

Northwest Words

The Official Publication of Northwestern Toastmasters Club 2946/37
Meeting each first, third, and fifth Tuesday, 6:30 PM - Mayberry's, 50 Miller Street, Winston-Salem, NC
Volume 32, No. 17, Early March, 2006

On the web at www.nwtm.org

OFFICERS

President	Teddy Burriss
VP-Education	Donna Hall
VP-Membership	Joel Schanker
VP-PR	Lance Cull
Secretary	Derrick Webb
Treasurer	Marcia Barney
Sgt. at Arms	Claudia Sortwell

For more information --
call Marcia Barney at
336 712-8183

**See YOU at our next Meeting
Tuesday March 7, 2006**



The Mission of a Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which each member has the opportunity to develop and practice communication and leadership skills, which in turn foster self-confidence and personal growth.

Area Speech Contests

Northwestern Toastmasters will host the Area 21 2006 International Speech & Table Topics Contest on March 28, 2006 at the Clemmons Library. We will need volunteers to bring snacks, as well as people to judge, and help run the contest. Please let us know if you can donate your time, food or money for the Area Contest. Talk to any Club officer for more information or details.

Improved Communication Seminar

ICS will start next month. Be sure to make plans to attend. Details will be announced at Northwestern Toastmasters Club Meetings. Topics include:

- Introducing Others
- Prepared Speaking
- Listening
- Speech Organization
- Impromptu Speaking
- Selecting Speech Topics
- Constructive Evaluation
- Use of Visual Aids
- Group Discussion
- Speech Language
- Effective Use of Voice
- Gestures and Other Body Language
- Audience Analysis
- Effective Use of Notes

Schedule for the March 7, 2006 meeting

(Includes Table Topics Contest)

Toastmaster	Randell Jones
Table Topics	Butch Barney
General Evaluator	Joel Schanker
Speaker	Lance Kull
Speaker	Marcia Barney
Speaker	Joyce Potter
Evaluator.....	Teddy Burriss
Evaluator.....	Brian Davidson
Evaluator.....	David Scruggs
Grammarian.....	John Clark
Wordmaster	Joe Bircher
Timer	Elaine Wiles
Vote Counter.....	Pam Christopher
Jokemaster	Barbara Schanker

Remember: All roles are important! If you can not attend the meeting, then do contact either our VP of Education or the Toastmaster of the meeting.

Schedule for the March 21, 2006 meeting

(Includes International Speech Contest)

Please note that the International Speech Contest will be incorporated into our regular meeting. This means that you get two activities for the price of only one – A real bargain.

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A highway patrolman pulled alongside a speeding car on the freeway. Glancing at the car, he was astounded to see that the blonde behind the wheel was knitting! Realizing that she was oblivious to his flashing lights and siren, the trooper cranked down his window, turned on his bullhorn and yelled, "PULL OVER!" "NO!" the blonde yelled back, "IT'S A SCARF!"

## The February 21, Meeting

The business session featured reminders of the club International Speech Contest and the club Tall Tales Contest as well as our Improved Communications Seminar that begins on April 4.

Lance Kull decked the room and the attendees in Mardi Gras paraphernalia - even providing music - for the meeting theme of "Mardi Gras ... Celebration in the Wake of Destruction." Brian Davidson provided the word "neophyte" as the word for the day.

Table Topics Master Elaine Wiles followed the theme and gave thought provoking topics to:

- Randall Jones spoke about the effect of Katrina on Mardi Gras.
- Donna Hall told us who she would like to see at Mardi Gras.
- David Scruggs things that could be changed about Mardi Gras.

Prepared speeches were given by:

- ♦ Joel Schanker gave another Ice Breaker (slightly shorter than his first one) titled "Same But Different" and was evaluated by Pam Christopher.
- ♦ Derrick Webb gave speech #2 from the advanced Specialty Speech Manual and discussed his 2006 Jaycee Presidency. He was evaluated by Butch Barney.
- ♦ Joe Bircher gave #3 from the Basic Manual titled "New Urbanism in Winston-Salem" and was evaluated by Barbara Schanker.

Teddy Burriss served as Grammarian. Donna Hall was Timer and Vote Counter.

Marcia Barney was the General Evaluator.

Winners for the evening were:

- ü Best Table Topic Speaker: Randall Jones
- ü Best Speaker: Derrick Webb
- ü Best Evaluator: Pam Christopher

## Take Notes

I was visiting with some elderly relatives last week. During the conversation, they told me that they had been to see the Doctor. They were concerned about forgetting things. His explanation seemed to set their minds at rest. His suggestion that they write things down would help them remember and would also be a way to improve their short-term memory.

As we continued to talk, my Uncle excused himself; he was going into the kitchen to get a glass of water. "While you are there, could you bring me a bowl of ice cream" my Aunt asked, then added "Write it down, so you don't forget." My Uncle replied that he could remember that. "Well, please put some strawberries on it. Now you have enough to write down." The swift reply – "I can remember that." The even swifter reply was "OK Mr. Memory – how about some whipped cream, Now write it down." My Uncles reply, "Ice cream, strawberries and whipped cream – I think I can remember that for five minutes." Soon he returned with a plate of bacon and eggs. My Aunt took one look and replied "Why didn't you write it down? You forgot the toast."

## Responsibility



For those of us who have been around for a few years, there is always the urge to lament how things have changed. Until now, I have resisted the urge to talk about the good old days. (Maybe that's because I can still remember a few that weren't so

good.)

When I was just a wee broth of a lad, my father taught me a great lesson. I don't think he realized it – and at the time I didn't realize it either. We were at the dinner table and my mother said that an individual had called and wanted my dad to do some remodeling. (My dad was a building contractor.) My dad said that he would call him the next day and explain that he couldn't do the job and recommend someone else. My mother asked why and my fathers reply "He doesn't keep his word."

Perhaps it really was a different time. One of the greatest compliments you could give a person was "He's a man of his word." When someone said that they would do something, you could depend on them. My father never used contracts, just a handshake.

Of course, that required personal responsibility. Today, it's "Well, it's not my fault." Or, "I'm not responsible." Balderdash! When you agree to do something, do it! Don't whine. Don't complain. Don't make excuses.

There are times we tell someone that we will do something just to make them feel better. "Easing the pain" was the way one psychologist defined it. What we don't realize it the pain that creates when we don't follow through.

Toastmasters is designed to teach use effective public speaking and leadership. There needs to be a third area – responsibility.

When the VP of Education assigns you a role in an upcoming meeting, you have the opportunity to say, "I can't be there." If you don't then, by your actions, you have said "I will be there and I will fill the role to the best of my ability – you have my word."

Having served as VP of Education and having talked to many other who have served in that office, one comment comes above all others. "I have members that I can't depend on – they will agree to a role and then either not show up or show up and say that they are not prepared."

The same thing applies to serving as officers in the Club, Area, Division or District. No one is ever forced to accept a position. When you do accept a position, treat it like a role in a club meeting. Just do it. If you aren't willing to do the job – don't accept it. There is no shame in saying, "I would rather not." There is shame in accepting the role and then not doing it."

New Years is over, but it's not too late to make your word your bond.