

Special points of interest:

- Feature Articles from the Top 3 District 30 Officers
- Summer TLI Information
- District 30 Spring Conference Recap

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June 2005



Spotlight on District 30

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH COMMUNICATION

A Word From The District Governor

Bill Foster said "Practice being excited". I was recently reflecting on that quote, as I looked back over the last year and it makes more sense today than when I started out on the District Governor's path. I have to admit; I was fully charged and excited a year ago. Who needs practice being excited?

Well, as time goes on, as promises are not kept, as

disappointments come along, as hurdles appear needing to be cleared, I learned that it becomes much harder to 'stay' excited, and indeed it does take practice.

As my year as District Governor nears its end I find myself saying what many have said before, 'wish I had another year, now that I have learned so much'. But such is life. It is time to pass on the baton.



Dietmar Wagenknecht, DTM
District Governor, D-30

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Summer TLI: Launch Pad for the New Year

*By Will Hsiung, ATM-B
Summer TLI Dean*

In late June and early July, many things are going on in the Chicagoland Area: Taste of Chicago, the Western Open, fireworks and festivals on the Fourth of July. For the 150+ clubs in District 30, it also means the end of one Toastmaster year and the beginning of another. A new set of club officers will start on July 1, hoping to make their clubs better than when they started.

Soon the Summer Toastmasters Leadership Institute will take place on Saturday July 9 at Triton College in River Grove. It is the launch pad for club officers to get their year off to a good start.

There will be officer training session for all seven offices, conducted by top District 30 officers. They have served their clubs and District 30 very well and will share their experiences with you.

We also have other educa-

tional sessions, particularly on leadership and helping the club. These are critical for club officers as during their terms they will be dealing with other members as well as challenges and problems during the year. They are also useful for members not serving as officers as they can be applied to their work, home and other activities and organizations.

Our general session will be a panel discussion on lessons learned involving those who are finishing their terms as Club President. They will be discussing what they have learned, what went well and what they could have done differently in their roles. You don't want to miss this.

Unlike previous Summer TLIs, there is no charge for attending the 2005 Summer TLI. Lunch service from Subway is available; you can use the registration form and mail it in with your check of \$6. Pre-registration is recommended. If you are not interested in purchasing lunch,

you can contact Gini Neradt, Summer TLI Registrar to pre-register, at (847) 696-3245 or ginineradt@worldnet.att.net. Be sure to indicate your club and if applicable, the office you will be holding for the 2005-2006 year.

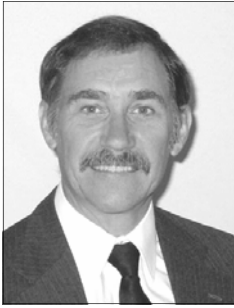
Check the District 30 website, www.toastofchicago.org, during the month of June for updates and a schedule.

Launch the year off to a good start by attending the Summer TLI!

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Got Goals?



Bruce Burrow, DTM
Lt. Governor
Education and Training

As our current Toastmaster’s year winds down in June, will you make your goals? Are you satisfied with your progress this past year?

If not, why not?

Were your goals not clear enough? “I want to speak better” doesn’t illustrate a specific achievement. “I will do a good job as Club officer” doesn’t either. “I’ll get my second CTM someday” probably won’t happen.

Goals need to be specific and attainable. “I will achieve ATM-Bronze by April 30”. “I will get Club dues paid on time”. “I will make sure my Club increases by three paid members before December 31”. Those are specific, measurable goals.

Did you not put in the work? Effort and accomplishment gets rewarded, not intentions. It takes risk. It takes work. It takes time. Are you committed to put forth the effort needed?

Of course, everyone is too busy these days. No one has the time. Instead, one needs to make the time, prioritizing what is important. With a fresh 24 hours every day, how will you spend it?

Did you not have enough support? Does your Club have too many speakers to be able to get on the agenda easily? Are your members not giving effective evaluations? Is your Club too small or too relaxed to be beneficial?

Each is a challenge to Club officers as well as every member. An all-speech meeting, additional meeting, or visiting a different Club can alleviate the crowded agenda problem. Evaluation training can help sharpen evaluation skills and, of course, the best way to learn is to teach. Club member recruiting should be ongoing and the responsibility of each member. Create your own best environment.

Start next year even better. Set some specific goals. Attend the Toastmasters Leadership Institute (TLI) on July 9. Have all your Club officers learn more about their position in order to do a better job. Share experiences and ideas with fellow Toastmasters from other Clubs. Attend additional TLI sessions to add to your knowledge and make your Club better.

Got Table Topics?

Is your Table Topics session as productive as it could be?

We do Table Topics for two main reasons:

- 1) to practice thinking on our feet, and
- 2) to get everyone involved in the meeting.

To practice thinking on our feet –

Develop concise topics. The question shouldn’t be too involved, or take longer than the answer. Announce the Topic first. Let everyone sweat a little, knowing they MIGHT be called on. This gets everyone’s brain in gear, thinking of their own answer. Calling a name first, then the Topic allows everyone else’s brain to stay in neutral. Part of this exercise is to practice getting those wheels turning upstairs, whether you end up answering the Topic or not.

To get everyone involved in the meeting – This is your Club’s opportunity to get those not on the agenda up to the lectern. Starting with a veteran Toastmaster to model the routine, choose those not on the agenda next, and follow with those having minor roles. Speakers are generally exempt. You didn’t join Toastmasters to be a spectator, make sure your fellow Toastmasters get involved too.

This is one way to make meetings more productive and enjoyable for all attendees. Good meetings make good members and good members make good meetings. Be prepared to do your share.

Good meetings make good members...

Incoming District Officers

- District Governor Bruce Burrow
- Lt. Governor Education..... Mike Raffety
- Lt. Governor Marketing Carolyn A. Arthur
- Division A Governor (NW)..... K. C. Ryan
- Division B Governor (CS)..... Mike Gougis
- Division C Governor (CN)..... Jim Krueger
- Division D Governor (SW) Vince Brock
- Division N Governor..... Rhonda Craven
- Division S Governor..... Judy Milbrook

What Is Leadership?

What is leadership? Webster's has several definitions, but the first one says that to lead is "to guide on a way especially by going in advance" or to "direct on a course or in a direction" or "to serve as a channel for".

I really like that definition. Does everyone remember that Toastmasters is about communications **and** leadership? Being a great leader requires that you be a great communicator. And if you're a great communicator, people will look up to you, seek your opinions, seek your input – and you'll be asked to lead as well. The skills go together hand-in-hand.

As a club officer, think about your leadership style. Do you guide, or do you order? Do you set an example? Do you serve as a channel for others to meet their goals? Do you find out what your followers' goals are, and help them achieve them?

Toastmasters has a special need for strong leaders. Our clubs need seven officers to keep things running – to provide the venue for members to give speeches, evaluations, and practice table topics.

Does your club have leaders? Are they serving in club officer positions? Hopefully, you don't have the same people serving in the same roles year after year. There are a lot of reasons to avoid that: To prevent burnout, to allow other people a chance to practice their leadership skills, and to get some fresh innovative ideas.

Your club constitution says elections are held at the first meeting in May – did you do it? If not, when? You also must file the new officer list with Toastmasters International by June 30. By meeting this requirement, you're already halfway to your first Distinguished Club Program (DCP) point for next year.

Once you have elected club officers, they need training to be successful. That's what the July 9 Toastmasters Leadership Institute is all about (see the article and registration form elsewhere in this Spotlight). We don't expect officers to learn their jobs from a manual – we provide live expert-led training, people who have succeeded in those roles themselves.

Now, once they're trained (which goes toward yet another DCP point), your club's executive committee (the seven officers) should meet in July or August to write the Club Success Plan (CSP); a copy of this was included with the officer's manuals, which were mailed to the 2004-5 club president recently. The CSP focuses your efforts on the DCP – you're taking the DCP and putting names and dates against each of the ten goals.

And finally, if a club officer has a CTM, is trained and helps write the CSP, then if he/she presents two of the Successful Club Series modules (like mentoring, evaluations, meeting roles, and more) or Leadership Excellence Series modules (like goal-setting, team-building, and coaching), they'll earn the Competent Leader (CL) designation – which is part of the DCP!

Do you see how this all fits together into an entire learning process? It really is quite clever – and effective.

But wait, there's more! Going beyond the club, there are many more opportunities to be a leader, starting with area governor (AG). This is part of earning the Advanced Leader (AL) designation, and eventually become a Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM). Typically, AGs come from the ranks of club presidents completing their term as president. For more on this, contact your current AG or any of the "Top Three" district officers (Dietmar, Bruce, and me, and soon Carolyn Arthur), we're always here to help.

Toastmasters is about leadership – and the skills you learn will be applicable at work, at home, and in any other organization you're involved in. Toastmasters is a safe place to practice these skills and become adept at using them. Make sure your club is a great place to learn leadership skills, as well as communications skills. In doing so, you will become better yourself, and you will help your members achieve their goals.

Guide your members along the way, serve as a channel for their needs, and you'll quickly become recognized as a true leader yourself, as you build bridges through communication.



Mike Raffety, ATM-B/AL
Lt. Governor
Marketing

and the skills
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Recap of District 30 Spring Conference



(Above left) District 30 Top 3-Elect for 2005-2006 (from left to right) **Carolyn A. Arthur**, DTM, Lt. Gov. Marketing; **Mike Raffety**, ATM-B, AL, Lt. Gov. Education and Training; and **Bruce Burrow**, DTM, District Governor

(Above right) Mike and Carolyn join Bruce in unveiling next year's District Governor theme.

And a good time was had by all!



Table Topic Contest: District Governor, Dietmar Wagenknecht, and Contest Chair, Pat Martin, present Table Topics Contest highest honors to (photo left) Pamela Nagel and second highest honors to Dorothy Jurs (photo right)



Heidi J. Sandler of Speechmakers Club is District 30's newest DTM



International Speech Contest: District Governor, Dietmar Wagenknecht, and Contest Chair, Pat Martin, present highest honors to Kenneth Mitchell "The Sorcerer's Secrets" (photo left) and second highest honors to Edwin Brand (photo right) "A New View"

District 30 Tidbits



Toast of Northwestern Charter Party
Wednesday, April 27, 2005



Plaza Toastmasters Charter Party, April 28, 2005



Incoming Lt. Governor of Marketing Carolyn A. Arthur at the June 4 Communications and Leadership luncheon at the Region V Toastmasters conference in Memphis, Tennessee enjoys a serenade from "Elvis"



Incoming District Governor Bruce Burrow basks in the attention at the head table at the Region V conference in Memphis



Club longevity awards, 50 Years: Addison & Elmhurst; Des Plaines; Oak Park; Daniel Wright; and Park Forest

District 30 lost a friend on May 4, 2005. Beth Steele, DTM lost her battle with cancer. Many Toastmasters attend her service and reminisced about the good time and positive attitude Beth brought to everything she did. She will be missed.



A Word From The District Governor *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

Oh no, I am not leaving. There is still much to do before the year ends. On June 30th I will simply turn into a “past” DG, but I will not have “passed” from TM. It has indeed been a great experience to be DG and a great learning event both in Toastmasters, as about people. It is almost ten years ago when my wife Heidi and I attended our first Regional Conference and I told Heidi ‘some day I will be DG’. And that’s part of Toastmasters learning: Set yourself goals and then get on the road to reach them. The path is not always easy, but keep striving for the goal. James McCay, a business consultant once said “No matter what the level of your ability, you have more potential than you can ever develop in a lifetime”. A valuable thought.

I did enjoy the journey, and I did learn from mistakes and from not so pleasant experiences, from trials, from challenges. It has made my Toastmaster experience richer, and more valuable. My greatest disappointment probably was the broken promises. ‘Yes, I will be there’ but when looking for them, they were gone. Yet,

that too is an experience in human nature.

All in all, most of you reading this have been an enormous encouragement, often just when I needed it. I do thank you for your support, help, kind words, assistance, and dedication. Maybe Napoleon Hill, a motivational writer who died in 1970, put it better than I can when he said: “...remember that somewhere, sometime, someone gave you a lift or an idea that started you on the right direction. Remember, also, that you are indebted to life until you help some less fortunate person, just as you were helped.”

And that I will do, continue helping others on their path.

Thank you one and all for a great year and I hope to be part of D-30 for a long time to come and see your successes and your achievements in the years ahead, while you continue to “Building Bridges Through Communications”, but remember, in the words of the now famous author ‘Anonymous’ that “You are never fully dressed until you wear a smile”.

Dietmar M. Wagenknecht, DTM
District Governor 2004/2005

CTM Achievement Is Family Time

*By Andy Reistetter, CTM
President, Look Who’s Talking*

Look Who’s Talking Toastmasters, #8691, which meets the second and fourth Monday in Gurnee Village Hall fosters mutually supportive and sharing learning experiences amongst our members. Recently one of our members broaden the sharing horizons.

Chris Bullens joined Look Who’s Talking in May, 2004. At our May 9, 2005, meeting Chris completed his CTM with his tenth speech, “Growing In Faith.” Chris related his life’s journey of faith and the lessons he learned during this journey.

As Toastmasters we join in the “Congratulations!” as a fellow member achieves that first milestone, CTM. But how often do we think to make it a family occasion? Chris did. Present were his father, Bob; his step mother, Elaine; and his Pastor, Darald Gruen, of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Antioch, IL. They not only cheered on Chris, but also contributed during the interactive evaluation session Look Who’s Talking offers.

Did I mentioned that his parents drove over 375 miles to attend?

And like good Toastmasters Chris’ family and Pastor were there in plenty of time before the meeting began and stayed afterwards. Bob Bullens mentioned that he has heard of Toastmasters but never had the occasion to join. But for the drive he would join Look Who’s Talking.

Bob further mentioned that he had to develop his public speaking skills on his own in order to get ahead at work. In order to get over the hurdles of presenting in public Bob learned that if he memorized the opening and closing of his presentations, the rest went well. This is exactly what our Toastmasters program teaches! So, Bob practically has been a Toastmaster for many years and didn’t realize it!

Look Who’s Talking Toastmasters will continue to share the learning with Chris as he begins Advanced Manuals. We also look forward to other members inviting family and friends to share their achievements.

2005 DISTRICT 30 SUMMER TLI

“Launch Pad for the New Year”

July 9, 2005 8:30 am—3:30 pm

Triton College, 2000 5th Avenue, River Grove, IL 60171



Name: _____
 {Circle one: CTM, CL, ATM, AL, DTM, Guest} {First TLI?: Yes No}

Club Name & Number: _____

Street Address: _____
 _____ City State Zip

Telephone: (Work) _____ (Home) _____ e-mail: _____

Club Officer: Current Past , District Officer: Current Past _____

Registration is free, pre-registration is encouraged. If you want lunch delivered from Subway, you can purchase in advance. There will be a variety of sandwiches to choose during lunch, please note any diet restriction so we can accommodate you.	Post Marked by 7/2/05	On- Site Before 9:30 am July 9th
<input type="checkbox"/> I want to order lunch	\$ 6.00	\$ 7.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Diet Restrictions:		
Total Enclosed		

***Note: Individual members please fill out separate form for lunch.

Make checks payable to: *District 30 Toastmasters*
 Please send your registration form with payment to:
Gini Neradt, Summer TLI Registrar
1225 Grove Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068

If you would like to pre-register without lunch or have any questions, contact Gini Neradt at:
ginineradt@worldnet.att.net to call 847-696-3245

You can also list below any members planning to attend along with office held (if any).

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please check the District 30 website for a schedule and any updates at: www.toastofchicago.org

Dates To Remember — 2005

June 25	Area and Division Governor Training	Aug 20	District Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting
June 30	Deadline for filing education awards and new officer lists with TI	Aug 25 – 27	International Convention, Toronto, Canada
July 1	New Toastmasters Year Begins	Sept 15	Club Fall Contests end
July 1 — Sept 15	Club Fall Contests*	Sept 16 — Oct 7	Area Fall Contests*
July 9	Summer TLI, Triton College, River Grove	Oct 8 — Oct 28	Division Fall Contests*
July 23	District Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting	Nov 11 – 12	Fall District 30 Conference*, Holiday Inn, Glen Ellyn
*Fall Contests: Evaluations and Humorous Speech — Check the District 30 website, toastofchicago.org, for the latest District information.			

Important Information

2004-2005 District 30 Officers		
District Governor: Dietmar Wagenknecht, DTM Home: 847-735-0915	Lt. Governor, Education & Training: Bruce Burrow, DTM Home: 815-568-6268	Lt. Governor, Marketing: Mike Raffety, ATM-B/AL Home: 630-261-1888
<p><i>Spotlight on District 30</i> is the newsletter of Toastmasters in the Illinois counties of Cook, Lake, DuPage and McHenry. Editor: Susan Gillen, 665 Woodhaven Dr., Mundelein, IL 60060, home phone 847-566-0376, email: sgillentm@yahoo.com. Publisher: Dietmar Wagenknecht, DG, 1115 Muir Ave., Lake Bluff, IL 60044.</p>		
<p>Send and Receive: We obtain our mailing list from TI world headquarters. We have found that over 20% of our district mail is being returned because of incorrect or insufficient addresses. Home addresses are preferred. Please ask your club members if they are receiving <i>The Toastmaster</i> magazine and District 30 mail. If not, email address changes to: tmmis2@toastmasters.org</p>		

Spotlight on District 30



Toastmasters International
District 30
1115 Muir Avenue
Lake Bluff, IL 60044-1407

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Article submission deadline for the next Spotlight is Sept.1, 2005

