

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
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On the web at www.nwtm.org

OFFICERS

President	Donna Hall	
VP-Education	Joel Schanker	
VP-Membership	Lance Kull	
VP-PR	John Clark	336 723-2153
Secretary	Christy Seay	
Treasurer	Marcia Barney	336 712-8183
Sgt. at Arms	Evander Woo	
Immediate Past	Teddy Burriss	

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

**See YOU at our next Meeting
Tuesday August 15, 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.

Guests

Our guest for the meeting was Mike Wells. Mike is a graduate of Wake Forest School of Law and is looking for a way to improve his speaking. Mike – we hope you enjoyed the meeting. We look forward to seeing you again.

Humorous Speech Contest!

September will mark the beginning of the Humorous Speech contests (at the Club, Area, Division and District Levels.) This contest provides a unique view into the wonderful world of humor. Bob Hope once said, "Humor is a serious business." An actor, or a speaker, can do an adequate job – but a comedian is either funny or not funny – there is no middle ground.

Be sure to read the article, by our Vice President of Education, Joel Schanker, on page three of this issue. In this article "THREE SCARY WORDS" Joel tells us all about this contest.

New Column

Speaking of columns, be sure to look at the right hand column of page two. This issue marks the beginning of a new tradition. Each issue will contain an article or editorial of, by and for Toastmasters. It is written by members (and sometimes officer members) for the benefit of other members.

Schedule for the August 15, 2006 meeting

Toastmaster	David Scruggs
Table Topics	Marcia Barney
General Evaluator	Elaine Wiles
Speaker	Don Barnett
Speaker	Karen Harmon
Speaker	John Clark
Evaluator.....	Derrick Webb
Evaluator.....	Butch Barney
Evaluator.....	Brian Davidson
Grammarian	Donna Hall
Wordmaster	Teddy Burriss
Timer	Lance Kull
Vote Counter.....	Debbie Woo
Jokemaster	Chuck Melton

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 August 29, 2006 meeting

Toastmaster	Joel Schanker
Table Topics	Lance Kull
General Evaluator	Brian Davidson
Speaker	Teddy Burriss
Speaker	Butch Barney
Speaker	Karen Harmon
Evaluator.....	Debbie Woo
Evaluator.....	Evander Woo
Evaluator.....	Chuck Melton
Grammarian	Christy Seay
Wordmaster	David Legadi
Timer	Don Barnett
Vote Counter.....	Derrick Webb
Jokemaster	Libby Legadi

The Secretary's Report

by Christy Seay, Secretary

The August 1, 2006 Meeting

During the Business Session, our Treasurer, Marcia Barney, announced that she is preparing the budget for this Toastmasters year. Any member with a suggestion should contact her.

The Educational Session began with Treasurer, Marcia Barney, serving as the Presiding Officer introduced our Toastmaster of the meeting, Brian Davidson. Brian's them was summer time and acronyms.

Brian called on our Wordmaster for the evening, Don Barnett, who gave us the Latin phrase "Prima Facie"

Brian then called on our Table Topics Master, Teddy Burriss, who asked questions such as "Why do we turn down the radio when looking for an address?" and "Why do they call it a 'near miss' when it is really a 'near hit'?" Teddy asked these questions of

- Christy Seay
- John Clark
- Butch Barney
- David Lagadi

Butch Barney was the clear winner with his reply.

Brian then introduced each of our Prepared Speakers for the evening –

Our first speaker was Libby Lagadi –Speech, who gave her icebreaker speech. In 6 minutes and 9 seconds, Libby gave us an interesting view of herself.

Our second speaker of the evening was David Lagadi, who, in addition to telling us about himself, sang us an 'original' song.

Our third prepared speaker was Evander Woo. His speech (number 6 from the Basic Manual) earned him best prepared speaker of the evening as he told us "How Toastmasters Has Influenced My Thought Process."

Brian then gave control of the meeting to our General Evaluator, Marcia Barney. Marcia reviewed the meeting and evaluated Brian's Toastmaster warm-up. She then called on - -

- Ø Debbie Woo to evaluate Libby's speech
- Ø Butch Barney to evaluate David's speech
- Ø John Clark to evaluate Evander's speech

John was chosen as Best Evaluator of the evening.

Marcia then called on Don Barnett, who did double duty as both Wordmaster and Grammarian, for his reports.

In concluding the General Evaluators duties, Marcia called on Christy Seay for the timers reports,

Brian resumed control of the meeting as he announced the winners and called on our congenial Jokemaster, John Clark, who enthralled us with his amazing control and use of humor.

THIRTY PERCENT CHANCE OF RAIN

by Debbie Woo



I've noticed lately we've been getting a lot of twenty percent and thirty percent chances of rain forecasted by our weatherman. If a weather forecast includes a thirty percent chance of rain, what are we supposed to do -- carry thirty percent of an umbrella?

So, I decided to do some research in my book of totally useless information and this is what I found.

A thirty percent chance of rain means that the weather forecasters have combined all their knowledge of the history and present state of the atmosphere and have concluded that out of a hundred days like this one, about thirty will have rain.

You'll notice that whether or not it actually rains today, the forecasters may still be right. Have they evaded responsibility by refusing to give a yes-or-no answer?

Not exactly. The forecasters have used the thirty percent figure to describe the imperfection of their knowledge as accurately as they can. Whether we take an umbrella depends on how much we care about getting wet. We ask ourselves questions that only we can answer:

"How many hours do I expect to spend outdoors today?" "If I leave my umbrella home and it rains, will I be extremely annoyed, only slightly inconvenienced, or just amused?"

"Am I carrying anything today that must not be allowed to get wet, like a watercolor painting or a cat?"

The forecasters have done their part; they've given their best estimate of the chance of rain. We have to decide for ourselves, based on our own values, whether or not to take a hundred percent of an umbrella. If rain does fall, thirty percent of an umbrella won't keep us dry.

The importance of pronunciation

I did my nurse's training at a hospital in Liverpool, England. My fellow students and I had little money for meals, so we ate the awful food provided at the hospital complex. We often took our breaks in the kitchen, and sometimes kindly visitors would give us some of the treats they had brought for patients.

One night a woman brought a pork pie to the kitchen and said to me, "Would you eat this up, love?"

Delighted at the offer, another student and I devoured every crumb. Soon our benefactor returned, however, and asked, "Is me 'usband's pie 'ot yet, dearie?"

THREE SCARY WORDS

by Joel Schanker, VP Education and Training

What better opportunity to try out your laugh muscles than at the Northwester Toastmaster 47th annual Humorous speech contest, September 5th, 2006.

Unlike the International Speech Contest there are no minimum number of speeches to qualify to compete. Any member in good standing who is not currently in a District office can give it a go. The speech itself needs to be substantially original and must be between 4:30 and 7:30 in length.

To most people the three most scary words in the English language are "MAKE ME LAUGH". But there are few things that can be done in public that bring as much pleasure as making people laugh, No matter what type of speaker you wish to become, humor will be an indispensable part of a successful presentation. A close friend and superb speaker travels the world to present technical papers to his industry. Yet, he believes that a factor in his success has been the ability to incorporate humor into the mix with the dry scientific data.

Humor is used to create a relationship with an audience by getting them to laugh at something in common to both the audience and the speaker. Humor is used to underscore the fallacy in an idea or situation that the speaker wants to change. Humor can take some of the bitterness out of a sorrow filled story or add to the impact of a serious statement that follows. Whatever the uses, humor is an important component of good presentations and it needs to be developed in the same manner as gestures, vocal variety or any other speaking skill. Practice, Practice, Practice.

Where can you get funny material? Life, Life, Life. Consider what you have experienced, consider what you have been told, and consider what you have read. Then twist it with your imagination into what could have been and exaggerate it to possible but unlikely extremes. That is how we get to funny. In a number of cases the amount of exaggeration is minimal. Many of us have a weird cousin Harry or an Aunt Ethel that no one is supposed to talk about. A humorous speech is THE place where we not only talk about them but we can use their exploits to being laughter to the audience.

Finally, humorous speaking gives you the opportunity to free your speaking style by expanding gestures to match the exaggerations in the story, to use vocal variety to emphasize the wacky, and to let your facial expressions show the fun.

As they say on TV. "All this for just...". what have you got to lose. I have said before and I will say again that I have been in Northwestern for ten years and I have lost at least two speech contest a year for the entire time. But I am such a better speaker in large part because the focus I placed on the contests helped me to concentrate on the skills that made me better. Yes, I rarely took home trophies but I always gained skills. Sounds an awfully lot like winning to me.

I can't think of a heading for this one.

They were together in the House. Just the two of them. It was a cold, dark, stormy night. The storm had come quickly and each time the thunder boomed he watched her jump.

She looked across the room and admired his strong appearance... and wished that he would take her in his arms, comfort her and protect her from the storm. She wanted that... more than anything .

Suddenly, with a pop, the power went out... She screamed...

He raced to the sofa where she was cowering. He didn't hesitate to pull her into his arms. He knew this was a forbidden union and expected her to pull back.

He was surprised when she didn't resist but instead clung to him.

The storm raged on... as did their growing passion. And there came a moment when each knew that they had to be together. They knew it was wrong...

Their families would never understand... So consumed were they in their passion that they heard no opening of doors... just the faint click of a camera...



More from Tech Support

Tech support: What kind of computer do you have?
Female customer: A white one...

Customer: Hi, this is Celine. I can't get my diskette out.

Tech support: Have you tried pushing the Button?

Customer: Yes, sure, it's really stuck.

Tech support: That doesn't sound good; I'll make a note.

Customer: No , wait a minute... I hadn't inserted it yet... it's still on my desk... Sorry....

Tech support: Click on the 'my computer' icon on the left of the screen.

Customer: Your left or my left?