions offered at all of the institutes.

1. Building a Healthy Team

Successful Toastmaster clubs are usually led by a cohesive, collaborative team of officers who are comfortable working together. The purpose of this session is for the club leaders to establish that kind of executive team. Participants will learn the five traits of a healthy team. Then they will create an action plan to improve their team's health. Finally, they will learn about their different behavioral styles and begin to establish the vulnerability-based trust required on their team.

2. Enhancing Evaluations

Why is quality feedback important to Toastmasters members? What evaluation criteria bring out the best feedback? How can effective coaching improve the evaluation process? What obstacles might impede quality evaluations? The purpose of this session is to emphasize the importance of quality feedback and evaluations to member growth. Participants will review evaluation criteria and examine coaching as a way to improve the evaluation process.

3. Masterful Mentoring

Most new members join a club because they want to improve their speaking and leadership skills. They expect the club to help them solve their problems and meet their needs. If they are provided help from knowledgeable and experienced people, they can achieve their goals faster and will see the benefits Toastmasters offers more clearly. This will aid in member retention and the overall strength of the club. If your club does not have a formal mentor program, this session will help in establishing one. For clubs that already have a program in place, this will provide an opportunity to share and review best practices to make sure your program is functioning at its best.

Competition Competence

What is all the fuss about contests, why should they be held, and what do they have to do with me? Some Toastmasters

dream of being the World Champion of Public Speaking. Others have never attended a Toastmasters speech contest and are unsure of what's all involved. This session will explain who benefits from contests (you might be surprised), the importance of holding and participating in a contest (on any level), what all the contest roles are (there are nine), and how to organize a contest at the club, area, division, or district level (not as difficult as you might think!).



Remember, if four of your club officers attend the TLI, your club can receive credit towards the DCP. If you cannot attend your Division TLI session, please reach out to attend another Division.

Below are the dates and locations of the upcoming TLI sessions as of December 13 (reference the [district website](#) for more details and dates as they become available).

CENTRAL DIVISION

Saturday, January 24, 2015, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm
Viroqua Area, Location TBA

Saturday, February 7, 2015, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm
West Madison, Location TBA

Wednesday, February 18, 2015, 5:30 pm to 10:00 pm
American Family Training Center in Madison

EASTERN DIVISION

Saturday, January 17, 2015

Saturday, February 21, 2015 (*Make-up*)
D.J. Bordini Center in Appleton

METRO & SOUTHEAST DIVISIONS

Saturday, January 24, 2015, 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm (*Make-up*)
Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee

NORTHERN DIVISION — TBA



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WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

When I joined Toastmasters, I had a goal. I was going to defeat my fear of public speaking! The realization that I needed to take action happened on a late winter morning in Menomonie, WI. I was attending a small conference on shoreline regulations. Before the conference was over, I would be shown both my weakness and my strength.

My industry is landscape design and installation. I am used to speaking with couples and business owners about their gardens. It's what I love to do! When it comes to tougher situations, though, I too often let other people lead the way. I am for everyone having a voice, but MY voice was being lost.

As I scanned the room where the conference was held, the sharp smell of testosterone wafted through the air like Old Spice on a summer day. The room was dark with anticipation. Deep male voices reverberated off the walls, and a small part of me tensed in anticipation of being attacked. Logically, I knew this wouldn't happen, but emotionally? I wished I had a Louisville Slugger handy just in case.

Noting several women were also in attendance, I wondered if we could all band together to avoid being run over. Finding my seat, I thought my biggest challenge would be reaching out and networking with the people around me. I was wrong. Most of the information that day was given with lecture and slides, but then it happened. Towards the end of the conference, there was an interactive design phase. The kicker was that it was a group effort—partnering 3 or 4 people together to design a shoreline garden. (Recipe for disaster? Perhaps.)

I was partnering with two men and their alpha dog mentality pushed my ideas aside like a John Deere tractor. Every idea I put forth was met with a "That won't work!" or "Let's do this instead." Or it was just ignored. Frankly, it was frustrating. Do I yell? Do I get angry? How would you handle this situation? My weakness was not that they tried to push their ideas. My weakness was that I allowed it without pushing back more. This was a lost opportunity for me.

The interesting part is this... when it came time to present our group's ideas, all their fingers pointed at me. Both men who minutes before had not wanted to hear me AT ALL now granted me the floor completely. Why? **Why would a 45 second report put the fear of God into these men that a few minutes ago wouldn't give an inch to my ideas?**

My strength was here! Here was a room of business people — people used to getting things done and having their own ideas implemented — and I was suddenly just granted the advantage simply due to their fear of public speaking. Although I was tempted (Tempted!) to drop their ideas and present my own, I confidently stood up and spoke about the design that we had developed for the site. I had the poise and confidence that the gentlemen in my group didn't think that they had. Ironic.



That day I realized that I should develop the skill of public speaking. Toastmasters has been instrumental in helping me do that and more. It has helped me to develop leadership skills at the same time.

Several weeks after I joined Toastmasters, I was involved in a discussion with... you guessed it, male business owners. I made a suggestion that was batted down with an angry edge by the nearest of them. Before Toastmasters, I would have just backed out of that discussion. Why fight? Instead, I calmly put forth my point in a way that wasn't confrontational, but didn't back down. How had I learned that, hmmm?

There are many people in our community that could benefit from Toastmasters. People who wish that they could speak up and be heard. Many dread standing up for even a second in front of a group, but don't know how to get better at it.

Toastmasters is more than a friendly group to belong to (although it IS that!) It's a group that helps each of us develop marketable, real life skills that help us in the everyday situations we find ourselves in.

If we tell our story, we show instead of tell. How many times have we walked away from a speech and remembered it because there was a story in it? Use stories to show potential members the huge advantage that Toastmasters can give them. Stories stick with people. Great stories get repeated for days.

What is YOUR story?

Heidi Schriener, N4 Area Governor



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JOIN IN THE E1 FUN!

This Toastmasters year so far has provided many opportunities to the E1 Area. There are currently six clubs in the Area, with the addition of the Deere Tales corporate club that was chartered earlier this year. One of the challenges we face this year overall is decreased membership. The clubs, however, have many exciting initiatives going on to promote the benefits of their clubs and Toastmasters.

Sheboygan Toastmasters held a Thanksgiving themed meeting with creative table topics, Kohler Speakez's club and Fond du Lac Toastmasters are hosting open houses, and Plymouth Toastmasters will hold a special holiday meeting this month.

The Manitalkers Toastmasters club hosted a 90th Anniversary Toastmasters celebration where former Toastmasters were invited. The guest speaker was involved in the "Founders" club in Anaheim, CA. Club members dressed in costume from various decades.

And Deere Tales is enjoying being a new club and celebrating educational award achievements.

All of the E1 clubs provide a positive environment with a lot of creativity!



Members of the Manitalkers celebrated the 90th Anniversary of Toastmasters International, some were dressed in costumes from different decades since the 1920s.

Bruce Bitter (*far left*) dressed as Ralph Smedley.

PLANNING AHEAD

At the end of each year, Toastmasters International conducts inventory at World Headquarters. During this time, orders cannot be placed online and staff cannot process faxed, mailed or emailed submissions. Please plan ahead and submit the following by 11:59 pm, December 21, 2014 (Pacific Time):

- Supply orders
- New member applications and kits
- Charter kits
- Education award certificates (including free manuals from the Advanced Communication Series)
- District orders

Orders submitted by the deadline will be processed and shipped promptly. Any orders submitted after this time will be held and processed on or after January 2, 2015.





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SOUTHEAST DIVISION STEPS UP TO MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

“Part of the membership challenge is not just attracting new people but keeping the experienced people engaged,” stated Carol Doleysh, ACB, ALB, S1 Area Governor. These challenges were attacked by the Southeast Division membership team Saturday, December 6.

The team brainstormed on ways that Toastmasters could provide training seminars to the public on topics such as leadership, interviewing skills, job searches, and listening skills. Toastmasters could reach out to the community through volunteer and social organizations such as Lions clubs and Rotary clubs to offer more specific seminars. The organizations themselves can provide the publicity. Through these seminars, people would attend to gain information on a subject of interest while being exposed to Toastmasters and learning of the opportunity and benefits that Toastmasters provide. They can then freely check out Toastmaster clubs in their area that works within their schedule.

Alan Shaner, DTM and International Director, called to put together teams for all Divisions to brainstorm ideas for building up membership in District 35 at last month’s conference. At the first meeting, the Southeast Division attendees didn’t stop at open houses.

“We as Toastmasters should be pertinent in the community,” said Rich Boomsliker, DTM. Community needs could drive seminar subjects. The opportunity to speak outside of a meeting environment would energize and re-engage those long-term Toastmasters who are looking for a challenge. Also, for those members who are looking into finding an HPL project, putting on such a seminar would be an opportunity.

Community seminars are a great chance for experienced Toastmasters to take it to another level as they continue to grow both speaking and leadership skills. All Toastmasters have knowledge and expertise in something and this would provide a diverse number of topics that can be presented. Leadership, health and nutrition, budgeting basics and car care are some of the topics that were identified where the knowledge exists within the membership.

“This is a call to action,” agreed Rick Phelps, ACB. Part of this action could be to hold Speechcraft programs put on by a group of Toastmaster clubs—even teaming community and

corporate—instead of depending on the resources of a single club. This would help address the question of finding available and dedicated members to put on the program. Also, there are opportunities for putting on Youth Leadership programs for high school age youth and working with organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters and DECA. Again, doing this across the membership of multiple clubs will help in finding the people to commit to this endeavor. This would help bring Toastmasters to a larger audience and possibly prepare an influx of a new group of young adults as members. It may also bring in the parents!



“It’s exciting to ‘take Toastmasters outside of the meeting!’” said Cindy Laatsch, District 35 Lt. Governor Marketing. “Reaching outside of your club—to new guests, or someone who just doesn’t know the benefits of Toastmasters yet—is a Win/Win. It’s a win for your Toastmasters club because new ideas re-energize every club. And it’s a win for the community to see those ‘light bulb moments’ when someone sees the benefits that Toastmasters can offer.”

The first meeting produced amazing ideas and enthusiasm, next will come structure and even more ideas for growth—club coaches, corporate options and mentor programs are all on the table. The second Southeast Division Membership meeting will be January 10, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the New Berlin Public Library. Please contact Theresa Flynn, CC (tflynn_d35@yahoo.com) to RSVP if you would like to join in the discussion or for further information.



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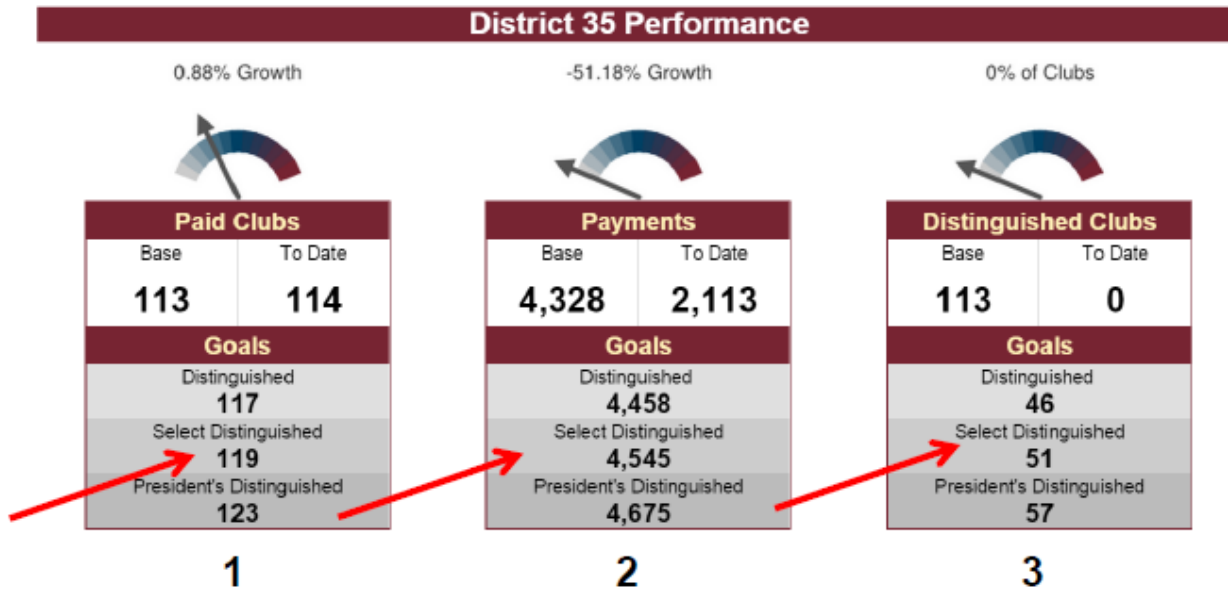
HEY — HOW FAST ARE YOU DRIVING?

No, I don't mean in your car... I mean how fast are we driving as District 35 to reach Select Distinguished Status by June 30, 2015?

Just like a car's speedometer, Toastmasters measures our progress as a District on a Dashboard. Being a Distinguished District is very similar to being a Distinguished Club—it's just measured differently.



To be a Select Distinguished District this Toastmasters year – take a look at the Dashboard below. It measures our progress on a daily basis. You can all review the District 35 Dashboard at any time. [Click HERE to display District 35 Dashboard](#)



There are **just three things** that we need to do to achieve Select Distinguished Status as a District– as outlined by Toastmasters International.

1. Increase the number of Active Clubs from the current count of 114 to 119 (Paid Clubs)
2. Increase the number of “membership payments” to 4,545 (Payments)
3. Have at least 51 clubs reach Distinguished Status (Distinguished Clubs)

Paid Clubs — Building new clubs is an exciting way to watch the District grow and thrive – and it's everyone's responsibility. If you have an idea for a new club, or can envision a club where you work – just let your Division or Area Governor know. They can help get the wheels turning!



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HEY — HOW FAST ARE YOU DRIVING?

Membership Payments — Toastmasters measures our membership growth by “membership payments”. Each Toastmaster has at least two opportunities to make dues payments – April and October Dues Renewals each year. As the District grows through chartering new clubs and existing clubs grow by seeking new members, our Membership Payments can only go up.

Distinguished Club Program (DCP) — The Distinguished Club Program is a great way to measure the success of all of the clubs in the District. Last year, we had 51 Distinguished Clubs, so this goal should be easy!

If you have questions about how you as a Toastmaster can impact our District progress as we drive to Select Distinguished Status, contact your Area or Division Governors. They are your front line of support and information—and are there to help as you “speed” along your way!

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

Toastmasters International hosts a yearly contest to reward individuals who sponsor five, ten, and 15 members. This program begins July 1st and ends June 30th.

Consider this: You encourage five people to join; they each encourage five people to join; who each encourage five people to join. Within a few years, your invitation can positively affect hundreds of people.

You don't have to do anything to enter this contest—simply make sure your name and home club number appear legibly on the new, dual or reinstated member's application to receive credit as a sponsor.

You will not only feel good about your contributions, you will also earn special recognition rewards.



Fall Conference Thank You



Thanks to all the helpers and volunteers for the Fall Conference! And to all who attended!

The event was a huge success and a lot of fun because of YOUR showing up and playing full out!

*Peggy Lee Hanson & Holly Pitas, 2014
Fall Conference Co-Chairs*



Fall conference photos and other district information can be found on the District 35 Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/District-35-Toastmasters/468088130530>

MISSING: If anyone accidentally took the Capital City Club banner, please contact Jim Hughes (jimbo.ctm@frontier.com) to coordinate its return. Thanks.



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UPDATES FROM THE NORTHERN DIVISION

Over the river and through the woods to the Northern Division we go—actually I'm not sure if you have to go over any river or through any woods to get to one of the Northern Division Clubs which stretch from River Falls and New Richmond, through Menomonie and Eau Claire, to Wausau and Stevens Point—but if you haven't ever visited any of us, you have no idea what you're missing.

We have been having some pretty exciting things happening up here in the ND.

For instance, in Area N1, under the leadership of Mark Nienow, I know they are upping their focus on mentorship. I think everyone remembers those first Toastmaster meetings where you were trying to figure out how the Competent Communicator and the Competent Leader manuals were supposed to work. Having another club member to work with, truly eases that process. And, I can tell you that no matter how long you are in Toastmasters, there are always new questions that come up and having a mentor available to guide you through rough spots is absolutely critical to continued growth and development.

In Area N2, under the leadership of Tina Grezinski, one of the major projects going on involves Speechcraft. Now I have to tell you, Area N2 does a bang-up job already of holding Speechcraft sessions, but they think there may be a better way to disseminate the information—an easier way to

understand the process and I, for one, am thrilled that they are taking a look at all of this and beginning the process of making Speechcraft easier to plan and ultimately, more successful. I also want to congratulate Area N2 on a fantastic event on December 4th—their annual Speaktacular! What a great way to get together with members from other clubs and enjoy the camaraderie (and speeches) that are truly what Toastmasters is all about.

In Area N3, under the leadership of Scott Wuerch, they are just about popping their buttons with pride as two of their members not only competed at the District Contests in Wisconsin Dells, but Melanie Holzbauer (of River Falls Toastmasters) placed 2nd in the Evaluation Contest and Carol Cherney (of Red Cedar Toastmasters) placed 1st in the Humorous Speech Contest! Way to go N3!!! Also, Scott is in the final stages of arranging for an Evaluation Clinic! I think we all have to agree that giving speech evaluations is one of the most important parts of Toastmasters. Learning how to do that effectively — getting fresh perspectives on what can motivate speakers through an evaluation — this is something we should all want to attend! It would appear that this event will take place between mid- to late-January and I also want to tell you Scott has already signed up 3 of the top evaluators in District 35! Stay tuned for more!



In Area N4, under the leadership of Heidi Schreiner, a brand new type of event for our Division is being planned—an Area-wide Speechcraft! Because Speechcraft hasn't been a staple of Area N4 in the past, this seems to be a perfect solution. All the N4 clubs will participate and at the end of the Speechcraft will transition all the new members to the club that best fits their schedule and goals — not only will

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Speechcraft benefit its participants, but it will provide a live demonstration of how each club can begin to plan their own events — in essence, teaching the N4 Area Clubs how to do their own Speechcrafts.



Areas N3 and N4 will soon be featured on WQOW-TV. A photojournalist from this local station made known his desire to put together something different promoting

Toastmasters and the folks from N3 and N4 went out of their way to make it happen. The finished product will be appearing on December 15 at the 6:00 p.m. news and will then be posted on the WQOW-TV website for an extended period of time.



I think you can tell that while we may be “way up north,” there’s plenty going on here. We always welcome visitors! Be sure to let us know you’re coming and we’ll put on our best bib and tucker and guarantee you a great Toastmasters time!

See you soon!

Barbara Weisenberger, DTM
Northern Division Governor

CONTESTS

The Eastern Division Speech Contest will be held at the DJ Bordini Center in Appleton on April 4, 2015. Watch the District 35 calendar for dates of the other Division Speech Contests.

Plan to attend one or more of these great events (and don’t forget to get your Club Ambassador form signed!)

Dear Central Division Members,

Are you aware that you are a leader? Someone who another looks up to? As a Toastmaster you have displayed acts of strength and faith; perhaps, in your speeches or a meeting role you fulfilled. Maybe you helped form a new club, offering hope to members just starting their Toastmaster journey.

I would like to personally take this time to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of our (approximately 400) members in Central Division with the work you do, not only in the name of Toastmasters, but in the name of successful leadership. Because of your wherewithal, knowledge, and expertise, our division — and your club — are here today, surviving and thriving.

Although clubs have folded, there are just as many — plus a few more — that are forming and on track to charter this Toastmaster year. I commend all your efforts!

May you and your family — no matter as to how you celebrate this time of year — be filled with gifts of prosperity, magic, peace, and love.

With gratitude and appreciation, yours in Toastmasters.
Peggy Lee Hanson
District 35 Central Division Governor





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FASHION FOLLIES

Have you ever wondered how some of our colorful expressions originated, such as “stuffed shirt” or “well-heeled,” and a “big wig”?

In the time of Henry III the doublet became the choice of shirt for men. It was a tight-fitting, two-layer combination shirt/jacket. Between the two layers was a filling called bombast. From that we get the expression bombastic. The bombast filled out the chest, creating a very masculine look. The bombast also kept the doublet wrinkle free and minimized the beer belly. Can you see how we got a stuffed shirt out of that fashion? It was only the aristocrats who were able to wear this sort of garment and of course, they had an attitude due to their station in life.

Initially, the bombast was composed of bran and later rags, horsehair, or cotton. The padding kept out the cold in the winter but you can imagine what it did in the summer. Perfume was liberally used.

Bombast also protected from daggers. However, after a scuffle, the doublet might be leaking a trail of cereal. Not to worry, there were pigeons and rodents everywhere to consume any spills.

On the minus side—bombast added an extra five to six pounds to your daily burden. At the side seams it was supported by uncomfortable strips of stiff whalebone. Well, something had to hold up all the padding. The worst part about bombast probably was that it attracted lice and other varmint. Try to scratch the itch through a thick layer of stuffing!

Most of the fashions were started by men, they were the peacocks of society. The fashion for high heels was started by Louis XIV. He was five feet, four inches. He wanted to be at the same level as everyone else but then the court members started teetering around in high heels too and he lost his edge. When Catherine de Medici came to France she wore high-heeled shoes. It created a sensation. Up until then only men wore high heels. Needless to say, only the rich were permitted to wear them. Hence we get the expression “well-heeled.”

The idea of heels is carried to an extreme when the Venetians develop chopines, which may be appropriate for Venice and the circus. These slipper are made of leather attached to gilded wooden stilts—some over two feet high. The fashion spread and by the middle of the sixteenth century the queen of Spain needs two servants to help her walk from room to room on the stilts. Naturally jokes abound. Even Shakespeare had Hamlet remark to a Venetian courtesan “Your Ladyship is nearer to Heaven than when I saw you last, by the height of your chopines.” “A woman wearing chopines,” goes the saying of the day, “is one half women, one half wood.”

King Louis XIII of France started a new fashion when he put on a wig to cover his bald head. Lesser mortals started to wear a wig or as the French say “perruque.” Wigs also became popular in England during the reign of Charles II. Over time the wigs got bigger and longer and curlier. They were then called periwig, combining the French word perruque with English wig.

Come the 1680s, the wig fever is full-blown. Men’s wigs had become enormous. Think Three Musketeers. They ended up carrying their hats because they no longer fit over the head since the wigs were so big and they didn’t want to crush their precious curls. These giant confections were full-bottomed wigs and very costly. There was also a wig called hedgehog which looks like Rod Steward’s hair, or is he really wearing a wig?

It was the ultimate status to have a wig waist length and the



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left side could be longer than the right. That made sense since long hair on the left would not interfere with right hand activity. You can't write easily, shake hands with big, bulky curls hanging over your shoulder, down beyond your waist. If the hair was longer than the waist, it might get yanked in such a maneuver and shift the wig.

Of course, ordinary mortals were not permitted to wear these concoctions. You had to have an exalted position, such as king, high-powered politicians, judges, etc. That is why we have the expression "big wig" for someone with power. A shorter kind of wig was for rich merchants, preachers, and people with less status. A very short wig was for the middle class males. The common laborer wore no wig. Wigs were expensive and sumptuary laws restricted the use of wigs to the middle class.



If you think having to wear a tie at work is pain, things could be worse.

Alexandra Benz
Benz Image Consulting Services
Member—Fond du Lac Club



Newsletter Submissions Wanted

All members are encouraged to contribute articles and content to the District 35 newsletter.

Please send your article and any supporting pictures to Kris Pool, Newsletter Editor, at KPOOL33@yahoo.com.

Upcoming submission dates are:

- February 11
- April 8
- June 10

Topics of interest include: Net 5, HPL projects, club chartering, officer training, themed meetings, PR contests, PR tips and suggestions, collaboration with other clubs, best practices, contests, or turn one of your great speeches into an article.



Email d35convention@hotmail.com to volunteer for the District 35 Spring Convention in Marshfield on May 1-2, 2015.