

THE TARHEEL TALKER

NEWSLETTER OF THE DISTRICT 37 TOASTMASTERS

WWW.TOASTMASTERS-NC.ORG — FEBRUARY 2010



The final quarter of our Toastmasters year is about to begin.

Are you preparing to attend the Spring Conference? Are you hoping to compete in the International Speech Contest?

Don't forget that the conference is where our District elects those who will lead

us for the next Toastmasters year.

Do you know how the election process works?

Each club has two votes. The President and Vice President Education hold those votes and should make every effort to represent their club at the District Council meeting.

This year the District Council meeting will be held on Saturday, May 22nd, during the 2010 Spring Conference in Greensboro.

If a President or Vice President of Education cannot

attend the District Council meeting, they can designate another CLUB MEMBER to carry their PROXY. That individual will represent the club during the meeting.

A club proxy is included in this issue of the Tarheel Talker. Make sure your club's voice is heard; plan to attend the Spring Conference.

Hope to see you at the Spring Conference.

Deb Lee, DTM
District 37 Governor

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TMs on the move find an open couch, new friends

BY RICK FORNOFF

It's exciting when, as sometimes happens, an idea escapes from a speech given at a Toastmasters club and lives on beyond the meeting.

Such was the case with a speech given last summer to the Blue Ridge Toastmasters, the topic of which was "Couchsurfing."

For the uninitiated, Couchsurfing.org is a global confederation of people willing to take strangers into their house, offering them hospitality in exchange for nothing more than conversation and friendship.

Two of the co-organizers of the Fall Conference were in the audience that day and,

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Local TM crowned Miss N.C.

BY CHUCK BLETHEN

On November 14, 2009 a 5-foot, 7-inch brunette Toastmaster from District 37 was crowned Miss North Carolina USA 2010.

There were three categories for the pageant competition: swimsuit, evening gown and a personal interview with each of the judges.

It was the personal interviews that made a difference for fellow Toastmaster Nadia Moffett. Her Toastmasters communication skills helped lead her to the crown.

Nadia graduated in 2007 from The University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a degree in marketing. She began working for American Express in Greensboro NC right after college.

That's when she joined Toastmasters. She had no idea the impact it would have on her career and personal aspirations.



Nadia Moffett of Greensboro, a Toastmaster, won the Miss North Carolina USA contest, thanks in part to her speaking skills.

She enthusiastically speaks about her involvement in Toastmasters. She explains, "When I really think about it, communication and leadership are the keys to everything that I do, so it happens to make perfect sense why I am a Toastmaster.

"The one thing that made

me most confident throughout the Miss North Carolina USA competition was the one-on-one interviews with the judges and the on-stage interview.

"I was able to confidently speak about my views, thoughts, and opinions on various topics with no hesitation. I know that my time in Toastmasters helped me in my victory as the 2010 Miss North Carolina USA.

"I have been in Toastmasters for two years, and through that time, I have gained the level of confidence needed to perform my best as I prepared for my title, prepare for Miss USA, and as I work to be my best in my career. I am proud to be a Toastmaster."

Susan Mitchell is president of Nadia's home club, Express Yourself Toastmasters Club. She says, "Nadia has

SEE NADIA, PAGE 5



Don Earle, DTM, will be missed by District 37

By TOM LOUGHLIN

"Be The Best You Can Be Outside Of The Army" was a favorite saying of our dear friend Don Earle. He certainly filled that bill. He was the best anyone could want.

Saying goodbye is the most difficult thing in life and we never learn to be good at it. Our Lord gave us Don for 62 years, but then called him home just before Christmas.

We can't mourn the loss of Don looking into the future. Instead, let us remember the many good years each of us had together.

There were many testimonies from Don's Toastmaster friends. They were compiled and given to his family as a remembrance of his various accomplishments.

One testimony said, "Don was radiant in a 40 watt world."

His attitude towards Toastmasters certainly proved it!

Don enjoyed many Toastmaster activities. In addition to being Presidential Distinguished Area 25 Governor, he was the current Division B Governor.

Don built clubs, attended demo meetings, went to Toastmaster Leadership Institutes, many conferences and enjoyed a good game of golf. His joy for life was obvious to anyone who came in contact with him.

Don especially enjoyed working on his Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) education award. He earned it this past October.

Rather than receive his award at the fall conference this past November in Asheville, Don chose to receive this prestigious award at the upcoming 2010 Spring Conference to be held in

IN MEMORIAM



Don Earle, a member of Sunrise Toastmasters in Greensboro, will be remembered for his positive attitude and dedicated involvement.

Greensboro so his family and friends could be present.

Don will be recognized at the Spring Conference for his achievement. We hope members of Don's family can attend the ceremony.

We will miss Don but know that he is in a better place. Just remember this fine man as you set your goals in the future.

Tom, DTM, is the District H Governor.

Announcements:

Edited by: Cat Williams, VP for PR of the Blue Ridge Toastmasters Club

The Talker needs writers!

If you would be interested in writing an article for the next issue, please contact Cat at the address below.

Deadline for the Apr. issue is Apr. 1. Send articles to williams.cat@gmail.com.

Spring Dues Reminder!

Semi-annual Toastmasters dues payments must be made to Toastmasters International by April 1st to earn 1/2 Distinguished Club Plan (DCP) point.

You must pay dues for at least 6 members to get credit as a paid club and 3 payments must be for members renewing.

After March 1, 2010 payment can be made by debit or credit card!

- Go to <http://www.toastmasters.org/Members.aspx>
- Click the Club Officer tab (on the left side)
- Key in your Club Number and Password
- Select Conduct Club Business
- Select Pay Dues for my club's members.
- Select those members whose dues you are paying

Questions? Contact Bryan Walsh, Lt. Governor Marketing at d37ltgovofmarketing@gmail.com or 704-577-8639.

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inspired by the idea, prevailed on the speaker to help them create a similar program for the 2009 Fall Conference in Asheville.

Thus was born Toastmasters In Transit, a program through which local Toastmasters would offer to provide housing to conference attendees traveling from afar, helping to minimize the cost of the conference to them.

The Asheville area, host of the 2009 Fall Conference and being a tourist-oriented and friendly place, was the natural place to launch this initiative.

For those who participated, Toastmasters in Transit proved to be a great success. Some money was saved,

but more importantly, new friendships were formed.

Some initial skepticism and reluctance (What? Stay in a stranger's house?!) gave way to the possibility of a wonderful way to create bonds between those who already share the Toastmasters experience.

With luck and planning, Toastmasters in Transit could become an integral part of District 37 conferences in the years to come.

Let's talk! Rick can be reached at Rick@MessageClarity.com or 828 298-0739.

Rick, ATMB-CL, is chair of the Toastmasters in Transit program and a member of Blue Ridge Toastmasters in Asheville.



District Progress Report

By SHARON ANITA HILL

District 37 is well on its way to become a Distinguished District and beyond. Although we have metrics to measure our progress, our focus is still "Members First."

When members get educational and leadership awards and clubs earn their DCP levels, members are growing and changing their lives.

Here are the 2009-2010 Educational Goals, our DCP Goals, and our progress to-date for District 37:

Award	As of 1/22/10	Goal	%	Stretch *
CC	114	248	58	360
AC	47	70	67	180
CL & AL	87	151	58	160
Area/Division Gov. Training	In Progress	100%	-	-
Distinguished Clubs	In Progress	119	-	150
Distinguished Areas	In Progress	27	-	36

District 37 has proudly attained the rank of being one of the top 12 districts in the world for two years straight. Let's strive as a team to get there again in 2009-2010.

* When we attain our goals, District 37 will be a Distinguished District. Stretch Goal is target needed for District 37 to attain Select Distinguished.

Sharon, DTM, is the District Lt. Governor, Education & Training.

D37 CLUB SPOTLIGHT

District welcomes student, open clubs in Charlotte area

By BRYAN WALSH

It's an honor to shine the spotlight on our two newest clubs—Please welcome Golden Bulls Toastmasters and Davidson, NC Toastmasters!

In December 2009, Johnson C. Smith University joined the District 37 family by chartering their first club: Golden Bulls Toastmasters.

The club is open to all students, faculty and alumni of the university. The club meets at 6 p.m. on Mondays, at the Johnson-Seabrook Building in Room 301.

Davidson, N.C. Toastmasters chartered into the District 37 family as of February 2010.

The club is open to all, meeting Wednesdays at 6 p.m., at the Davidson Park and Recreation Department, 416 Armour Street, Davidson, NC. Their website can be found at: <http://davidson.freetoasthost.org>.

I am happy to report we have chartered seven new clubs since the start of the Toastmasters year.

By the end of February, five more new clubs should join our family. We now have over 40 active leads for prospective new clubs from across the District.

Bryan, DTM, is the District 37 Lt. Governor, Marketing.



Ridgefield Toastmasters celebrate with the Club Pride Cup.

Ridgefield Toastmasters receive Club Pride trophy

By AL BEAM

The Ridgefield Toastmasters Club in Asheville was the winner of the 2009 Fall Conference Club Pride Cup, a new addition to the Fall Conference activities in 2009.

Fall Conference co-chair Susan Stewart, Committee Chair Al Beam, and Area 13 Governor Dave Modaff were on hand for the celebration.

Club secretary Sherri Holbert organized a Club Pride Basket committee, and challenged every club member to participate by soliciting items or providing one "goodie" to put in the basket, or to decorate it.

Quoting Sherri, "I had asked Biltmore Estate to donate wine and some "tips" on wrapping the basket and making it look pretty." They

were rewarded with professional wrapping suggestions and assistance to Ridgefield Toastmasters.

"They invited me to the Estate and helped me design the color scheme of our basket. They shrink-wrapped our basket and made the beautiful bow. They were happy to help!", exclaimed Sherri.

The Ridgefield Toastmasters Club plans to use the cup for marketing their club and attracting new members.

It is clear the Ridgefield Toastmasters Club intends to KEEP the Club Pride Cup. Attention all District 37 clubs—you have been challenged by Ridgefield Toastmasters Club for the next Fall Conference!

Al is Area 64 Governor and the coordinator of the Club Pride Basket Contest.

The Mission of the District: 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:

1. Focusing on the critical success factors as specified by the District Educational and Membership Goals.
2. Ensuring that each Club effectively fulfills its responsibilities to its members.
3. Providing effective training and leadership for Club and District officers.



Life as division and area governors

Division Govs enhance club life through visits, encouragement

BY MICHAEL BEACH & KEN MILLER

Life as a Division Governor is what you make it.

We could have sat back and relaxed and let the Area Governors in our Divisions handle all of the problems. We chose a different path.

We try to keep the Area Governors updated on how their clubs are doing regarding their educational goals and DCP status, and we regularly contact them with updates of district activities.

It is exciting to be working



Michael Beach, Division A Gov.

with communities and corporations to start new clubs.

If we are successful in this endeavor, Division A will add 4-6 new clubs and Division C will add 6-8 new clubs by June 30th and that is FUN!

Visiting existing clubs is part of a Division Governor's role as well. These visits focus on club growth, well-being



Ken Miller, Division C Gov.

of the clubs, and how the district can be of assistance.

Although Division Governors can spend a great amount of time, the benefits far outweigh the work that is put into it.

Michael, ACB-CL, and Ken, DTM, are Governors in Divisions A and C, respectively.

Area Gov role brings insight

BY ERIC BRANDT

Life as an Area Governor for me has been a total submersion into the administrative, organizational world of Toastmasters.

Stepping out of the comfort of the club meeting room and into the maze of infrastructure, dates, deadlines and acronyms is almost overwhelming.

After considering myself a good Toastmaster member for 7 years, I quickly realized I didn't have a clue as to the structure and make-up of the complete organization.

Truthfully, I didn't know the difference between an Area, Division or District.

This has been on-the-job training!

But when you're committed to getting better, and helping others get better, it's comforting to see the organizational pieces at work that support the Toastmasters core values.

It's inspiring to see dedicated team members (who seem to have much more time than I have) give countless hours and miles to a cause that gives us all the opportunity to be our best.

People from all walks of life, with a common purpose help others and the organization thrive.

It is my goal as Area Governor to take the leadership skills I've learned behind the club lectern to other clubs and help create the environment that fosters the Toastmaster spirit.

Eric, ACB, is Area 81 Governor in Wilmington.

Gearing up for the Spring Conf.

Help out by volunteering your time, talents and Toastmasters knowledge

BY GAIL BARKER

The 2010 Spring Conference will be held in Greensboro, N.C. at the Clarion Hotel. We will be "Flying High!" with our fellow Toastmasters as we learn and grow, network, eat and enjoy an awesome conference.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Committee Chairs – If you wish to volunteer, committee chair slots are going fast.

You can achieve credit towards your High Performance Leadership (HPL) project by serving in a committee chair role that requires team leadership skills.

Contact Gail Barker (Conference Co-Chair) for the cur-

rent descriptions and availability. She can be reached by phone at 919-554-1840 or email her at risingmoon@mindspring.com.

Committee Members – If you wish to serve as a committee member, the Spring Conference affords many opportunities to hone your skills, show your passion for Toastmasters and get on the inside track, learning more about the district and its structure, meeting new people and making new friends.

Contact Pete Breidenbach (Conference Co-Chair) if you wish to serve as a committee member.

Pete can be reached by phone at 336-765-2297 or email at petebrei@juno.com.



The Spring 2010 Conference theme is "Flying High."

Here is the list of our Spring Conference committees:

Bookstore, Contest, Credentials, Decoration, Facility-SAA Support, First Timers, Hospitality (Suite), Jay Nodine Invitational, Raffles, Registration, Printing, Procurement & Sponsorships, Publicity, and Workshops.

Gail, ACB-CL, is the District Registration Chair and co-chair for the 2010 Spring Conference.



Don Earle's dog and companion, Precious, was able to find a new home through the Triad Golden Retriever Rescue.

Honor an old friend by finding homes for others' old friends

BY MARIA BETTS & JANICE JEFFRIES

As many of you know, we lost a dear Toastmasters friend in December 2009 when Don Earle passed away.

He was a long-time member of the Sunrise Toastmasters club in Greensboro. He was loved and respected by many people in District 37 for his passion, dedication and effervescent, optimistic attitude, and he is sorely missed.

Don left behind his faithful dog and companion, Precious, a Golden Retriever/German Shepard mix, and for several months the family was searching for a home for her.

We're happy to report that through the dedicated efforts of several Toastmasters in the Greensboro and Durham area, Precious was accepted by the Triad Golden Retriever Rescue (TGRR) organization

in February 2010.

This nonprofit group rescues and fosters dogs like Precious and finds them "forever homes." You can read more about them at www.tgrr.org.

If anyone is interested in providing a tax-deductible donation to help this nonprofit, you can send checks to the following address:

Tom Rafferty, Treasurer
Triad Golden Retriever
Rescue (TGRR)
7493 Summerhill Dr
Summerfield, NC 27358

Make sure you write "Precious Earle Support" in the memo field to ensure the funds go directly to support her care until they find her a forever home. Thank you for your support!

Maria is a member of the Sunrise and Greensboro Clubs, and Janice is a member of Lincoln Financial Toastmasters.

Proxy for the District 37 Council Meeting

I, PRESIDENT _____

or I, VP of EDUCATION _____

of _____

Toastmaster Club # _____, in good standing, hereby

appoint club member _____

to represent me in person at the District 37 Council Business Meeting scheduled May 22, 2010 at the Clarion Hotel, Greensboro, NC.

Present Proxy at the Credentials Desk prior to the meeting.

Are you ready for the

Spring 2010 District Conference?

Visit <http://www.toastmasters-nc.org> for updates, notices and—when the time comes—online registration. We can't wait to see you in Greensboro May 21-22!



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELICER USHER TABERNERY

NADIA, FROM PAGE 1

been a positive driving force in Express Yourself since she joined Toastmasters.

"As VP of Public Relations, she was the key element that started the rebuilding of our membership this year.

"Nadia put together a presentation for our managers and was responsible for American Express recognizing our club as a network. This means that we are now sponsored by American Express under development and leadership.

"Our company is now paying our new members' fees to get them started in Toast-

masters.

"Nadia is an asset to American Express and our Express Yourself club. Her positive attitude and willingness to help make her unique.

"As president, I am proud that she is an officer in our club."

Nadia will represent North Carolina on April 2010 at the Miss USA pageant in Las Vegas NV that will be televised live on NBC. There may be a Toastmaster under the next Miss USA crown. Go Nadia!

Chuck, DTM, is our District Public Relations Officer and is a member of Blue Ridge Toastmasters in Asheville.