

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

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**See YOU at our next Meeting
Tuesday -- August 7, 2007**



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.

~~~ Misc. Information ~~~

- Pam Christopher, a scheduled speaker for the last meeting, spent the meeting time setting in her car (parked on I 40) waiting for a tow truck to fix her flat tire.
- Joel Schanker, our guest editorial writer for this issue, gave up his space so we could print the secretary's reports for the last two meetings. (Remember – July was a three meeting month.)
- District Governor Pam Christopher has announced the appointment of a web master for the District web site. She maintains that this new web master will give Northwestern's web master a run for his money. Check out the web site at www.toastmasters-nc.org.

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

Top 10 blonde inventions

1. The waterproof towel
2. Solar powered flashlight
3. Submarine screen door.
4. A book on How to read
5. An inflatable dart board.
6. A dictionary index.
7. Ejector seat in a helicopter
8. Powdered water
9. Pedal-powered wheel chair.
10. Water proof tea bag.

Schedule for the August 7, 2007 Meeting

Don Barnett.....	Evaluator
Butch Barney	General Evaluator
Marcia Barney	Evaluator
Teddy Burriss	Timer
Pam Christopher	Evaluator
John Clark.....	Joke Master
Brian Davidson.....	Evaluator
Matthew Hamby	Vote Counter
Karl Hastings.....	Speaker
Lance Kull	Speaker
Zoltan Rab	Timer
Evelyn Ries.....	Speaker
Barbara Schanker	Grammarian
Joel Schanker	Grammarian
Christine Sternjacob.....	Speaker
Craig Thrift	Table Topics
Derrick Webb	Speaker
Elaine Wiles	Word Master
Evander Woo	Toastmaster

Schedule for the August 21, 2007 Meeting

Scott Anderson.....	Speaker
Butch Barney	Evaluator
Marcia Barney	Evaluator
Teddy Burriss	Timer
Pam Christopher	Grammarian
John Clark.....	General Evaluator
Brian Davidson.....	Speaker
Donna Hall	Evaluator
Matthew Hamby	Table Topics
Karl Hastings.....	Word Master
Lance Kull	Evaluator
Zoltan Rab	Speaker
Barbara Schanker	Speaker
Joel Schanker	Evaluator
Christine Sternjacob.....	Vote Counter
Craig Thrift	Joke Master
Derrick Webb	Toastmaster
Elaine Wiles	Speaker
Evander Woo	Evaluator



**July 17, 2007 Meeting Notes
by Scott Anderson, Secretary**

Brian Davidson opened the Northwestern Toastmaster's meeting for July 17, 2007 by calling for officer reports, old business, new business and announcements. Brian introduced our guest for the evening Alethea McCullough. Marcia Barney suggested that the VP of Education arrange standby speakers for future meetings.

After a brief recess, Brian resumed the meeting. He promptly handed control of the meeting over to Joel Schanker the Toastmaster for the night. The theme for the evening was "No Free Lunch." Joel reminded us that anything free costs twice as much! Joel called on the Wordmaster Craig Thrift for the word. The word for the meeting was feckless. This word is not to be confused with the imaginary word freckless; in most instances the latter use of this word merely constitutes a pigment of your imagination.

Control of the meeting passed back to Brian, who quickly turned this over to John Clark, the Table Topics Master for the evening. John called on Evander Woo and Craig Thrift to speak extemporaneously. Evander spoke for one minutes and eight seconds. Craig spoke for one minute and forty seconds.

John returned control of the meeting back to Joel who introduced the first prepared speaker Christine Sternjacob. This was Christine's first speech from the Basic Manual. We quickly found out that her last name is in fact no misnomer; her father was a "100% German drill sergeant" in California. She recounted multiple cultural lessons she learned from her life in the south. Chief among these lessons is never order unsweetened tea, and speak slowly.

The second speaker for the evening was Jeff Walker. Jeff carefully walked us through his speech "The Benefits of Walking." This was speech number 3 from the Basic Manual. Jeff spoke about the benefits he receives from walking: aerobic exercise, strength exercise, and clarity of mind. Jeff has written entire computer programs in his mind while walking. Jeff is after all a born Walker.

The third speaker Don Barnett spoke on "Toolboxes and Tools". He began by saying "I am a man of many skills – after my evaluation maybe one!" Don infused humor throughout his presentation. He concluded his speech with a rather elegant simile comparing tools and toolboxes to speeches and speech craft.

Joel then proceeded to tell a joke with a certain bite. That is to clearly assert his joke had teeth in it. Joel called on the last speaker for the evening Brian Davidson.

Brian's speech was titled "Jack and the Beanstalk." This was speech number one from the Storytelling Manual. Brian captivated the audience with his carefully crafted retelling of this tale. Brian even included some rather touching and tender moments...the Ogre was playing gently with a chicken. Based on the Secretary's childhood this seemed perfectly normal, acceptable, and rather noble behavior for an ogre.

Joel handed control over to the General Evaluator for the evening Marcia Barney. Marcia began by announcing that speakers need to speak loudly, otherwise it is difficult to hear completely in the back of the room. Marcia made a few more points but I was sitting in the back and could not hear it all. Marcia called on Butch Barney who evaluated Christine's speech. Butch advised Christina to just relax and have
(continued in next column)

a conversation with the audience. Barbara Schanker evaluated Jeff's speech by commenting that it was both very descriptive and well organized. Evander Woo evaluated Don's speech. He commented on the excellent use of visual aids to draw the audience into the speech. Zoltan Rab evaluated Brian's speech. Zoltan emphasized the ways Brian might leverage body language to deliver stories even more powerfully.

Joel called on the Grammarian for the evening Scott Anderson. Evidently, Scott forgot this was a Toastmaster's meeting not a Roastmaster's meeting; still the Treasurer was pleased at the steady clink-clink in the club's coffers. Scott pulled out all the syntactical stops, breaking all the rules he was carefully enforcing.

The timer and vote counter delivered their results. Craig Thrift won the Table Topics Master ribbon. Christine Sternjacob won the Best Speaker ribbon. Zoltan won the Best evaluator ribbon. Matthew Hamby concluded the meeting with a delightful joke about grasshoppers in Texas. Geographically speaking it was a big joke, but then everything's bigger in Texas.

MEETING ADJOURNED!



**July 31, 2007 Meeting Notes
by Scott Anderson, Secretary**

The president Brian Davidson opened the Northwestern Toastmaster's meeting for July 31, 2007 by calling for officer reports, old business, and new business. Evander created a survey for speech frequency for all members. Please complete this survey; it will help the club to help you meet your goals.

Joel Schanker announced the kickoff meeting for a new Toastmaster's Club at the Industry for the Blind. The meeting is at 4pm on Tuesday August 7, 2007. He encouraged and challenged everyone to participate in successfully raising this founding club.

After a brief recess, Brian passed control of the meeting to Marcia Barney, the Toastmaster for the evening. Marcia swayed from side to side and with great vigor launched into a fire and brimstone approach to evaluations. She revived the original intent of the evaluation in the minds of all the gathered members. It was a unique mixture of truth, vocal variety, and facial grimaces all pinned with a single recurring motto: The purpose of an evaluation is to help a speaker become a better speaker.

After the storm died down, Marcia recognized Jeff Walker the Wordmaster. The word for the evening was pugnacious.

Marcia passed control to Don Barnett the Table Topics Master. Don called on Christine, Elaine, Evander, and Evelyn to speak on sundry topics all related to evaluations. After Barbara reported the time, Marcia introduced the first prepared speaker for the evening Susan Lippow.

Susan Lippow's speech was the Icebreaker, speech number one from the Basic Manual. It was rather appropriately titled "Icebreaker." Her speech was anything but icy. Susan regaled us with meaningful snapshots of her life. She took us from shoveling sidewalks in Wisconsin, through the loss of two friends, down her career path as a radiology technician, and concluded with her marriage to her best friend Jeff. This was the first time I ever heard anyone work the phrase barium enema into an icebreaker tactfully.



A Tale of Two Houses

Butch Barney was the next speaker. His speech was titled "The Philosophy of Evaluation." This is project number five from the Speaking to Inform Manual. Concerning effective evaluations, Butch summed it up concisely "Speak enough to show you listened, enough to show you care then shut up." Butch framed his entire speech on an innovative extended simile: a good evaluation is like a cow. He concluded by reminding everyone about the crux of a great evaluation: always evaluate, never judge.

John Clark was the third speaker for the evening. His speech was titled "How to Evaluate in Three Easy Lessons." John informed us that a good evaluation should look like a Rueben sandwich. The first lesson is to take a sandwich approach to evaluations; wrap your constructive criticism in positive feedback to avoid negative feedback. The second lesson is to make the content of your evaluation palatable. The third lesson is to avoid both whitewash and sandblast. John concluded by reminding the audience to evaluate the presentation not the subject matter.

Joel Schanker was the final speaker for the evening. His speech was titled "The Speaker's Responsibilities." Joel also used an extended simile to frame his eloquent speech; evaluations are like a buffet...there is something for everyone. Joel spoke on the relationship that exists between the speaker and evaluator at the moment of evaluation. He explained why the format did not offer a chance for rebuttal or questioning on the speaker's part. His speech was lucid, informative, humorous and full of engaging word imagery.

Marcia resumed control of the meeting. She promptly introduced the General Evaluator for the evening Elaine Wiles. Elaine called on the various evaluators. Barbara Schanker evaluated Susan Lippow. Matthew Hamby evaluated Butch Barney. Karl Hastings evaluated John Clark. Scott Anderson evaluated Joel Schanker. The highlight of the evaluations occurred when Matthew pointed out that Butch kept coming back to cow facts again and again. In effect, though the words were never spoken, Matthew accused Butch of beating a dead cow.

Marcia then called on Evander Woo for the grammarian's report. Evander caught quite a few ums-ahs-ands-ohs. He suggested that perhaps a better phrase than "Read the Stinking Manual" should be used by Butch.

Jeff Walker announced that the word pugnacious was used multiple times throughout the meeting. Marcia conducted a special postmortem of the sacred cow Toastmasters call evaluations. This should not be confused with the cow Butch beat to death earlier in the meeting, this was in fact a whole new cow. During the "Evaluation Workshop" we evaluated evaluations in general by evaluating the specific evaluations for the evening. Several abstract and concrete suggestions were made: "something is too wonderful", "the evaluations were honest and fair", "feedback should be consistent with the speaker's level", "no judgments", "make clear recommendations", and "slow down and relax." Marcia reminded the audience to never play the expert, just give an honest opinion.

The results were reported by Evelyn Ries. Christine won the ribbon for Best Table Topics Speaker. Joel won the ribbon for Best Speaker. Scott won the ribbon for Best Evaluator. Christene concluded the meeting with a delightful joke about wordplay, lawyers, and free drinks.

HOUSE # 1:

A 20-room mansion (not including 8 bathrooms) heated by natural gas. Add on a pool (and a pool house) and a separate guest house all heated by gas. In ONE MONTH ALONE this mansion consumes more energy than the average American household in an ENTIRE YEAR. The average bill for electricity and natural gas runs over \$2,400.00 per month. In natural gas alone (which last time we checked was a fossil fuel), this property consumes more than 20 times the national average for an American home. This house is not in a northern or Midwestern "snow belt," either. It's in the South.

HOUSE # 2:

Designed by an architecture professor at a leading national university, this house incorporates every "green" feature current home construction can provide. The house contains only 4,000 square feet (4 bedrooms) and is nestled on arid high prairie in the American southwest. A central closet in the house holds geothermal heat pumps drawing ground water through pipes sunk 300 feet into the ground. The water (usually 67 degrees F.) heats the house in winter and cools it in summer. The system uses no fossil fuels such as oil or natural gas, and it consumes 25% of the electricity required for a conventional heating/cooling system. Rainwater from the roof is collected and funneled into a 25,000 gallon underground cistern. Wastewater from showers, sinks and toilets goes into underground purifying tanks and then into the cistern. The collected water then irrigates the land surrounding the house. Flowers and shrubs native to the area blend the property into the surrounding rural landscape.

HOUSE # 1 (20 room energy guzzling mansion) is outside of Nashville, Tennessee . It is the abode of that renowned environmentalist (and filmmaker) Al Gore.

HOUSE # 2 (model eco-friendly house) is on a ranch near Crawford, Texas. Also known as "the Texas White House," it is the private residence of the President of the United States, George W. Bush.

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## ***Ponderisms***

Do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

Why did you just try singing the two songs above?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?

How come we choose from just two people for President and fifty for Miss America?

Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway.